



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

When the killings started in April 1994, I was twelve. A friend and I sought safety in the house of a woman we knew in Nyamata, Greater Kigali. However, after a week the woman threatened to call the Presidential Guard to come and kill us. So she handed us over to a neighbour of hers instead, who came and took us to his house.

On about five occasions, whenever his wife was out of the house, he would rape me. He would choose between me and the other girl. As he raped one, the other would be forced to stand outside. One day he told us to lift up our clothes. He hit us down below and said that he would put sticks between our legs if we ever tried to resist him. But we begged him to stop, and he left us alone.

I find myself now without any family left. I decided to move in with a man, saying that my experience had left me feeling that I wasn't a little girl anymore.

I thought that he would be at the same time my father, my mother and my brother. We married towards the end of 1994. We separated after we had two children; the eldest is now six years old.

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