



COMMISSION EPISCOPALE JUSTICE ET PAIX RWANDA

BP: 4375 Kigali Avenue de la Paix, KN 4 Av. 36 Tél.: (250) 786166743



deskcontact@cejprwanda.org



@Rwandacejp



cejprwanda.org



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Message of the Justice and Peace Commission on the 32nd Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our afflictions so that we may comfort those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” (2 Cor 1,3-4)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father. As we observe the 32nd commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, we honor those who were killed and commit ourselves to a journey of remembrance, healing, and reconciliation. Our brothers and sisters who were murdered because of how God created them were innocent victims. We will always remember them in our lives because we share a deep bond. Above all, we wish to console the survivors of the Genocide: be strong and find comfort.

The Genocide against the Tutsi is a profound stain on humanity and on the Rwandan nation in particular. It violated the covenant that binds us as Rwandans: some took part in the crime of killing their neighbors and relatives; others pillaged their property and denied our shared brotherhood. This is deeply saddening. It must never happen again.

At the same time, we continue to recognize those who stood against the atrocity, those who chose to protect neighbors, friends, and others who sought refuge, and even some who accepted to sacrifice their lives. Their testimony consoles us, sets an example, and strengthens us. This is a precious legacy for all of us to build upon so that our country may remain a place of peace for generations to come.

Remembering our painful history is not intended to foster hatred or vengeance. Rather, it is our duty to preserve the memory of those who died and to affirm that death does not

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erase the deep bonds we share. Choosing to remember protects peace in society, as it is not the duty of a few. Commemoration belongs to all of us, not only to survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi. It is our collective responsibility as Rwandans, because the bond that unites us should never be the cause of division or regression.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep (Rom 12,15). The love we receive from our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us to hate evil and cling to what is good (Rom 12,9). For this reason, we urge the Christian community to be a source of consolation in word and deed, drawing strength from the Lord Jesus who comforts us in our trials. This is a time for calm reflection on the wounds that still pain us, and a time to resolve to show our neighbors the enduring face of God's love.

We have a duty to denounce those who deny or trivialize the Genocide against the Tutsi or who continue to embrace its ideology. Such attitudes only set us back and destroy the good we Rwandans have cultivated: unity, reconciliation, forgiveness, and peace. As Christians, we are among the first called to safeguard these values. We are also called to educate the young, those fortunate enough not to have known the horrors of the Genocide, and to raise them in a culture of mutual respect, love, and commitment to what is good. Teaching children a spirit of peace and humanity will help them grow with open hearts, free from fear and resentment, and committed to upholding the dignity and rights of every one.

Dear brothers and sisters, although our country has known dark times, we rejoice in the progress made in rebuilding, reconciliation, and the mutual asking for and granting of forgiveness aimed at lasting peace and healing of wounds. Let us continue to support one another, stand united, and encourage one another; this is how we will grow stronger. Let us avoid hurtful words and harmful actions that wound the heart. Let us comfort one another as Christ comforts us, so that the peace of God may flourish in our lives and across our nation.

We entrust ourselves to our Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Lady of Kibeho.

Kigali, 6th April 2026


+ Anacleto MWUMVANEZA
Bishop of the Diocese of Nyundo
Chairperson of the Episcopal Commission of Justice and Peace

