

dignity must be clearly demonstrated along with the conviction that the victims, the accused and the Rwandan people have a right to justice.

## **2. Justice in regard to the genocide: responding to an urgent situation**

While waiting for this alternative system to be implemented, the prosecutors must continue their investigations and the special courts must continue to hold trials; the formal justice system remains, and will continue to remain, fundamental. The problem can be summarised in a few words: how to increase the quality and effectiveness of the judicial institutions dealing with genocide-related cases and yet obtain rapid results, but without increasing the financial burden on the country.

It has to be accepted that Rwanda still requires material aid to compensate for what is lacking in the administrative infrastructure. This include vehicles and equipment repairs, fuel and office supplies, transport and living costs for members of the special courts obliged to visit the scene of a particular atrocity, and logistic support for investigators gathering evidence and verifying confessions.

Adapted to the place and the circumstances, this type of spontaneous support can be quite effective. Using funds provided by Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, Ireland and the European Union, two NGOs have already assisted the prosecutors' offices and the special courts in this way. Some bilateral development co-operation agencies occasionally adopt this approach, which should be used more often and extended to cover the areas in Northwest Rwanda that have so far been neglected. The Rwandan situation must still be treated as an emergency and assistance must be continued in order to meet the needs at the national level.

The European Union is assisting the Ministry of Justice to run a training programme to help meet the deficit in human resources. This is backed by financial support covering the salaries of five hundred extra judicial staff members (court clerks, IPJs, OMPs, prosecutors' secretaries). The intention is that they should work mainly on genocide cases.

Although not high enough, it is to be hoped that the salary increases that came into effect in January 1999 will help to ease the situation. Something must also be done to counter the isolation felt by magistrates dealing with genocide cases. It is high time that the Department of Courts and Tribunals and the Council of Magistrates fulfilled their functions. There should be more encouragement for initiatives such as the organization of seminars aimed at promoting better communications between magistrates.

Finally, consideration must be given to magistrates whose future careers are blocked because they do not have full law degrees. The Belgian and French development co-operation agencies are setting up a continuing training programme culminating in a qualification equivalent to a university degree. This is an excellent idea, but there are not enough magistrates dealing with genocide cases and it would be a great pity if they were to have to interrupt their work for several months a year at this stage.