



ICTR Newsletter

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20 YEARS LATER ICTR REMEMBERS



On 10 April 2014, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals commemorated the victims of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda when more than 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu were killed.

The commemoration ceremony was attended by several senior officials, including the Minister for Justice of Rwanda, the Hon. Johnston Busingye who, in his remarks to the large audience comprised of hundreds of students from various schools and colleges of Arusha, as well as Rwandans living in Arusha and staff and management of the ICTR, recalled the two decades long historical relation and cooperation between Rwanda and the ICTR. Each of the three principals of the Tribunal, namely President Vagn Joensen, Prosecutor Hassan B Jallow and Registrar Bongani C. Majola presented remarks and offered words of hope to the guests. They also reflected on the events of 1994 and highlighted challenges and achievements experienced by the Tribunal during this period. Also present at this high profile event were KIBUKA's President, Mr. Jean Pierre Dusingizenungu and Avega's Vice-President, Mrs. Yvonne Kabanyana. The African Court sent its Registrar, Dr. Robert Eno, to mark this special day. An exhibition organized by ERCOU and the Legacy Committee, in charge of the event planning and management, was a key attraction for attendees. During the Event, the Registrar of the ICTR launched a new website specially designed for the commemoration and featuring the ICTR's work and achievements. The website also showcases milestones registered by and lessons learnt from the ICTR's pursuit of justice for the countless victims of the Genocide. Moreover, it highlights the substantial work remaining to be tackled before the Tribunal's mandate is completed.

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Remark by Judge Vagn Joensen

Today we commemorate all of the victims of the atrocities that took place throughout Rwanda in 1994. Overwhelmingly these victims were Tutsi; against whom the ICTR has stated as a fact of common knowledge beyond dispute that genocide was committed, but they were also Twa, moderate Hutu, and others who stood in opposition to the genocidal campaign; all of whom suffered the same tragic fate as their Tutsi brothers and sisters. We are also here to console the survivors. Today we weep with a nation that suffered loss on a scale that threatened the annihilation of entire generations. But annihilation was not to be the fate of this nation. Twenty years later, Rwanda has arisen from the ashes and rebuilt in a way that many thought impossible. We stand in awe at the remarkable ability of Rwandans to move

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Justice Hassan B. Jallow Remark

As we commemorate this monumental tragedy of the genocide, we seize the opportunity to pay our deepest respects to the victims and to the survivors of the Rwandan Genocide; our gratitude to the thousands of survivors who have, despite numerous challenges, come forward and testified at the ICTR and in that way assisted the tribunal with indispensable material for the execution of its mandate to render justice. Our appreciation to the government and people of Rwanda for their support of and collaboration with the Tribunal, not only in the investigation and prosecution of these serious crimes, but also in the reform and capacity building of the Rwandan legal system culminating in the referrals and extradition of genocide cases to Rwanda; to the member states and to the rest of the international community for their vital support to the Tribunal, and to the

(Continued on page 4)



Registrar Mr. Bongani Majola's Remark

As we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Rwanda Genocide, which targeted the Tutsi and also killed moderate Hutus, our hearts reach out to the souls of those who perished and to the survivors who lost all that it meant to be human; survivors whose tales of resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity are a true inspiration for all of us as they struggle to rebuild their shattered lives and lift their nation from the ashes of genocide. This is a nation whose people were sadly abandoned by all in their hour of utmost need.

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Speech of Mr. Samuel Okorino, Head of the MICT Registry in Arusha

As the world commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda, it is a great honour and a privilege for the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, as the successor of the ICTR and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, to be part of this commemoration event organised by the ICTR. As the Head of the Registry at the Arusha branch of the Mechanism, I am deeply honoured and humbled to be with you in this solemn remembrance of the Genocide.

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(Continued from page 2) *Remark by Judge Vagn Joensen*
beyond those dark days and to look towards an ever-brighter future.

Following the Genocide, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was mandated with the formidable task of contributing to reconciliation by bringing to account those most responsible for the planning and execution of the atrocities that occurred in Rwanda in 1994. Today, twenty years later, with all but 9 of the 93 individuals who were indicted accounted for, the Tribunal has created a rich legacy. It has enriched the evolution of international criminal law, preserved for posterity a record of the atrocities committed, established beyond any doubt or possible denial – in judgment after judgment – that those atrocities constituted

nicity, beliefs, and other backgrounds. Rwanda has been a leader in this respect; enshrining rights for women in its constitution and working to eliminate the divisions in society that perpetuated the downward spiral towards genocide.

There can be no question of the leaps that Rwanda has taken since those 100 dark days or of the milestones that have been realised along the way – not least of which is the achievement of Rwanda’s justice system; rebuilt from the ashes and now trying cases transferred by the ICTR and several countries. The resilience of the Rwandan people has been astonishing to witness; committing to reconciliation and justice at the same time is no easy feat, but Rwanda has remained committed to trying to achieve both.

As we look to the future, I continue to be amazed by



a genocide, and brought to justice many of those accused of planning and executing one of the most brutal and efficient killing campaigns the world has ever witnessed.

As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reminded us earlier this week when he spoke in Kigali on the occasion of the 20th commemoration of the genocide, “justice is indispensable for sustainable peace.” But as Rwandan President Paul Kagame said the same day, Rwanda has pursued justice the best it could, but that does not restore what was lost. It is clear that justice mechanisms for the atrocities committed must be only one part of the response. Although justice is necessary it is not sufficient. Other work must be done to protect and prevent the crimes from occurring. Crucial to all of this is the inclusion of assistance, protection, security, prevention and the creation of a society that offers equal opportunities to individuals irrespective of eth-

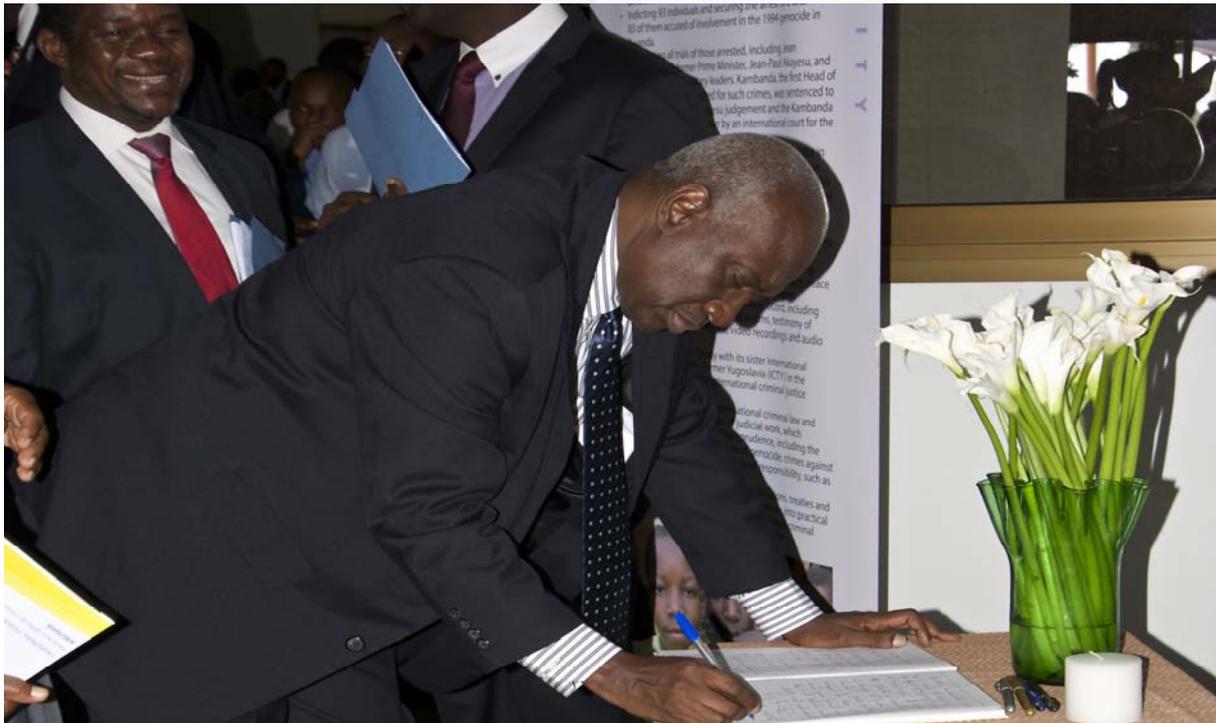
the way that many individual Rwandans have taken responsibility for their roles in the Genocide and equally amazed by the way that so many of the survivors have learned to forgive. It is an example of the purest sort and one that the rest of the region, continent, and world must try to follow if we are ever to truly have sustainable peace. While crises continue to afflict many parts of the globe, we hope that the difference between the world 20 years ago and today is that we have all learned something from the Rwandan example.(...) Although so painfully many of their mothers and sisters, fathers and brothers, and neighbours and friends are lost forever, I hope that the Rwandan people will be able to take some small measure of solace in knowing that the world mourns with Rwanda this week and that we are taking this time to reflect and to recommit ourselves to finding ways to take action in the face of unfolding tragedies.



(Continued from page 2) **Justice Hassan B. Jallow Remark**
global process of accountability particularly in the tracking and arrest of fugitives, the provision of evidence, and the national trial or transfer/extradition of suspected genocidaires.

We must however recognise that much still remains to be done. The nine fugitives who remain at large including *Félicien Kabuga*; *Protais Mpiranya*, former commander of the Presidential Guard; and *Augustin Bizimana*, former Minister of Defence; need to be arrested and brought to justice; the three of them

past two decades can provide valuable guidance to future efforts in combating impunity and promoting accountability. The OTP of the ICTR has already made considerable progress in this area with the compilation of manuals on tracking and arrest, on the investigation and prosecution of sexual violence, and a compendium of best practices. Similar work...needs to be done and can be undertaken successfully, with the required financial support of states and international organisations. These lessons need, with the support of member states, to be compiled/documentated and made accessible to both national and international jurisdic-



before the Residual Mechanism and the remaining six before the Rwandan courts to which their cases have been transferred by the ICTR. This can be done only through the active collaboration of all states to secure the arrest and transfer of these fugitives for trial. Several suspected genocidaires whom the ICTR has not been able to prosecute due to the limitation of its mandate must in accordance with the requirements of international law, be prosecuted by the host countries or extradited to Rwanda to stand trial.

The international obligations to protect the witnesses, who have testified at great risk, and to attend to their welfare need to be respected. Accused persons, who have been released by the Tribunal, either on acquittal or conclusion of service of their sentences, need to be relocated to where they can resume their normal lives. As the ICTR together with other *ad hoc* and hybrid tribunals stand on the verge of closure the lessons that can be drawn from their operations over the

tions and all others involved in the investigation and prosecution of international crimes.

Our ultimate goal must however be to give concrete realisation to the deep seated yearning for “never again”. The implementation of effective international and national preventive strategies for the avoidance of mass atrocity must rank as a global priority. The international community needs to live up to its obligation to protect communities in danger of such mass atrocity. Above all we must create within each of our national communities an environment of good government based on respect for the rule of law, justice, democracy, and human rights without discrimination; respecting the equality and equal rights of all persons. We must build communities of peace and reconciliation based on continuous dialogue. Such an environment is the strongest bulwark against the strife and conflict which often is the setting for the great tragedy that the world witnessed in Rwanda in 1994.



(Continued from page 2) Registrar's Remark

No memory evokes as much horror and revulsion as does the memory of the systematic and widespread mass killings of about one million people who were killed in those fateful 100 days in 1994. We pay our deepest respect to them. We pay tribute to the countless survivors who daily carry the heavy burden of pain and suffering of their experience with them; survivors who, despite this burden, have in many ways greatly contributed to the process of accountability and reconciliation in Rwanda.

In the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide, the new Rwandan authorities requested the international community, through the United Nations Security

This anniversary coincides with the anniversary of the establishment of the ICTR which, as we all know, is engaged in preparations to wind up its work after two decades of efforts to deal with the leaders of the genocide. The ICTR never had the ambition to try all the persons who might possibly be involved in the Rwandan genocide. In any case, the number of potential targets would have rendered this ambition unrealistic and impossible to achieve. The primary objective, therefore, was to hold to account those who bear the greatest responsibility for the crimes committed as part of the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. As we prepare to close down the Tribunal we should all be proud of what we have achieved in the past twenty years despite numerous complex challenges we have had to overcome. I therefore wish to pay tribute to all current



Council, to set up an international tribunal in order to prosecute the perpetrators of the genocide and other gross violations of international humanitarian law. The request was made at a time when most of the Rwandan judicial infrastructure was destroyed; its staff assassinated or having fled the country. The ICTR was the response of the international community to this request.

and former ICTR staff members for their dedication and professionalism to this noble cause of international justice. I also wish to thank our host, the Government of Tanzania, and indeed Rwanda and other Member States whose support and cooperation has been key to the success of the ICTR in implementing its mandate.

(Continued from page 1) 20 YEARS LATER

A few days earlier a delegation, led by the President of the Tribunal Judge Joensen and Prosecutor Jallow, attended the 20th anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda. The President sat on a panel of experts that discussed the role of justice after genocide. The delegation attended several meetings and rallies including one at the stadium where no less than seven heads of states were present. The Secretary General of the United Nations, H.E. Ban Ki-moon, addressed the

public during that ceremony. On 7 April the Registrar, Mr Majola, represented the Tribunal at a commemoration held in Dar-Es-Salaam in the presence of the guest of honor, professor Mark Mwandosya, the Minister of States in the President's Office, and various officials including members of the Tanzanian government, United Nations Agencies, and members of the diplomatic corps including the High Commissioner of Rwanda H.E. Benjamin Rukangazi.



Kwibuka20 Forum, Kigali



Jeannette Nyiramongi Kagame, First Lady of Rwanda surrounded by some high profile guests during Kwibuka20 Conference in Kigali.



Commemoration of 20th Anniversary of the Genocide
Arusha 10 April 2014





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I very sincerely thank the Government of Rwanda for the invitation to Kigali where I had the honour of joining the multitudes in various *Kwibuka20* activities guided by the theme "remember-unite-renew". The evident trauma that overcame many victims and people gathered at the Amahoro Stadium is a stark reminder of the horrific effect of what happened in Rwanda in 1994.

As we remember this tragedy that should not have been, we must maintain our unwavering resolve to act. In establishing the ICTR the international community confirmed that there can be no impunity for mass atrocities. And through the creation of the Mechanism it reiterated that no one can elude the long arm of the rule of law and reaffirmed its commitment to the transformative role of international criminal justice.

As United Nations staff members and as proud representatives of this new institution, we at the Mechanism remain ever mindful of the legacy that we are mandated to continue. With renewed vigour each day, we work to bring to justice those who still escape it, so that Rwandans, and survivors in particular, may find

further inspiration to continue on the path of reconciliation.

We strive to carry on the pioneering work of the ICTR in providing protection and support to nearly 3,000 witnesses who embodied the essence of international criminal justice when they travelled to Arusha and courageously recounted their tragic experiences.

We work to safeguard the largest international criminal justice archives to date –comprising thousands of hours of testimony and video recordings of historic proceedings, scraps of clothing taken from bodies found in mass graves and perpetrators’ diaries – and to provide access to the archives. We do so in order to ensure that this unparalleled collection continues to remind and teach; serving as a catalyst in the continuing fight against impunity and a guard against revisionism.

With solemnity, we at the Mechanism remember; and with dedication and inspiration, we join the efforts of the world in endeavouring to make sure that “never again” is not just a slogan, but a reality.





Remark by the President of IBUKA Mr. Jean-Pierre Dusingingizenungu

The 20th commemoration is a trying time for us all. It is a time where we are reminded of the devastating and catastrophic events that ravaged our lives and that of Rwanda for those 100 days. It is a particular moment to reflect on how far we have come. But it is also a time to look forward. And we cannot look forward without realizing the overwhelming challenges that still exist.



It is crucial to observe that the Genocide consequences are not currently seen as a priority from donor community.

20 years on, there are tendencies from some actors to turn the “dark page” of genocide putting little interest in addressing its pervasive and continuing effects in the lives of survivors.

Trauma is still there as years go on. This aggravates further survivors’ levels of production, which results in a vicious circle of poverty compared to other categories of Rwandans. The Ibuka’s psycho-social support project phased out in December last year due to the lack of funding. The project needed to be scaled-up in order to tackle the increasing problem of trauma and associated mental problems caused by the genocide.

With the closure of the Gacaca courts remaining genocide cases are transferred to the classic courts, yet very few survivors can afford the price to hire a

lawyer. A legal aid project in this sense is no doubt a pressing need.

In many countries around the world some “genocidaires” enjoy free movement at present. Obviously we commend the efforts that have been made, such as the trial of Captain Pascal Simbikangwa or the recent extradition of Mugimba by the Netherlands. It is necessary for other countries to follow these examples.

Until now, the genocide ideology manifests in various forms of which the most recurrent are genocide denial and revisionism

Reparation is one of the long-awaited pressing issues that survivors continue to call for. Once a reparation fund is established it will holistically solve the cross-cutting issues of justice and social economic problems faced by survivors. For survivors reparation entails restitution and compensation for their moral and material damages, rehabilitation, and guarantee of non-repetition.

Reparation will not certainly solve all the problems of survivors, but it will at least deliver a degree of restorative justice for survivors. If reconciliation is truly possible it will only be built on the foundation of justice.

As we commemorate the 20th anniversary of genocide, reparation is central to IBUKA’s advocacy and we believe time comes for the government and the international community to double their efforts in setting up a reparation mechanism for survivors. Our current recommendation is the creation of an international trust fund for survivors.

By progressing the reparation issue the UN will secure the legacy and the very first objective of the ICTR to challenge impunity and deliver justice to victims. To this end, I would like to specifically salute the recent move of the ICTR President, Honorable Judge Vagn Joensen here present, who has commissioned the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to undertake an assessment study on the unresolved issue of reparations for victims of international crimes committed during the genocide against Tutsi. A report is expected to be published later this year to provide technical input on concrete ways forward for reparations to be addressed.





**Staff Association remark presented by
Mr. Danford Mpumilwa**

Today our hearts reach out to the souls of those who perished and to the survivors who lost all that it meant to be human; survivors whose tales of resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity are a true inspiration for all of us as they are rebuilding their shattered lives and lifting their great nation of Rwanda from the ashes of genocide.

April 7th must forever be remembered in mankind's history. For with remembrance, with regret, with remorse, we may truly begin to give concrete meaning to our commitment "never again." As we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Rwanda Genocide, no memory evokes as much horror and revulsion as does the memory of the tremendous systematic and widespread mass killings of more than 800,000 people who were killed on account of their blood, birth and political affiliations during those fateful 100 days in the spring of 1994. On an occasion such as this our thoughts must go to the victims and to the survivors.

We pay our deepest respects to them. We pay tribute to the countless survivors who daily carry the heavy burden of pain and suffering of their experience with them; survivors who despite this burden have in many ways greatly assisted the process of legal justice here, and elsewhere, to take its course. ICTR's experience of the Rwanda Genocide should spur us all to a more broad based response to such potential tragedies. We, the Staff of the ICTR, wish to point out that addressing the plight of victim survivors in the event of future preventive action should be an important component of delivering justice to post conflict situations. If there is a costlier lesson we as part of the International Community have learnt from this genocidal event it is that the costs of inaction; from human, material and historical viewpoints; far outstrip those of untimely and costly intervention and delayed prevention. We must keep alive the memory of those victims who lost their lives and those victims who have been deeply affected psychologically and physically. Keeping the memory of the Rwanda Genocide alive is the only way for all of us to maintain the candle light of hope burning so that the "never again" concept can find a true meaning in our collective action and for genocide to never again happen anywhere else in this world.

In conclusion allow me to point out that we, as Staff Members of this noble institution, say we are proud to have been involved in this noble task, as mandated so by the United Nations; in participating in these tasks which make the world a better place for us and for our future generations even as we remember the past and pay the humblest respects to those who have passed so tragically.

**Message of the Secretary-General delivered by
The Registrar Bongani Majola**

This week of commemoration of the horrors committed in Rwanda twenty years ago has been solemn and sorrowful for the United Nations and for the international community as a whole. This past Monday, I attended the official commemoration of the Genocide and paid my respects to the 800,000 people who were killed -- overwhelmingly the Tutsi, and also moderate Hutu, Twa and others -- in three months of unparalleled bloodletting. I stressed on that occasion the need for greater collective resolve to ensure that genocide is consigned, once and for all, to history. To rebuild a society as shattered as Rwanda after the genocide is a monumental endeavour. It requires sustained political will nationally and internationally, coupled with investments in security, governance, the rule of law, and the resumption of economic activity.

We must also acknowledge the fundamental human demand for truth and justice in the wake of atrocity. These claims arise not only from the need for redress for victims and survivors, but also from the need for humanity as a whole to vindicate our most basic shared values. Accountability is a moral and ethical imperative. The establishment of the ICTR in the immediate aftermath of the genocide was an essential contribution towards telling the truth of what took place and holding key perpetrators to account. The accused tried before the ICTR have been only a fraction of perpetrators, and the justice efforts of Rwanda and other States have been critical complements to the ICTR's work. Yet the outcomes of these cases and the jurisprudence developed over time have been crucial for reasserting the rule of law. The voices of victims, so often silenced, have been heard, and their courage in testifying before the ICTR has contributed to the establishment of a historical record. The ICTR has also become a core element of the landscape of international criminal justice that embodies our collective commitment that there can be no impunity for crimes of this magnitude.

In short, the ICTR has been an indispensable part of the response to the Genocide and today Rwanda is stronger for its work. Today, the ICTR is completing its final set of appeals. Its legacy will be carried forward by the Residual Mechanism. I welcome this commemoration and join you in honouring the victims, as well as the courage of those who fought and died to resist unspeakable evil around them. Their memory inspires us to do everything in our power to avoid ever having to witness such events again.



Chief of Judicial and Legal Affairs Section, Anees Ahmed Delivers Public Lecture on Genocide at the East African Community.

On 11 April 2014, the Chief of Judicial and Legal Affairs Section, Mr. Anees Ahmed together with a few other members of the ICTR attended the East African Community's events commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda. The programme was also attended by Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of Tanzania, and Dr. Richard Segibero, Secretary-General of the East African Community. He delivered a public lecture on genocide where he enumerated a brief history of genocide, the background to the modern definition of the crime of genocide under the 1948 Convention against Genocide, and the challenges faced by states; especially the delicate balance between state sovereignty and accountability. The international community was still reeling from the atrocities committed during the 1st and 2nd world war when it



was confronted by the events in Rwanda in 1994 and those in the former Yugoslavia in 1993; emboldened by the relative success of the Nuremberg and Tokyo Tribunals, the United Nations set up the current international tribunals to try cases of genocide and other international crimes, including the ICTR.

Mr. Ahmed also talked about the current challenges faced by international criminal tribunals in prosecuting acts of genocide. Drawing from his experiences at the ICTY, ECCC, and the ICTR, he gave examples of the challenges faced by the prosecutor in proving intent; a fundamental element in the crime of genocide which makes it distinct from ordinary crimes and other international crimes. He also distinguished the various ways through which one can commit acts of genocide; ranging from killings, mental and bodily harm; forcible transfer of children to another group, rape and other measures intended to prevent births within a group as was found in the *Akayesu* case, to deliberately imposing conditions of life calculated to bring about a group's physical destruction in whole or in part, for instance as was found in the *Kayishema* and *Ruzindana* cases.

In conclusion, he stressed the importance of fighting impunity through prevention, but also through enhancing the work of the international tribunals in accomplishing their mandate.

Statement on behalf of Hon. Lady Justice Sophia A. B. Akuffo, President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

We are gathered here today to commemorate one of the most heinous crimes ever committed on our continent since the official end of the slave trade. Exactly 20 years ago this month the world was transfixed in disbelief as an attempt was made to wipe out from the face of the earth an entire ethnic population, as well as its sympathizers. Within a period of 100 days, close to one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were butchered, hacked, and/or tortured to death. Entire communities and families were wiped out, just because of their ethnic origins or moderate and humane views. Twenty years after, many of the survivors are still haunted by the traumas; at the same time, some of the perpetrators are still at large. Many, however, have found it in their hearts to forgive and reconcile thereby bringing healing to themselves and others.

One of the reasons for commemorating such an event is to affirm to ourselves and future generations that this must never happen again. At the same time, we need to ask ourselves whether, 20 years after, we have done enough to ensure that this indeed does not and should not happen again. Has the world learned any lesson from the Rwanda genocide of 1994? Can we raise our heads high and boldly tell the people of Central Africa Republic, for example, that "never again"? Can we say we did enough to protect the people of South Sudan? Are we proud of our response to the carnage in Syria? When shall we learn to act fast and act effectively?

The Constitutive Act of the African Union, perhaps learning from the experience of the past where the OAU defended zealously a principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States, has allowed for the intervention of the Union in a member state in cases of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. In furtherance of this ideal, the African Union is in the process of extending the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to deal with criminal matters including war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. Africa must determine its own destiny and make sure 1994 is never repeated. The continent must speak with one voice and act as one to ensure that such crimes are never repeated on the face of this earth. Twenty years after the Genocide some states still harbour suspected perpetrators and give them protection. The fight against impunity must not be left to one nation or organization. It must be a collective responsibility, so that perpetrators of such heinous crimes will know that there is nowhere for them to hide. As we commemorate this day, we remember all the victims, the survivors, as well as those brave men and women who sacrificed their lives to protect humanity. Never again should we be required to commemorate another event of such measure.



7 April Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of Genocide in Dar-Es-Salaam



29-30 April Open Days at Umusanzu to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Genocide

Umusanzu center holds two open days

On 29 April 2014, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals-Kigali organized a series of activities using the concept of "OPEN DAYS" to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and, by the same token, to enlighten the public on the activities of ICTR, its role in fighting the Culture of Impunity and its contribution towards the process of Unity and Reconciliation in Rwanda.

The ceremony ran from April 29 to 30, 2014 and was held at the ICTR's Umusanzu Information and Documentation Centre in Kigali. In attendance were several senior Rwandan Government officials amongst whom were the Prosecutor General for Rwanda, Mr. Richard MUHUMUZA; the Executive



Secretary of the Rwanda National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, Dr. Jean Baptiste HABYARIMANA; and the Vice President of the Rwanda Law Reform Commission, Mr. Evode NIZEYIMANA. Also present were Mr. Lamin Momodou MANNEH, the UN Resident Coordinator and the UNDP Resident Representative in Rwanda; Representatives of Diplomatic Missions; and other officials from different Institutions in Rwanda.

Speaking at the opening ceremony on behalf of the Registrar, Mr. Bocar SY, the chief of External Relations, Communication and Outreach Unit and spokesperson of the ICTR, thanked the Government and people of Rwanda for joining the ICTR and the MICT in Kigali in commemorating the Genocide in Rwanda. In his keynote speech he underscored the fact that the event provided an occasion to enlighten the public on the activities of the ICTR, as well as showcase its role in fighting genocide and the culture of impunity.

Mr. Sy emphasized that with the establishment of the ICTR the International Community not only confirmed that mass violation of human rights can no longer be tolerated, but also reaffirmed its commitment to the strengthening of International Criminal Justice in fighting Crimes against Humanity. "As Rwanda and the whole world commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda, the



ICTR and the MICT's Kigali family is humbled to pay our deepest respects to the victims and survivors of the Rwandan Genocide," said the ICTR official.

The ERCOU chief further said that the 20th anniversary of the commemoration of the Genocide coincides with 20th anniversary of the establishment of the ICTR and that during this period, amongst its achievements, the Tribunal has gathered an indisputable collection of records pertaining to the true history of the Genocide in Rwanda together with related information. He also said that in order to bridge the information gap between the ICTR and the people of Rwanda the Tribunal had, in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, set up the Information Centre commonly known as Umusanzu Centre; a facility that has become a huge and rich source of information on Genocide, International Criminal Law, Human Rights, and other related topics for researchers, academics, politicians and journalists amongst others.

During the two day event visitors were taken on tours to better acquaint them with the Centre's facilities, to show them displays and exhibitions on the history of Genocide, to screen documentaries broadcasting the ICTR various activities undertaken by the outreach team of Umusanzu Centre, and to offer briefing sessions on the history of the ICTR, its achievements, challenges, and legacy.

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