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## **UN Court "Does Not Get Involved" In Political Issues Between Rwanda, France**

KIGALI — The deputy registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda [ICTR] has categorically dismissed critics that have maintained that the Arusha-based tribunal has only punished the "losers" from the conflict that ravaged Rwanda, RNA has established.

"I will say that the ICTR is manifestly not victor's justice. We have demonstrated this by the existence of five acquittals in addition to the 26 convictions", Mr. Everand O'Donnell said in an email.

RNA had put it to him that the tribunal has not come out to bring to book all the different belligerents in the conflict the culminated into the genocide for which former Rwandan government officials have been convicted.

Some observers have referred to the tribunal established in 1995 by the UN Security Council to prosecute the war machine that carried out the 1994 genocide, as "victors' justice". Essentially to mean only the losing side in the conflict has faced justice.

Reports are ripe that since immunity accorded by France to acting heads of state prevents French judicial authorities from issuing a warrant against President [Paul] Kagame, anti-terrorism Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere hopes to ask the war crimes tribunal in Tanzania to pursue the case against him.

Responding to this, Mr. O'Donnell who is also the tribunal spokesman said, "As to the Prosecutor's position, he may make a statement in due course. In the meantime he has not been formally seized of the matter by any outside agency. He is completely independent and takes no instructions from anybody".

Asked to comment on the ongoing France/Rwanda showdown, Mr. O'Donnell summed up "We do not get involved in political issues". But added, "I would not wish to comment at this time. I will be having a press conference tomorrow at noon."

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