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BBC

UK deports Rwanda genocide suspect

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Muvunyi's appeals for asylum were rejected by British authorities

Cathy Jenkins

A former Rwandan military officer who was arrested in London earlier this year is due to appear before the International Criminal Tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania to answer genocide charges.

Lieutenant Colonel Tharcisse Muvunyi was in charge of a military academy in the southern Rwandan town of Butare, when the genocide of up to three quarters of a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus was carried out by extremist Hutus in 1994.

According to the indictment, Mr Muvunyi is held responsible for atrocities committed by soldiers under his command, including the killing of two Tutsi priests and 25 Tutsi children who were hunted down in a convent.

Mr Muvunyi was detained by British police in February this year.

He had applied to the British authorities for refugee status two years previously.

Deportation appeal

Mr Muvunyi, whose transfer from London was completed on Monday, faces charges relating to the massacres, including genocide, public incitement to commit genocide, and crimes against humanity, including rape.

A British newspaper which had carried out an investigation reported that Mr Muvunyi had been granted temporary asylum by the British authorities, and was living with his family on social security benefits.

Earlier this month Mr Muvunyi abandoned a bid to block his deportation from Britain to the detention facility of the United Nations tribunal in Arusha.

Since the tribunal was set up to try people accused of orchestrating the genocide, eight have been sentenced, including two who pleaded guilty.