

Rwanda Killings Suspect Detained in Belgium

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BRUSSELS (Reuters) - A former Rwandan army major suspected of killing 10 Belgian soldiers during the genocide in Rwanda 10 years ago has been brought to Belgium and was detained in custody on Saturday, a Belgian magistrate said.

Bernard Ntuyahaga had been held for five years in Tanzania, which refused to extradite him to Rwanda or Belgium, magistrate Lieve Pellens said.

Speaking by telephone, Pellens said Tanzanian authorities released Ntuyahaga a couple of days ago due to a procedural error. He then had to face the choice of being prosecuted in Rwanda or Belgium.

"He decided freely to come to Belgium," she said, adding he may face war crimes charges.

The 10 Belgian soldiers were killed in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, on April 7, 1994 in an orgy of bloodletting in the city. Following the killings, Belgium withdrew its 400 troops serving with a 2,500-member U.N. force in the country.

The deaths shook Belgium and prosecutors have been investigating the killings since.

Ntuyahaga was brought to Belgium on Friday and questioned by a judge who decided on Saturday there was sufficient reason for him to remain in custody, Pellens said.

During the Rwanda genocide in 1994, Hutus killed hundreds of thousands of Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Since then, there has been much self-criticism in other countries for their failure to step in and halt the genocide.

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