



## EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

Your Excellency Ambassador **Olivier Jean Patrick NDUHUNGIREHE** and esteemed wife,  
Honorable Minister of Justice and Security of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, **Dilan Yezilgoz-Zegerius**,  
Honorable Vice Mayor of the Amsterdam City; **Hester Van Buren**,  
Distinguished members of **Ibuka -Rwandan diaspora in the Netherlands**, friends of Rwanda,  
and all distinguished guests.

I extend my warm greetings and a heartfelt welcome to this solemn occasion of the **30th commemoration of the victims of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi**.

Dear all, especially those who share this common history with us and those who have joined us in solidarity today, this **30th commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi** marks 30 years since the tragic event (Genocide against Tutsi) unfolded. Let me begin by asserting, "**Let us all take courage!**"

Reflecting on this year, it feels as though 30 years ago occurred just yesterday. Thirty years may seem like a considerable span of time, yet it also feels fleeting. It has been 30 years since we lost our beloved ones, who were mercilessly taken from us due to their ethnicity, simply for how they were born. Thirty years, during which those who were in the womb then have now grown into adults of 30. As I stand here speaking, I am reminded that my own son, born on the 28th of June 1994, is a living testament to the passage of time. My own son, Yannick! I would like to ask him to stand up and You can all see him.

It has been 30 years since our nation, Rwanda was liberated and has since emerged as a beacon of hope and hospitality on the global stage, renowned for its unique charm and beauty. 30 years during which we, the survivors, have undergone the hard task of rebuilding our lives. I speak of 30 years since the horrific genocide against the Tutsi.

Thirty years on, we remember and we renew. We remember the massacre of the past – **the 100 days of unspeakable torture and senseless killings of innocent Tutsi**, solely because of how they were naturally born. This was no accidental tragedy; it was a methodically planned genocide



## EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

targeting the Rwandan Tutsi. The perpetrators not only executed their plan with ruthless efficiency but also planned how they will deny it attempted erase its memory, labelling it as a war of 1994 and giving it wrong names simply to deny it. To those who don't know it or say it wrongly, allow me to inform you that it is not a war, nor even conflicts of the 1994S, it is rather “**A 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST TUTSI**” it is not Rwandan Genocide.

They spared no one men, women, babies, toddlers, girls, and boys; their intent was eradication of Tutsi. However, their wicked scheme was not entirely successful. Thanks to the heroic efforts of **RPF -INKOTANYI** who intervened and saved us; our country was liberated, and many lives were spared.

Yet, the scars of this tragedy remain. The survivors continue to grapple with the physical, mental, and emotional wounds inflicted upon them. Life for them is an ongoing struggle, marked by resilience and determination. In these 30 years, they have achieved remarkable feats despite the challenges they face. They stand as a testament to the power of the human spirit, unwavering in their resolve to forge ahead with hope and dignity.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to my country, **Rwanda**, which has consistently provided tangible and emotional support in various sectors such as medical care, education, and housing for survivors. However, as we commemorate 30 years since the Genocide, there remains an ongoing need for support. Many survivors are facing health challenges, aging, and other related issues. **IBUKA** calls upon all those who are able to contribute to continue supporting our cause.

One of the ongoing battles faced by the Genocide survivors and our nation at large is combating the denial of the Genocide against the Tutsi and the propagation of Genocide ideology. This denial and misrepresentation of history, such as the false claim of two genocides, must be confronted. It is an attempt to erase the memory and reality of the Genocide against the Tutsi. We urge everyone to join us in this fight by spreading the truth, documenting our history accurately, and engaging with deniers on social media platforms. I especially call upon the youth, who are well-versed in social media technologies, to take up this responsibility. It is your story to tell, your duty to your country.



## EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

I specifically appeal to the **Kingdom of Netherlands**, which has been a consistent supporter of our cause, to continue assisting us by ensuring justice prevails. There are still many genocide perpetrators hiding within this country, some of whom hold Dutch passports. We implore you to cooperate in bringing these individuals to justice, as holding a Dutch passport does not absolve them of their crimes.

As Rwandese, history has taught us the consequences of impunity, and it played a role in the Genocide against the Tutsi, we learnt our lesson and I can strongly say, we graduated and We chose accountability as our Weapon.

To the youth, many of whom were born after the Genocide against the Tutsi, I urge you to learn and understand our country's history from reliable sources. Be the guardians of peace that our predecessors fought for tirelessly.

As I conclude, I offer words of encouragement and solace to the survivors. Take courage during this commemoration period as we honor our loved ones. Stay strong, resilient, and know that you are not alone. May the God I believe in grant you the strength to endure. You are heroes. I also express profound gratitude to our friends and supporters, who have traveled to stand with us as we remember our fallen brothers, sisters, daughters, sons, parents, and friends.

Let us all **Remember and Renew**. May God bless and keep you as you remember. Indeed: **Remember-Unite and Renew**.

Murakoze-Thank You!