



This is the testimony of Uyisenga, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide

I do not cry for justice because it is beyond my reach, the horrors of genocide have been reduced to a mere manslaughter, no justice can bring back my sanity and life.

I was there when the madness struck. I was a child, and yet not really, I was only 14 years of age. I don't know how I lost my family, all I know is that wherever they lie, they have more peace than I can ever achieve; pain and sorrow can never reach them.

I ran with different people in search of safety. Children, men, women, grandmothers, grandfathers, were struck with machetes, clubs and pangas. As they fell down, those with energy continued the journey, surrounded by heaps of mutilated and rotting bodies.

I don't know why I was being chased, but it felt the right decision to run. Now I know I should have stayed put, and joined the fate of my family. My body was struck with sticks and machetes, but I still ran on. I was raped and abused, but still had the courage to keep running. You may say that I am brave and courageous. Yes I have looked death in the face, and have paid a shocking price to survive. But in some ways, I was lucky. I did not see my family killed. Not knowing whether they were tortured or not, seeing babies shot and killed for target practice. This should never happen to anybody.

Then the day of judgement came. I have buried my family; others do not know where their relatives lie. I am among the many dead and yet I am not buried. I remain as a statement to what happened to a million others, for you and for the world to hear.

This should never happen to anybody. History has a way of repeating itself, don't allow it. By remembering me, you remember all those innocent victims. Moving forward and forgetting what happened is forgetting me. Then there will be no reason for me to live. I live to bear witness, to tell my testimony.

Today's Reading of the Testimonies marks the 15th Anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, in support of survivors like Uyisenga.