

Rwanda Talks With Belgium on Genocide Arrest

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BRUSSELS, Sept 12 (Reuters) - Belgium's prime minister plans to meet with his Rwandan counterpart at the United Nations next week to discuss the arrest of a Belgian priest on charges of helping incite the African country's 1994 genocide.

Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt will meet Rwandan President Paul Kagame at the U.N.'s headquarters in New York where world leaders will gather for its general assembly next week, Verhofstadt's office said on Monday.

Although the meeting had been arranged before last week's arrest, the case of Guy Theunis would be discussed, it said.

Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht, who has been more outspoken about the case, also will be seeking an explanation from Rwanda Foreign Minister Charles Murigande at the assembly.

"Up until now, we haven't had enough elements that would make clear to us these very serious accusations against him," his spokesman Rudy Huygelen said.

Rwanda's arrest of Guy Theunis has drawn criticism from human rights activists.

Human Rights Watch says the case does not have the evidence to support the charges against Theunis, a member of the Catholic order of the "White Fathers" who worked as a missionary in the central African country between 1970 and 1994.

Rwanda insists the traditional court that is hearing the case is conducting it an open and fair manner.

Theunis has pleaded innocent of charges of having published articles in a local newspaper that encouraged Hutus to take part in the killings.

Theunis is the first European arrested by Rwanda on genocide accusations, but he is not the first charged in the 1994 slaughter of 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus by militant Hutus.