



REPUBLIC OF RWANDA
NATIONAL PUBLIC PROSECUTION AUTHORITY
ORGANE NATIONAL DE POURSUITE JUDICIAIRE
UBUSHINJACYAHA BUKURU



P.O. Box 1328, KIGALI, RWANDA
www.nppa.gov.rw

PRESS STATEMENT
AIMABLE HAVUGIYAREMYE, PROSECUTOR-GENERAL

5 October 2020

Paul Rusesabagina will be charged with various criminal offences, including terrorism, financing terrorism, recruiting child soldiers, kidnapping, arson, and forming terror groups. This is in connection with his leadership role in the armed group known as MRCD/FLN.

I would like to thank the Rwandan law enforcement agencies involved in his arrest. I also thank my counterpart in Belgium for responding to our request for international judicial cooperation to conduct a search of Mr. Rusesabagina's residence. The evidence collected during this search will be presented in court.

I would like to inform you that we have in custody 16 FLN fighters, including senior commanders, who are suspected of taking part in the attacks in southern Rwanda in 2018. They include Félicien Nsanzubukire (also known as Fred Irakiza), Anastase Munyaneza, and Jean-Christien Ndagijimana (son of the late FLN commander Laurent Ndagijimana, also known as Wilson Irategeka). A full list of the 16 fighters in custody will be provided to you.

Prosecution intends to submit a joint indictment of these 16 defendants, together with Mr. Paul Rusesabagina. Prosecution will also file a request with the court to merge this case together with the case of Callixte Nsabimana and Herman Nsengimana. We believe that all 19 defendants should be tried together.

This is a common practice, known as the principle of connectivity of offenses, which is provided for in our laws. This means that when a group of defendants is charged with the same crimes in the same place at the same time, it is in the interest of justice for court to consider the cases together.

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