

**REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**



**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

**CONCLUDING REMARKS AT THE COLLOQUIUM  
ON THE UN AND THE 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST  
THE TUTSI IN RWANDA  
HELD VIRTUALLY ON 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021**

**Delivered by: Hon. Johnston BUSINGYE, Minister of  
Justice and Attorney General of the Republic of  
RWANDA.**

**Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs and International  
Cooperation;  
Excellencies Ambassadors;  
Distinguished panelists;  
Distinguished participants;**

**Good morning /good afternoon depending on where you are.**

It is my great privilege and honor to participate in this very important colloquium on the UN and the 1994 genocide the against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

Indeed, this colloquium has contributed to much-needed and necessarily in-depth discussions on the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

Permit me first to express my sincere thanks to the organizers, for having considered me to give the concluding remarks of this colloquium.

I thank our panelists for their invaluable insights, very informative presentations and conversations which they graciously took part in today.

The aim of today's event was to reflect on the United Nations' failure to intervene and stop the genocide against the Tutsi and discuss simultaneously current and future mechanism needed to prevent genocide.

**Dear participants;**  
**Distinguished panelists;**

The colloquium comes in the period that Rwandans are commemorating the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi. For many Rwandans, particularly the genocide survivors, wounds are still raw and the last twenty-seven (27) years probably mean nothing more than a constant reminder of the horrible events they lived and witnessed during the hundred days between April and July of the year 1994.

This was caused by the failure of the international community, particularly the United Nations which failed to prevent, and subsequently, to stop the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

As was highlighted by our panelists, the failure of UN to intervene in Rwanda during the genocide against the Tutsi was not based on lack of information, it was just lack of will. That is to say that political interests and institutional stalling played a key role in the failure of the international community to respond to the unfolding genocide in the early days of April 1994.

As the panelists have ably and comprehensively covered the topic, through the rich discussion, permit me to note a few things before I conclude.

First, it's a misfortune that the International Community failed us by not stopping the genocide, but it can do what remains a response to the consequences of the genocide, which is cooperation in bringing perpetrators to justice. Yes, the UN Security Council created the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and now the International Residual Mechanisms that took over the uncompleted tasks of ICTR, however, there is still a big number of genocide suspects who remain at large. These can be found on different continents in different states members of the United Nations. Some have known addresses and others do not.

On this particular issue, we wish to reiterate our two decades-long request to the states hosting these fugitives to arrest and send them to Rwanda in order for them to stand trial or try them in their respective jurisdictions. The Government of Rwanda pledges its full cooperation and support in this matter.

Second, there is a growing trend of the genocide denial. We consider an increasing number of genocide deniers among the old generation, young generation, Rwandans, foreigners, academics, researchers, journalists and those who identify themselves as human rights defenders. This trend is worrying and concerning. The deniers are using different platforms from online platforms to the formal academic setting and other formal gatherings. On this particular point, we would also wish to call the attention of the UN and seek its full cooperation in dealing with this growing phenomenon.

In Gregory Stanton's stages of genocide, denial is usually the last stage. The denial we are seeing today is precisely the last stage. It harms Rwanda, survivors and history irreparably. The UN Security Council should consider adopting a resolution condemning any denial of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda as it did with the holocaust.

Third, allow me to also note the positive move by the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunal to consider the gravity of the crime or crimes for which a prisoner was convicted as one of the critical factors in assessing a request for early release.

**Excellencies;**

**Distinguished panelists;**

**Distinguished participants;**

In conclusion, I wish to once more express our sincere appreciations to the conveners of this important event for having afforded us this opportunity, to the participants and particularly to the panelists for their insights and informative contributions, informed by your vast and diverse experiences on the topic.

**I thank you!**