

Presentation of Medecins Sans Frontières to the
UN Commission on Human Rights - Rwanda.
(Emergency Session, Geneva, 24-25 May 1994)

The following incidents/scenes, are few specific MSF eye-witness, accounts of Human Rights violations or atrocities in Butare, Rwanda.

1. Date: 19th April 1994.

Site: Road between Butare and the Burundi border.

Incident/Scene:

- Landscape surrounding several communities was dotted with piles of Human bodies (among them, women and children). These were Tutsi's, that were being ^{selectively} taken out from their communities and killed. (2 photographs)
- Seven hundred meters from the Burundi border, about 80 people were seen running, towards the border ("like cattle in a stampede"). They were being chased by a group of Militia, armed with machets. One person was hacked to death in front of us.
The others however manage to reach the border,..but, unfortunately, another group of Militia, was waiting for them.
Less, than ten people managed to cross, the others were massacred.

2. Date: 20th April 1994.

Site: Saga-1 and Saga-2 refugee camps, 30 km from Butare town)

Incident/Scene:

- All MSF local staff (Hutu, Tutsi, and Zaire) were gathered violently, by Militia and civilian police (Gendarmerie). The Hutu staff were then forced to kill their Tutsi colleagues.
Those, that refused, were killed. Thirty five Tutsi staff members were either hacked to death or shot. Zaire staff that were set free later revealed the story.

3. Date: 22-23 April 1994.

Site: University Hospital Butare. (Where MSF was working)

Incident/Scene:

- Total of 150-170 civilian Tutsi patients, among them, wounded children, were taken out individually, or in groups, and either beaten or hacked to death behind the hospital.
We saw the cadavers.
- 3 nurses were also killed, among them was a "Hutu Mother, 7 Months pregnant" (Sabine was married to a Tutsi). Her crime was that "she was carrying a Tutsi baby".

4. There are several other stories.

*** Specific remarks:**

- This Massacre is still continuing, a great crime against humanity "genocide"
- People responsible had been the Militia (*interhamwvie*), along with radical elements of the interim government.

Four specific questions for the UN Commission on Human Rights.

1. Protection of civilians in this conflict ?.
2. Protection of Hospitals and Aid-personnel, to allow humanitarian work ?
3. Options for avoiding this situation for the future ?
4. What will be the "justice" for the killers ?.



Dr. Rony Zachariah
General Coordinator
MSF-Butare, Rwanda.