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## **UN Tribunal Accepts French Probe as Evidence in Genocide Trial**

ARUSHA, Tanzania — The UN war crimes court for Rwanda accepted a controversial report by France's top anti-terrorism judge as evidence in a key genocide trial on Monday as a main witness cited in it said his testimony had been manipulated.

Judges at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in the case of a former colonel accused of being the "brains" behind the 1994 genocide said they would admit the French judge's report, which implicates current Rwandan leaders in the events that sparked the genocide.

"We have decided to accept the report in its entirety," said Judge Erik Møse, who heads the panel in the trial of Théoneste Bagosora whose lawyers had argued for French Judge Jean-Louis Bruguière's findings to be admitted.

Møse said Bruguière's report, which infuriated Rwandan President Paul Kagame and sparked Kigali's decision to sever all ties with Paris last month, could be "useful" in understanding the "context" of the genocide.

Bruguière is investigating the April 6, 1994, downing of former Rwandan president Juvénal Habyarimana's plane that touched off the 100-day killing spree in which some 800,000 people, mainly minority Tutsis, were massacred.

Last month, he said Kagame, then a Tutsi rebel leader, should be prosecuted for his alleged role in the shoot-down and then issued international arrest warrants for nine of the president's top aides.

The report infuriated Kagame and led to a rise in anti-French sentiment in Rwanda, where many believe that French troops in Rwanda at the time helped the radical Hutu militia that are blamed for most of the killings.

Bagosora's attorneys had sought the report's admission into evidence to back up testimony from the ex-deputy head of the UN force in Rwanda who said Kagame's Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) rebels shot down Habyarimana's plane.

But even as the ICTR judges ruled on accepting the Bruguière report, a chief witness cited in it for RPF involvement, former rebel Emmanuel Ruzigana, denied he had implicated his ex-colleagues in his testimony.

"I'm shocked by the evidence falsely attributed to me by this judge," Ruzigana told AFP from Norway where he is currently living.

"I have no knowledge whatsoever about the plan to shoot down Habyarimana's

plane or the people who downed the plane," he said, assailing the French judge for allegedly misrepresenting his words.

"Perhaps Bruguière ran short of witnesses and decided to attribute false testimony to any Rwandan he spoke with," Ruzigana said.

The French newspaper Libération earlier Monday quoted him as saying that a French official read out a text to him in French—which he barely speaks—and asked whether he confirmed or denied its substance, in a 2004 session before Bruguière.

"Sometimes I didn't understand the question," he told Libération. "They had to read it out several times. The judge didn't like my answers. At the end, he said angrily: 'That's all, get out, there won't be any asylum (for you)!'"

He said he signed his "statement," written up as if he expressed himself in perfect French, without understanding what was in it and left.

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