



INTERNATIONAL FUGITIVE INITIATIVE

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ADDRESS BY

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Under Secretary-General of the United Nations

Good Morning Everyone.

I am very pleased to be here today as Prosecutor of both the ICTR and the Mechanism to launch the International Fugitive Initiative.

During its life, the ICTR indicted 93 persons accused of playing a leading role in the genocide of 1994 and I am proud to say that the ICTR was successful in securing the apprehension of all but 9 of those accused persons. Proud, because that was no easy task. The ICTR has no police powers of its own. The arrest of its fugitives was only possible as a result of the cooperation of the member states in which the fugitives were hiding, and the ongoing support of those committed to ending impunity, including in particular the US State Department and INTERPOL,



both of which are represented here today. Every arrest was the result of this collective effort.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Rapp, on behalf of the US State Department for its War Crimes Rewards Program. The Program has been essential in providing both the publicity and incentive for people from all walks of life, and from all over the world, to provide the information leading to the arrest of many of our fugitives. I would also like to thank INTERPOL for the critical work it has done to support the tracking of the ICTR's fugitives across international borders to all corners of the globe.

Now as you may also be aware, the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals which has taken over the responsibility for the tracking and apprehension of the ICTR's remaining fugitives. And while I am proud of the ICTR's efforts, it is of ongoing concern to me that 9 such fugitives remain at large. It is unfinished business as far as I am concerned.

All of those still at large should know that the Mechanism is committed to seeing them arrested and brought to trial as a matter of priority. Three of those fugitives, Felicien Kabuga, Protais Mpiranya and Augustin Bizimana, will be prosecuted by my office at the Mechanism. The remaining 6 will be tried here in Rwanda. The



apprehension and trial of these fugitives is essential for securing justice for the victims of the genocide, building peace and stability in the region, and sending the message more broadly that impunity will not be tolerated. These efforts will not relent until the fugitives are brought to justice.

I am clearly not alone in this commitment. I am grateful for the renewed efforts of both the US State Department and INTERPOL, and I am confident that this initiative will bring greater attention and urgency to this work. The posters you see today are in 4 different languages and will be distributed widely in this region, here in Rwanda, in DRC and the Congo for example. The websites of the Mechanism, the US State Department and INTERPOL have also been updated and contain information about the fugitives and simple instructions about how to share information about their whereabouts with my office, including via email and telephone hotline. All such information will be treated with confidentiality, and – thanks to our friends at the State Department - may in some cases be rewarded with payments of up to \$5 million.

Of course, we will need state cooperation for the arrests themselves and I would call on all member states to comply with their international obligations to provide assistance to the Mechanism. But here too I am encouraged by my recent visits to



the southern African region, where I have received assurances of cooperation from a number of states. As you can see there is much work being done. Including renewed efforts by the tracking team in the OTP of the Mechanism.

I am sincerely hopeful that the next time we all stand here together, it is to announce the arrest of one of our fugitives.

Thank you very much.