

Military Auditorat¹
At the Council of War
By and at

1000 BRUSSELS

Pro Justitia

I, Luc Ver Elst-Reul, Substitute of the Military Prosecutor at the Council of War of Brussels, on a judicial investigation mission in Rwanda, accompanied by the Warrant Officer (ADC) Patrick Deprez and Mr. Janvier Rutsindintwari, delegate of the General Auditorat of Rwanda, report that on 3 January 1995 at 14:00, at Butare, municipality of Ruhashya, at the “Reorganisation School” of the Armée Patriotique Rwandaise (APR) [Patriotic Army of Rwanda], we met the lieutenants of the APR, Michel Mporabukeye and Bosco Nyarwaya, who presented us to:

Jean TURATSINRE, born 25 May 1961, married, Warrant Officer of the gendarmerie, head of the security escort of Faustin Twagiramungu, currently assigned to the “Reorganisation School” of the APR in Rubona, who declared to us in French

“It is correct that the Rwandan gendarmes who were assigned to guard the VIPs had part of their heavy armaments withdrawn several days before the assassination attempt against the presidential aircraft.

This was a measure which derived from the Arusha accord.

The number of weapons used to protect VIPs had been limited while the soldiers of the MINUAR were supposed to take part in this protection, notably the Belgians.

The number of guards assigned to protect each VIP was limited to ten and the “R4s” were withdrawn from their weaponry.

These reductions took place around mid-March 1994 within the context of the general disarmament measures within the city of Kigali.

However, I wish to point out that if the gendarmerie played the game and effectively reduced its weapons and the number of its armed men, the presidential guard for its part had not applied any of these reduction measures. The presidential guard continued to be equipped with its sub-machine guns, automatic guns and individual pistols, but they were not accompanied by the MINUAR and did not collaborate with them.

Each morning, the MINUAR arrived at the barracks of the gendarmerie (Camp KACIRU) where it opened the stores of weapons which were distributed to the Rwandan gendarmes who had to stage a guard for the VIPs (at most ten per VIP).

On arrival at the residence of the VIPs, the weapons were deposited in the entry building and only the (UZI) submachine guns were taken away during the escort. At the end of the guards, the arms were returned to the stores of weapons under the inspection of the MINUAR.

10/05/95

¹ A Belgian institution which combines the figure of Public Prosecutor with the War Council

I am not aware of how things evolved at the military camp of Kigali.

The Sergeant major of the gendarmerie, Germain Gasamasa was the station chief of the gendarmerie guard of the Minister Agathe UWILINGIYIMANA during the night of 6 to 7 April 1994.

~~On 6 April 1994, around 21.00,~~ I received the order from Lieutenant-Colonel Bavugamenschi to reinforce the security of Agathe Uwilingiyimana and Faustin Twagiramungu.

On arriving at the presidency, we were stopped by the presidential guards who were in an armoured vehicle and who prohibited us from continuing and passing to reach the residence of Agathe Uwilingiyimana.

The roadblock was located at the ESM-Avenue Paul VI fork.

There were two sections of the Presidential Guard. I personally recognized Cpl. MUYAMBERE and another corporal with the first name Edison, but whose name I have forgotten.

Both of them are natives of Gisenyi. They told us to turn back after having asked us where we were going, or they would kill us because we were well aware of what they had to do.

We could not pass these roadblocks and around 21.30, I received an order to turn back.

I tried to reach the residence of Agathe Uwilingiyimana from the KIYOVU side, but this was not possible either.

It was ~~22.00~~ 12.00.

Gasamasa told me that they (the Rwandan gendarmes) had tried to hide Agathe among the PNUD volunteers. *of Senegalese origin*

The presidential guards entered Agathe's property two or three times without finding her there, until they discovered the hole in the fence.

The presidential guards first searched Agathe's house but without finding her there.

The gendarmes had hidden her with the Senegalese (PNUD)

They did not find her on the second occasion either and had a cordial discussion with the gendarmes who said that Agathe had left ~~either to the Senegalese or to the Americans beside them~~ and that they did not know where she was.

The presidential guards did not believe them because all of the exits were guarded, notably on Avenue Paul VI.

On the third occasion, the presidential guards again insisted and told the gendarmes not to lie and to be honest otherwise they could come to a bad end.

Without betraying their duty, the gendarmes did not say anything, but the presidential guards finally discovered the hole opened in the fence of the PNUD lot.

I was told that Agathe herself advanced in front of the presidential guard.

They did not have to force her to go with them.

I think that by acting in this way, Agathe wished to protect their children, who were refugees and were also with the United Nations volunteers (PNUD).

Agathe and her husband were killed on the spot.

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There was no clash between the presidential guards and the Rwandan gendarmes who were guarding Agathe's house.

The 10 gendarmes found themselves before a presidential guard firing squad.

The presidential guards told them:

"You are soldiers and we have business with this lady".

The Prime Minister Agathe was one of the threatened ministers and since 7 April 1994 at ~~midnight~~/midday?, the Rwandan gendarmerie and hence I myself also knew that three ministers had been assassinated (the information minister, the agriculture minister and Landuald, Chairman of the Liberal party). The commander of the Presidential Guard assigned on another occasion to the gendarmerie was a witness to these three assassinations.

The Rwandan gendarmes who were guarding her were taken prisoner by the Presidential Guards.

Before dying, Agathe attempted to reach General Dallaire to obtain assistance.

With regard to the massacre of the ten commando paras, I heard that they were kidnapped by the Rwandan army.

There was a general revolt in favour of lynching them. It was said that the camp commander tried to defend the Belgians.

The subordinates of the Belgian lieutenant were killed with pointed objects without a counter order. After this, the lieutenant and his colleagues defended themselves in a weapon store and he was killed afterwards.

The Belgians had been disarmed but one of them (the lieutenant) had a pistol. I knew the lieutenant who was killed. I knew him by sight.

At the start (of the time of the 1st para), the soldiers themselves organized Agathe's guard. Afterwards, it was the Ghanaians who did this job; I did not know why.

We never had problems with the Belgian guards of Agathe. Certain Belgian blue helmets who spoke French ask me why they were treated as "INKOTANYI".

I explained to them at the time that the RTLM and other newspapers had launched a campaign against the Belgians.

It was the MRND party which was behind this campaign.

It tried to show that the Belgians had betrayed the Rwandan government in 1990.

When the Belgians came back in 1993, the time had come to criticise them.

The presidential guard underwent brainwashing and adhered to an ideology.

The Belgian soldiers were killed by soldiers at the military camp of Kigali but who originated from the president's region.

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On the question of knowing whether he can specify the names of the units which took part in the massacres on 6 and 7 April 1994, the Warrant Officer Turatsinre replied:

The presidential guard, the Para- commandos stationed at the camp in Kanombé, The Recce Battalion (composed of men from the president's region) and the FAR battalion stationed at Mont Kigali ~~in HUYE~~ took part in the massacres.

The last named FAR battalion carried out the *first* massacres in the centre of the city.

In witness whereof,

++SIGNATURE++

Read, approved and signed

10/05/95

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