

Prosecution opens inquiry into Twagirayezu file

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Genocide suspect Twagirayezu in the hands of Rwanda National Police officers upon arrival at Kigali International Airport after his extradition from Denmark last week. Sam Ngendahimana.

The National Public Prosecution Authority (NPPA) has started working on the file of genocide suspect Wenceslas Twagirayezu, who was extradited from Denmark to Kigali last week.

This was confirmed by Faustin Nkusi, NPP spokesperson on Tuesday.

Nkusi said that the prosecution received the file from Rwanda Investigations Bureau (RIB) on Monday and they have five days to work on it before filing the case to court and then the suspect can be brought to court for mention.

“The case file of Twagirayezu Wenceslas was transmitted to our office by RIB on Monday and we are now working on it. We have five days to file the case to court requesting for preventive detention,” Nkusi said

Twagirayezu, 50, was extradited to Kigali on Tuesday last week after his protracted battle against the decision that took him up to the European Court of

Human and People’s Rights.

He has been in custody since May last year and is accused of Genocide, extermination and murder as crimes against humanity.

Prosecution charges that the suspect participated in the mass killing and extermination of Tutsi, where together with others attacked various places of former Rwerere Commune in the current Rubavu District, killing thousands.

Among others, he commanded attacks on Busasamana Catholic Parish where more than 3,000 Tutsi had sought refuge and over 1,000 were murdered here, according to prosecution.

Twagirayezu, who witness accounts indicate openly carried a gun during the Genocide, is also being pinned on killings at Mudende University where more 1,000 Tutsi civilians had sought refuge and others at the Institute Saint Fidele where teachers and students were forced to board a bus and transferred to Nyundo where they were killed.

The prosecution earlier said they were ready to bring to justice Twagirayezu before the Nyanza-based specialised International Crimes Chamber of the High Court and guaranteed that human rights in criminal proceedings would be fully observed in view of a fair trial.

Twagirayezu is the second genocide suspect being extradited from Denmark, the first one being Emmanuel Mbarushimana, who was extradited in 2014, something the prosecution says other countries should emulate.

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