



19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Genocide survivors in the UK welcome the arrest of Félicien Kabuga and urgently call on the UK government to take action against alleged Rwandan genocidaires living here.**

Rwandans in the UK and around the world welcomed the arrest of key genocide suspect Félicien Kabuga in Paris on Saturday morning (16 May). However, the arrest brings into sharp focus the failure of the UK government to take seriously its international commitments to bring alleged perpetrators of genocide living here to justice.

Genocide is a crime like no other. Those who use their skills, personalities, power and wealth purely to target a particular group for destruction cannot be allowed to walk free if humanity is to move forward. That Kabuga was able to evade capture for 26 years is testimony not just to his wealth and powerful friends, but to the total failure by a number of countries to arrest him.

The five genocide suspects currently residing in the UK are not in hiding. But despite the heinous nature of the crimes they are accused of – the mass murder of thousands of men, women and children – they have avoided justice for 14 years and counting. The UK has one of the worst records of any western country when it comes to bringing genocide suspects to justice. It is sincerely hoped by survivors and all right-thinking people that Kabuga's arrest will stir up a new, positive and urgent determination at Westminster to finally get these individuals in the dock.

Eric Murangwa Eugene MBE, a survivor and Chief Executive of the Ishami Foundation, set up to draw on genocide survivor experience to help us all connect to our common humanity, said:

'The UK government has denied survivors' justice by refusing to extradite or put on trial the five accused Rwandan *genocidaires*. This failure of the UK judicial system increases genocide denial and is a daily affront to survivors, sending out a signal that their pain and suffering does not matter.

We call on the UK and international community as a whole to stand on the side of the victims; to take suspected mass murderers off the streets of the UK and other cities across the world and send them to face justice where they committed the crime. They did not do enough to prevent the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. Now they must, even after 26 years, show a renewed commitment to punish the perpetrators.'

Alice Musabende, survivor and Ishami Foundation member commented:

'I am so happy to hear of Kabuga's arrest. I hope it serves as a reminder to other fugitives that sooner or later they will have to face justice, their crimes, and their victims. Each and every arrest and trial brings to survivors who live with the intense pain of their loss every day, a little peace and consolation.'

**Eric Murangwa Eugene MBE**  
**Founder & CEO**  
**Ishami Foundation**

The five Rwandans suspected of involvement in the 1994 genocide are:

- *Vincent Bajinya, alias Brown*: Alleged to have been part of the powerful presidential network ('Akazu') and to have assisted organising massacres at roadblocks Kigali, in conjunction with the *Interahamwe* militia. Lives in Islington.
- *Celestin Mutabaruka*: Pastor of a Pentecostal church. Alleged to have worked with the militia to organise and assist in the slaughter of around 20,000 men, women and children. According to witnesses, some were tortured by having their eyes gouged out before being killed. Lives in Kent.
- *Charles Munyaneza*: Former mayor of Kinyamakara Commune Gikongoro Prefecture. Alleged to have participated in the planning and implementation of massacres in his jurisdiction. He is alleged to have led attacks on Tutsi over Mwogo River in which thousands were slaughtered. Lives in Bedford.
- *Celestin Ugirashebuja*: Former mayor of Kigoma Commune in Gitarama Prefecture. Alleged to have assisted in the planning and implementation of massacres in areas where he had authority. He is said to have ordered militia to kill Tutsi who were brought to his commune office and gave instructions for Tutsi to be tricked to come out of hiding before being slaughtered. Lives in Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex.
- *Emmanuel Nteziryayo*: Former mayor of Mudasomwa Commune in Gikongoro Prefecture. Alleged to have assisted in planning and implementation of massacres in his area of authority. He is said to have personally led a militia group that carried out extensive killings. After arriving in the UK, he lived under a false name (Emmanuel Ndikumana) in Wythenshawe, Manchester, claiming benefits as a Burundian asylum seeker.