



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

October 7, 2004

News Release

ACCUSED RWANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR PLEADS GUILTY TO IMMIGRATION FRAUD CHARGES

Subject lied on refugee application to hide his role as Hutu militiaman

CHICAGO—An alleged human rights violator who illegally entered the United States under the ruse that he was a Rwandan genocide victim pleaded guilty in federal court today to immigration fraud charges and assaulting a federal officer after a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigation.

Jean-Marie Vianney Mudahinyuka, 44, was arrested by ICE special agents at his Romeoville home May 10 on immigration fraud charges for lying about his true identity to gain entry to the U.S.

During the arrest, Mudahinyuka attempted to grab an agent's weapon before being subdued.

Mudahinyuka, using the alias Thierry Rugamba, gained entry to the U.S. as a refugee by concealing his true identity to an immigration officer in 1999 and falsely claiming that he had been a victim of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Instead, Mudahinyuka was reportedly a member of the Hutu militia who committed crimes against humanity.

Mudahinyuka was granted refugee status April 12, 2000. Six witnesses in the Chicago area identified Mudahinyuka as a perpetrator of genocide in Rwanda, and one allegedly saw the defendant participate in murders and rapes. The government of Rwanda has issued a warrant for his arrest on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.

"We will use all our available resources to go after those who are accused of committing atrocities against their fellow human beings," said Special Agent-in-Charge Elissa Brown, who leads ICE's Chicago investigations. "Those who think they can come to the United States to escape their past are not welcome here."

Mudahinyuka pleaded guilty to three counts of immigration fraud and assaulting a federal officer.

Sentencing is scheduled for March 15, 2005. He faces a maximum penalty of five, 10 or 20 years in prison on each count and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

The plea came in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, with Judge James F. Holderman presiding. Assistant U.S. Attorney Juliet Sorensen presented prosecution in the case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.