

Rwandan genocide suspect arrested in Dutch village

By *International Justice Desk*

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A woman has been arrested in a village in the south of the Netherlands on suspicion of involvement in the 1994 Rwandan genocide. The now 63-year-old is said to have led a group of young men in the mass murder of Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

The woman moved to join her family in the Netherlands in 1998. She has held Dutch citizenship since 2004, and now lives in the village of Reuver in the southern province of Limburg.

Dutch police investigating the case have questioned witnesses in the Rwandan capital Kigali, where the woman lived at the time of the genocide. She claims she is innocent.

The woman is the second person in the Netherlands to face charges for crimes committed in Rwanda. Last year in March a court in The Hague sentenced a man to twenty years in jail for torture during the genocide.

Extradition treaty

In future the Netherlands would like to be able to extradite war crimes and genocide suspects to Rwanda. In the run-up to the signing of an extradition treaty, caretaker Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Balling has agreed on closer cooperation with his Rwandan counterpart Tharcisse Karugarama. The Netherlands and Rwanda are to share expertise on witness protection, and the two countries will collaborate in training judges, public prosecutors and other judicial staff.

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