



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

In 1994, I was 17 years old. I had parents, brothers and sisters.

The *interahamwe* came on 9th April 1994. They were a big group, and they were lead by three men whose names I know. On their arrival, we immediately fled our homes as they had come to loot and destroy them. Though they weren't satisfied with only that, and they followed us. They killed my father and my six uncles.

We continued running, but eventually the *interahamwe* caught us up again. They took us back with them to meet other groups of *interahamwe* who were ready to kill us. They scattered us amongst them and killed many of our people. But we managed to escape and hid in the bush. This was on the third day of the genocide. But they continued to hunt us, and finally we were discovered. All the people whom I was with were killed. I was the only one left alive.

After that, the councillor of the district gave orders for me to be raped. I was immediately taken to a man I didn't know, but whose name I know now. He didn't know me either but he raped me. He did everything he wanted and left guards at the house to ensure I did not escape whenever he went to kill. I was beaten and raped again each time he returned from killing.

After that, he hid all my clothes and I was left completely naked. That is when I decided to commit suicide in a latrine. I went out and fortunately the guards were not around. I looked for a latrine but didn't find one, so I continued to run and I hid in the bush for the night. In the morning, I was discovered by the Rwandan Patriotic Front. They rescued me and gave me something to cover myself. I was then brought to a town and immediately hospitalised because I was so very sick. I spent a whole month there.

I know three of the four ferocious killers. They, along with many others, have never been brought to trial.

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