

The 1994 Rwanda Genocide and its Lasting Impacts

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Hutu forces Rwanda's Tutsi monarch into exile and declares country a republic

1961

Habyarimana (a Hutu) into power for the next 2 decades via military

1973

Genocide begins

April 7, 1994

Negotiation between government and RPF
1992

1959

Hutu revolution forces over 30,000 Tutsi to flee Rwanda

1962

Belgium grants Rwanda independence

1990

Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) invades Rwanda from Uganda

1993

RPF and Habyarimana are deemed the government

July 15, 1994

Genocide ends

The Rwandan Government During the Genocide

- Rwanda was an economically and agriculturally stable nation before the genocide
- The period between the start and the end of the genocide was known as “the 100 days of slaughter”



- The Hutu’s motivation was based on race and power
- Government officials rewarded killers with foods, drinks, money, and women
- After 3 months, over 800,000 innocent Rwandans were killed

The Rwandan Government After the Genocide

- After the genocide, over 2 million people, nearly all Hutus, had fled Rwanda and sought refuge in neighboring countries



Note. From “Rwanda faces” by Magnum Photos, n.d. retrieved from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/140402-rwanda-genocide-anniversary>



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- The government came together, making a Hutu president and a Tutsi Vice President
- In 2003, a new constitution was drafted; it outlawed all reference to ethnicity under law

Rape Testimony

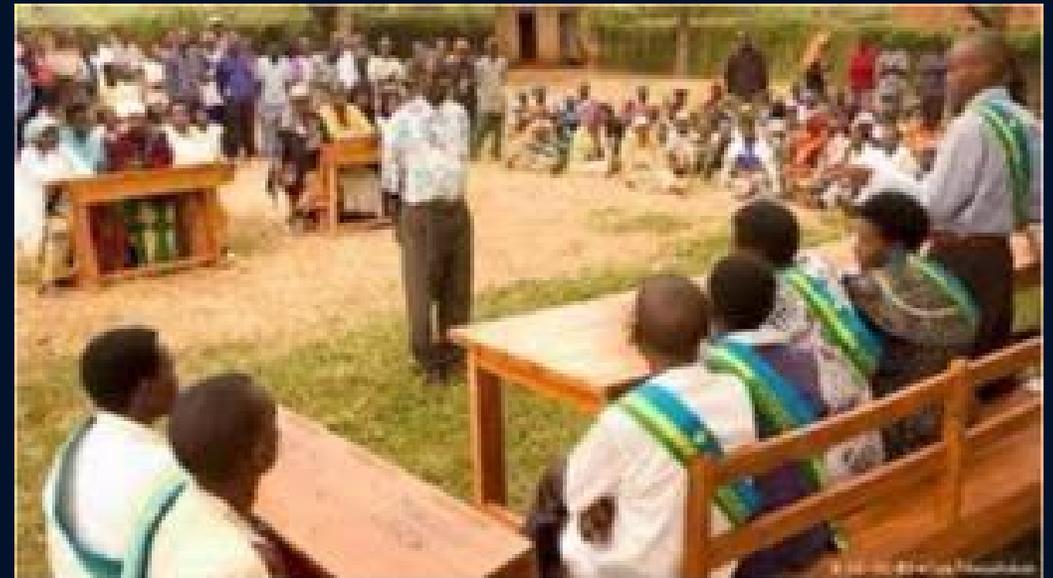
- Approximately 250,000 Tutsi women were brutally raped by Hutu soldiers



- Approximately 1 in 4 victims contracted HIV/AIDS from being raped
- It was noted via testimony that most all soldiers mentioned the woman's race before or during their rape
- These rapes were intended to create biological warfare as well as humiliate countless women

Rape Trials in Rwanda Post Genocide

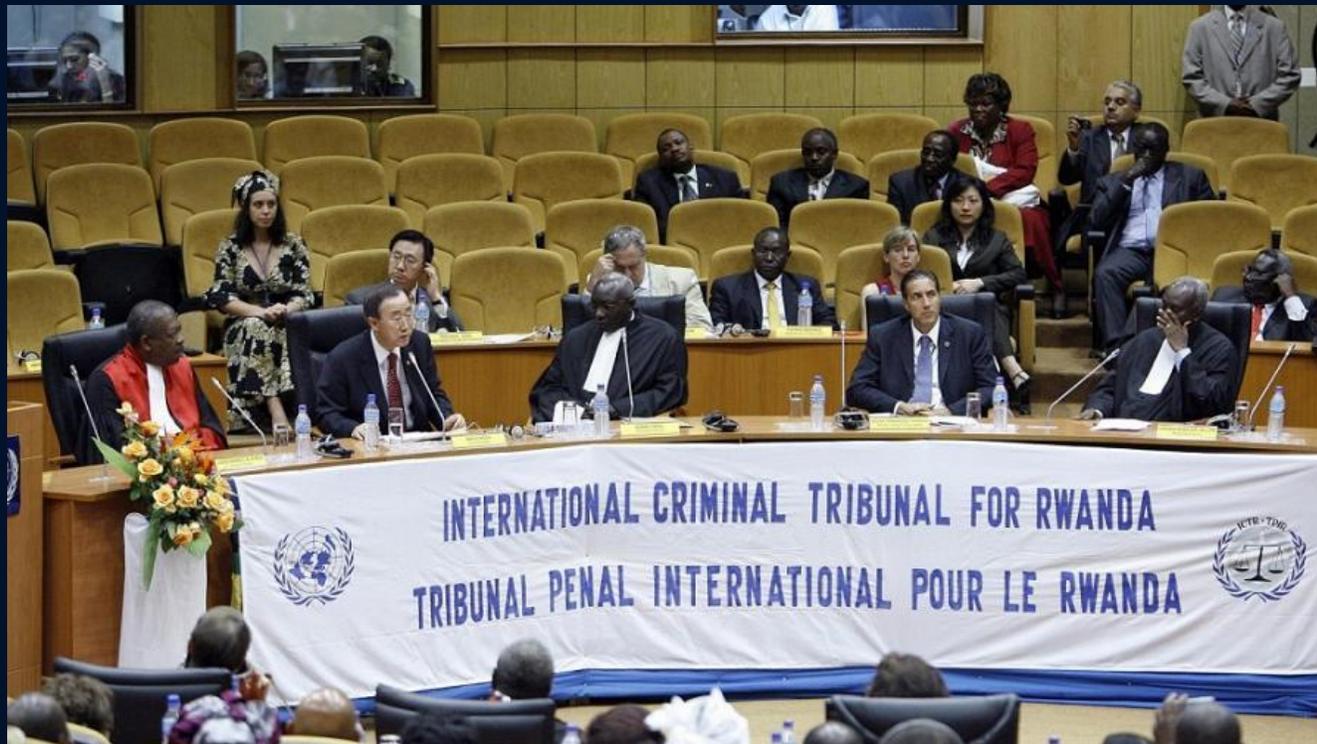
- Following the genocide, women came before the courts asking for justice for the brutal rapes they endured
- The Rwandan government sought to prosecute the men charged with rape by using domestic court systems, known as “gacaca courts”
- December 31, 1994 - rape was deemed a prosecutable offense and was named as a form of torture and genocide
- Gacaca courts allowed victims of rape and sexual abuse to testify to the Tribunal regarding the crimes against them



Note. From “Rwanda gacaca courts” by Elisa Finchiari, n.d. retrieved from <https://www.dw.com/en/rwanda-ends-gacaca-genocide-tribunals/a-16033827>

The Response of International Trial Courts

- The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was the first international court to prosecute high-ranking individuals for massive human rights violations in Africa.



- Across the globe, victims of rape and sexual abuse began to come forward.
- Rape and sexual assault was taken more seriously after the 1994 Rwandan genocide in all nations.

Note. From “Rwanda international tribunal” by Africa News, n.d. retrieved from <https://www.africanews.com/2016/01/04/rwanda-genocide-international-criminal-tribunal-winds-up/>

In Response to Rape and Sexual Assault

- Post genocide, Rwanda decided that there needed to be training for judicial law enforcement personnel on gender-based crimes against women.



Note. From “Rwanda female officers” by Taarifa, n.d. retrieved from <https://taarifa.rw/female-police-officers-scaling-heights-of-policing-career/>



Note. From “Rwanda international criminal tribunal” by NHC, n.d. retrieved from <https://www.nhc.no/en/prosecuting-genocide-in-rwanda-the-gacaca-system-and-the-international-criminal-tribunal-for-rwanda-2-2002/>

- Financial and logistical support was necessary for the International Tribunal and for the United Nations Human Rights Field Operation, and funding was needed to ensure that the International Tribunal and the Human Rights Field Operation improved their investigation of gender-based abuses.

What has Rwanda Done to Combat Rape?

- In 2004, The United Nations passed a resolution declaring the rape survivors as the group were considered the most vulnerable and in need in post conflict Rwanda
- Free screening for HIV/AIDS and malaria have been provided across the country since 2000 for victims of rape and sexual assault and provided free anti-retroviral drugs to all patients.
- Rwanda National Police has devoted considerable effort to improving its capacity to address sexual violence cases.



Note. From "Rwanda reconciliation" by CBC, n.d. retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/rwanda-genocide-anniversary-1.5088090>