



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

In 1994, I was a nineteen year old student with high aspirations. Myself and two of my cousins, aged nineteen and seventeen, were abducted by the killers and kept for a week at the roadblock where, we were raped by anyone who felt like it. Each day we were raped in full view of everyone. At night we were locked in a house near the checkpoint. We attempted suicide by hanging ourselves but we did not succeed.

We managed to escape from the house, but ran into another group of interahamwe who told us that we had to choose to be their wives or face death. My nineteen year old cousin said that we wanted them to kill us, but they refused. Instead they shared us out amongst themselves and took us to their houses to be their wives. I kept in touch with my cousins through my captor but we were never allowed to see each other.

We stayed with these men until we were rescued. I feel guilty for putting up with the rape and not resisting. I have nightmares of the attacks at the checkpoint and have difficulty in establishing or maintaining relationships.

Worse still, I have to bring up the child of my tormentor. The genocide, for me continues, as I can never forget my experiences whilst bringing up this child of bad memories.

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