

News Release

SENTENCE in *R. v. MUNYANEZA*

MONTREAL – October 29, 2009 – Désiré Munyaneza was sentenced today in the Superior Court of Quebec to life in jail, with no possibility of parole for 25 years, for offences committed under the *Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act*.

On May 22, 2009, the Court found Mr. Munyaneza guilty in the first-ever prosecution under this act. He was convicted on all seven counts of genocide and crimes against humanity and war crimes, which include murder, causing serious bodily harm, raping and pillaging. The offences were committed against the Tutsi population in Butare, Rwanda, in 1994.

This prosecution demonstrates “how seriously the fight against impunity is taken and the importance of applying the law,” said Pascale Ledoux, Crown prosecutor with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada.

Mr. Munyaneza has 30 days to decide whether or not he will seek to appeal the sentence.

The PPSC is responsible for prosecuting offences under federal jurisdiction – including war crimes offences – and for providing prosecution-related legal advice to law enforcement agencies.