

UN Court Hands Over More Genocide Cases to Rwanda

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KIGALI, Nov 29 (Hirondelle) -- The Prosecutor of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) has transferred five cases to the Rwandan judiciary, Attorney General Jean de Dieu Mucyo, told Hirondelle News Agency on Tuesday.

"Last evening we received five more dossiers bring the total of cases we have received from the court to 30", said Mucyo.

Unable to complete all cases it is pursuing before its 2008 closure date, the ICTR has been turning over some of its cases to the Rwandan Attorney General.

The cases were handed to the Rwandan Attorney General by ICTR prosecutor Hassan Bubacar Jallow.

Until now, all the cases transferred to Rwanda involve suspects that were under investigation by the ICTR but who had not yet been indicted.

"We hope that soon we can get some of those they have [already] indicted and even suspects in the ICTR's custody", said Mucyo.

For the ICTR to transfer suspects under its custody to another country, the court's Prosecutor would have to first seek approval from a trial chamber of the court.

The key issues left before such procedures can be launched, according to the Rwandan Attorney General, is an agreement with the ICTR regarding Rwanda's system of punishment, which includes the death penalty.

The ICTR has stated that it would not transfer a suspect to a country without guarantees that the accused will not be liable to capital punishment.

Rwanda has said in the past that it was ready to give that guarantee.

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