



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

Hiding in the sorghum fields with my cousin, I was a frequent victim of rape. So much so, that I couldn't say how many men raped me. Some of them came from nearby villages, but many others were unknown to me. After a while, the girls were advised it would be safe to return home.

When I arrived in Butare, I saw that our house had been demolished. Soon afterwards, I ran into Philippe who belonged to the same prayer group as I did. He took me home, saying that he was going to take me as his wife. But after two weeks, his parents threw me out. Back in the woods, I had no alternative but to go with a stranger who also made me his "wife."

I lived with him for two months. A prominent killer, he was cruel towards me. Moreover, his home was a slaughterhouse. Other killers came to the house, not only to have meetings about killing, but also to actually carry out the murders.

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