

# EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Washington DC

**Every year that passes makes Rwandans stronger and better - President Kagame**



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## #KWIBUKA28

Rwandans, friends of Rwanda across US pay tribute to the victims of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi



# First reunion of IBUKA-USA and 28th commemoration of the Genocide against Tutsi



## Every year that passes makes Rwandans stronger and better - President Kagame

**President Paul Kagame** has said that 28 years since the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, every year that passes makes Rwandans stronger and better.

President Kagame shared the message while speaking at the Kigali Genocide Memorial as the country started the commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi.

Every year on April 7, Rwandans and friends of Rwanda come together to honor the more than a million innocent lives that were lost within just 100 days.

“A day like this is a moment when people are speechless. Not because of lacking freedom to speak as some want to characterize us, but because of what we went through.”

President Kagame’s remarks followed a grim account by Jean Nepomscene Sibomana, who survived the Genocide in the current Gatsibo district. He lost both parents and all his siblings.

The 39-year old said he is now blessed with a family and has two children, thanks to the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

“Imagine if those of us who were carrying arms had allowed ourselves to pursue those who were killing our people indiscriminately and also killed them? First of all we would be right to do so. But we didn’t,” President Kagame said.

He added, some of them (perpetrators) are still living today. They are in their villages, others are in government, others are doing business. Yet people have the audacity to say what they say about us.

“But the most important thing is that these very hard, bad lessons should never be wasted. For the past 28 years, every year that passes makes us stronger and better people.”

### Small country, big on justice

President Kagame highlighted that Rwanda is a small country but big on justice, citing that ‘some’ other countries are big and powerful but small on justice.

“They have no lessons to offer because they are part of history that led to what happened here.”

“The fact that they are part of what happened here is the very reason they do not give us peace. They want to cover up their deeds,” he asserted.

President Kagame pointed out that they want to cover up for their silence to the calls to help Rwandans when they were being killed in 1994.

“So according to them, we are all the same. But we are not the same. That is why we did not kill another one million on top of those we lost on the hands of these criminals.”

He said that the fact that Rwandans decided to abolish the death penalty at the time when the country was coming out of a genocide is further demonstration of a nation that was determined to build a society anchored on restorative justice.

“In fact some of those powerful countries accusing us of lacking justice actually do have the death sentence and they are still hanging people,” he said.

### Rwanda decides for herself

President Kagame said that there are three systems of governance, citing democracy, autocracy and hypocrisy, which he said lies between the first two.

For Rwanda, he said, we will carry the name anyone will want to give them.

“But the lesson we have learnt or things we knew anyway is that it doesn’t matter how far you go from here, you are not going to find people whose lives are more important than ours.”

“There is no hero in a situation like this. When you talk of heroes, you are talking of a situation that was so bad that people did what they did to save others.

“Maybe I ask myself, the best thing is not to have a situation that has to produce heroes. More people were killed that needed to be saved. We shouldn’t have a situation that produces heroes. We would be better off.”

Also possible, he pointed out, is that some heroes are manufactured.

“You can decide to create a hero when you are powerful and if anybody raises a voice, they are made to shut up. That is what I meant when I said the powerful are small on justice.”

President Kagame further said that some talk about freedom, even when they go on to create false stories about the Genocide.

“And when you confront them with facts that there is that power to ensure you do not have a platform where you can challenge those lies. They then turn and accuse you of not having freedom of expression.”

The head of state reiterated that the same thing still happens today.

For instance, he said that there are a number of newspapers that falsify stories about Rwanda, and when you want to challenge them, they will not give you the platform to respond.

“Make no mistake, this country of ours, small as it is, does not have small people,” he said.

“Like we did in the past, guided by the truth and what is right and didn’t use the means and possibility we had, to kill those who killed our people, you can imagine people who doubt our justice.”

Rwanda, President Kagame said, decided to abolish the death penalty at a time the country had people who could be hang justifiably. “Then you turn and say that we do not have justice?” he wondered.

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“Some of those powerful countries accusing us of lacking justice actually do have the death sentence”

The head of state also thanked leaders of the country as well as citizens and young people who still find it in themselves the courage to live a normal life, despite the tragic past.

Earlier, the President and First Lady Jeannette Kagame had laid a wreath at the memorial, in honour of the over 250,000 Genocide victims who were laid to rest at this memorial. Later they lit the flame of remembrance which is also at the Genocide memorial.

The event was attended by senior officials in government, diplomatic corps, civil society and business community, among others.

TNT

## President Kagame and First Lady Jeannette Kagame host a dinner in honor of members of the diplomatic corps



President Kagame and First Lady Jeannette Kagame hosted a dinner in honor of members of the diplomatic corps.

President Kagame took the opportunity to ensure that the diplomats understand the values around which partnerships are formed, and emphasised how Rwanda continues to focus on building peace in the region as well as continued collaboration with other countries.

“We could not have made recovery and progress over the last 28 years without the resilient people of Rwanda, and equally the many friends and partners we have had accompanying us along the way,” he said.

[Read more](#)

## BI-MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

### ➔ President Kagame visits Zambia



April 4, President Kagame had a two-day State Visit in Zambia's touristic capital, Livingstone and was received by his Zambian counterpart, President Hakainde Hichilema.

They held tête-à-tête talks before having a bilateral meeting with members of their delegations.



April 8, President Kagame attended, in Kenya, the signing ceremony of the treaty of accession by the Democratic Republic of Congo to the East African Community.

The signing ceremony was hosted by President Uhuru Kenyatta and attended by President Museveni and President Tshisekedi, who signed the treaty of accession making the DRC the 7th member of East African Community.

### ➔ President Sassou Nguesso welcomes President Kagame



April 11, President Sassou Nguesso welcomed President Kagame to Brazzaville, Republic of Congo for a three day State Visit. President Kagame addressed a joint session of the Congolese Parliament.

### ➔ President Kagame visits Jamaica



April 14, President Kagame visited Jamaica and was welcomed by Governor General Sir Patrick Allen and Prime Minister Andrew Holness. The three-day State Visit aimed to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation.

### ➔ President Kagame visits Barbados



April 16, President Kagame was received in the Barbados for an Official Visit. President Kagame paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency Sandra Mason, President of Barbados. President Kagame and Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley held tête-à-tête as well as bilateral talks where they witnessed the signing of an agreement aimed at strengthening cooperation between Rwanda and Barbados.

# Rwandans, Friends of Rwanda in US appeal for leveraging storytelling to preserve memory



Amb. Mathilde Mukantabana said that the first weapon against Genocide Ideology is Education

Rwandans and friends of Rwanda in the United have called for leveraging storytelling to educate younger generations about the Genocide against Tutsi.

The call was made in Washington DC during the commemorative event on April 7, to mark the 28th commemoration of the Genocide against Tutsi.

The hybrid event featured panel discussions with academicians, author, and diaspora members.

Prof. Drew Kahn, an award-winning professor, actor and producer reiterated the role of storytelling saying that silence is the enemy of progress.

He said that Rwanda's efforts to be in charge of its own story has provided immense success. Adding "I am extremely impressed by Rwanda's ability to use story as a sustained tool against the silence that would encourage denial. One of the essential ingredients to make sure Genocide happens is that good people must do nothing." He said.

The panelists challenged the world to speak out on what happened during the Genocide against Tutsi to help younger generation and the world understand and preserve memory.

The event-hosted testimonies from survivors currently residing in the United States.

Ms. Providence Umugwaneza, a genocide survivor and Founder of the Kabeho Neza Initiative highlighted the importance of social media in storytelling "Social media is one of the best tools we can use to tell our stories, internet never forgets. Younger generations need to be educated; we can use Twitter, YouTube, etc.

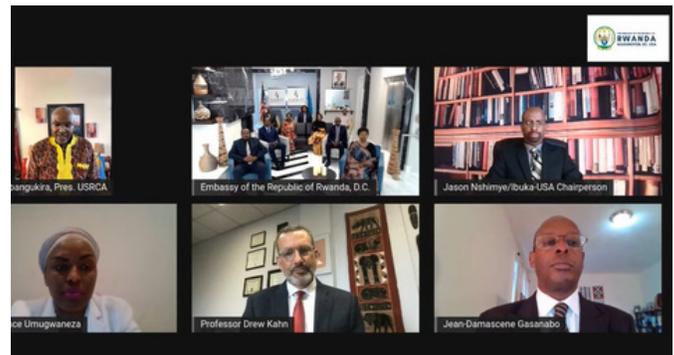
Let us use social media to counter fake information about the Genocide."

She added that telling stories about Genocide is not only for Genocide survivors, it is everyone's responsibilities.

Dr. Phodidas Ndamyumu-gabe genocide survivor and author of "Preaching from the Grave" shared testimonies of the hardships he endured during genocide. "Bloodshed was everywhere, militiamen with their machetes and knives. There was no way out."

Dr. Jean- Damascène Gasanabo explained that commemoration itself is a way of storytelling that helps the younger generation. He commended the government of Rwanda efforts to include Genocide against Tutsi in the curriculum and called for the rest of the world to do so.

Ambassador of Rwanda to the United States, Mathilde Mukantabana noted that the first weapon against Genocide Ideology is Education. She said, "In Rwanda, we are continuously educating the younger generation about the genocide and instead of what separates us, we rather emphasize on the commonalities of our human experiences."



The event featured panel discussions with academicians, author, and diaspora members.

Mr. Ervin Massinga, the United State Department's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs reiterated the commitment of his country to bring Genocide fugitives to justice "United States will continue to walk side by side with Rwandan people, Government of Rwanda and International Community to bring those responsible for Genocide to justice"

The event organized by the Embassy of Rwanda in Washington, IBUKA-USA and Rwandan community in US was attended by over 600 people both virtually and physically.

# PICTORIAL: SOME OF THE #KWIBUKA28 EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



## MAINE



In Maine, Rwandans and friends of Rwanda showed up en masse to pay tribute to the victims of 1994 Genocide against Tutsi.



## TEXAS



Rwandan community and Friends of Rwanda in Dallas Fort worth reiterated their commitment to work together to teach the young generation about the History of Genocide against Tutsi and to fight Genocide ideology.



## MIDWEST



**Rwandans and friends of Rwanda in Midwest were reminded to speak out against people who intentionally deny or minimize the Genocide against Tutsi and to debunk lies about Rwanda's history.**



## TENNESSEE & KENTUCKY



**Rwandan community and Friends of Rwanda in Tennessee and Kentucky gathered to pay tribute to the victims of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi. Speakers outlined how preparation of the Genocide against Tutsi unfolded in 1959 until its full implementation in 1994 and how to fight the Genocide ideology and its denial..**



## COLORADO



**Rwandans and Friends of Rwanda in Colorado pledged to embrace unity and to tell the world the real history of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi to preserve memory and to debunk lies of Genocide deniers.**



## Southern California



**Rwandans and Friends of Rwanda in Southern California gathered at Saddleback Church on Lake Forest campus to honor the victims of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi.**



# Oklahoma Christian University



Students of Oklahoma Christian University during a Walk to Remember held on Saturday April 9 in Oklahoma to pay tribute to the victims of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi.



# Marist College, NY



# CALL FOR DIASPORA TO DENOUNCE GENOCIDE DENIERS



The Rwandan Embassy in the United States together with Rwandans in Tennessee and Kentucky, as well as friends of Rwanda, gathered for the 28th commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

The event took place on Saturday April 3 at Knoxville,

Tennessee, USA, and was preceded by the "Walk to Remember"

that brought together more than 150 participant.

Bahati Kalisa, the President of the Association of Rwandans Living in the State of Tennessee in the United States, welcomed the Rwandans and friends of Rwanda who came to honor the victims of the Genocide against the Tutsi.

"I urge Rwandans living in the Diaspora to continue to point out and denounce the perpetrators of the Genocide against the Tutsi and those who deny and underestimate the Genocide and seek protection and comfort abroad, including here," Kalisa said.

"Continue to work with the Government of Rwanda and other relevant agencies to further eradicate the culture of impunity as there are international laws and documents established by Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)."

Gatsinzi Basaninyenzi, a University Lecturer and Researcher who spoke at the event,

discussed the topic and why it is so important to stand up to those who deny and belittle the Genocide against the Tutsi, as well as those who offend survivors in the United States.

Basaninyenzi cautioned Rwandans, especially the youth, to carefully examine the books they read about the subject since not all authors are telling the truth. "What we are doing today is to tell the true story of the Genocide the image of the country and

its history," he said James Ford, a friend of Rwanda and a professor at the University of Tennessee College of Applied Technology, stated that there is a big lesson to be learnt, and that as a teacher, he will be teaching the history of the Genocide against the Tutsi for never again. Leonard Kwitonda, President of the Rwandan Community in the Midwest, spoke of the trauma that tends to happen throughout these commemorations and later, particularly for survivors of the Genocide, saying that the wounds are still fresh and that survivors should be cared for and that people should know how to help them in the event of a trauma.



**I urge Rwandans living in the Diaspora to continue to point out and denounce the perpetrators of the Genocide against the Tutsi**



IBUKA President in the USA, Jason Nshimye in his address to the audience explained that the Genocide against the Tutsi stretched from 1959 to 1994, during which time more than a million Tutsis were killed.

Nshimye encouraged young people to visit genocide memorial centres in order to learn about the country's history about the history and expressed his gratitude to the RPF for putting an end to the genocide and assisting survivors in reintegrating into society.

Charles Ntageruka, Second Counselor at the Embassy in the US, congratulated Rwandans in Nashville and Knoxville, Tennessee, and Lexington, Kentucky, for attending the event.

Ntageruka urged the youth to use technology against those who continue to deny the Genocide.

He offered survivors a message of comfort and optimism, encouraging them to continue to hold onto the light of remembrance in order to strengthen unity and healing and develop their nation.

TNT

# 1<sup>ST</sup> REUNION

## & 28<sup>TH</sup> COMMEMORATION

OF THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI  
IN 1994 IN RWANDA



**H.E. Mathilde Mukantabana**  
Amb. of the Rep. of  
Rwanda to the USA



**Egide Nkuranga**  
President  
of Ibuka Rwanda



**Jean Bosco Rutagengwa**  
Co-Founder  
& 1st President  
of IBUKA-Rwanda.



**Freddy Mutanguha**  
Exec. Director  
Aegis Trust



**Kirk Cullimore**  
Senator Utah



**Carl Wikens**  
Co-Founder  
Director at World  
Outside My Shoes



**Omar Ndizeye**  
Tutsi  
Genocide Survivor



**Consilee Nishimwe**  
Tutsi  
Genocide Survivor



**Karen Jungblut**  
Shoah Foundation  
Director Emerita of  
Global Initiatives



**Dr. Gatsinzi Basaninyenz**  
Assoc. Prof. at  
Alabama A&M  
University.



**Zachary D. Kaufman**  
J.D., PHD  
Assoc. Prof. of  
law and political  
science



**Sara E. Brown**  
Executive Director  
of Chhange



**Karen Bronk Froming**  
Ph. D. A board certified  
Neuropsychologist



**Michael Mower**  
Senior Advisor to  
Utah Governor



**Lorna Touryan Miller**  
Co-author, Survivors:  
Oral History of the  
Armenian Genocide



**Stephen Smith**  
Chair & CEO,  
StoryFile, Inc.



**Esther Mujawayo**  
Sociologist &  
Psychotherapist



**Sandra Hollins**  
Utah State  
Representative  
(District 23)



**Angela Romero**  
Utah State  
Representative  
(District 26)



**Rwamihare Jean de Dieu**  
Artist



**Stephanie Wolfe**  
Professor, Department of  
Political Science &  
Philosophy



**Dieudonne Munyanshoza**  
Artist

27-29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022  
**SHERATON SALT  
LAKE CITY HOTEL**  
150 WEST 500 SOUTH SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84101



For more info follow: [ibukausa.org](http://ibukausa.org).

## AMBASSADOR MUKANTABANA JOINS FELLOW WOMEN LEADERS TO CELEBRATE RAMADAN



Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda in Washington D.C. Mathilde Mukantabana joined fellow women leaders for Iftar dinner.

Iftar, the evening meal with which Muslims end their daily Ramadan, was prepared in honor of H.E. President Samia Suluhu visit to Washington D.C.

Other distinguished women leaders of global affairs also attended the event to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan.

## AMBASSADOR MUKANTABANA DISCUSSES DOMESTIC FINANCING FOR HELATH



Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana discussed the progress on domestic financing for health.

The discussions held on April 23 included strides made through the Africa Leadership Meeting on investing in health, current challenges and opportunities for further success with Malinda Gates Health Financing, a pillar for economic recovery.

## GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS VISIT THE EMBASSY



Students of Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service paid a visit to the Embassy on April 20 to learn more about Rwanda's Development Foreign Policy and Diplomacy.

Their questions revolved around what made Rwanda's Economic Recovery possible in a post-genocide situation.

The second counselor of the Embassy Mr. Charles Ntageruka who expounded the development trajectory of Rwanda said that Citizen-centered leadership has been the key. "Leadership with a sense of urgency to improve citizens' lives." He said adding that the

leadership has been built on five key pillars including Unity and Reconciliation, Clear vision, Clear guiding principles to drive the socio-economic Development, Citizens participation and Accountability, Home Grown Solutions and one ID "Ndi Umunyarwanda".

## AWF, EMBASSY OF RWANDA HIGHLIGHT THE UPCOMING IUCN AFRICA PROTECTED AREAS CONGRESS



Belise Kariza, Country Director of Rwanda, AWF

On April 5, 2022, Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and the Embassy of Rwanda co-convened a briefing and reception at the House of Sweden in Washington, D.C., highlighting the upcoming IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress, ongoing work on the Rwanda Conservation and Development Master Plan and expansion of Volcanoes National Park.

This gathering brought together different people, including representatives from US government, multilateral agencies, corporations, non-governmental organizations, and African embassies with a shared vision for African conservation leadership.

The event raised awareness and galvanized support for the inaugural Africa Protected Areas Congress, which will be a continent-wide gathering of African leaders, communities, and interest groups to elevate the importance of protected areas in safeguarding wildlife, delivering life-supporting ecosystem services, conserving Africa's cultural heritage, and promoting sustainable development.

Her Excellency Mathilde Mukantabana, Ambassador of Rwanda in Washington DC provided an overview of Rwanda's vision for conservation and development in harmony with communities and wildlife, and as a blueprint for other African nations.

"We have demonstrated, as a country, leadership in defining a vision for growth as a country first to sustain its people and nature at the same time." She said.

Edwin Tambara, Director of Global Leadership, African Wildlife Foundation: working to ensure that wildlife conservation on the ground is supported is something that should be taken serious.

"This is critical not only for the wildlife, but for the varied ecosystem services that support millions of Africans across the continent." He added.

According to Belise Kariza, Country Director of Rwanda, African Wildlife Foundation "The agreement between the Government of Rwanda and AWF is to undertake a rights based approach for the expansion of Volcanoes National Park[...]acquire 450 hectares of land[...]restore the expanded area to assist in the regeneration of native species, and the last component and most important part is the livelihood improvement of 500 households."

Rwanda will be the first country to host the IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress.



**BIOMETRICS SERVICES GOING  
TO  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
&  
UTAH  
On**

*May 14th and may 29th*

*2022*

*See page 12 for more information*

## Biometrics services go to Northern California and Utah

The Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Washington DC is pleased to inform the public that the Consular Department will extend Biometrics Services to Rwandans living in Northern California and Utah on the following dates:

- Northern California (Davis): May 14th, 09:00AM – 05:00PM. (Local Time)
- Utah (Salt Lake City) : May 29th , 09:00AM – 05:00PM. (Local Time)

### Requirements:

#### Approval from

1. Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration of Rwanda (DGIE) for PASSPORT applicants.
2. National Identification Agency – NIDA for Rwandan ID (Indangamutu) applicants.

Rwandans living in Northern California, Utah, surrounding areas and anyone planning to be in the area on the aforementioned dates can apply for their e-passport or Rwandan ID through [www.irembo.gov.rw](http://www.irembo.gov.rw) and follow the guidelines.

After receiving confirmation from DGIE or NIDA, please register with the consular service of the Embassy using the links below depending on the state where you will provide biometrics :

(1) Northern California, (2) Utah

The venue and appointment information will be communicated ahead of time to those registered.

For more info: [www.rwandaembassy.org](http://www.rwandaembassy.org) or [info@rwandaembassy.org](mailto:info@rwandaembassy.org)

## Rwandan community abroad can now apply national ID from embassies

The Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE) started the issuance of East Africa e-Passport since 28 June 2019 with the National ID card as a requirement for citizens aged 16 years and above.

Rwandan Community abroad without National ID cards could not apply for an e-Passport.

In collaboration with the National Identification Agency (NIDA) and Irembo Ltd, DGIE has developed a system that allows to apply and acquire Rwandan National ID and e-Passport from the Embassies.

This was implemented to facilitate the Rwandan Community abroad without National ID cards.

DGIE is pleased to announce to the general public that Rwandan Community abroad can now apply for a National ID card and thereafter apply for an e-Passport via Irembo portal.

The biometric data will be captured from the nearest Embassy and be used for the processing of both National ID card and e-Passport.

DGIE encourages all Rwandan citizens to apply for an e-Passport at their earliest possible opportunity before the planned phased out of Machine Readable Passports scheduled on 27th June 2022.

For more inquiries and clarifications, kindly contact [diaspora@migration.gov.rw](mailto:diaspora@migration.gov.rw)



# FIRST LADY JEANNETTE KAGAME WAS JOINED BY MISS RWANDA CONTESTANTS, RESIDENTS FOR THE BI-MONTHLY CAR FREE DAY





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