



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

I was born 1973. I was in Kigali when the genocide began. I was married and had one child. My husband died in Gitega where we were living. He was killed on a roadblock when we were fleeing the massacre. I had my four-month-old baby on my back.

Soldiers of ex-far took us to CHK. We had told them we were Hutus because we had no identity cards. While at CHK, the interahamwe would take some of us to kill at night. We were taken to the Regional Stadium at Nyamirambo where they told us to go to our home area. We went to Bugesera, my home area. I was with my brother-in-law who later fled to another place and was killed. When we reached Bugesera, the interahamwe asked us if we were Tutsis because we had no identity cards. We said that we were Hutus fleeing RPF soldiers. They told us that it was better that we be killed by others so they let us go.

There were many people, including us, hiding in sorghum fields and in the bush. When we were hiding, the interahamwe came and used machetes to kill people. My aunt was injured on the head and back with a machete. I was able to hide with my baby under dead bodies. The interahamwe stamped their feet on the bodies many times. After a week in those conditions, RPF soldiers came and released us. My baby was severely sick because she was under the dead bodies. I took her to the hospital but after few days, she died. I also found that my parents and other family members were killed. The only one that survived was my brother who was an RPF soldier.

I now live with my sister's orphaned children. Because I was hiding under the dead bodies that the interahamwe stamped on, I have cirrhosis and must take medicine. I work as a cleaner at the Bugesera Health Center and I can only work a few days a week because of my condition. My brother used to help us and look after us but he died in Kabila's war.



I thank the Lord for the help I now receive. I receive help to buy medicine and find school materials for the children. I thank the Lord for that help. Without it, I might well have died.

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