

Rwanda diplomat during genocide alive and well in Alabama

Written by

Thursday, 08 April 2010 14:11



Apr. 6 (GIN) – A former ambassador to the U.N. during the horrific days of the Rwandan was discovered living quietly in Alabama working in a plastics factory.

Jean Damascene Bizimana, the country's 36-year-old ambassador in the spring of 1994 when close to a million people were killed in a so-called ethnic war, defended the regime while in his U.N. post and opposed an arms embargo which all other members of the Security Council endorsed.

Bizimana assured the world's diplomats that his government was not to blame as over 800,000 people were massacred. Then he vanished and remade his life in middle-class America according to research by American University Prof. David L. Bosco in a Washington Post article.

He "never showed the slightest sign of remorse about what was going on in his country," Bosco said he was told by former British ambassador David Hannay. He is a "genocide denier" whose possible involvement in events against the Tutsi is still being investigated, said the current Justice Minister and Attorney-General, Tharcisse Karugarama.

Bizimana is an American citizen now, Bosco found out. "He works for a plastics company. And he doesn't want to talk about genocide." It is likely that he received citizenship as an exile who would be arrested if he returned home.

Rwandan officials were not the only ones who opposed international action during the deadly killing years. Then Secretary of State Warren Christopher, former President Bill Clinton and U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright also opposed a peacekeeping mission.