

I. Introduction

A. **(Attention Getter/Hypothetical Illustration)** What if I told you that in San Diego County, over the next one hundred days, about 800,000 people would be brutally slaughtered with machetes for no other reason than their ethnicity? Would you not expect some one to step in and put a stop to it? The police? The National Guard? The United Nations? Somebody, right? How would you feel if nobody stepped in to stop the senseless bloodshed? Well, this is exactly what happened in Rwanda in 1994.

B. **(Reason to Listen)** The tragedy that happened in Rwanda could happen again in another time, another place, and it actually has; it continues to happen in other parts of the world. It is important to be aware of our past mistakes so that we as a world community do not continually let them keep repeating in our future.

C. **(Speaker Credibility)** I found the movie Hotel Rwanda very interesting and decided to research this topic further.

D. **(Thesis)** The genocide in Rwanda in 1994 was a terrible tragedy that was ignored by the United Nations and the rest of the world.

E. **(Preview)**

1. First, I will talk briefly about what genocide actually is.
2. Second, I will tell you a little about the political history of Rwanda and what led to the class separation between the Tutsi and Hutu.
3. Then I will talk about the 1994 genocide that took place in Rwanda and how it was ignored by the outside world.

II. Body

A. **(1st Main point)** The term "genocide" did not exist before 1944.

1. Genocide is a very specific term, referring to violent crimes committed against groups with the intent to destroy the existence of the group (Merriam-Webster Online, 2005).
2. The 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, concern the rights of individuals, and some of these rights include the following.
 - a. Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.
 - i. Killing members of the group, or causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, as well as deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part (U.S Holocaust Museum, 2010).

(Transition): Now that you know what genocide is, let's take a historical background look at what led to the slaughter.

B. (2nd main point) Rwanda has a history of class separation dating back to the early 1900's.

1. The population was predominately made up of Tutsi and Hutu.
 - a. The King and the chiefs that ruled under him were predominately Tutsi; the King lived off the hard work of the population and the relationship between the two was unequal and parasitic (Frontline, 2005).
2. In 1916, the Belgian colonists arrive and saw the two largest groups, Hutu and Tutsi, as distinct entities (BBC News, 2004).
 - a. **(Statistic)** The Belgians favored the minority Tutsi, who made up 14% of the population over the Hutu, who made up 85% of the population (Frontline, 2005).

- ii. The Hutu had dramatically fewer opportunities to attend school and achieve post-primary education than Tutsi; they were excluded almost entirely from high-level administrative positions (Newbury, 1998).

(Transition) Now that I have told you about the political history of Rwanda and what led to the ethnic class separation, I will now tell you about the 1994 genocide and how it was ignored by the outside world.

- C. **(3rd main point)** In 1994 the political atmosphere was ripe for an upheaval, and after Rwandan President Habyarimana's plane was shot down, that atmosphere is what led to the one hundred day genocide.

1. **(Extended Example)** Within hours of the attack on President Habyarimana's plane, a campaign of violence spread from the capital throughout the country. Radio broadcasts could be heard appealing to the Hutus to destroy as many Tutsis as possible. "What are you waiting for? The tombs are empty. Take up your machetes and hack your enemies to pieces," Giorgio Ruggiu, an Italian-Belgian broadcaster was reported as having said at the time (Radio Nederland Wereldomroep, 2005).

2. **(Statistic)** Beginning April 6th and spreading over the next one hundred days an estimated 800,000 Rwandans were brutally murdered (BBC News, 2005).

- a. Soldiers and police officers encouraged ordinary citizens to take part as terrified Tutsis tried to hide, but to no avail (BBC News, 2005).

3. All throughout this one hundred day period of genocide, there was little intervention from the outside world.

a. **(Expert Testimony)** Philippe Gaillard, who headed the International Committee on the Red Cross mission that remained in Rwanda throughout the genocide said that “From the very beginning of the genocide the U.N. was logistically and politically a phantom. They didn’t make any difference because they decided not to do anything...”(Frontline, 2003).

III. Conclusion

A. **(Restate Thesis)** In Rwanda in 1994, the United Nations ignored the killing of hundreds of thousands of innocent people.

B. **(Summarize main points)**

1. First, we learned what genocide is.
2. Then I spoke to you about the political history of Rwanda, and how the class separation between the Tutsi and the Hutu began.
3. Then I spoke to you about the 1994 genocide that took place, and the lack of action the United Nations took.

C. **(Tie Back to Attention Getter)** What if Air Force One was shot? Would you turn a blind eye while many innocent people including children are being slaughtered in your own country?

D. **(Reason to Remember/Expert Testimony.)** I will leave you with this quote from Philippe Gaillard. “I had to speak, to be outspoken, in such a context. When you’re seeing it every day in the streets, in your hospital, on the roads...In such circumstances, if you don’t at least speak out clearly, you are participating in the genocide...”

References

- Frontline. (2003). *Ghosts of Rwanda, Interview General Romeo Dallaire*. Retrieved April 14, 2005, from <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/ghosts/interviews/>
- Frontline. (2004). *Ghosts of Rwanda, Timeline*. Retrieved April 14, 2005, from <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/ghosts/etc/cron.html>
- Newbury, C. (1998, Jan-March). Ethnicity and the politics of history in Rwanda. *Africa Today*, 45, 7, 18.
- Press, Robert M. (1999). *The New Africa: Dispatches from a changing continent*. (pp. 252-253) Florida: Gainesville University Press.
- Radio Nederland Wereldomroep. (2005). *Hate Radio: Rwanda*. Retrieved April 14, 2005, from <http://www2.rnw.nl/rnw/en/features/media/dossiers/rwanda-h.html>.