

Biography of Robert Higerero

Mr. Robert Higerero joined the Rwandan Patriotic Army and was part of the forces that took control of Kigali, Rwanda, in July 1994, toppling the then-Hutu government and bringing an end to the genocide in that country. He spent two decades in the Rwandan army, including two tours as a peacekeeper with the African Union and United Nations missions in Darfur, Sudan.

Following his decommission at the rank of major, he was called in for questioning concerning his links to former Army Chief of Staff General Kayumba Nyamwasa and the former head of Military Intelligence and Security Colonel Patrick Karegaya. Both Nyumwasa and Karegaya had fallen out of favor with Rwandan President Paul Kagame. Colonel Dan Munyuza, the Director of Military Intelligence informed Mr. Higerero that he had a job for him. Colonel Munyuza himself eventually called Mr. Higerero and said he wanted him to go to South Africa and “take out” General Nyamwasa and Colonel Karegaya. Mr. Higerero warned Colonel Karegaya, who suggested that he play along and tape the conversations with Colonel Munyuza to gather evidence.

Over the next seven months, Mr. Higerero taped his conversations with Colonel Munyuza, detailing the intended assassination plot, including the offer of \$1 million for a successful mission. The tapes of those conversations were turned over to Canada’s *Globe and Mail* newspaper, which had them translated and the voice of Colonel Munyuza authenticated, prior to publication of the story.

In May 2015, Mr. Higerero testified about the assassination plot before the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations. After that hearing, the Department of State interviewed him, finding his story credible and alarming. The State Department has since confirmed a worldwide system of murder-for-hire of Rwandan dissidents, including attacks in South Africa, Great Britain, Sweden, Belgium, Uganda, Kenya and Mozambique.