

**This is the testimony of Angèle, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide**

I lived in Nyarugenge, Kigali. It was November 1990 and a month after the attack by the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF), and all Tutsis were regarded as a fifth column for the RPF. When passing through a roadblock manned by soldiers in Nyamirambo, they accused me of being an accomplice of the *inyenzi* and detained me, and 12 others.

Then aged 20, myself and two other women were kept there for two weeks and raped by the soldiers on a daily basis. Seven soldiers raped me every evening. Later, when they thought that we would be able to identify them, they tied scarves around our faces.

My health has been badly affected, and four years later, the nightmare returned. In April 1994, my husband and son were abducted and killed by the *interahamwe*. My other son was also murdered at his grandmother's house in Kibuye. Together with my sister, and the two children of a neighbour, we fled. Over several days of terror we repeatedly met with danger as we searched for safety. Afraid not only of the *interahamwe*, but also of the war, as soldiers from the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) advanced into the area, we eventually reached a forest, only to be assaulted again.

We finally reached a place where a white man had cultivated potatoes. Some watchmen there prepared a meal for us, but that night they raped us. We spent three days there, and they raped us every night.

**Today's Reading of the Testimonies marks the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, in support of survivors like Angèle.**