



Statement

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REGISTRAR

Arusha, 7 April 2015

Statement by the Registrar on the Occasion of the 21st Commemoration of the Rwandan Genocide

I join my deepest sentiments with those from all corners of the world, to the people of Rwanda on this International Day of Reflection of the Genocide in Rwanda. The 1994 genocide against the Tutsi took the lives of nearly 1 million children, women, men and elders who were a Tutsi, or opposed to the slaughter of the Tutsi. It was a loss to the families, a loss to the country, and a loss to humanity.

The sorrow an entire country has suffered, I have never experienced. No matter how many memorials I have visited or testimonies I have heard, this immense grief I cannot begin to discern. But, as a fellow human being, a civil servant and a Principal of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, I stand in solidarity.

I honour the memory of the victims, I pay tribute to the resilience of the survivors. My thoughts are with the orphans, the widows, the mutilated and the many powerless victims of sexual violence whose physical and psychological scars still ache. Together with Rwanda, I also salute the courage of the rescuers, who at times acted at the cost of their own lives. Even during those darkest days, when any trace of humanity seemed to have faded, our common inherent humanness prevailed, be it through the provision of secure refuge, an offer of food, or the treatment of a wound. Their actions and sacrifices were a spark that kindled peaceful reconstruction and collective healing.

Unimaginable strides towards justice, reconciliation and progress have been made. However remembrance, education and renewal shall never cease. The stories of the horrors, as well as of forgiveness and reconciliation, must be passed on to the next generations. They have not lived the scourge of the genocide, and yet bear the immense task of succeeding where we failed - to stop hatred towards another from enveloping our hearts, as they carry on with the healing of a nation.
