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Press Release of December 10th, 2025

In Memory of the Victims of Congolese Tutsi massacred on Dec. 10th-11th, 1997, in Mudende Refugee Camp in Rwanda.

Today, 28 years ago, more than 200 Congolese were massacred by Rwandan extremist so-called “Interahamwe” in Mudende Refugee camp in Western Province of Rwanda. After fleeing the killings in Masisi, Kalehe, Lubero, Nyiragongo and Rutshuru territories in North Kivu Provinces in D.R.Congo from the same militia who perpetrated the genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda, the Tutsi from Congo were housed by UNCHR starting April 1996 in Mudende and Nkamira refugees until until December 10, 1997.

On December 13-14th, 2025, CTSV_IHUMIRE (Congolese Tutsi Survivor’s Voice) in collaboration with ISOKO will commemorate these acts of genocide to be held on Dec. 13-14th, 2025 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Please join the survivors and the community to remember these victims.

According to local officials cited by Associated Press, “the attack on the Mudende refugee camp in northwest Rwanda on Thursday (11/12) left at least 271 dead among Tutsi refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)”. As today, we believe these numbers are underestimated based on the large numbers of unaccounting victims from many of our families. See below the excerpt from then US Secretary of State Late Madeleine Albright and the late UN Secretary general Koffi Annan.



U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright takes a moment of silent prayer Thursday for Rwandans who died in the 1994 genocide, during her visit to the Nyanza Genocide Memorial near the capital Kigali. ASSOCIATED PRESS

200 Tutsis killed in Rwanda

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Suspected Hutu rebels raided a Tutsi refugee camp in northwestern Rwanda on Thursday, slaughtering more than 200 people and wounding almost as many, the U.N. refugee agency said. Some 231 bodies were found in the camp, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees office in New York. Another 227 people were hospitalized in Gisenyi, about 60 miles northwest of Kigali. About 90 percent of them had machete wounds, the agency said.

It was the second attack on Mudende camp since August, when more than 100 refugees were hacked or shot dead during a raid blamed on Hutu rebels. The refugees had fled the Masisi region of neighboring Congo in mid-1996 to escape attacks by Hutu rebels, who were then based in camps in eastern Congo, formerly known as Zaire. The rebels had left Rwanda en masse fearing reprisals for the 1994 Hutu slaughter of a half-million minority Tutsis. Authorities say the rebels have mixed with more than 1 mil-

lion Hutu civilians who returned to Rwanda late last year. Rwanda’s Tutsi-led government blames the rebels for a surge in violence in the northwestern corner of Rwanda. Barely a week passes without a rebel ambush or an attack on a jail. Thursday’s attack coincided with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright’s one-day visit to Kigali, where she talked with government leaders and praised their efforts at reconciliation.





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SG/SM/6422
12 DECEMBER 1997

SECRETARY-GENERAL EXPRESSES PROFOUND SHOCK AT 'SAVAGERY' OF ATTACK AT MUDENDE CAMP IN NORTH-WESTERN RWANDA

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19971212 Massacre Described as 'Brutal Reminder' of 1994 Genocide; Respect for Security of Vulnerable, Defenceless Refugees Demanded

This statement was issued today by the Associate Spokesman for Secretary-General Kofi Annan:

The Secretary-General was profoundly shocked by the 10 December 1997 attack on the Mudende refugee camp in north-western Rwanda. Defenceless refugees, mostly women and children, were massacred, leaving nearly 300 dead and over 200 wounded, testifying to the savagery of the attack. The camp has been home to some 17,000 Tutsi refugees from the Masisi region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

These killings are a brutal reminder of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and its devastating consequences for the region of the Great Lakes. It is most distressing that after almost four years, prospects for peace, stability and national reconciliation remain dim and that efforts to find lasting solutions in Rwanda and the region have not been successful.

The Secretary-General strongly condemns these killings and all acts of violence. He is very concerned at the recent escalation of violence in the north and north-western regions of Rwanda. He wishes to reaffirm the international demand that the security of vulnerable refugees be respected.

The Secretary-General also wishes to express his sincere condolences to the Governments of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as to the families of the victims of this senseless attack.

For memory, before the massacres of Mudende on December 10, 1997, there were several massacres of congolese Tutsi in Nkamira and in the surrounding area in June and August 1997, but unfortunately there are no records of these massacres. In December 1997, a new refugee camp of Gihembe, in Northeast of Rwanda was established by UNCHR to host survivors of the Mudende Massacre among them 99% are Mudende massacre survivors. On this day of remembrance of our



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parents, grand parents, aunts, brothers and sisters, and all the victims of this barbaric acts, the Tutsi Congolese wants to remind our government from D.R.Congo and the AFC-M23 to address the the roots causes of these massacres that are still going on in 2025.

The same ideology of then Interahamwe militia, currently re-named “FDLR” has been exported and implemented in the many congolese, enabled and disseminated among all armed groups once called “Nyatura”, Mai-Mai then re-named “Wazalendo” led by some official in Kinshasa and the Eastern regions of D.R.Congo.

We call for the condemnation of hate speech against Tutsi in D.R.Congo, and request the prosecution of the authors of Mudende massacres by the government of Rwanda.

In addition, on behalf of survivors, in memory of these vicitims, we humbly request from the Rwandan Government to grant to the survivors to build a Memorial place in Mudende where survivors and generation to come should remember this horrific events.

To our government of D.R.Congo to ban and prosecute all authors of hate speech and cleasing of congolese Tutsi and poursuit the dialogue with the UNHCR and the government of Rwanda for the repatriation of more than 70,000 refugees currently hosted in 5 refugee camps in Rwanda and in Uganda, We hope that in the year of 2026, all these refugees will be repatriated to their ancestral lands in North Kivu and South Kivu.

To the International Community especially the United State of America to condemn and prosecute the authors of cleasing of genocide of Congolese Tutsi in D.R.Congo.

Finally, we offer our unconditional support to the victims of these barbarian acts as well as to their families who continue to suffer the horrors of the armed groups scattered in eastern provinces of North Kivu&South Kivu with the only motives of ethnic cleasing of the Tutsi community in the DRC.

We reiterate our commitment to use the legal and diplomatic tools at our disposal to fight against the ongoing genocide ideology of Tutsi in D.R.Congo characterized by hate speech, discrimination, cannibalism, destruction of their livelihood and their submission of their apatridie.

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