

AfricaNews

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Rwanda, June 29, 2009 - /ABC Television-Africa (ABC)/ The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda this morning sentenced Callixte Kalimanzira, a former official of the Rwandan Interior Ministry, to 30 years in prison. He was found guilty of genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, and aiding and abetting genocide.

The Tribunal says that Kalimanzira was a planner and executioner [sic] of a large-scale massacre of Tutsi civilians in Butare in April 1994. The Tribunal found that he led killing mobs, including police and soldiers, to a hill where thousands of Tutsis had sought refuge. He was also found guilty of involvement in other, similar incidents.

Callixte Kalimanzira was indicted by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on 21 July 2005. The indictment charges Kalimanzira with genocide, or complicity in the alternative, and direct and public incitement to commit genocide. Kalimanzira voluntarily surrendered to the Tribunal and pleaded not guilty to all the charges at his initial appearance on 5 May 2008.

During the events referred to in his indictment, Callixte Kalimanzira was a senior civil servant who held various positions, including Chef de cabinet in the Ministry of the Interior in the Interim Government. He is thought to have been a close ally of former President Théodore Sindikubwabo and Prime Minister Jean Kambanda, as well as a prominent member of the Mouvement républicain national pour le développement (MRND). Kalimanzira is accused of being responsible for



planning, instigating, ordering, committing or otherwise aiding and abetting the planning and commission of crimes during the genocide in Rwanda.

It is alleged that Callixte Kalimanzira personally participated in various massacres of Tutsi civilians and actively encouraged the commission of other crimes against Tutsis. The prosecution alleges that he, amongst other crimes, “personally beat some Tutsis to death” and “incited people to eliminate the Tutsi, including those who were still in their mothers’ wombs.”

The Tribunal took custody of Kalimanzira, who voluntarily surrendered in November 2005. He will receive credit for time served before today’s sentencing.

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