

Your Excellency Olivier Jean Patrick Nduhungirehe, Ambassador of Rwanda in The Netherlands,  
Your Excellency Paul Huijts, Secretary General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands,  
Your Excellency, President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT), Judge Carmel Agius,

Dear Rwandans in the Netherlands and elsewhere around the world, to those we share a common history, friends of Rwanda, currently listening to me or in the future, allow me to first of all console you wherever you are and in your homes in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic that has negatively affected the entire world.

Stay strong and continue to adhere to Covid-19 preventive measures.

Nonetheless, dear Rwandans, we cannot forget to remember our loved ones killed in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

It is now 27 years since the genocide happened, and this time we are obliged to commemorate virtually.

This is also the case in Rwanda whereby there are numerous commemoration programs scheduled to take place during this time and I encourage you to tune in and follow.

IBUKA, which I am representing today, is an umbrella organization that advocates for genocide survivors. In the Netherlands, IBUKA was inaugurated in 2003.

Our overall objective is to render justice. What I mean here is that we work to bring the genocide perpetrators to justice wherever. On this note, we commend the government of The Netherlands for its efforts on this matter and kindly request for an increase in these efforts because there are many perpetrators who are still roaming free.

Our second objective is commemoration. To commemorate wherever we are is what we owe our loved ones and it also heals the wounds in our hearts.

The third objective is supporting survivors of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. There are still genocide survivors who need our helping hand, hence we do our best to support them and give them hope for the future.

The fourth objective is fighting minimization of the genocide against the Tutsi decisively and by all means.

The fifth objective is peace building and ensuring that Genocide never happens again by fighting the ideology of the genocide against the Tutsi, while teaching peace.

The theme of this year's commemoration is "Remember-Unite-Renew". It helps us to remember and not be overcome by sorrow, instead it helps us build ourselves up and strengthen those among us who are still weak.

Dear Rwandans with whom we share a common history, let us remember and renew. Losing our loved ones in that manner caused us numerous wounds, but it is amazing how we were able to rebuild our lives and new families.

I want to applaud the genocide survivors for sticking to life. You find that one accepts consequences of the genocide, then, goes on to become self-reliant, and rebuild themselves. This is great bravery.

Behold, Rwanda has renewed itself; no one is mistreated and Rwanda is open to everyone. We therefore are very proud of our country and it gives us hope. May God bless Rwanda.

As genocide survivors, we will forever be grateful to RPF-Inkotanyi that rescued us and stopped the genocide against the Tutsi whose aim was to exterminate God's people through inhumane killings.

You all know that the international community turned a blind eye. The Blood of Tutsi was shed everywhere in Rwanda, but the Inkotanyi (RPF) may they be blessed, put an end to those evil acts.

We will forever be grateful to them.

I thank the government of Rwanda for the continued support it gives to genocide survivors through paying school fees, providing health care services among others.

We also thank our government for encouraging us to build a secure country devoid of divisionism.

I cannot forget to thank the government of The Netherlands that gave us refuge and also thank the good natured Dutch people whom we live with day by day and who held our hand throughout the process of recovery.

We also thank them for their support in rendering justice and may they continue in that stead. I want to conclude by expressing our major wishes as IBUKA-Netherlands.

We appeal to the government of the Netherlands to permit us to build a genocide memorial site where we can lay wreaths during the commemoration period.

May this request be given consideration. This has been already done in Belgium, France, Switzerland and Italy among others.

We kindly request the government of the Netherlands to introduce a law that punishes everyone who denies or minimizes the genocide against the Tutsi.

I also appeal to the government of the Netherlands to continue searching perpetrators of genocide and bring them to justice.

Additionally and more importantly, we request everyone's support in fighting genocide minimization which is now on its peak, as these deniers continue to misname and misrepresent the facts by spreading a false narrative of double genocide.

That is scorn. Everyone should do whatever they can to end genocide minimization.

Let's come together and tell about our story; everything that happened to us, let us write books, share our testimonies and tell the entire world what happened to us without lies because we will be saying what we experienced.

Let us openly fight the minimization of Genocide against the Tutsi, and may our descendants also do the same.

I want to urge survivors of the genocide against the Tutsi to join hands and sow goodness and may you stay strong during these difficult times. You whom we lost, Rest in Peace. You who survived, stay strong and courageous, God knows why you survived and He is with you.

Let us do our best and communicate by telephone, and in case one feels lonely, we are here for you. You can reach out to us. Stay strong, you are alive, Persevere, love life and be brave. I wish you a healthy life and peace of mind. Those who believe in God, pray hard. God is good, He is alive and able. God bless you, thank you very much.