



Français	Home	Contact Us	Help	Search	canada.gc.ca
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[Home](#) > [Research](#) > [Responses to Information Requests](#)

RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[New Search](#) | [About RIRs](#) | [Help](#)

The Board		5 May 2006
About the Board	RWA101284.FE	
Biographies		
Organization Chart		
Employment		
Legal and Policy		
References		
Publications	Background	
Tribunal	The most recent presidential election in Rwanda was held on 25 August 2003 (<i>Africa Confidential</i> 29 Aug. 2003, 1; <i>Africa Research Bulletin</i> 25 Sept. 2003, 15400; EU 2003, 3). Faustin Twagiramungu, who was prime minister (AI 22 Aug. 2003; <i>Africa Research Bulletin</i> 25 Sept. 2003, 15400) from July 1994 to August 1995 (<i>ibid.</i>), and who is also an ethnic Hutu (<i>ibid.</i> ; <i>Africa Confidential</i> 29 Aug. 2003, 1; <i>Independent</i> 25 Aug. 2003), ran as an independent candidate (EU 2003, 18; <i>Africa Research Bulletin</i> 25 Sept. 2003, 15400; AFP 11 Sept. 2003; AI 4 Sept. 2003). His political party, the Democratic Republican Movement (Mouvement démocratique républicain MDR) had previously been dissolved and banned by government authorities (<i>ibid.</i> ; EU 2003, 8; <i>ibid.</i> 22 Aug. 2003). In addition, the Alliance for Democracy, Equity and Progress - Mizero (Alliance pour la démocratie, l'équité et le progress-Mizero ADEP- Mizero), which was going to support him (<i>ibid.</i> ; <i>Africa Confidential</i> 29 Aug. 2003; <i>Africa Research Bulletin</i> 25 Sept. 2003, 15400), did not obtain authorization from Rwandan authorities (EU 2003, 4; <i>Africa Confidential</i> 29 Aug. 2003, 1). Faustin Twagiramungu, considered to be Paul Kagame's main rival (EU 2003, 29; AI 22 Aug. 2003), received only 3.62 percent of the vote, far behind Rwandan president Paul Kagame, who received 95.05 percent (<i>Africa Research Bulletin</i> 25 Sept. 2003, 15399; EU 2003, 9; AFP 11 Sept. 2003; AP 12 Sept. 2003).	
Refugee Protection Division		
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions		
Forms		
Statistics		
Research		
Research Program		
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets		
Responses to Information Requests	Treatment of Faustin Twagiramungu and his supporters	
Recent Research		
Media Centre		
News		
Information Sheets		
Media Relations		
Proactive Disclosure		

29; AI 22 Aug. 2003; see also *Africa Confidential* 29 Aug. 2003). The report also indicates the following:

[Translation]

Initially, Faustin Twagiramungu held very few meetings because of organizational problems. Beginning on 12 August, his campaign was disrupted by fears of accusations of divisionism and by the lack of authorization from local authorities, who accused the candidate of sending his requests to the wrong authority and of not complying with the time frames set out under the law (for example, Kibuye, meeting was cancelled on 12 August); of failing to provide a fax number where the confirmation of authorization could be sent (meeting cancelled in Kibungo on 18 August); and of changing meeting dates without prior notice (in Biyumba on 19 August and Kigali N'Gali). The meeting scheduled for 14 August in Gikongoro could not take place that day because the NEC had summoned the candidate to come to Kigali to explain some of the allegedly divisionist elements of his campaign. (2003, 30)

Numerous reports indicate that during the election campaign, Twagiramungu's representatives were accused of planning acts of violence and were arrested by security forces (*Country Reports 2003* Apr. 2004, Sec. 3; Radio Rwanda 24 Aug. 2003; see also EU 2003, 34; AI 22 Aug. 2003; *Independent* 25 Aug. 2003). According to *Country Reports 2003*, most of the people arrested were released once the election was over (Apr. 2004, Sec. 3). No further information on the current treatment of Twagiramungu's supporters from the 2003 presidential election campaign could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

In a 28 May 2006 telephone conversation with the Research Directorate, Twagiramungu's spokesperson in Belgium stated that Twagiramungu, fearing arrest by the Rwandan authorities, left immediately after the election and returned to Belgium, where he has lived with his family since he was removed from his position as prime minister in 1995 (see also *Africa Research Bulletin* 25 Sept. 2003, 15400).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Africa Confidential [London]. 29 August 2003. Vol. 44, No. 17. "Rwanda: A Victory Foretold."

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European Union (EU). 2003. *Rwanda. Élection présidentielle 25 août. 2003. Élections législatives 29 et 30 septembre, 2 octobre 2003*. European Union Election Observation Mission final report.

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Radio Rwanda [Kigali, in French]. 24 August 2003. "Rwanda: Police Arrest 12 Twagiramungu Campaign Agents, Former MP." (BBC Newsfile/Dialog)

Rwanda. 28 May 2006. Telephone conversation with Faustin Twagiramungu's spokesperson in Belgium.

Additional Sources Consulted

Publications : *Africa Confidential*, *Africa Research Bulletin*, *Jeune Afrique/L'Intelligent*, *Keesing's Reference Systems*, *Political Parties of the World*, Resource Centre country file.

Internet sites, including: AllAfrica.com, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) News, CIA World Factbook, European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI.net), Factiva, Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'homme (FIDH), Freedom House, Human Rights Watch (HRW), International Crisis Group (ICG), Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), Relief Web, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Kingdom Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND), United Nations Security Council, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

 [Top of Page](#)

[Important Notices](#)

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