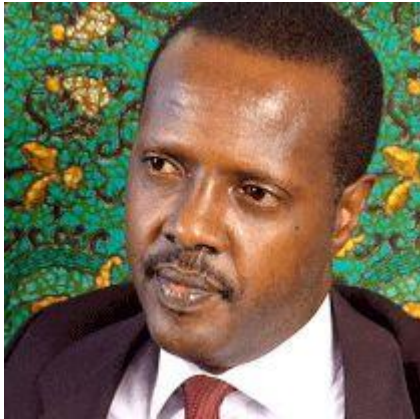




Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal

Official Transcript: Richard Karegyesa (Part 1 of 11)



Role:	Acting Chief of Prosecutions
Country of Origin:	Uganda
Interview Date:	29 October 2008
Location:	Arusha, Tanzania
Interviewer:	Batya Friedman Ronald Slye
Videographer:	Nell Carden Grey
Interpreter:	None

Interview Summary

Richard Karegyesa reflects on the relationship between the ICTR and domestic justice systems, discussing transfer of cases and the capacity of Rwanda's judiciary. Karegyesa discusses best practices for the prosecution, the protection of witnesses and prosecuting rape as a crime of genocide. He draws attention to the differences between prosecuting rape as an international crime and a domestic crime and comments on the importance of creating a historical record to protect against revisionist histories.

The transcript of Part 1 begins on the following page.

Part 1

- 00:00 **Batya Friedman: So I'm Batya Freedman. I'm a Professor at the University of Washington. And I'm here with Ron Slye who's a Professor at the law school at Seattle University. He's another interviewer. And our cameraperson is Nell Carden Grey and we are here with Richard who's going to introduce himself. I'd like to ask you to say your name, your role here at the ICTR and your nationality. And today is October 29th . . .**
- 00:29 Yeah.
- 00:29 **BF: . . . 2008. Okay, please Richard.**
- 00:31 Thank you. It's a pleasure meeting you. I'm Richard Karegyesa. I'm the Acting Chief of Prosecution in the Office of the Prosecutor and I'm Ugandan by nationality.
- 00:41 **BF: Great, can you tell us a little bit – when you say that you're the Acting Chief of Prosecution, what is involved in your role here, what kinds of things do you do?**
- 00:51 Well, the Office of the Prosecutor initially comprised the Prosecution Division and the Investigations Division, but now also has the Appeals and Legal Advisory Division. So I head the Prosecution Division that has about 100 attorneys in teams – in, in trial teams and, you know, I coordinate prosecution of cases at first instance, up to judgment, you know, before matters go to appeal.
- 01:31 The Investigations Division was downgraded as part of our downsizing and completion strategy, so it's now a section. So the Kigali office, you know, our investigations office is also under my division and we have maybe about 40 strong staff there, so, you know, I run that as well.
- 01:58 **BF: So when a case is, a decision is made to pursue a case and a prosecution team is assembled for that, do you play a role in assembling that team?**
- 02:11 Well, yes, I do. I mean all the trial staff, trial attorneys report to me and, you know, I'm, I'm responsible for assigning work, executing, you know, policy, and generally, you know, coordinating every aspect of commencement of investigation through prosecution.
- 02:35 **BF: So what, what process would you go through to create a team, a prosecution team for a case?**
- 02:48 The, the teams have actually already been assigned work. You know, in the formative years teams were created – put together as, you know, indictments were confirmed. But the, the, the profile of our cases is either regional or thematic, so you've got a team that is responsible for cases from specific regions.
- 03:22 If it's thematic it's like we've got the military cases, the government cases, the media, the clergy. So you have teams basically structured around those nodes and being responsible for the docket f-, falling under the theme, you know, or the region.

03:41 **BF:** So if teams, say, involve the clergy in a certain region, would members from both come together or you would find one as primary and assign that or . . .

03:53 If, if, if it's clergy it's clergy but, you know, regardless of which region the clergymen came from.

03:59 **BF:** Mm-hmm.

03:59 But because it, it is in a region . . .

04:02 **BF:** Mm-hmm.

04:02 . . . you know, my involvement is to coordinate and make sure, you know, that they're not at cross-purposes. You know, we hold weekly meetings just, you know, to compare notes and make sure that we're all singing from the same hymn sheet as it were.