

Manchester Evening News

Manchester man arrested over genocide

A MAN who fled to Manchester after he was accused of being linked to the slaughter of 87,500 people in Rwanda has been arrested and will appear in court with three others

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Emmanuel Nteziryayo, named by the M.E.N in August, will attend the City of Westminster Magistrates Court following his arrest last night.

As we revealed the Rwandan government has been trying to extradite the 51-year-old father of five and Scotland Yard has now confirmed that it has acted on their request.

Nteziryayo, who has always protested his innocence, gave immigration officials a false name and nationality when he and his family were granted asylum in Britain more than three years ago.

Benefits

Since then they have been living on benefits in housing association accommodation at Benchill, Wythenshawe.

Nteziryayo was the mayor of a province in the south of Rwanda during the 1994 troubles. He is No 71 on a list of genocide suspects living abroad issued by the country's chief prosecutor's department.

The three other men were arrested in London, Essex and Bedfordshire, at around 9pm yesterday.

They are Vincent Bajinya, arrested in Islington, north London, Charles Munyaneza, arrested in Bedford and Celestin Ugirashebuja, arrested in Walton on the Naze, Essex.

All are accused in a provisional extradition warrant of killing members of the Tutsi ethnic group with the intent to destroy in whole or in part, that group.

Scotland Yard said the extradition warrants had been issued by City of Westminster Magistrates on Wednesday under Section 73 of the Extradition Act 2003.

Warrants

The warrants allege that between 1 January 1994 and 12 December 1994, the men:-

Did kill members of the Tutsi ethnic group with the intent to destroy in whole or in part, that group;

Did conspire with persons known and unknown to kill members of the Tutsi ethnic group with the intent to destroy in whole or in part, that group;

Did aid and abet persons known and unknown to kill members of the Tutsi ethnic group with the intent to destroy in whole or in part, that group.

All the men are believed to be in their 40s or 50s although no further personal details have been given by police.

It was known that the Rwandan government was seeking extraditions from Britain.

Tharcisse Karugarama, Rwanda's justice minister, said in November that they had formally requested the British government to hand over four men who were suspected of planning the massacre.

The Rwandan government said the suspects faced charges of planning genocide as well as crimes against humanity. It is believed that formal requests for extradition were made several months ago and British investigators had also travelled to Rwanda to assess evidence.

An estimated 800,000 Rwandans were killed in the space of 100 days between April and June 1994.

Most of the dead were Tutsis - and most of those who perpetrated the violence were Hutus. The genocide was sparked by the death of the Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana, although fighting between the Tutsis and Hutus was the precursor to the extraordinary violence.

Habyarimana, a Hutu, died when his plane was shot down above Kigali airport on April 6, 1994.

Within hours of the attack, a campaign of violence spread from the capital of Kigali throughout the country, and did not subside until three months later when the Tutsi-led rebel movement Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) captured Kigali.

That month two million Hutus - including many who have since been implicated in the massacres - fled to Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo.

United Nations troops and aid workers then arrived to help maintain order and restore basic services.

Following the genocide, around 500 people were sentenced to death, while another 100,000 are still in prison