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Files of Melanne Verveer, Chief of Staff to the First Lady
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- Commemorative Album presented to the First Lady during her visit to Africa by the Rwandan Women Delegation: March 28, 1997
- Commemorative Album presented to the First Lady upon her visit to India by Shri P. Singh

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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

PRESENTED TO THE FIRST LADY OF AMERICA
MRS HILLARY CLINTON
DURING HER VISIT TO AFRICA
By The RWANDAN WOMEN DELEGATION

28th. 3. 97

28 March 1997

**SPEECH BY THE RWANDAN WOMEN DELEGATION
ON THE OCCASION OF MEETING
THE FIRST LADY OF AMERICA
MRS HILLARY CLINTON**

The first Lady, Mrs Hillary Clinton.

On behalf of the Rwandese people, families and children and more particularly the Rwandese women, we wish to express our sincere thanks to you for having thought of visiting Africa at this opportune time. We are also very grateful to you for having accepted to meet the Rwandan women delegation.

Madam,

The Rwandan women know you very well as a human rights activist, who has stood firmly, particularly, against various forms of violation and abuses against women.

When the various groups of Rwandan women organizations heard about your visit to Africa, it raised a lot of expectations. They have sent us to give you the message that they deeply regret the fact that you could not come physically to Rwanda to express a sign of solidarity with them.

They had hoped that your visit to Rwanda would give you a personal and deep appreciation of the aftermath of Genocide and its effects particularly on women and children, through various testimonies and visiting of different Sites. However we are most grateful for this meeting since it provides us an opportunity to convey their message to you.

It will be extremely difficult for us to narrate in mere words the very cruel and traumatic experiences that the Rwandan women have gone through; but we will try:

- Many women and children were killed,
- others were brutally raped
- we have almost half a million widows and half a million orphans.
- Women were made political hostages and sexual tools in refugee camps.
- Some were driven into acts of genocide.
- They have lost property, homes and livelihood and yet some of them are now heads of families and the only surviving individuals in a whole family.
- A large number is psychologically traumatised and physically handicapped. 95.9% of the our children have been exposed to traumatic events.
- Many of the women and young girls who were raped have contracted killer diseases and others have had unwanted pregnancies.

The list of traumatic events is long. But we have gathered some documentation to help you further appreciate the situation in form of an album, video tape and some written materials.

Although we have gone through such a tragic history, we always tell our friends that:

We have buried the dead but Rwanda is still alive!

Rwanda today is on the road to reconstruction and peace. There is general security throughout the country and presently Rwanda is more peaceful than most countries in the region.

This month Rwanda hosted a number of eminent women during the **Pan African conference on gender peace and development**, which took place in our capital city Kigali. It was a follow up of the Beijing forth world conference on women.

During this conference the Rwandan women were able to share with various delegates the problems they have gone through and to display some of the achievements towards the recovery programme.

- Women are participating in the many activities geared towards the reconstruction of the country.
- The legal reform that is underway will also be able to reflect the new realities of women.
- There are many attempts to assist women in various self help and income generating projects.
- In the field of justice at the national level trials on genocide have already began.

The needs are still many especially in health, education and shelter. There are families that have been separated that need reunification, programs in trauma counselling are also very crucial in our reconstruction and reconciliation programs.

Madam,

It is very sad to note that at the international level during the genocide, the Rwandese women felt completely abandoned. The UN security council passed a resolution to withdraw the UN force that was in Rwanda. Presently we are again envisaging **betrayal** especially as far as the international tribunal is concerned.

You have visited Arusha and you must have seen for yourself that it gives no hope to the victims, survivors and other human rights activists who believe that justice is a major tool towards reconciliation and peace. **We appreciated your important message while you were visiting the Arusha International tribunal.**

We know that you are a crusador for health programs and micro credit schemes, you are a reknown human rights activist and you rightly once stated that "women rights are human rights".

We therefore wish to urge you to continue to support our efforts for the recovery program and we do hope that you will pass over this message to the American people, the government and more particularly to the various women groups and other associations that are struggling for justice, peace and development.

Although you have decided to visit Africa in general at this particular moment we sincerely believe that soon you will pay a special visit to Rwanda. Genocide is an international responsibility, Rwanda deserves special and particular attention at this delicate time in our history.

We thank the American people and the government for the support they have given to Rwanda in various rehabilitation and reconstruction programs.

Please convey our best regards to your husband, His Excellency President Bill Clinton. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Thank you very much.



RWANDA

Life is stronger than death





NYARUBUYE

Nyarubuye parish is located in Rusumo Commune near the Tanzanian Border.

The main Feature of this region are some big stones upstanding in a green landscape.

This photo reportage shows how the genocide was organised systematically leading to extermination of huge number of the Tutsi people and Hutu families opposed against the ideology of Genocide.

In remembrance of these victims, the Rwandese government is committed to build a Memorial for them in Nyarubuye so that present and future generations have to think the best way to eliminate the ethnic hate, and to teach every Rwandan citizen how to respect the life of his fellow Rwandan and human beings in general.

On 16 July 1995, the Vice-President and Minister of Defence Major General Paul KAGAME accompanied with high ranking Government officials laid a stone in memory of Nyarubuye victims of Genocide.

The Minister of High Education and Culture introduced the aims which leads to construct the museum of Genocide.

He said that it was:

First to give pictorial evidence of Genocide. This museum will be located in the capital Kigali with several branches country wide. Nyarubuye will be one of the branches.

Secondly, to remind Rwandeses the causes of Genocide (the ethnic division by the colonial policy, bad leadership, and the exclusion of rwandese living in and out the country).

Thirdly, to educate Rwandese people so that this tragedy never occurs again.



The skulls you see don't just show a collection of people who were killed several years ago. Rather they show how many Rwandese Innocent people faced a painful death by being macheted, pierced by instruments. This kind of suffering has never been experienced by any other race from time immemorial.









Charnel-houses reveal in themselves much about this tragedy. Their significance lies in the vicissitudes of the history of Rwanda. In addition, they make a refutation to all those who still deny the reality of the genocide or would unfairly explain it. The present ceremonies mean more than the fact of covering the coffins with winding sheets. These ceremonies aim at a noble objective: to eradicate once for all the roots of such an evil. In this way, Rwandan authorities should contribute to the repression of crimes. Nobody would dare vulgarize the crime of genocide, nor would any person vulgarize whatever kind of catastrophe (be it flood, earthquake, conventional war and others) in which human lives are lost. The struggle against genocide goes beyond the boundaries of Rwanda, it bears a universal dimension: it's better henceforth to prevent genocide before it spreads elsewhere in the world. For this reason, we should accept to sacrifice our lives in the fight against the genocidal ideology.

(Extract from the speech of the Vice President and Minister of Defence, Major General Paul KAGAME.)



The tibia with a shoe is not a scientific show piece for medicine students. It is part of a body that was plucked out from somebody like "you" with fillings, thoughts and spiritual resources. It should be one of the leads to the International tribunal that Genocide took place in Rwanda.



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



A huge number of anonymous corpses and remains are lying, offering a feeling either of indignation or distress to the witness. The sufferance inflicted to Rwandans appears to be emblematic: more than the Armenians, the Jews and the Bosnians.



Following the marks of the genocide, the survivors retrieved some clothing items left by the victims. To mention but a few: loin-clothes, dresses, bed-spreads and so on. That's how most survivors recognized their wives, husbands, children, relatives and friends.



At the peak of the genocide, what has the UNAMIR (United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda) done to save thousands of lives? Henceforward, the United Nations must seek preventive mechanisms against genocide.



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



The lake where some Rwandeses decided to drown themselves instead of being macheted.

It was a question of choosing a devil or drown in the deep blue sea.



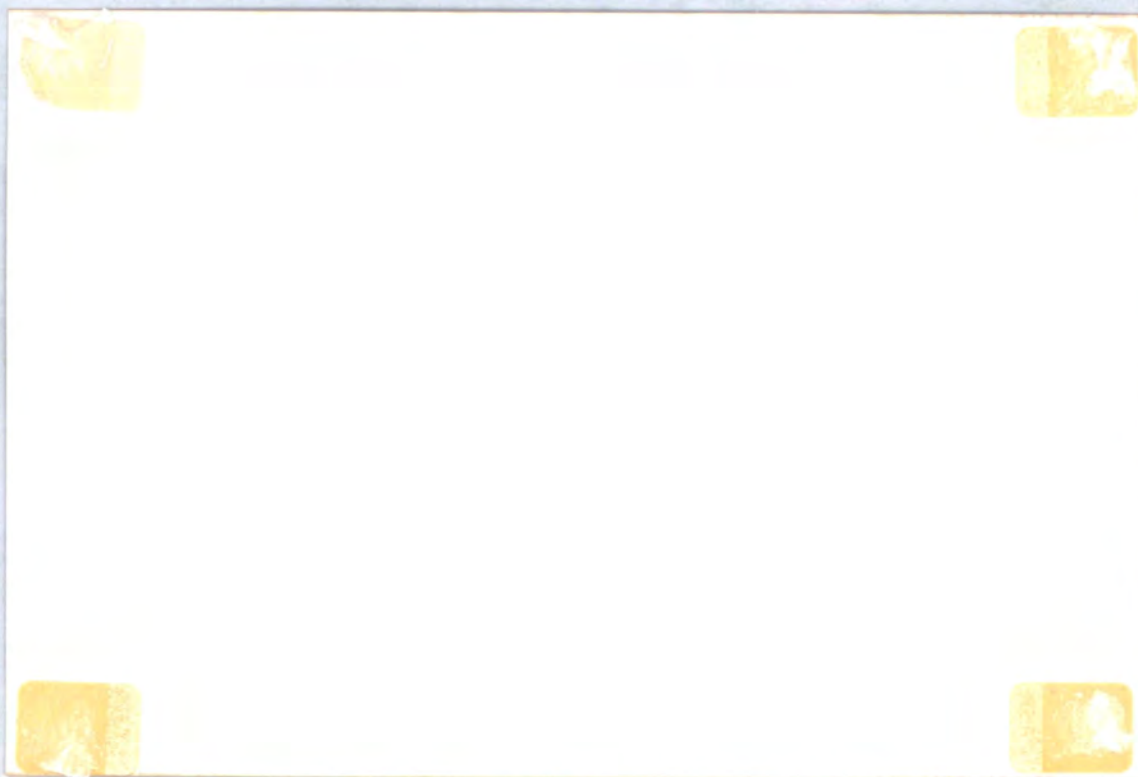
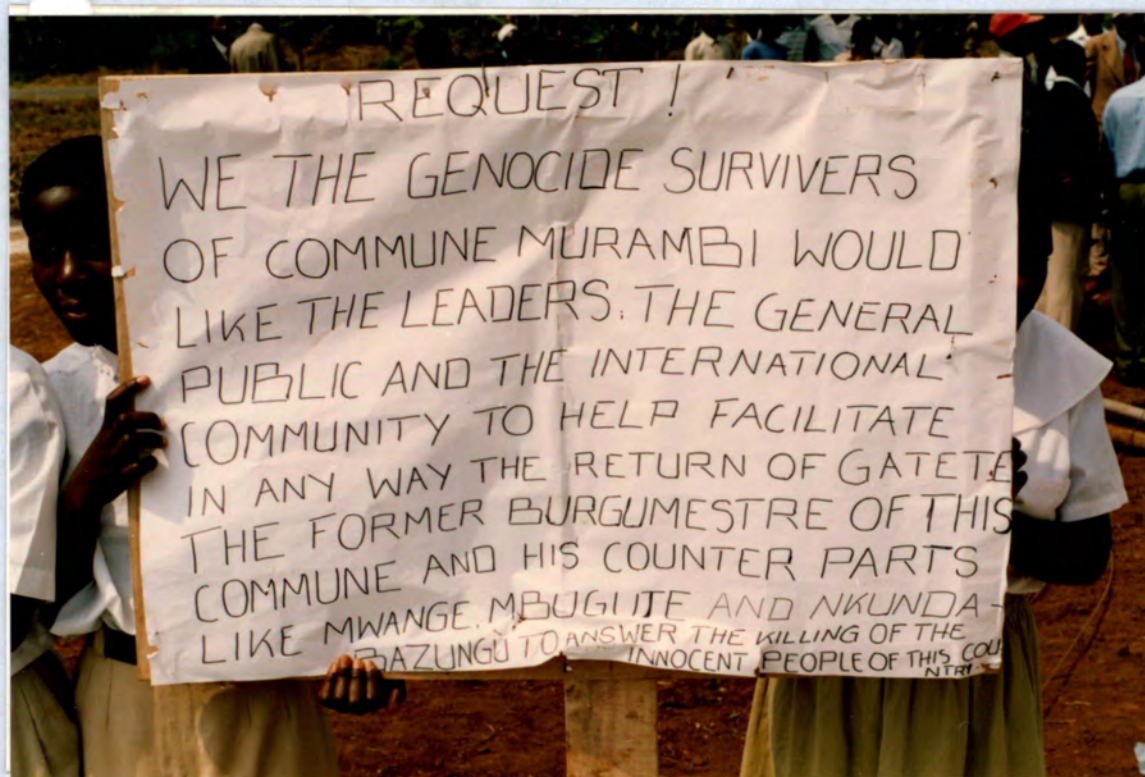


The skeleton in the picture with an open mounth shows how the victim was crying for help which never reached to humanity. Even the victims echoes for "Help" were ignred. "What more evidence do I have to show that I was brutally killed?" This what the skeleton seems to be telling the world.



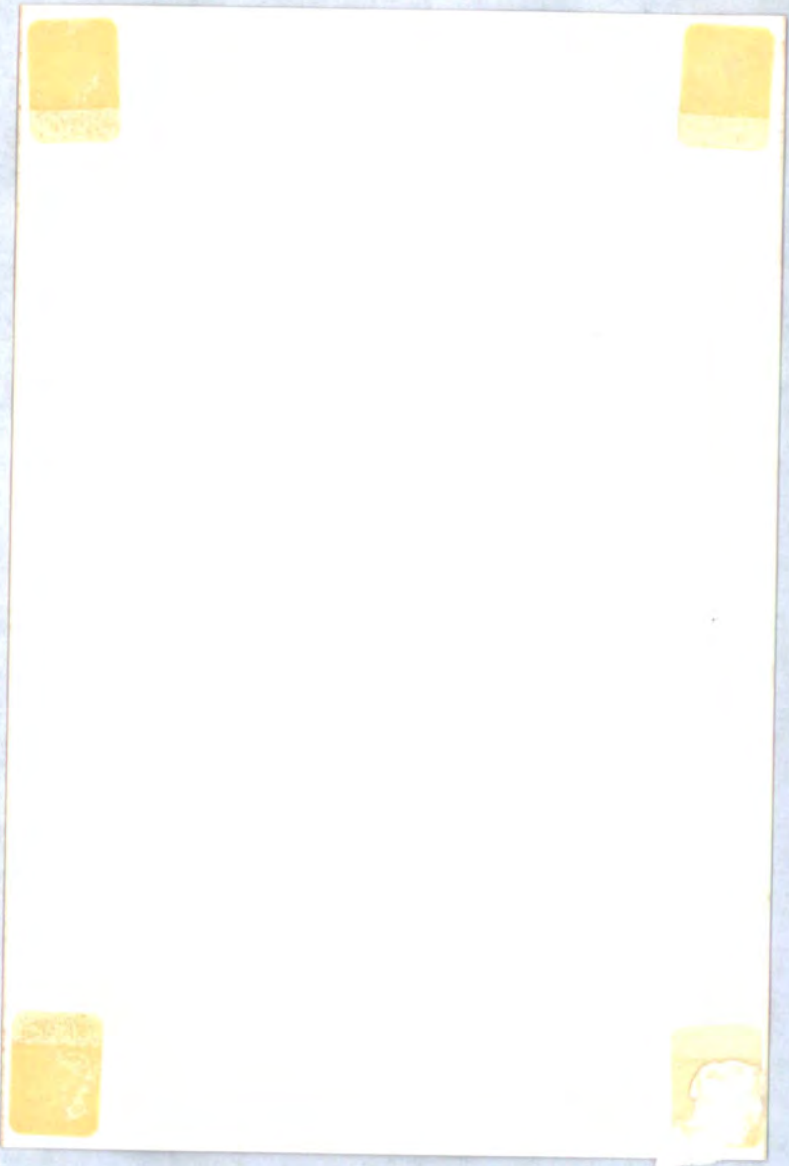


Can you imagine it is someone like you in pieces in these polythene bags!
It is not just a one "You"; it is rather many "Yous" who are 1 million Rwandese
who were brutally killed because their only crime was that they belonged to the
wrong ethnic group.



















The 21st October 1995 sent spectators into a paradox. How did the University Community which was supposed to illuminate the society and the country, transform itself into a barbaric society where professors and students massacred others, colleagues and all?

To paraphrase the Chancellor of the National University of Rwanda, Dr Deo KAMBANDA, the University, splashed by barbaric practices during the genocide which tore up Rwanda since April up to July 1994, should clear itself of the stain thanks to a solemn commemoration. Chance was given to the University Community through its chancellor, to denounce the accomplice silence of the former leaders of the University of Rwanda who remained inactive or participated in the horror. Besides, the University should count all the victims of genocide among members of the University Community in order to keep their names in a white paper.

To commemorate suppose also to witness. Survivors of the genocide briefly related, in a pathetic atmosphere, the film of the atrocities and the unbearable experience of being survivors of the genocide. Thus, their call on the authorities so as to stop the impunity within the University and countrywide was more eloquent.

The University Community should urgently understand and explain the different peripeteia of the Rwandan tragedy and consequently draw the conclusions for the sake of testimony for the posterity. The condition to be fulfilled in order to reach such a true reconstitution is to reject any resentment and tears in order to elucidate the causes of such a catastrophe. Moreover, the culture of ethnic hatred must be uprooted for ever in the spirit of Rwandan Youth and, then, an education of peace and development set up.

All the intervening persons during that ceremony, from the Prime Minister to the students representative underlined the fact that Rwandan History and that tragedy should not be understood or turned back to a simple ethnic confrontation between Hutus and Tutsis. That day, under the seal of the memory of innocent victims, was also an occasion for different orators to encourage the intellectuals who were present to avoid hasty analysis and conceptual short-cuts.

The week of the commemoration of the victims of genocide at the National University is a denunciation of criminal practises that occurred in the past, as well as a call on present and future generations in order to think and to struggle so that genocide can no more occur in Rwanda. Beside, students themselves, through their representative called on the present audience so as to be perpetually vigilant and light of the scientific spirit rather than being the darkness of ethnic hatred.



We should draw a lesson from this tragedy that befell Rwanda. In this respect, the weapon to be used for the future should not be the Kalachnikov but the intellect. To use the words Hutus and Tutsis is nothing but a sheer pretext used by machiavellian politicians in order to reach and consolidate the power. It is very urgent to teach the history and culture of Rwanda in their true form.

Pierre Celestin RWIGEMA
The Rwandan Prime Minister



Among those prisoners, there are people who slaughtered and buried their fellow-country people. One year later, the executioners of the murderous works exhume people they buried. The small white stain (photo below) in an ochreous decoration is nothing but a visible part of a human skull.





Can those who deny the untenable reality of genocide say whether these skulls are plucked up from a museum or a laboratory of a faculty of medicine?







Rwanda has not only lost its children but even its
Infrastructures have been damaged by the war.







The repatriation of rwanda refugees is a significant event. Many people had been held hostages of militias and ex FAR.





This child is a head of a family.







The impact of war and genocide has seriously victimised Women and children.



PHOTOCOPY
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Rwandese women did not have to wait for
 any other ^{Assistance} they have ^{embarked on rehabilitation w} and Reconstruction Programmes.







Principal victims of the genocide! So the Official statistics tell us of hundreds of thousands of widows, heavy ladden with orphans. The Rwandese women are overcoming that distressing status by engeging themselves into national reconstruction.



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION







PEACE VILLAGE
NELSON MANDELA

VILLAGE DE PAIX "NELSON MANDELA"
URUGO RW'AMAHORO ABATANGANA

A
SOFERWA

Acción
Humanitaria





The inauguration of the Peace village Nelson MANDELA by Ms Geraldine MOLEKETI, Minister of Welfare and Population Development (South Africa) and Janet KAGAME, President of ASOFERWA (Rwanda).



PHOTOCOPY
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H.E. Mary ROBINSON, President of Ireland, during the Pan-African Conference on Peace Gender and Development held in Kigali Capital 1-3 March 1997.





There is peace generally throughout the country. Here are women from all over the world attending the Pan African Conference on Peace-Gender and Development in Rwanda 1-3 March 1997.





His excellency Pasteur BIZIMUNGU
The president of the republic of Rwanda
is chatting with the delegates at the
Pan african conference on
"Peace-Gender and Development".

*2w AWDA
1-3 march 1997*



His Excellency Pasteur Bizimungu
The President of the Republic of Rwanda
is chatting with the delegates at the
Pan African conference on
"Gender and Development".



Rwanda is now being viewed positively by the international community. Above and below members of OSMA march colourfully during the opening ceremony of the African cup of military football held in the Kigali capital in March 1997.





The Rwandese judiciary system now at work. Below
genocide suspect during trial with his international
lawyer.
At the national level trials. But alas the Arusha
international tribunal gives no hope.





The Secretary General of the 4th women conference, Beijing, Hon. Getrude MONGELLA (in the middle) during her first visit in Rwanda after the 1994 genocide. She is with leaders of Rwandese women associations.



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