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## **UN 'Shut Down' Rwanda Probe**

An Australian former UN war crimes investigator has revealed documents exposing a UN cover-up of its inquiry into the events that triggered the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Adelaide lawyer Michael Hourigan says the UN shut down his investigation in 1997 into the shooting down of a plane carrying the extremist Rwandan president Juvénal Habyarimana and the president of Burundi.

The investigation implicated ethnic Tutsi rebel leader Paul Kagame, who is now the President of Rwanda. The 100-day genocide, in which Hutu extremists murdered hat unknown persons from within the UN leadership and possibly elsewhere pressured judge Arbour to end (Hourigan's team's investigations) into the shooting down of president Habyarimana," it says in part

Mr. Hourigan said the informants told him a "foreign power" was linked to the attack.

The exposure of Mr. Hourigan's memo and affidavit, along with Mr. Brugière's findings, places fresh pressure on the UN to explain why it stopped its investigation.

A spokesperson for Ms Arbour, who is now the UN Commissioner for Human Rights, did not respond to questions sent by The Age.

The UN has released few details about Mr. Hourigan's investigation, although some UN officials have said it was outside the UN's mandate.

But Mr. Hourigan's affidavit says Ms Arbour and other senior UN figures had initially supported the investigation. "It was made clear to me that our investigations into the rocket attack upon the president's aircraft was an act of international terrorism which clearly fell within the (tribunal's) statute."

Mr. Hourigan's memo to Ms Arbour describes, but does not name, the three sources who approached the investigators. It says they revealed the existence of a covert attack unit, called the "network", which was under the control of Mr. Kagame.

In 1994 he was the leader of Tutsi rebel force that invaded Rwanda and ended the genocide.

The memo says the sources claim the covert unit "was advised to put in place a contingency plan to eliminate president Habyarimana on or about 15 Mar 94..."

The sources say the network under the command of then General Kagame planned and executed the rocket attack on the presidential plane.

Mr. Hourigan, who quit the tribunal following the meeting with Ms Arbour, said he did not know where the sources were or whether they were still alive.

When Mr. Brugière released the findings of his inquiry last November, Mr. Kagame dismissed them as "politically motivated". France supported the Hutu government at the time of the genocide.

Mr. Kagame cannot be prosecuted by the French because he is a head of state. Only the tribunal can prosecute him.

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