

32nd Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi - 7 April 2026

- Mr. Hans Docter, Deputy Secretary General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
- Excellencies Ambassadors, Heads of International Organizations,
- Mr. Joseph Rutazihana, President of IBUKA Netherlands,
- Ms. Flora Breemer, Managing Director of the District South Committee and Representatives of the Municipality of Amsterdam,
- Distinguished guests, fellow compatriots,
- ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by thanking you all for your presence on this very important occasion as we gather here in solemn remembrance of one of the darkest chapters in human history - the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994.

Today we mark the 32nd commemoration of this tragedy that began on 7th April 1994 and plunged our country into a period of darkness and sorrow rarely experienced in recent memory.

Moments like these give us an opportunity to not only remember and honour the memory of over one million innocent lives lost unjustly but to also renew and re-affirm our collective responsibility to ensure that such tragedy never happens again anywhere in the world.

On this day on all corners of the world, we remember the women, the children, the men and the elderly brutally massacred simply because of who and what they were. We remember the hopes, aspirations and dreams that were forever extinguished by the bloody hand of hatred and bigotry and we pay tribute to their dignity and humanity in their last moments.

We also honour and console the survivors some of whom are present here with us today, your remarkable resilience and your extraordinary courage continue to inspire us all and gives us strength to continue rebuilding our nation.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

In the aftermath of the Genocide, Rwanda was confronted by unimaginable challenges! How does one begin to rebuild a country destroyed on every level?

On a human level, on a moral level, on an economic level, on an institutional level.

Faced with these challenges the choice was clear- **“to move forward”** - rebuild and renew while keeping the memory alive.

This Rebirth began with the pursuit of Unity notably through justice and reconciliation. This long and arduous journey was fuelled and guided by a clear conviction: that accountability is indispensable to social healing, cohesion, lasting peace and stability.

We are grateful to those who accompanied us on this journey, most notably the Kingdom of the Netherlands which was among the first nations to offer invaluable institutional support aimed at rehabilitating Rwanda's justice sector and has demonstrated over the years its commitment to Judicial cooperation most notably on cases involving genocide suspects.

Rwanda appreciates this shared commitment for accountability and justice and stands firm and ready to continue the fight against impunity.

However, as we reflect today, we must do so with honesty and clarity about present day challenges.

Thirty-two years after the Genocide against the Tutsi, we are confronted with a deeply troubling paradox. While the world unanimously proclaimed “Never Again,” the very warning signs and root causes that led to the Genocide are, in some instances, being witnessed again - yet too often, they are met with silence, hesitation, or indifference.

We are witnessing the resurgence of genocide ideology, the spread of hate speech, and the normalization of divisionist narratives - particularly in our region, but also beyond.

These are not abstract concerns; they are real and very dangerous developments that echo the very patterns that preceded the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994.

What is even more concerning is that, in many cases, the international community appears to be passively observing these developments. The same international system that once said “Never Again” is, at times, failing to act decisively when faced with clear signs of incitement, denial, and historical distortion.

This inaction carries consequences.

Hate speech, when left unchecked, does not remain mere words. It evolves. It mobilises. It dehumanises. And history has shown us - painfully and unmistakably - where it can ultimately lead.

Excellencies, distinguished guests

The genocide ideology remains present including in Western capitals and cities, where genocide suspects and their networks of supporters some under cover of being opposition figures continue to distort facts, intimidate survivors and attempt to rewrite history.

This is not only an affront to justice - it is a direct threat to survivors and to the integrity of our collective memory.

We therefore call for stronger, more decisive action. Identifying, arresting, and prosecuting these fugitives must remain a priority. Justice cannot be selective, nor can it be postponed indefinitely for justice delayed is justice denied.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

The Commemoration is not a ritual of the past alone - it is a call to action in the present. It challenges all of us to confront difficult truths and to uphold the principles we claim to defend.

To the Rwandan community in the Netherlands, your role is vital. You carry the responsibility of preserving memory, promoting unity, and standing firmly against denial and division. Your voice matters in ensuring that truth prevails.

As I conclude, I would like to express once more my sincere appreciation to all of you for joining us today. Your presence is a meaningful expression of solidarity with the people of Rwanda and with survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi.

Let us remember the victims.

Let us stand with the survivors.

And above all, let us ensure that our actions give true meaning to the words “Never Again.”

I thank you for your kind attention.