

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

P.O. BOX 160 KIGALI

**CLOSING REMARKS AT “INCITEMENT AND DEHUMANIZATION AS PRECURSORS  
TO GENOCIDE AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY” CONFERENCE**  
*Commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi & the 75<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau*

- Your Excellency Dr. Ron Adam, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Rwanda
- Your Excellency Mr. Peter Vrooman, Ambassador of the United States to Rwanda
- Honourable Olivier Nduhungirehe, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and East African Community Affairs
- Mr. Alan Schneider, Director, B’nai B’rith World Centre Jerusalem
- Mr. David J. Michaels, Director of United Nations and Intercommunal Affairs, B’nai B’rith International
- Dr. James Smith, CBE, Chief Executive Officer of the Aegis Trust and President of the UK National Holocaust Centre;
- The Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Fight Against Genocide (CNLG);
- Friends of Rwanda,
- Distinguished guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

It is an honour for me to speak on behalf of the Government of Rwanda at this International Conference in the framework of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 25<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi.

I would like to thank the organizing committee who actively decided to host this conference in Kigali. Particularly, I would like to thank B'nai B'rith International for continuing throughout the last 176 years all around the world to advocate for those who have suffered atrocities and continue to face trauma today.

Thank you to Aegis Trust and its Chief Executive Officer, Dr. James Smith, for consistently working to prevent genocide and mass atrocities, as well as combatting identity-based violence through the power of education. We recognize Aegis Trust's dedicated efforts in Rwanda, since 2004, to eradicate genocide ideology and promote peace and stability in all communities.

Today, we have come together to recognize and commemorate the lives of the victims of the Holocaust, Genocide against the Tutsi, and all other mass atrocities that have taken place. Our gathering reinforces our international commitment to memorialize discriminatory violence, and combat injustice and inequality. By addressing issues of indoctrination, fanaticism and violence, we strive to understand the power of language and ideology and work to ensure that such atrocities never occur again.

Rwanda, like Israel, has endured genocide and is determined that the past should never be forgotten. In remembering the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, we have placed emphasis on educating our younger generations – sharing the history of our country, however terrible it may be, in order to convey the significance of unity and peace. In particular, we are showing children and young adults that *agaciro*, dignity, is essential to these goals. With personal respect and dignity, we are able to respect others and, as a result, never revert to the inhumane treatment of the past.

Educating the world and its young people about the Holocaust in the same way is of paramount importance to ensure that other countries learn from your and our experiences. HE President Paul Kagame reflected this sentiment by saying: “*We cannot*

*turn the clock back nor can we undo the harm caused, but we have the power to determine the future and to ensure that what happened never happens again.*” Education is the key to achieving this.

We are united by a common vision to fight anti-Semitism, genocide ideologies and all forms of genocide denial, because we know the high cost and terrible consequences if they are not addressed. Targeting groups, inequality, and discrimination should not be tolerated in any state, on any continent. We, Rwanda and Israel, are in a unique position to remember the victims of our traumatic past and use this memory and legacy to fight these problems with courage and determination.

Having said this, it is not our duty alone to carry this responsibility. Leaders all over the world should support and embody our mission, for the good of their people and in acknowledgment of their international responsibilities, as ratified in UN Conventions such as the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2018, the UN General Assembly amended the 2003 resolution, which had inaccurately omitted the Tutsi as the targeted group of the 1994 Genocide. Additionally, according to the UN Security Council Resolution 2150, any denial of any internationally recognized genocide is condemned without reservation, and all states are called upon to develop educational programs that will inform and inculcate future generations on the atrocities and consequences of such violence. Furthermore, the UN Security Council Resolution encourages all states to cooperate in investigating and prosecuting any and all perpetrators of genocide against the Tutsi. Today, we repeat our request to all countries to prosecute or extradite those who are subjects of international arrest warrants established by the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals or the Rwandan National Public Prosecution Authority.

I wish to thank Israel for co-sponsoring the decision, and all nations who supported this important correction for historical clarity.

Meeting our international responsibility means strengthening and preserving memorialization, and recommitting to teaching, researching and documenting our

collective past. Days such as this one are opportunities to demonstrate international support for advocacy and responsibility to act upon injustices. On the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camp and the 25<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the genocide against the Tutsi, we pay tribute to all victims of genocide and honor them with a pledge of ongoing collective remembrance.

We also share the instrumental vision of overcoming the trauma endured and looking to the future with strength and determination. Looking after our own people by striving towards a harmonious and successful future cannot be done without remembering those we have lost and supporting those who continue to grapple with the past.

Rwanda faced extreme hardship post-1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. Our process of recovery and reconciliation has been long, but we, Rwandan are dedicated to accomplishing. Over the past two decades we have implemented a number of social and urban policy initiatives in order to ensure that Genocide survivors reach their full potential like everyone else. We are proud of the initiatives and resources availed to all survivors in order to aid them into transitioning back into society and adapting to our quickly developing nation. We have then come together as Rwandans, healed together, grown together, and are now building a new country together.

By mobilizing the community to lean from and uplift each other, we are sending a strong message to perpetrators and bystanders, locally and internationally. Together we say:

We are strong.

We are not alone.

We will not leave anyone behind.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today, and for your kind attention.

Today,

Murakoze .