



Press Release Secretary-General

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SECRETARY-GENERAL SAYS LAST YEAR'S TRAGEDY IN RWANDA

MUST NEVER BE ALLOWED TO OCCUR AGAIN

This is the text of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's statement on the first anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda which will be read in Kigali tomorrow, 7 April, by Shahryar M. Khan, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Rwanda:

Today, I share with the Government and people of Rwanda the pain of commemorating the first anniversary of the genocide that has gravely shaken the foundation of your nation.

On behalf of the United Nations family, I wish to convey my deepest sympathy and condolences to the survivors of this tragic nightmare that has left a deep scar on the conscience of mankind. Never should the world allow such a tragedy on our planet. Never should the perpetrators of such crimes be permitted to get away with impunity.

While there has been no world war in the half century since the United Nations was created, today's ceremony reminds us, sadly, that humanity continues to see much sorrow, violence and injustice. Let us, therefore, recommit ourselves and rededicate our efforts to the objective of a better world as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations and, to this end, reaffirm our collective faith "in the dignity and worth of the human person".

The deep expression of grief and the demonstration of solidarity with the people of Rwanda constitute a ray of hope for the future. The international community, including non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), have been working side by side with the Government and people of Rwanda, to rebuild a society torn apart emotionally, morally and physically by the tragic events we are today remembering.

The tasks for reconstruction and reconciliation are formidable and demanding, but we must intensify our efforts to that end. This effort would be the most fitting and enduring tribute that we can pay in memory of those who lost their lives. As Secretary-General of the United Nations, I pledge the continued support of the Organization to all endeavours aimed at building a new Rwandese society based on tolerance, harmony and justice.

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