



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

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

The *interahamwe* came on April 9. It was a big group; we knew its members. We immediately left and fled to Rusenyi. They destroyed our house but they followed us still. They killed my father and six uncles. We fled to Kibungo, then Rugoma, continued to be chased by *interahamwe* ready to kill. We were eventually caught. They separated us and killed many of us. All of the people whom I was with were killed. I was the only one left alive.

After that, the councilor of the district ordered the rapes. I was taken to a man who I did not know, in a place called Byinza, where I was raped. He did everything he wanted and left guards at the house when he left to kill people. I was beaten and raped again when he came back from killing. He took away all my clothes. I was completely naked.

I decided to commit suicide in a latrine. They were not around; I went out. I did not find a latrine so I ran and I hid in the bush for the night. In the morning, I was discovered by the RPF and I was given something to cover myself. I was then brought to Rwamagana and immediately hospitalized because I was very sick. I spent a whole month there.

I survived, but I live with the legacy of the genocide still.

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