



**Summary of Results:**  
**Fugitive Tracking Investigation of Phénéas MUNYARUGARAMA**

*Background*

1. Phénéas MUNYARUGARAMA was born in Kidaho Commune, northern Rwanda, in 1948. He joined the *Forces Armées Rwandaises* (FAR) after leaving high school. He underwent further military training in Belgium and Libya. In 1992 and 1993, MUNYARUGARAMA was a Lt Colonel and G1 at the military staff headquarters in Kigali, in charge of administration and personnel. By March 1993, he was appointed as commander of Gako military camp in Bugesera region, still at the rank of Lt Colonel.

*1994: Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda*

2. During April-May 1994, as commander of the Gako military camp, MUNYARUGARAMA was responsible for planning, ordering and leading mass killings and sexual assaults of Tutsi civilians by FAR soldiers, reservists, *Interahamwe* and Hutu civilians in the Bugesera region, including attacks on Tutsi refugees at the Ntarama Catholic Church and Nyamata Catholic Church.
3. MUNYARUGARAMA was indicted by the ICTR in February 2002 and a warrant of arrest issued on 4 March 2002, with an Interpol Red Notice issued in August 2002.

*1994-1999: Flight from Rwanda and Reformation of ex-FAR*

4. In June 1994, MUNYARUGARAMA and his family fled to then-Zaire, where he joined up with other FAR personnel in refugee camps and towns.
5. MUNYARUGARAMA soon became involved in the efforts to form the ex-FAR soldiers into new units in order to attack Rwanda. In November 1994, he undertook a short visit to Kahindo refugee camp with other senior ex-FAR officers for the purpose of encouraging the ex-FAR soldiers to join such units. Subsequently, MUNYARUGARAMA was reported to be head of the ex-FAR 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the Bukavu Military District, responsible for recruitment and training. MUNYARUGARAMA continued these efforts in the following years, including during and in the aftermath of the First Congo War between 1996 and 1997. By 1999, he rose to the role of G3 of the military staff headquarters in Masisi.

*1999-2002: Second Congo War*

6. In 1998, the Second Congo War began, between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)—formerly Zaire—supported by Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia, and Chad, and Congolese opposition forces, supported by Rwanda and Uganda. Determined to overthrow the Rwandan government and regain power, many of those responsible for the genocide and former members of the ex-FAR joined the conflict as allies of the DRC Government. In around late 1998,



this Rwandan Hutu force was recruited from those who gathered in various refugee camps in the DRC, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, and other locations

7. MUNYARUGARAMA, as a result of his continued engagement with the ex-FAR forces since the genocide, was directly involved in this development at a senior level. In 1999, he was appointed as the ‘Commissioner of Defence’ with the *Peuple en Armes pour la Libération du Rwanda* (PALIR), one of the senior leadership positions. PALIR had a military wing, the *Armée pour la Libération du Rwanda* (ALIR), which afterwards changed its name to the *Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda* (FDLR), in part due to the reaction to its killings of Western tourists at Bwindi in Uganda in 1999.
8. Between 1999 and 2001, MUNYARUGARAMA was largely deployed to the Kivus region of the DRC, which borders Rwanda, where he served as a senior leader of FDLR activities.
9. In late 2001, efforts were undertaken to unify separate geographic ex-FAR military elements into one FDLR structure. MUNYARUGARAMA, as a senior commander in the East then based in Masisi (North Kivu), and others, were invited to meetings in Kinshasa for these unity discussions.
10. In late 2001, MUNYARUGARAMA accompanied by two family members, two FDLR political officials, approximately twenty FDLR security escorts and several Congolese porters made a lengthy journey in the eastern DRC on foot from Masisi to Kankwala (North Katanga), heading for Kinshasa. The journey lasted several months and involved crossing arduous terrain including jungle, swamps and several difficult river crossings. MUNYARUGARAMA had difficulty with the river crossings shortly before reaching Kankwala and nearly drowned, and afterwards started reporting feeling unwell to his travelling companions.

#### *2002: Death and Burial*

11. In late February 2002, the group reached Kankwala, a small village where an FDLR Brigade headquarters was located. The group were provided with accommodation so that they could rest for some days before continuing their journey to Kamina and on to Kinshasa.
12. Several days after reaching Kankwala, MUNYARUGARAMA fell ill and died on or about 28 February 2002. Although the exact cause of death is unknown, due to a lack of trained medical staff and facilities, it was from natural causes. He was buried the next day in a coffin in an unmarked grave in Kankwala and a short funeral service was held attended by the two family members, FDLR officers and soldiers, and some Congolese civilians.
13. An exhumation of MUNYARUGARAMA’s body in Kankwala has not been attempted primarily due to serious security concerns for personnel travelling to the area, as well as additional factors such as lack of co-operation from DRC authorities. Additional to these factors is the potential difficulty of locating the unmarked grave and retrieving viable DNA from human remains in that area after over 20 years.
14. Nonetheless, a number of witness statements provide a consistent narrative establishing conclusively the fact of MUNYARUGARAMA’s death in Kankwala on or about 28 February 2002. The location, timing and fact of his death, including viewing his corpse, are consistently reported in detailed witness statements by eight former FDLR colleagues, most of whom had known him for many years. Finally, the location, timing and fact of his death are corroborated by the two immediate family members who were with him at the time of his death.