



**REPUBULIKA Y'U RWANDA**

*National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide*

*Commission Nationale de Lutte Contre le Génocide*

*Komisiyo y'Igihugu yo Kurwanya Jenoside*

**CNLG**



**WHAT REALLY TOOK PLACE AT  
HOTEL DES  
MILLE COLLINES**

**DURING THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI IN 1994**



Dear reader,

Hotel Rwanda was a Hollywood blockbuster movie which highlighted the atrocities that took place during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. No doubt, many have watched it and applauded the brave actions of the so-called heroic character Paul Rusesabagina portrayed by Don Cheadle, and his efforts to protect and free the Tutsi who were cornered in Hotel des Mille Collines.

However, the story told in the award-winning movie is pure fiction and does not provide the real and accurate picture of the events that occurred between April and June of 1994. Needless to say that it was not a live documentary, neither a witness caption of the events. CNLG aims to shed light on many of the inaccuracies recounted in the movie, including the misrepresentation of Paul Rusesabagina as a hero. In fact, Rusesabagina did not play any role in the survival and escape of the Tutsi held up in the hotel, rather their survival was entirely the result of a series of purported plans and actions unrelated to Rusesabagina's presence. Additionally, Rusesabagina is not an advocate for the survivors of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and his claim of heroism for protecting them are muddled with

speeches tinted with the doctrine of genocide denial ideology.

After the hotel saga, Paul Rusesabagina unveiled his real nature. He created an ungazetted political party called Rwandan Movement for Democratic Change (MRDC) to combat a democratically vested authority in Rwanda. His party has an armed wing called the National Liberation Front (FLN).

This booklet provides the reader a series of personal witness accounts as well as other supporting documents from genocide survivors which show a different perspective of what really took place at the Hotel des Mille Collines during the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994. Those testimonies were recorded at different periods of time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bizimana Jean Damascène  
Executive Secretary  
CNLG  
May 2020

The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink on the left, followed by a circular official seal on the right. The seal features a central emblem with a scale of justice and a sword, surrounded by text in a circular border. The entire signature and seal are rendered in a light blue, semi-transparent style.

## **Who is Paul RUSESABAGINA?**

### **What was he doing in Rwanda in 1994?**

Paul Rusesabagina is Rwandan, born on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1954. He worked at Hotel des Mille Collines during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. He claims to have rescued 1,200 Tutsi who had sought refuge in the hotel.

However, this is far from the truth according to accounts by the survivors whom he claims to have rescued. They instead regard him as an opportunist who pursues fame and personal gains. According to testimony by the survivors, Rusesabagina did not play any role in their survival, instead a combination of factors including the intervention by United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), protection by the French troops since the hotel housed the French army communication unit, and there's pressure from Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) against the government forces.

In his book *"The Hotel Rwanda: The Surprising True Story... and Why It Matters Today*, BenBella Books, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014", Edouard Kayihura one of the survivors, and others who had hidden in the hotel recount how Rusesabagina subjected them to awfulness acts. In his first meeting with the staff after becoming hotel manager, he instructed that all refugees who couldn't afford to pay for room be evicted from hotel rooms and



sleep in corridors. Others were forced to sign cheques as surety.

During his tenure as hotel manager, he had a good relation with leaders of Interahamwe including its president at national level Mr. Robert Kajuga and army officers including Gen. Augustin Bizimungu, Army Chief of Staff and Col. Theoneste Bagosora who was Cabinet Director to the Minister of Defence who served as acting Minister of Defense while the Minister was on mission to Cameroon. Col. Bagosora is considered as one of architects of the genocide in Rwanda. He was sentenced to 35 years in prison by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). That relationship between Rusesabagina and some top officials of the government that planned and executed the genocide existed before because Rusesabagina was used by the president's office for collecting intelligence information while posturing as an ordinary civilian [Edouard KAYIHURA, *The Hotel Rwanda: The Surprising True Story... and Why It Matters Today*, BenBella Books, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014].

If Rusesabagina is really a hero who saved Tutsi as he claims, how can he at the same time go all over denying the same genocide that threatened the lives of the people he claims to have saved? How can a man who professes to have rescued Tutsi during genocide turn around and collaborate with the Democratic

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Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a terrorist organization under UN sanctions which comprises of perpetrators of the genocide and continues to wreak havoc in DRC?


He has done all this with an aim of soliciting funds for his Rusesabagina Foundation and his political party PDR-Ihumure.

### **1. Paul Rusesabagina did not hid or save Tutsi in Genocide**

Paul Rusesabagina gained fame after his 2004 film Hotel Rwanda. In the film, he is portrayed as a brave man who tried all he could to save the threatened Tutsi who had sought sanctuary in the hotel. However, this is not true as survivors from the hotel testify.

Rusesabagina took charge of the hotel from April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1994, a week after the genocide had started. He consolidated all authority around himself where he could allow in or reject whoever he wishes. He selectively allowed accommodation to his allies and others who managed to pay for accommodation while he chased those who were unable to pay, defying the call by the president of Sabena Hotels who urged him to accommodate all refugees without charging them.

It's against this background that Ibuka, the umbrella of genocide survivors' associations said of RUSESABAGINA: "he has hijacked heroism.



He is trading with the genocide. He should be charged.”

The truth about Rusesabagina can be found in some books that have been written about him including the following:

- »» The letter written by Genocide survivors of the genocide who had sought safety in Hotel des Mille Collines: *RUSESABAGINA's role in Hotel des Mille Collines during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi*, published on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011);
- »» Alfred NDAHIRO, Privat RUTAZIBWA, *Hotel Rwanda or the Tutsi Genocide as seen by Hollywood*, Paris: L'Harmattan, 2008;
- »» Edouard KAYIHURA, *The Hotel Rwanda: The Surprising True Story... and Why It Matters Today*, BenBella Books, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014;

Survivors from Hotel des Mille Collines testify that Paul Rusesabagina played no role in their survival because he had no final say on what was happening in the hotel. In the fifth floor of the hotel was the French Military Communication Unit hence the French couldn't easily allow killers access to the hotel. Therefore, Rusesabagina shouldn't claim the credit for preventing killers from accessing the hotel.






Presence of the French Communication Unit in the hotel has been confirmed in several testimonies given by genocide survivors, UNAMIR and Belgian soldiers who came had come to evacuate their citizens who were in Rwanda in 1994. One of the witnesses who has testified that is Col. Jean-Loup Denbyden (he can be reached on phone number: +250788384757).

Survivors from the hotel also have testified that during his visit to Rwanda in 1994, Bernard KOUCHNER warned the government of not causing harm to the refugees in the hotel lest France stops any support they provided to the government. Again by then, Hotel des Mille Collines was under management of Sabena, a Belgian aviation company, therefore it was highly protected to prevent it from being vandalized or their property from being looted.

These are some factors that indicate how Rusesabagina isn't really the one who protected the people who had sought refuge in the hotel as he claims, instead he did some harmful acts to them.

## **2. Paul Rusesabagina worked for the Government that planned and executed the genocide**

Paul Rusesabagina worked with the genocidal regime through spying and providing information that was used in hunting, humiliating and killing



Tutsi since the beginning of the war between former RPF and the government in 1990.

This cooperation between Rusesabagina and the government continued even when the genocide was going on, where he closely cooperated with leaders who are regarded as the architects of the genocide including top army commanders and political leaders of the *Mouvement Révolutionnaire National pour le Développement* (MRND) ruling party. An example is Augustin Bizimungu then Army Chief of Staff who was convicted of genocide and extermination as a crime against humanity and sentenced to 30 years of imprisonment on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 by the ICTR, and Col. Théoneste Bagosora convicted for genocide, extermination and persecution as crimes against humanity, and sentenced to 35 years of imprisonment on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011.


### **3. Denial of genocide against the Tutsi and spreading of double genocide propaganda**

In his speeches in conferences and other platforms, Rusesabagina outrightly denies genocide against the Tutsi and instead promotes a double genocide theory with an aim of distorting the facts.

- »» He intentionally distorts the history where he deliberately ignores the 1959-1966 killings of Tutsi yet it's the first massacre



in Rwandan history that was called genocide (in 1963-1964, international media including RFI, Radio Vatican, Le Monde newspaper wrote about the killings that were being committed against Tutsi people. The British philosopher, Bertrand Russell, a Belgian Luc de Heusch of *Université Libre de Bruxelles* also wrote condemning the killings. Jacques Vuillemin a teacher at *Groupe Scolaire d'Astrida* (Rwanda) wrote to Le Monde newspaper condemning the government for killing its own people when it was supposed to protect them). The same killings were also documented by A.L. Latham-Koening in his book "Attempted Genocide in Rwanda", in *The World Today*, March 1964.

- »» Rusesabagina never distinguishes genocide from other crimes instead he lumps them together and regard them as war crimes. In so doing, he deliberately minimizes the gravity of the crime committed by genocide perpetrators, sympathizes with them and instead blames the victims.
  - »» Rusesabagina says more than 50% of alleged genocide perpetrators are falsely accused simply because of being Hutu (he made the statement in Vancouver and Tokyo).
  - »» He portrays himself as the only person
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who saved Tutsi during genocide. He disregards the acts done by Gen. Romeo Dallaire or the UN.

However, Rusesabagina deliberately ignores that the genocide against the Tutsi is recognized by the United Nations and also other resolutions taken by competent institutions like the ICTR and courts of different countries including Belgium, Netherlands, Canada, Sweden, Norway, United States, Germany and France.

There are genocide perpetrators like Jean Kambanda the former Prime Minister of the genocidal regime who pleaded guilty, Theoneste Bagosora and Augustin Bizimungu who were convicted of the crimes of genocide. [The guilty plea of Jean Kambanda: The Prosecutor versus Jean Kambanda, case no.: ICTR 97-23-s; appeal chamber Case No. ICTR 97-23-A, October 2000].

The decision taken by the ICTR clearly states that it is indisputable that there was a genocide committed against the Tutsi in Rwanda. [Judicial notice on the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Appeals Chamber of the ICTR, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006, a judicial notice (ICTR-98-44-AR73-C)].

UN Resolution establishing the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda with jurisdiction on genocide and other serious violations of International humanitarian law, based in Arusha



Tanzania [S.C. Res. 955 (1994), adopted on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1994, establishing the ICTR].

UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/58/234 of December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 that established the April 7<sup>th</sup> as the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda.

UN General Assembly Resolution A/72/L.31, of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, designating April 7<sup>th</sup> as the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

#### **4. Allying with a terrorist organization (FDLR) that perpetuates genocide and its ideology**

Credible information from former FDLR combattants including its leaders like Major UWUMUREMYI Vital has linked Paul Rusesabagina with the genocidal organization (FDLR) that operates in the Eastern DRC. He is believed to have transferred money to the organization in funding its terror activities aimed at destabilizing Rwanda and the entire region. Proof for these allegations include money transfer transactions made via Western Union from San Antonio Texas to different bank accounts in Burundi and Tanzania. It should be reminded that FDLR is one of the largest foreign armed groups operating in the Eastern territory of DRC. It was formed in 2000, mainly composed of members of Interahamwe militia and defeated armed forces who fled Rwanda after



committing genocide. The group has committed serious violations of international law involving the targeting of women and children in armed conflict, killing and maiming, sexual violence, and forced displacement.

It harbors the genocide ideology which it continues to spread in territories it controls. It still advocates for extermination of Tutsi in Rwanda and the region. The threat posed by armed genocidal forces of FDLR and allied groups is very real to Rwanda and the region. Their main objective remains the resolve to continue with the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

It should also be reminded that FDLR is a group under United Nations sanctions whose leaders and members include perpetrators of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, during which Hutu and others who opposed the genocide were also killed, and have continued to promote and commit ethnically based and other killings in Rwanda [UN SC Resolution 2078 (2012), of 28<sup>th</sup>/11/2012; UN SC Resolution 2136 (2014), of 30<sup>th</sup>/1/2014].

## **5. Examples of Previous measures taken against him**

- »» On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, the city of Turin, Italy, had to reverse its decision of awarding Rusesabagina a honorific citizenship for his bravery acts he claims




to have done by saving Tutsi. However, after protests from genocide survivors and learning of numerous inaccuracies around the story, they had to reconsider the move.

- »» On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, in Kraainem, Brussels, where Paul Rusesabagina had a residence, refused him from screening his film and giving a lecture due to his denialist tone.
- »» Due to his denial of genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda, the “*Université Catholique de Louvain*” in Belgium and the European Union also denied him room for his conference refusing to give him platform for his negationist ideas.
- »» In Canada, Rusesabagina was denied permission to screen his Hotel Rwanda movie basing on testimony by genocide survivors and Gen. Romeo Dallaire the Head of UN Mission in Rwanda during the genocide.

## **6. Conclusion: the impact of according him award**

Rusesabagina’s actions encourage denial of the genocide against the Tutsi and revive the wounds of the survivors who experienced agony during genocide, mainly those who had sought asylum



in Hotel des Mille Collines.

All the survivors he claims to have rescued deny his account of the facts. Therefore, the move to present him with an award may be viewed as an attempt to denigrate the account of the survivors and also providing a platform to genocide denial. He instead deserves being protested for his activities that include funding of a terrorist organization that has wretched havoc in the region, and denying the genocide that is recognized by the UN.

According to him an award will only serve to boost his activities that aim at destabilizing the Great Lakes Region mainly through FDLR organization that has maimed and killed people in DRC and has an aim of taking power in Rwanda through violent means and continue their genocide project they started in 1994.

Thank you.





We Survivors of Hotel des Mille Collines wish to tell the truth about Paul Rusesabagina

Published October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## **RUSESABAGINA'S REAL ROLE IN HOTEL DES MILLE COLLINES DURING THE 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI**

### **Why Lantos Foundation should stop intention to award Rusesabagina**

The world currently continues to ponder about Paul Rusesabagina's false claim to have saved people who had sought refuge in the Hotel des Mille Collines during the genocide against Tutsi in 1994. Consequently, we who survived the Genocide in that Hotel do hereby inform the whole world that Paul Rusesabagina never rescued anybody as he claims. Instead, he used his powers to extort ransom from the refugees who resided in that Hotel. The later could only survive through extremely difficult maneuvers seeking hideouts in the backyards of the hotel, running away from both the hunting Rusesabagina and the marauding interahamwe.

Had he been of any assistance to any of us, we would indeed have recognized his good deeds. But if today we denounce him as a failed



individual, it is simply because we lived with him in those tragic times, and we were able to witness the way he treated the refugees with sheer indifference, while collaborating closely with renowned Interahamwe and genocidal military operatives, particularly Col. Bagosora and Gen. Bizimungu.

Whoever considers Paul Rusesabagina as a hero today directly torments those who survived from Hotel des Mille Collines because we all remember very well that he surely did nothing good apart from torturing morally and physically the refugees who were hiding for their dear lives. We instead believe that he deserves prosecution for his misdeeds.

All started with a fiction movie, Hotel Rwanda, inspired by a story told by one Rusesabagina. The fiction story soon turned into reality, and the fertile Hollywood inspiration gave way to an emotion arousing and pity provoking construction soon considered as a reality. As his panegyrics complain, each time Mr. Paul Rusesabagina receives a humanitarian award, he faces more criticism from Rwandans treating him as an “Opportunist, a liar, an imposter, a revisionist, a traitor, a defender of mass murderers, a man profiting from the blood of a million victims.”(Charlie Clements).



Yet men like the film director Terry George is said to have met with survivors of the genocide, “many (how many of the 1200 plus?) of whom described in detail how Paul was responsible for their survival in that dangerous time”. How come that many have raised their voices and are still raising them against this manipulation since long and were never heard? As stated, it is George’s word against thousands of voices denouncing the deplorable manipulation. And the choice of some is clear!

Till today, many western milieux still stick on the story of Rusesabagina the savior, as the only story to believe in, probably in order to ease a certain guilty conscience. And the story had a teller, the cunning and deceitful Rusesabagina who had been acquainted to many westerners knew perfectly well the way to twist a fictitious story into reality. And it worked till today. In a similar way Rusesabagina continues to falsely spread information about his concocted benevolent activities like running an operational NGO “Foundation Rusesabagina” which helps orphans. To the best of our knowledge, such an organization is a nonexistent entity that has never operated in Rwanda.

We, survivors of Hotel des Mille Collines, know well Rusesabagina did not play any role in



helping people survive at the Mille Collines Hotel. He simply helped some personal friends and entertained those who could pay him, but he did not favor to any of the common and often poor people who had sought refuge in that hotel.

Testimonies are so many of those who were charged money to stay in rooms, availing rooms in the hotel to a few of Kigali's well-to-do who could afford to pay him. He cut off telephone lines, leaving only one personal line he could rent at prohibitive fares.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1994, the President of Sabena hotels instructed Rusesabagina to stop rejecting those who could not afford payment. He however refused and kept charging money those who could afford to pay, chasing out of rooms and sending the defaulters to public halls where some were prey to marauding militias. Moneyless asylum seekers could often be refused access and kept exposed at the Hotel gate, just for him to secure a bank check guarantee before their entrance. These facts have often been documented on different occasions.

Following what we have witnessed at Hotel des Mille Collines, we categorically deny in an unequivocal declaration that we were saved by Rusesabagina. There are various factors that led



to our survival in the Hotel, among which and not exhaustively:

It is well known that Hotel des Mille Collines was declared UN protected site. In addition, the visit at the Hotel by international renowned personalities such as José Ayalala-Lasso, the then UN High Commissioner in charge of human rights and Bernard Kouchner, then French human rights activist turned the attention of the international community on the Hotel. The pressure from the fighting Rwanda Patriotic Army after many failed negotiation attempts is another decisive factor not to be ignored. Finally, the presence of a few UN troops in the Hotel and the commitment by Gen. Dallaire in his limited capacity played a dissuasive role.

We, survivors from Hotel des Mille Collines call upon Lantos Foundation to reconsider rewarding Paul Rusesabagina with the “2011 Lantos Prize” because his deeds during the genocide exerted against Tutsi and Hutu who did not subscribe to the genocidal agenda, were only motivated by his interests to protect his family first, and to search for money by all means, including blackmail, extortion and ransoming poor and distressed refugees in grave danger. We have brought to Lantos Foundation’s knowledge these deceptive facts.



We wish their honour and reputation should not be tarnished by an otherwise commendable act, wrongfully done in favor of a deceitful genocide negationist and revisionist, who is being discovered by the entire world for power mongering through political machiavelism.

We urge all well wishers who will read this note to help us tell the true story about Rusesabagina.

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2	SASAKAWA ...	
3	MARISA ...	
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What really took place at the Hotel des Mille Collines during  
the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994

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100	1994-04-07 Kigali	20-25

# **TESTMONIES**



## **Mwenenganucye Pasa**



I worked at the Hotel des Mille Collines as a receptionist until genocide started. I lived the events at the Hotel and I am giving a different narrative from the one Paul Rusesabagina has told the world.

In the film *Hotel Rwanda*, I am portrayed as the obstinate and recalcitrant worker, who refused to obey the instructions from his boss. I have a telling account of the man and the motivation behind everything that he did. Here is my account.

Paul Rusesabagina came to the Hotel des Mille Collines, accompanied by soldiers, to collect fuel as he used to do. On arrival, he discovered that the Dutch manager, Mr. Cornelius Bik, had gone, leaving the keys to a young and inexperienced manager. That manager was me and I had to be replaced. I guess he judged that this was an opportunity he could not miss. Continuing on to Gitarama where the interim government had just relocated was a journey into the unknown. He sent for me and I was told that he wanted the keys of the Hotel. I found him at the reception



and he immediately ordered me to hand over the keys to him. I was hesitant. I wanted him to give me evidence that he had received authorisation from our bosses or the owners of the Hotel, SABENA, in Brussels. The next day, he presented to me a fax indicating that he was our new boss. So, I gave him the keys but kept the master key because I could tell that we were on a collision course and he was not going to give me any favour as an employee of the Hotel. I kept the master key so that if, for example, I needed food, I would easily have access to it.

Before he assumed control of the Hotel, many people had already arrived. None of the refugees had been requested to pay for food, drink, or accommodation. This is how Mr. Cornelius Bik had wanted it before his evacuation. I was staying with my younger and elder brothers, and another young man who had come to visit us for Easter holidays, all of whom I had managed to bring into the Hotel des Mille Collines. Mr. Cornelius Bik had allowed me to give them accommodation and food free of charge. This is exactly how we treated other Rwandans who came to us as refugees, such as the Rubangura family, the Nkurunziza family, and others. No one paid a cent before Rusesabagina arrived.


I can only imagine that when Rusesabagina took over, he wanted to run the Hotel like an ordinary hotel. A list of all the residents was made and the heads of what I may refer to as “a team” staying



in the same room were told to give their names and to pay. At the beginning most people paid cash, later on the majority paid by cheque. He was willing to take pledges for future payment from people he respected or those he feared. Those who were not in a position to pay were removed from rooms and replaced with others who could pay.

The same system applied in the restaurant. Only those who were ready to pay were given food. Yet I know for sure because I had the master key that the Hotel still had stocks of food that we had acquired before the start of genocide.

He even started charging for the use of the telephone. Previously, residents would use the telephones in their rooms, like is common practice, and then the amount to pay would register at the Reception. Rusesabagina decided to disconnect them all and left only one external line in his office. This meant that all telephone calls and faxes to the outside world were channelled through his office after payment. The same draconian measures were applied in the kitchen. When refugees managed to acquire food from outside and requested to cook it in the kitchen, Rusesabagina refused. To the extent that people resorted to cooking with charcoal in their carpeted rooms. Because I had many people staying with me, we had occupied suite 221 which had a cooker that about six families were using on a daily basis.



All along, while Rusesabagina was forcing people to pay, we would dissuade them from paying, although I have to admit that, out of fear of eviction, the majority did not heed our advice.

At some stage, Rusesabagina gave instructions that all the people who were staying in the two rooms of my suite vacate them so that he gives them to people who were able to pay. He did not bother about the fact that one of the people staying with me was a pregnant woman (she later delivered there and both the child and the parents now reside in Canada). He decided we vacate the rooms and go to sleep in the corridors of the Hotel, but we decided to be stubborn and refused to quit the rooms.

In the meantime, the master key came in handy. I knew where the stocks were and I was able to go and collect food from there to cook in our suite. I even got drinks from there that I would share with my friends and other refugees in the Hotel. Out of this, we developed the term “kurira”<sup>1</sup> which meant “mourning together”. This way, we would recount what had been our personal experiences, or even share the latest news about what was happening outside the Hotel: the people we knew who had recently been killed, and even those who had managed to make their way to the Hotel. Although we did not know what tomorrow had in store for us, a spirit of

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<sup>1</sup> “Kurira” in its literal sense means to cry



camaraderie was forged, which in turn helped to strengthen our resilience.

Rusesabagina soon realised that I had kept the master key. Every time he went to the stock room he would find food stuffs missing, or even cartons of wine gone. For him, this was money lost that he could otherwise pocket. His animosity increased and I was completely excluded from the management of the Hotel, although strictly speaking I was still an employee of the Hotel. In fact, I resorted to stay in my room most of the time to ensure that we do not meet in the corridors of the Hotel.

Then came the mysterious evacuation that aborted. Only very few people knew about this evacuation. Rusesabagina and a few other prominent people had put in their families and were on their way, only to be stopped at SOPECYA (now known as SOPETRAD) and beaten up. It was by sheer luck and intervention of UNAMIR and other influential people that they were not killed. We were told that Rusesabagina's wife had to part with an undisclosed amount of money, in various European currencies.

For the majority of the refugees, life was extremely difficult. But then again, nothing comparable to what was happening outside the Hotel. Most of us were able to sleep, albeit in corridors and in what used to serve as the cafeteria. Given that many people had spent time hiding in ditches,



pits, or in the lofts of houses, a corridor in the Hotel des Mille Collines was a welcome break.

Rusesabagina stayed in suite 126 and that is where he received his friends, including those who were planning the extermination of the Tutsi. I can only describe him as a man who fishes in troubled waters. He made money out of our misery. Is that what you would call heroism? For me there isn't a single act on which I can base to say that he is a hero. He may not have killed, and he may even have saved one or two people, but he certainly "killed our morale".



## **Musonera Abias**



I started working at Hotel des Mille Collines in 1978 as a technician and I still work there. I know Rusesabagina very well because we worked together for a long time and because we come from the same area of Kabagari

in the Gitwe area.

Rusesabagina's first employment was as a receptionist at Hotel des Mille Collines. He was later transferred to Akagera Hotel where he worked as receptionist still. From there he got a scholarship to study in Kenya. When he returned, he was made Sous-Directeur or Sub-Manager, a post that came immediately below Deputy Manager.

Rusesabagina was a very ambitious man and he knew how to coax his white superiors, usually to the detriment of his Rwandan subordinates. In 1992, he was appointed Manager of Hotel des Diplomates which hardly had any clients due to insecurity in the whole country during that time. He was there until the time of the genocide, when the genocidal government used the Hotel as their headquarters.



When the Government decided to relocate to Gitarama, he decided to go with them but passed by Hotel des Mille Collines to collect fuel, as he used to do. He found me there, in a confused situation. The Dutch Manager, Mr. Cornelius Bik, had just left the Hotel and there was no one responsible. He had actually wanted me to take over, but being a Tutsi, I knew that that was inviting additional problems that I could do without at that time. My family were hiding there and for a time at least, I knew they were safe. I did not want to take on responsibilities that would expose them again.

I got to the Hotel on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1994. Mr. Cornelius Bik sent me a vehicle and a military escort to bring me and my family to the Hotel. I don't know whether he did it because he needed my services, given that I had to maintain electricity and water supply, or whether he did it to save my life. In any case, if my family and I are alive today, it is due to him. My second child was actually born at the Hotel.

When Rusesabagina took over as caretaker manager of the Hotel, he got instructions from Brussels telling him that he should not charge people for food and accommodation. I know that because I saw the fax that he received from SABENA headquarters in Brussels. But he did not heed the advice given to him. He started charging for all the services.






In fact the rich who ran out of money gave away their cars and houses, and most of them made pledges that they would pay after the genocide.

Rusesabagina's love of money and his ideology are not today's. They date back many years. It is just that with the wealth and false reputation he has now, he does not care what people say about him, and he can now afford to manifest his true colours. I am sure that the money he used to buy taxis in Brussels when he got there is the money he extorted from refugees and the money he got from Hotel des Diplomates after genocide.

He should also not lie that he saved people at the Hotel. He may have saved one or two families that he helped bring to the Hotel, but he was not in a position to save the rest. I personally think that refugees at the Hotel survived because of their resilience and because they were determined to live. It was also clear that because of the negotiations taking place in many places and at all levels, Hotel des Mille Collines was going to be spared the carnage that was taking place in the rest of the country.

I was evacuated on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1994 together with other refugees and we went to Kabuga, in the RPF-held territory. Although there was a lot of pressure on me not to go, due to the fact that I managed the technical aspects of the Hotel, I could not resist the temptation to go to a place where I was sure my family and I would be safe.



## **Vuningoma Alexis**



I worked at the Hotel des Mille Collines as Head of the restaurant, and I was there until the evacuations. When genocide started many people took refuge at the

Hotel. First came expatriates who were fleeing.

Hotel des Mille Collines was their collection point from where the evacuations would start. The Rwandan refugees started arriving on the Sunday following the start of the genocide. I remember that is when the Makuza and Kayijaho families arrived. Many others followed in the next few days. They were all given free food and accommodation.


When Rusesabagina arrived as care-taker manager, the Hotel was already full of refugees. He should really not pretend that he brought in people. The only people he brought were those who had been staying with him at the Hotel des Diplomates, notably the family of a certain Michel who lived with him at Kabeza, who decided to stay at Hotel des Mille Collines with him. I also understand that he helped the Gasasira family to reach the Hotel but I can't confirm that. Rusesabagina told us to start charging for food, accommodation, and other services as soon as he arrived. That said, there were a few friends of



him and other protégés who received everything free of charge. He used to give us a list of people we should serve free and those from whom we should request payment.

Those who did not have money to pay for accommodation were asked to vacate the rooms and go to sleep in the cafeteria, which had been transformed into a dormitory, or in the corridors of the Hotel. There is a time one of the journalists who had taken refuge at the Hotel, by the name of Thomas Kamilindi, managed to communicate with the media houses in Europe and America and described to them their conditions at the Hotel and in the country as a whole. He was heard on VOA or BBC. I can't remember which one. RTL M got to know and the journalists there got mad. They accused Rusesabagina of working in collusion with the Tutsi refugees at the Hotel. As a result, he disconnected all the telephone lines and left just the one in his office that he could give to the select few.

Those who say that he is a hero will soon find out who he truly is. He was good at placating his bosses; that is for sure. Our bosses thought that he was a very hard working man, but we knew that he was using us to climb the ladder, even if it meant spreading falsehood about his fellow workers. So, I am not surprised that he has been peddling lies to an unsuspecting audience; that is what he has done all his life.



## **Bizumuremyi Wellars**



I worked at Hotel des Mille Collines as receptionist during the genocide and I still work there. Genocide started while I was at work and I stayed there. Unfortunately, my wife and my children perished in the carnage.

When genocide started, I was at work. I was not able to go back to my home. I stayed at Hotel des Mille Collines until I was evacuated to Kabuga, in the RPF-held territory. I worked at the reception and I was among the very first people to receive refugees. Initially, it was mainly whites because they had been asked to congregate at Hotel des Mille Collines from where they would be evacuated. Then Rwandan refugees started arriving in big numbers. Our manager at the time, Mr. Cornelius Bik, told us before he left that we should receive them all and give them food and accommodation. He added that if necessary, we should transform offices into accommodation and allow refugees to sleep there.

When Rusesabagina came to fill his car (I remember that it was a Suzuki) with fuel and proceed to Gitarama with the genocidal government, two things dawned on him and he changed his mind. Firstly, Hotel des Mille



Collines had no manager. He knew that this Hotel was the most important in the country and that it had a lot of resources. So, he rang our bosses in Brussels and they gave him the authority to manage it. Secondly, Rusesabagina had a Tutsi wife. Although he had many friends among the genocidal government, it was far too dangerous to embark on that perilous journey with her and the children. She and the children were safer within the confines of Hotel des Mille Collines.

Despite the instructions we had received from the former manager, Rusesabagina started charging for food and accommodation. The refugees started paying until they had no more money to pay. They then paid by cheque and others made written pledges that they would pay later. Those who could not afford to pay were evicted and told to sleep in corridors and offices. At some point those who did not have money were refused access to the Hotel. If I remember well, Dr. Habyarimana was refused entry because he did not have money to pay Rusesabagina and he was told to go back to Sainte Famille Catholic Church where he had taken refuge.

Those who say that Rusesabagina chose to come to the Hotel des Mille Collines in order to save people or that while there he actually saved people are liars. The man was there for his own interests. At the time, there was no accountability



at the Hotel; whatever he received he put in his pocket. He could afford to sell food from the Hotel stocks for as much as he wanted. Who was there to stop or question him? Incidentally, terrible as it may sound, he was not very happy when the Red Cross brought in food. That is why he told refugees to prepare that food outside the hotel, in the gardens.

As for the film, my impression is that it misrepresented events at the Hotel and made Rusesabagina a hero that he does not qualify to be. I know very many people who have said they will never watch it.

I was among the first people to be evacuated on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1994. Rusesabagina came in the next groups, and he brought with him drinks that he continued to sell or distribute to his friends.



## **Mukangira Ancilla**



I worked for a German NGO and managed to reach the American Club where registrations of expatriates who were going to be evacuated were taking place. I had hoped that I too could be registered and be evacuated. I was told that only expatriates were going to be evacuated.

There I met a certain Captain Mbaye<sup>1</sup>, a Senegalese Captain, working with UNAMIR who accepted to take me to Hotel des Mille Collines.

I got into the Hotel des Mille Collines on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1994, two days after the start of the genocide. I was taken there by Capt. Mbaye, who was working with UNAMIR. He took me to a room in which there were eight other people that he had also taken there. It is this same man who had taken Agathe Uwilingiyimana's<sup>2</sup> children to the Hotel and had hidden them until they were evacuated out of Rwanda.

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<sup>1</sup> Captain Mbaye is said to have saved many people during the genocide. He was killed in Kigali on duty before the end of the genocide.

<sup>2</sup> Agathe Uwilingiyimana was the Prime Minister who had just been killed because she opposed the policies of the then Government.



I arrived before Rusesabagina came and I had never met him before. Although I was deeply traumatised, I was happy to find a place where I could stay; and we were given food free of charge. Captain Mbaye always argued that because we were refugees, none of us should pay; that, if anything, it should be the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to pay for us. He said to us that if and when we were given bills, we should send them to his room.

When Rusesabagina arrived, he took immediate charge. He called us to a meeting and told us that we were all supposed to pay for the services we were getting from the Hotel. These were, according to him, instructions from Brussels. He started charging 500 Francs for a meal. Many people paid for their meals and accommodation until they had no cash left. They then paid by cheque, and when they had no more cheques to give, they made written pledges that they would pay after the genocide. Apparently, the cheques were cashed in Gitarama where the banks had relocated, following the decision by the genocidal government to relocate there.

I should also mention that before Rusesabagina came to the Hotel des Mille Collines, anybody who managed to reach the Hotel was taken in. When he arrived, he said that he alone had the authority to allow people in.





Another thing is that when we got into the Hotel, we frantically tried to make contact with friends outside Rwanda so that they organise our evacuation. We were able to send faxes and receive some. I personally had friends who had accepted to do everything to ensure that I get out. My faxes would arrive in the Central Secretariat of the Hotel and a certain Zozo (Wellars Bizumuremyi op. cit.) would bring them to me. All this stopped when Rusesabagina arrived and took charge of the Hotel. My friends in Europe even sent me money, and they are convinced the money came, but I never received it.

For Rusesabagina to claim that he saved us or that he used to go out to fetch food and cook for us is a pure lie. The fact of the matter is that the refugees organised themselves and managed to get food from outside and cooked for themselves. Many people helped me and others like me who did not have money. You know, I went to see the film and half way I stormed out in disgust. It does not show the real horrors of what we went through, and how Rusesabagina frustrated our efforts to come out the terrible situation we were in.



## **Makuza Bertin**



I am the owner and Director General of Rwanda Foam, a mattress factory. I arrived at the Hotel on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1994.

Life was better because the whites had welcomed us and given us food without charging us. As soon as Mr. Paul Rusesabagina arrived, we were all forced to pay. Life became a lot harder after his arrival because he started charging us whereas he knew very well that most of us had no money. Besides, given the atmosphere at the hotel, and the fact that they were demanding such desolate people to pay for food, we thought that stocks in the Hotel were slowly being depleted.

Before the transfer of refugees from Hotel des Mille Collines to Kabuga, in the area controlled by RPF, Paul Rusesabagina secretly prepared the list of refugees who would take the first convoy. He made sure that he put the names of his wife, his children and a few of his very close friends. The fact of negotiating the transfer of this small group secretly was a sure indication that the rest who remained at the hotel were going to be killed.



Rusesabagina definitely knew this, because he was in regular contact with the main architects of the genocide. The fact that the convoy was halted en route by the Interahamwe and ordered back was a relief and a reprieve to the hotel refugees.

At some point, they organized the evacuation of his own family and some of his friends in an armored vehicle belonging to UNAMIR. When they reached SOPECYA (now SOPETRAD), the Interahamwe ordered them back. We do not know what would have happened to us if they had left.



## **Masozera Diogène**



I am currently Director General of Afritel. I arrived at Hotel des Mille Collines on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1994. Life was easier before Rusesabagina arrived.

The restaurant was open, telephone lines were open, the TV was working and we had water that was suitable to drink, not water from the swimming pool as was the case later. Besides, people were not as stressed as they became when he started running the Hotel.

Life became impossible with the arrival of Rusesabagina because he was looking for money by all means. He stopped us from using the phone, he terrorised people, he refused us access to potable water, and even the Interahamwe militia started getting access to the Hotel.

## **Shamukiga Christophe**



I am a building contractor and Honorary Consul General of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg in Rwanda. I arrived at the Hotel des Mille Collines on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1994.

Life was a lot harder after Rusesabagina arrived there. It is him who introduced the system of charging for everything and writing pledges for subsequent payment. It is also him who started to evict people who were not in a position to pay, in order to give them away to those who could pay.

I remember a regrettable incident. I don't exactly remember the date, but it is a day on which shells were dropped on Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines (RTL), one of the instruments of genocide.

Rusesabagina summoned me to his office on the second floor, where he was seated comfortably, to inform me that he was going to chase me out of the hotel. The reason was that when the bombs were dropped, we had gone to hide in the hotel cellar; and since I was in front of those who were running away from the bombs, I found food and distributed some food and drinks to people who had gone for several days without eating or drinking anything.



## **Uwantege Jacqueline**



I survived at Hotel des Mille Collines.

Life became very difficult with the arrival of Paul Rusesabagina, because he made us fill forms according to which we were going to pay the hotel after the genocide. He also started making us pay for food. Whoever did not have 500 FRW to pay for the beans and rice on a saucer could not eat.

We were able to pay the 500 FRW for food, but we could not pay for the room. He made us fill forms and we gave a guarantee that payment would later on be made to Mille Collines hotel. At that time we offered our house, although we knew full well that it had been destroyed by the genocide perpetrators. I remember with bitterness a telephone call that Rusesabagina refused me, which was my last chance to be evacuated.

We went to see him to request him to let us use the telephone. We wanted to call somebody in Europe who was ready to take care of us, because we were told that those who would obtain this assurance would be evacuated. Rusesabagina denied us the facility. Yet, this assurance was our last chance.



## **Mbabazi Placide**



I am a survivor of Hotel des Mille Collines. I managed to sort myself out thanks to a small security.

I signed for Paul Rusesabagina an acknowledgement of the debt for all the days that I was going to spend in the hotel, and I paid a security of 80,000 FRW.

I could not do otherwise; they were pestering us with demands for payment. The prospect of being sent back where I had come from was simply one that I could not contemplate.



## **Ndahimana Vincent**



I was a businessman and I arrived at the Hotel des Mille Collines on the 06<sup>th</sup> May 1994. I admit not having heard the name Rusesabagina mentioned all through my stay in the hotel.

I don't know him at all. I heard his name when people were talking about the film that he produced. What I remembered is that there were employees of the Mille Collines hotel who asked us to mortgage the assets that we had left behind in as much as we did not have liquid assets so that they could accommodate us. And they threatened to throw us outside the hotel enclosure in case of non-payment.

So, we preferred to lie by pretending that we owned a house that we would give them after the war so that they may have their money reimbursed.





## **Rusagara Serge**



My name is Rusagara Serge, my father's name is Sakumi Anselme and my mother's name is Gasibirege Immaculée. I am a survivor of the Genocide against the Tutsi which happened in Rwanda in 1994.

I was 14 years old.

When the genocide started on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1994, I was in Nyamirambo with my family. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, it was the date when my father Sakumi Anselme and my mother Gasibirege Immaculée were killed. It was around 4:00pm and they were shot dead. Immediately, my brothers, my sisters and I started running for our lives hiding in the houses of our neighbors and we managed to survive.

### **How did you reach Hotel des Mille Collines?**

It was in May 1994 when we got into contact with one of our friends Mr. Robert Kajuga who rescued us and took us from our neighborhood in Nyamirambo to one of the designated safe houses: Hotel des Mille Collines. We went to Mille Collines because one of our family members and some of our friends were hiding at Mille Collines and they have asked Mr. Robert Kajuga if he could let us reach Mille Collines, they could take



care of us. That is how the story began about our rescue at Mille Collines.

We were taken to Mille Collines by Interahamwe who lead us safely to the hotel. Interahamwe took us from our neighborhood, escorted us to the hotel, and we arrived at the Mille Collines in the afternoon.

### **What happened at the arrival?**

The Hotel des Mille Collines, normally the Mille Collines at that time was separated in three parts: there was a gate where they were the soldiers and Interahamwe; there was the parking area with MINUAR; and the other part I may call the entrance of the hotel there were the security guards of the Hotel. So entering in the hotel you had to pass through those three different parts of security check. The people who helped us to go to Mille Collines couldn't pass the first check point.

### **The gate with soldiers and Interahamwe**

The soldiers stopped us there, saying that we cannot pass there. They were asking us many questions such as: How are you going to go in? Who is responsible for you? Who is going to pay for you? Where are you coming from? The Interahamwe who helped us to reach the Hotel des Mille Collies did all they could to get us in



but they couldn't manage it. They were stopped by more powerful Interahamwe. It was 3:00pm and many cars were passing. The intention of Interahamwe was to wait until the evening when it would become dark and kill us. There was a roadblock near Rwandatel which was next to Mille Collines. At that roadblock, Interahamwe were killing many people. Interahamwe made us stand and wait there for two hours, looking at our identification papers.

As I said previously, Robert Kajuga was high ranked Interahamwe and he requested other Interahamwe to drive us to Mille Collines. He was not with us when we were negotiating to get in. Our driver and the other Interahamwe who accompanied him did not have enough power to help us to enter into Mille Collines.

The soldiers wanted us to wait until it got dark so that the Interahamwe could kill us. Luckily, the Interahamwe who escorted us didn't want to leave until we entered into the hotel. We continued to beg soldiers at the entrance of the hotel to let us go inside to the parking lot. We were about 10 kids. I was the oldest boy in the whole group. My two siblings were the only other boys, all others were girls. Imagine being on the street during the night with all those girls. We were expecting to be killed if we could not enter into the hotel. On that first gate, around 5:30pm, a truck on MINUAR came to the Mille Collines and entered into the



parking lot. I told to my colleagues to go into the truck and enter at the same time. We horded around the car and those soldiers could not remove us from the car. When we arrived inside the first checkpoint, we thought we were saved. But when we arrived there we found out there was a second checkpoint to pass. The MINUAR helped us to go to the second check point.

### **The parking lot**

After managing to enter into the parking lot, we went to the gate of the building. There, we were stopped by the security of the hotel, the security of Mr. Rusesabagina because he was apparently managing the hotel. The security was asking us: "Who is going to pay for you"? For them, it was not much about killing us but about how we will be able to pay the hotel. We said, there are family members who are coming to pay for us. They said "no, no, until you do not have someone to pay for you, you are not entering into the hotel". It took us almost an hour. We were trying to call people inside. When we saw someone coming from inside the hotel, we asked him/her to go and see if someone we knew was inside, especially businessmen who were friends of my dad. I did not mention but my dad was a businessman. Then Muvunyi came down, he was like an uncle. He said to the security guards that he will pay everything for all those kids. He was asked to write a paper and to provide a written guaranty



that he will pay for us. He paid money for us to be able to get into Mille Collines.


### **The entrance of the hotel**

#### **Did you know Rusesabagina before the genocide?**

No. I never heard about him before. When we were at the entrance of the building, we saw the boss of the security who did not let us go in. That is how I saw the person but I did not know his name. I came to know his name after. My only concern that time was to be rescued and to enter the hotel. I did not know Rusesabagina before getting into Hotel des Mille Collines.

#### **Did you ever get the feeling that you might die during your stay in the Mille Collines Hotel?**

Yes, to think if I could be killed in Mille Collines yes because of that situation that we were stopped at the gate of the hotel and at the entrance of the hotel building I thought that everything could be possible including dying at the hotel, plus knowing what was happening outside of the hotel during the genocide, I was worried that I could be killed because of what I saw at the hotel. Everything was based on money; if you could not pay, they could even throw you out and Interahamwe would kill you. Yeah, I thought it could be possible to die.



**Did Rusesabagina do anything that might have caused your death?**

Yes

**Have you ever seen the film Hotel Rwanda?**

Yes

**How did you find it?**

There is no grain of truth in that film nobody ever performed those acts of personal sacrifice.

Certainly not Rusesabagina. I cannot honestly subscribe to what is contained in that film.

I have seen the film; it is total lie because maybe someone who was inside the hotel Mille Collines who never saw what happened outside may think that someone was doing a good thing to the people who were inside the Mille Collines. But for us who came in mid-May we had to beg to enter into the hotel. That was the first thing. The second thing was that we had to pay the money, actually we had to pay for our life. If you are a human being, you said that that money is not necessary for kids I can still save people. But the guy made it for his own. Actually let me call it in this way.

During the genocide Mr. Rusesabagina found a way of creating business of his own because he was making us pay money and he took all that




money. People had to pay to come in the hotel. It is a total lie. When you watch the film it is like he went out and help families to get into the hotel. No. He was at the gate of the hotel asking for money before he let them come in. He even asked money for those who managed to enter into the hotel by themselves to go inside the hotel. For me there is no truth behind the film. We had to pay money to enter into the hotel. The protection we had was because the MINUAR was there.

### **What can you say about Rusesabagina's role in that film?**

There is no connection whatsoever in what is played in the film and what he did in the hotel. I nearly died at the gate of the hotel simply because I didn't have money. And I was a child. Rusesabagina was surely someone who had no pity for children. What is he then?

Rusesabagina is a good business man. He tried to sell our blood using his name. We had the protection by MINUAR and Rusesabagina came up with the business model of making us pay at the door, managing to make money out of desperate and mourning people. My simple way of looking at it is that we were not on his business. He could not at least have a pity of children and young people coming in the hotel, escaping the Interahamwe. He could not at least say 'come inside and your family will take care of you'. We were kids.



At least he could make a discount for women and children if really he wanted to save people. He refused to give us water. We had to drink water from the swimming pool. There was not any effort from him to go outside and bring something for us. The food we ate was coming from the storage of the hotel and people had to pay money. He never volunteered to purchase or bring in things out of his own pocket. Everything was paid for by the people staying at the hotel. The whole movie says he helped people to come into the hotel but that is a total lie.

**Are there other people to whom you feel indebted for having saved your life at the Mille Collines Hotel?**

Yes

**Who?**

Those who pledged to pay for me later so that I may enter the Mille Collines Hotel as well as the UNAMIR who evacuated us later on towards Kabuga.

The people saved us are the people who paid for us. As I said we were orphans because my dad, my mom, my direct uncle who was the young brother of my dad were already killed during the Genocide. When we got at the Hotel des Mille Collines, it is like we were left with no one to





support us. I thank the people who pledged for us, the MINUAR who were there because it was impossible for someone to shoot you in front of MINUAR in the hotel where they could see. I also thank Mr. Robert Kajuga who helped us to get to Mille Collines. I also thank those people who really helped, those who negotiated for us to end up with going to the other side at Kabuga in the area controlled by RPA.

### **Do you have anything else to say?**

I thank the Inkotanyi who gave us back our humanity. Rusesabagina should not play about people's suffering.

Actually I have two things to say. The first thing I thank RPF Inkotanyi who really came to rescue us at Kabuga. At least we got back our humanity and our life. First, we can think again to something else, to further life. Second, we lost our parents, we lost our people, we lost even part of our lives. We shouldn't lose all those things and have someone to come and step on what our life is for the people we lost. I say this because when we watch the film *Hotel Rwanda*, Rusesabagina is trying to say that he saved people. It is a total lie because he is a business person and not a savior. He created a business on the backs of other people. When people were dying, he was making money. The only thing I want to say is that we are human beings and we



shouldn't sit on dead bodies. We are happy with the life after Genocide. We are working hard to become who we are. Rusesabagina put me down at 14 years old. He asked children to pay to enter into the hotel. He is not a hero.

Thank you.



## **Karangwa Jean Marie Vianney**



I am a survivor of the Hotel des Mille Collines at the time of the genocide. Like many other survivors, I am bitter that Paul Rusesabagina can claim to do things that are so different from the reality. I arrived at the Mille Collines hotel at the beginning of May 1994. When my family knew that I was still alive, they sent soldiers who were guarding the Mille Collines hotel, and it is them who took me away.

**Did you know Rusesabagina before the genocide?**

No.

**Did you ever meet him face to face when you were at the Hotel des Mille Collines?**

Yes.

**When, where and under what circumstances?**

When he wanted to chase away the girls who had just entered behind me in the Mille Collines hotel, Micheline and her little sisters. He said that they had no means of paying.

**How did you pay?**

Personally, I had no problem because I came to join my family. But the others who were with us gave cheques for the rooms and restaurant.



## **Nzizera Alexander**



I was a businessman and a refugee at the Hotel des Mille Collines from the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1994. I confirm that Paul Rusesabagina was and is still a crook.

Rusesabagina started preventing people from entering the Hotel des Mille Collines as soon as he realized that they had no money.

He was pretending that he had to run the Hotel like he would in normal circumstances, but he knew very well that before his arrival, none of the refugees had been requested to pay. His intention was to make money from desperate people who were running from death. I wonder how a man like that can dare present himself in front of President Bush as a saviour and hero.

## **Mukanyonga Immaculée**



I am today a retired journalist. I arrived at the Hotel des Mille Collines on the April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1994, with many other people led by Mr. Victor Munyarugerero, a Hutu

married to a Tutsi who had hidden us at his home.

All the refugees praise him for the devotion, generosity and sacrifice that he manifested in favour of the Tutsi refugees at the Hotel des Mille Collines. I have a bitter memory of Rusesabagina's management.

They chased us away from the hotel but we refused to leave, until Victor paid a cheque worth 7 million Rwandan francs as a guarantee. They refused us water, and we drew water from the swimming pool. Without overtly accusing him of being a criminal, I accuse Rusesabagina of being in suspect collusion with the great planners of genocide, in a wild search of money and in a devastating harassment of the refugees. Rusesabagina had very close contacts with Interahamwe, with Bagosora, and Bizimungu, and they always swore they would kill us. Even Karamira and Kajuga frequently visited him.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Froduald Karamira and Robert Kajuga were the two notorious leaders of the Interahamwe militia.



## **Kajuga Wycliff**



I have nothing but contempt for Paul Rusesabagina. I arrived at the Hotel des Mille Collines before him. I had tried to flee to Hotel des Diplomates where Paul Rusesabagina worked at the time and I was turned back.

Calling Rusesabagina a hero is a travesty and it shows total ignorance of the truth about what happened in that Hotel. The film itself is a work of fiction for it does not depict events as they unfolded. What Paul did was pretending to manage the Hotel according to the lecture notes he had been given in college. But then why has no one said that he saved people at Hotel des Diplomates which he managed before going to the Hotel des Mille Collines? He knows very well that when we fled there, we were refused entry into that Hotel in his presence and he did not attempt to plead in our favour. Does that mean that he was unable to save people at Hotel des Diplomates and that he only acquired the courage and the spirit when he arrived at the Hotel des Mille Collines?

Let nobody propagate lies. We only survived at the Hotel des Mille Collines because of the power of God! Interahamwe were coming and going as




they pleased, and if they had wanted, they would have finished us without any hinderance.

What surprised us is that when Rusesabagina got to the Hotel, he started charging for accommodation and food. Those of us who were unable to pay were evicted from the rooms to give them to those who had paid. This is a fact that does not appear anywhere in the film.

I am convinced that Rusesabagina did not conspire against anyone and I guess that he would not have handed anyone to the killers. But that does not make him a hero. I personally think we really survived because of God's mercy. Also, we should say that Mr. Kouchner's visit contributed to our survival. He brought with him the then Chief of Staff of the Rwandan Army, Gen. Bizimungu Augustin, and Col. Bagosora to the Hotel des Mille Collines and he held a meeting with representatives of the refugees. I was part of that meeting. He asked those senior military officers, who had planned and were now executing the genocide outside the Hotel, to give an assurance that the Hotel des Mille Collines would not be attacked. Because of the respect they had for the French Government, they gave the assurance and they respected their pledge.

I understand that after we were evacuated, other people came to the Hotel des Mille Collines as refugees also and this time they were attacked by Interahamwe in the presence of Rusesabagina.



Incidentally, it must be understood that Rusesabagina eventually became a refugee like us. In fact, he found solace in our presence; at least he did not feel that he was alone. In that respect we can all claim that we were all heroes, perhaps even more than Rusesabagina: we fought off the temptation to lose hope; we received new-comers with open arms; and we shared the little we had with those who had nothing.

And if Paul Rusesabagina is really a hero, he should bring back the wealth that he has accumulated and share with the survivors, and pin the medals he has received at the reception of the Hotel des Mille Collines.





## **Nkurunziza Jean Pierre**



I was a young man when I fled to the Hotel des Mille Collines with my parents, but I remember vividly events as we unfolded at the Hotel.

My parents and I arrived at the Hotel des Mille Collines on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1994, two days after the start of the genocide. Conditions at the Hotel were relatively good because it was still functioning like a normal hotel.

When Rusesabagina arrived there, he took over the management of the Hotel and started charging for the services. He did not exert payment from those he knew. In fact, he would evict some people from their rooms and put in friends or those who had paid him.

A constant source of insecurity was the movement of the government soldiers and Interahamwe in and out of the Hotel.

We suspected that they came in to find out who had taken refuge there, and decide what their fate would be.

After Rusesabagina's take-over of the Hotel, only those who could afford to pay got food from the



restaurant. Many people had to go without food or with just very little food for many days. After Pasa Mwenenganucye gave away the master key to Rusesabagina, no one else had access to the cold room where food was stored.

In my view he should never claim that he saved people at the Hotel des Mille Collines. If any thing, he was exposing us to the danger lurking outside the gates of the Hotel. As for the film, I think it is very well acted, but it has nothing to do with the reality of what really happened. The film makers could have found real heroes who sacrificed their lives to save others. Rwanda has many men and women who did exactly that. I think that Rusesabagina is just a conman and sooner or later, the world that he has duped will get to know the truth.



## **Mugabo Justin**



Rusesabagina did not help me to get to the Hotel des Mille Collines, neither did he help anybody else that I know. A neighbour of mine at Nyakabanda called Mr. Mahulidi is the one who helped me. On arrival, I was received by some of my friends who were already there.

These include Mugiraneza Samuel, Alias Savimbi, Nyamaswa Eugène, Alias Nzovu, and Rutaganda Théophile. We all shared Room 115 of the Hotel. I never at any one time saw a humanitarian act on the part of Rusesabagina. Neither did he convene a meeting to discuss matters to do with our security and livelihood in general.

I first met Rusesabagina when I went to send a fax to a relative who lives in France. I wanted my relative to know that I was still alive so that he can send me an invitation letter stating that he would take responsibility for me. I wanted to go out of the country because the situation was deteriorating. I paid him and the fax was sent. During my stay at the Hotel, not a single person pretended that he/she had a solution to the problems that we were confronting.



Rusesabagina should not pretend that he did something to ensure the security of the people who were there. The story of his feats only started after we left the Hotel des Mille Collines.

All in all, I can say that the “inmates” at the Hotel felt that they were alive only when they woke up every morning and discovered that they were still breathing. The rest of the time, it was difficult to tell whether you were alive or dead. We recovered our sanity and our humanity when we got to the RPF- held territory in Kabuga.



## **Uwicyeza Micheline**



I was 19 when I fled to Hotel des Mille Collines with my younger and elder sisters. From our home, we had first taken refuge to the Centre run by the Calcutta Sisters<sup>1</sup>. From there we were taken to Hotel des Mille Collines by Fr. Wenceslas Munyeshyaka.

We were part of the second group that tried to get into Hotel des Mille Collines two weeks after the genocide. We found Paul Rusesabagina at the Reception and he asked us to pay eighty dollars each that everyone else was paying. He added that if we did not have money to pay, he would not allow us in because there were too many “Inyenzi”<sup>2</sup> and he was not going to allow in more. We did not have any money so we were kept at the Reception area waiting for about thirty minutes.

When Paul Rusesabagina went up to his suite, one of the employees of the Hotel by the name of Wellars Bizumuremyi (Zozo) took pity on us. He negotiated with one employee of the Cobra Security Firm that was guarding the Hotel and they whisked us away to the cave of the Hotel.

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<sup>1</sup> These sisters are officially known as the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity. They were founded by Mother Teresa and were established in October 1950 in the Archdiocese of Calcutta.

<sup>2</sup> A derogatory term meaning cockroaches that was used to describe the Tutsi.



For the next few days we would stay in that cave during the day and in the night, we would go to sleep in the room of our aunt, Candide Nyinawinkindi, now living in Germany. Our aunt had managed to enter the Hotel among the very first people because she was an employee of the UNDP and she had come with the rest of the UNDP staff, who were subsequently evacuated.

I was among the first people who saw the film “Hotel Rwanda” at Intercontinental Hotel. After the show, those of us who had stayed at Hotel des Mille Collines at the time were asked to stand. A journalist came to me and I told him in no uncertain terms what I thought about the film. I told him that what I had seen in the film was nowhere close to what we had gone through, what really happened at the Hotel. I told him that it was all lies.

I am surprised that the world has embraced Paul Rusesabagina’s version of the story as the truth. Why hasn’t anyone bothered to ask us for our version of events? I wish Rusesabagina could come and face us so that we tell him what we think about him.



## **Rubangura Vedaste**



I am the owner and General Manager of a company called SOPRATUR and I am a business person. When the genocide started, I got a telephone call from a friend of mine who informed me that some people were taking

refuge at the Hotel des Mille Collines because it was protected by UNAMIR. I paid money to one of the Forces Armées Rwandaises (FAR) soldiers who knew me and he accepted to take my family and I to Hotel des Mille Collines with military escort. I was among the first Rwandans to arrive there, about a week before Paul Rusesabagina started as caretaker manager.

On arrival, my six children, my wife and I got free rooms. With time the children freed their rooms and gave them away as more and more refugees joined us. We were not asked to pay because the place was full of all kinds of Westerners fleeing the genocide. In reality, the place looked more like a refugee camp than a hotel. We received everything free of charge. When Rusesabagina started working as caretaker manager, he called me. I went to his office and he asked me to pay for all the days my family and I had spent there. I had no problem paying, so I gave him a cheque. From then on, we were asked to pay for our meals and accommodation.



Although I was able to pay, it was unfair because the future was uncertain and we didn't know whether we would need the money for our survival in the coming days. Also, there were many people who did not have the money to pay, and we were all treated as though we could all pay.

The biggest worry for my family and I was that he was bringing in Interahamwe and soldiers who knew us very well and who would have been too happy to eliminate me. In fact I believe that they are the ones who placed a bomb between my room and that of my children; a bomb that was later diffused by UNAMIR soldiers.

Another problem that we faced when he arrived was the shortage of clean water. Before he arrived, there was a track that used to bring us water. He stopped it and we started using water from the swimming pool for all our needs. As for saving people, that is a pure lie. In my view he only did things if they were in his own interest, especially pecuniary interests. When he judged that an action would not bring him money, he was not bothered. When I heard about the film and the lies it contains, I decided I would never see it. It also gave me an impression that it is easy to lie to white people. I am sure that sooner or later, the truth will come out, and people will get to know the type of man Paul Rusesabagina is.





## **Ndolimana Miheto Tatien**



I was coordinator of the Crisis Committee of the Refugees at Hotel des Mille Collines during the genocide.

As soon as Rusesabagina arrived at the Hotel, I could no longer send SOS messages freely, to denounce the genocidaires. I could not trust Paul Rusesabagina because I knew his MDR<sup>1</sup> power political line from the beginning. Moreover, Paul Resesabagina harassed us by making us pay, threatening to chase us out of the hotel if we did not pay cash. Staying there became increasingly difficult for me, because it was necessary to escape his vigilance if I wanted to enter into direct contact with the proprietors of the hotel in Brussels and to call for the intervention of the ICRC and MINUAR.

It is after they had harangued him that we were able to breathe. He stopped us from calling for help to the outside world as we wished, because he disconnected the other telephone and fax lines and kept the only external line in his office. We used it rarely and with trepidation, afraid that he would discover us and turn us over to the killers whose atrocities of genocide we were exposing to the world.

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<sup>1</sup>Mouvement Démocratique Républicain, one of the political parties.



Another ignominious act was his attempt to stop us from receiving assistance from Non-Governmental Organisations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, with the sole purpose of selling to us food from the hotel stocks.

A sizeable number of witnesses agree on the incident during the transfer of refugees in the first convoy, from Hotel des Mille Collines to Kabuga, in the area controlled by RPF. The witnesses accuse Rusesabagina of having prepared the list secretly, making sure that he put the names of his wife, his children and a few of his very close friends.

The witnesses believe that this fact of negotiating the transfer of this small group secretly was a sure indication that the rest who remained at the hotel were going to be killed. Rusesabagina definitely knew this, because he was in regular contact with the main architects of the genocide. The fact that the convoy was halted en route by the Interahamwe and ordered back was a relief and a reprieve to the hotel inmates.



## **Kayije Thaulin**



I was a businessman and I am a survivor of the genocide at the Hotel des Mille Collines. I am not in two minds about blaming the incident on Rusesabagina's behavior that was sure to lead to the death of the refugees.

He was perfectly aware of all that was happening outside the hotel. Organising the evacuation of some and leaving others was condemning to death those who remained behind.



## **Mucyo Jean de Dieu**



I am a former Prosecutor General and now Head of the Commission that is investigating French involvement in the 1994 genocide. I arrived at the Hotel des Mille Collines on 9th April 1994.

It was clear to me that after this group of people were taken up to SOPECYA, we, who were left behind were going to be killed. A list of their names had been prepared secretly, without the least transparency, and a majority of us were not at all aware of it.

I also suspect Rusesabagina of another collusion with the genocidaires during our transfer to Kabuga as an exchange of refugees between the RPF and the genocidal government. After we had registered as wanting to be taken to the Inkotanyi zone, Lt. Iradukunda (then FAR member) came to Mille Collines and told us that our names were at the Army Headquarters. How were the names given? By whom? UNAMIR or Rusesabagina?



## **Ibambasi Jean De La Croix**



I am adamant that Paul Rusesabagina is not a hero.

This man pretends to be a hero but there are real heroes from among the Hutu who helped us. Some of them died in the process and others are just living quiet lives,

unknown by the world out there.

Rusesabagina has exploited the naivety and ignorance of the Western World. The manner in which the international community abandoned Rwanda is similar to the manner in which they ignored France's role in the genocide.

It is also similar to the way they neglected the impact of the genocide on the survivors, and it is precisely the manner in which they back Rusesabagina and give him a platform to say any nonsense.



## **Mister Gilbert**



I was refugee at Hotel des Mille Collines. I arrived on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1994. Life at the Hotel was very difficult. Only the very few who still had money could go to the restaurant for their meals.

You see, most people started by paying cash, when money ran out, they paid by cheque. When their cheque books were finished, they made pledges that they would pay later if they survived. You can understand that not everyone could make such a pledge only those that Rusesabagina knew could make such pledges.

Those of us who had very little money made contributions and we would send some Hutu to look for food outside, which they would bring to us to cook. Victor Munyarugerero is one of those who used to venture out and look for food for us. He is also the one who helped me to get access to the Hotel. The Red Cross also brought in some raw maize from time to time and this proved to be of a great help to us, especially to those who did not have any money at all.

My friends and I slept on the floor in the halls or in corridors. This is the kind of life we led until evacuations started in June 1994.



Most of us who arrived after April, when genocide started, did not know Rusesabagina. But I remember a time when he came and found us in the lobby of the Hotel. As soon as he saw us, he said, “You cockroaches<sup>1</sup>, what are you doing there?” We immediately vanished.

Those who met him regularly were the rich and those he came to request to pay or make pledges to pay later. I cannot vouch for his heroism. I have a feeling he managed the Hotel like the owners wanted him to do, if it weren't for the fact that those were not normal circumstances. I know of no act of extraordinary courage that he performed. In any case, people thought that he too was a refugee at the Hotel. In such circumstances, how could he turn around and claim that he saved people?

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<sup>1</sup> Cockroaches (Inyenzi) was a derogatory name given to the Batutsi by the Interahamwe and other Bahutu extremists.



11/11/2017

Witness Account by Tatién  
Ndolimana Miheto

**RUSESABAGINA Paul, IMPOSTER and FAKE  
HERO OF THE FILM 'HOTEL RWANDA'**

On this day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, as I have faithfully done ever since July 1994 after my survival from the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, and as I have always done on a sustained basis after the release of the movie Hotel Rwanda in 2005, hereby declare that by loyalty and for the honor of our people, swept away by the genocide, believe that every survivor must step forward and tell the truth, nothing but the truth about his life and that of his family during the genocide against the Tutsi.

As such, I have the sacred duty to counter and contradict lies peddled by impostors who trivialize the realities of the heinous genocide committed against the Tutsi, such as Paul Rusesabagina in this case, who arrogates himself nonexistent heroic actions for the survival of refugees from the hotel des Mille Collines. And even more disturbing, he arrogates himself the right to speak on our behalf about our experiences and our survival from this genocide. He does not possess this right especially when it is meant to falsify and desecrate our painful history.





When the genocide against the Tutsi of Rwanda began in April 1994, I lived in the Rugunga neighborhood of the city of Kigali.

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1994, at approximately 11:00 a.m., I and five other members of my family sought refuge at Antoine de Saint Exupéry school, located at Rugunga in the city of Kigali, where a French military detachment, which was part of ‘Operation Amaryllis,’ had assembled the French and other nationals, to evacuate them from Rwanda. In the afternoon of April 11, these French soldiers belonging to Operation Amaryllis, abandoned us at this school located 1 kilometer from the hotel des Mille Collines, they clobbered us saying they were only evacuating non Rwandans. We managed on our own to arrive at this hotel on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **HOW DID WE SURVIVE THE GENOCIDE AT THIS HOTEL?**

In reality, refugees from the hotel des Mille Collines, escaped death as a result of a series of successful events, facts, and actions other than those depicted in the fake Hollywood story of Mr. Rusesabagina Paul, the hero of the “Hotel Rwanda” movie.

Let’s revisit and trace the steps of the famous imposter hero Paul Rusesabagina and his heroism in the name of which, he has turned



out to be a one of those fashionable speakers on Rwanda and a revisionist agent of denial of genocide, which paradoxically made him famous and earned him millions of dollars.

From April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1994 at the beginning of the genocide against the Tutsi, a large number of people under threat took refuge in Hotel Rwanda (“Hotel des Mille Collines is its real name). Rusesabagina only arrived there on or about April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1994.

Moreover, Rusesabagina did not start living full time with us at the hotel, until he got information (probably from genocide leaders) that we (refugees at the Hotel des Mille Collines) would be rescued and evacuated. Indeed, between April 16<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1994 he worked at the hotel between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. without spending all day at his office. Actually, he spent more time outside the hotel; further, he returned home every evening to spend the night with his family away from the hotel.

It was not until May 2<sup>nd</sup> , 1994 that he began living among the refugees at the hotel after moving his family there in order to facilitate his evacuation abroad. The evacuation was organized by UNAMIR in agreement with the FAR (Rwanda Armed Forces) and the RPF, for all refugees in the hotel. The said evacuation was planned to take place from May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1994 but it only started



on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1994. In other words, from May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1994 he decided to live amongst us (refugees) at the hotel until his own evacuation was promised and successful together with our evacuation.

The reasons that we survived from April 7<sup>th</sup> to April 16<sup>th</sup>, long before this famous fictional hero came to work or live at “Hotel Rwanda, was a result of serious factors unrelated to his alleged role.

Any person of good faith who understand fairly well how the genocide against the Tutsi unfolded, knows only too well that even a senior officer of the Rwandan Army, acting in his own name, was not capable in a position to oppose marauding genocidaires unleashed on Tutsi in publicly known places such as the hotel des Mille Collines.

Rusesabagina, a mere hotel manager, acting in his own name, had no power either to oppose, or to coax the genocidaires who had control over virtually everything. In my humble opinion, the following are key factors which were synergistic and concomitant for the survival of the refugees from the hotel des Mille Collines:

- 1- From April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1994, the Hotel des Mille Collines as well as some other sites in the capital city of Kigali, were declared UNAMIR (UN) protected zones. I must add that in order



to execute this mission to protect the refugees in this hotel, a dozen UNAMIR soldiers, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Cyprien Moigny, were deployed there and lived with us from April 7th until the end of the genocide in July 1994. The UN flag was raised on the roof of the hotel, and UN armored vehicles were stationed at the entrance of the hotel to protect the refugees.


2- Towards the end of April 1994, probably after consultation with the French government, the Rwandan government and its army decided to preserve a few dozen, or a few hundred thousand Tutsi held in various key locations such as the Hotel des Mille Collines, Sainte Famille Church and Saint Paul in Kabgayi in the south of Rwanda, and Nyarushishi in the west of Rwanda. These were Tutsi who were supposed to be presented to the UN Security Council by Rwanda and French governments, as people who needed to be rescued on condition it was only through an international military operation in Rwanda to prevent further fighting and to create secure zone for Tutsi who had not been killed. The Machiavellian strategy of pyromaniac firefighters (governments of Rwanda and French) was therefore to cobble up a force whose official mission was to ostensibly stop a genocide which was already in its final phase - while the real mission in disguise was in fact to crush the imminent



RPF-Inkotanyi victory over Rwandan army (responsible for the genocide).

We all know for fact that the so-called French turquoise operation, a fruit of this strategy (saving Tutsi), was initially designed to be staged and operated from western Rwanda towards the capital city of Kigali, including the hotel des Mille Collines which was one of most publicized zones of this French operation, the initial Franco-Rwandan conspiracy was all along aimed at crushing the imminent RPF victory in disguise of an international intervention ostensibly to rescue Tutsi genocide victims. As incredible as it sounds, by the end of April/beginning of May 1994, the Rwandan genocidaires, who were now calling themselves Hutu Power, and Mitterand's government did everything possible to pass themselves off as firefighters to the rescue of the Tutsi when they had already concluded their extermination.

3 - RPF-Inkotanyi played a determinant role in helping a few people in the area under its control who wanted to cross to areas controlled by the government army; this situation created a certain reasoning around April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1994 (as confirmed to our refugee crisis committee of the hotel des Mille Collines by general Dallaire and colonel Moigny who commanded the protected zone around "Hotel Rwanda"), for the exchange of refugees at the Hotel de Mille Collines and in other zones,




who wanted to cross over to zones protected by the RPF, with those who wanted to cross over from the RPF zones towards Rwandan government controlled zones.

Indeed, our survival through our evacuation to the RPF controlled zone, organized respectively on May 27<sup>th</sup>, May 29<sup>th</sup>, and May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1994 and during the month of June 1994, ultimately resulted in this operation of exchange from the zone held by the genocidaires, of people in the zone occupied by the RPF.

4 - From Brussels, Hotel des Mille Collines owners, namely Sabena, also played a key role, notably in protecting their hotel against looting and destruction and by extension the protection of the refugees holed up there. La Sabena therefore exercised its influence to contribute to our survival.

5 – Persistent, sustained and all-out cries and messages for assistance that we sent all over the world (by telephone and fax) from the hotel, essentially even before Rusesabagina started working at the Hotel des Mille Collines, also played a certain role in our survival. I still have in my possession revealing documents, attesting the fact that our survival is, in a way, as a result of the important role played by former Luxembourg Defense Minister, his colleagues from the



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and that by the Belgian Minister of Defense, as well as the United Nations Security Council.

These documents at my disposal, date from April 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>, 1994, hence before Rusesabagina started working at the Hotel des Mille Collines. Intervention to our rescue was as a result of actions by Christophe Shamukiga, my brother-in-law, who was also a refugee with us at the Hotel des Mille Collines. He is the son of the late Charles Shamukiga, a Rwandan Tutsi who was Consul of the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg in Rwanda, and who was killed in cold blood by the genocidaires very early in the morning of April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1994 soon after the very beginning of the genocide. In conclusion, Mr. Rusesabagina is a shameless impostor in the operation of saving refugees from the Hotel des Mille Collines during the genocide against the Tutsi in 1994.

Witness Account of Tatien NDOLIMANA MIHETO, Coordinator of the refugee crisis committee of the hotel des Mille Collines during the genocide against the Tutsi.

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Charleroi, Belgium  
26/01/2015

**RE: Open Letter Demanding Revocation of  
the Decision by the Municipality of Turin,  
Italy, Granting Honorary Nationality to Mr.  
Paul RUSESABAGINA**

Mr. Mayor of Turin,

Distinguished members of the Municipal  
Council of Turin,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of all the survivors who sought refuge in the Hotel des Mille Collines during the genocide against the Tutsi of Rwanda in 1994, I wish to inform you hereby that we have just learned with outrage that the Municipality of Turin, Italy, proposes to grant nationality to Mr. Paul RUSESABAGINA, for his alleged charitable role rendered in our favor during the genocide, a role played in the movie "Hotel Rwanda".

We are writing this letter not only to advise you that this candidate for honorary nationality is a fraud with respect to our survival (in the genocide) at hotel Mille Collines and an agent of denial for the same genocide which paradoxically won him fame, but also to demand that you unequivocally rescind this decision taken, we believe, in the





absence of any authoritative information.

Indeed, Mr. Paul RUSESAGINA's written and public pronouncements, paint a controversial figure, who has had several successive aberrations, from being the movie hero he alleges to be during the genocide against the Tutsi of Rwanda, to a torch-bearer of its justification and denial.

As to his claims that he saved refugees at the Hotel des Mille Collines, these were refuted by all survivors of this genocide who sought shelter at the Hotel. As a matter of fact, we have clearly proved beyond any reasonable doubt that Mr. Paul RUSESABAGINA played no role of any kind whatsoever in our survival.

Indeed, we escaped death as a result of a series of events, facts and actions beyond those described in "Hotel Rwanda" by the Hollywood movie hero. Several documents, witness accounts, and analyses proves that Mr. Paul RUSESABAGINA not only did not do, but was also not capable of, actions attributed to him in the film, and that, on the other hand, we, the refugees of the Hotel des Mille Collines, survived as a result of other unrelated factors.

Some of our testimonies on this subject are readily available on the internet, including mine in my capacity as chairman of the Crisis



Committee constituted by the refugees from the Hotel des Mille Collines during the genocide, which is accessible at the following link: <http://fr.com/opinions-reactions/miheto-challenge-the-hero-politician-of-the-film.html>, as well as those of other survivors and prominent figures of the genocide among them the Canadian General Romeo DALLAIRE, which is also accessible on the following link: <http://www.hotelrwandasurvivors.org/spip?article32>.

Likewise, and in a succinct and detailed manner, the following authors have also greatly contributed in expounding the whole truth about Mr. Paul RUSESABAGINA and his movie.

-Edouard Kayihura, himself a refugee at the Hotel des Mille Collines during the genocide. Author of *Inside The Hotel Rwanda: The Surprising True Story and Why it Matters Today* (BenBella Books, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014) (614) 8044774: [www.insidethehotelrwanda.com](http://www.insidethehotelrwanda.com)

-Alfred NDAHIRO and Privat RUTAZIBWA, co-authors of “Hotel Rwanda or Genocide of the Tutsi as seen by Hollywood” in 2008 by L’Harmattan editions.

These detailed and in-depth publications are based purely on personal witness accounts and interviews with various figures, including the real survivors of the Hotel des Mille Collines, officials and humanitarian aid workers present



in Rwanda during the genocide; these documents clearly illustrate Mr. Paul RUSESABAGINA's behavior during the genocide of the Tutsi in 1994, and his conversion today, from movie hero to denial agent of the same genocide. These documents notably reveal the following traits about Mr. Paul RUSESABAGINA:

-His real hidden agenda, namely his sustained campaign for trivialization, denial and confusion around the genocide of the Tutsi and his political machinations for the re-establishment of an ideologically ethnic power, and ultimately genocidaire, in Rwanda.

-His enduring relationship with architects of the Tutsi genocide, convicted by the International Criminal Court of Arusha, like General BIZIMUNGU and many other genocidaires, whom he regularly describes as innocent;

-His key role in the organization of conferences and other events on denial and trivialization of this genocide, all this in collaboration with other agents of denial and presumed genocidaires;

-The legitimation of the extermination of Tutsi as an act of self-defense by Hutu we know against whom since we know that the victims were not fighting against the genocidaires;



-Back-to-back dismissal of genocide victims and their butchers, by claiming that they all committed genocide (reversed-accusations);

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the Municipal College, given all these compelling reasons and many others, we beseech you to revoke forthwith the granting of an honorary nationality to Mr. Paul RUSESABAGINA, a gesture which discredits the memory of Tutsi genocide victims of Rwanda, and would give enormous means of action to this fraudulent humanitarian, who in reality, is a dangerous politician, and more so an agent of denial of this genocide.

Allow us to conclude this letter by informing you that, after being informed of his real hidden agenda, other public institutions in Belgium and America have also canceled the services of this person within their establishments. The last cancellation to date, is that of Kraainem Commune in Brussels (Kraainem is Mr. Paul RUSESABAGINA's commune of residence), which canceled the presentation of his film and the related conference thereto which he was supposed to hold on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 in their community hall.

More recently, the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium and the European Union, both refused him access to their premises, because



of the denial aspect of his conferences within the scope of “Hotel Rwanda” film.

Likewise, Canada blocked the screening of this film and Mr. Paul RUSESABAGINA’s lectures, following information and witness accounts from survivors of the genocide against the Tutsi, as well as those provided by General Romeo DALLAIRE (Commander of the UN peacekeepers in Rwanda during the genocide) on denial aspect of messages of this Hollywood hero.

To conclude, we invite you to pose yourself the following questions:

-Why is it that out of the 1,268 refugees from Hotel des Mille Collines, Paul RUSESABAGINA does not share with other people, other than his wife and immediate family members, the version of facts with regard to his alleged role in the Hotel des Mille Collines during the genocide?

-Does Mr. Paul RUSESABAGINA deserve an honorary nationality for his campaign to trivialize, justify, in short, deny the genocide? Does he deserve this honorary nationality for blatant lies of his alleged heroism during the genocide or even for his political party and his ideology of divisionism of Rwandans and marginalization of Tutsi?



We are counting on your objectivity and hope that you will now undertake a critical analysis of his honorary nationality application, based on the testimony and information already in your possession.

Last but not least, we wish to assure you that, as far as information and activities with regard to genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi of Rwanda are concerned, you can count on the collaboration of the true survivors of this genocide and their associations.

Accept, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the municipal college, the expression of our deep respect.

Tatien Ndolimana Miheto  
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Hotel des Mille Collines during the genocide

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