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“Never Again”: International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda

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Established by the United Nations General Assembly on December 23, 2003, and adopted by Resolution 58/234, the *International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda* is commemorated annually by UNESCO on April 7th. This date marks the start of the 1994 genocide which lasted for what is known as the – “100 days period to mid-July 1994,” where more than 1 million Tutsis (ethnic minority) were brutally murdered by the Hutu extremist-led government. During this time, the massacres also resulted in the deaths of moderate Hutu and sympathisers who opposed the genocide. With cases of history repeating itself and not necessarily the best parts, this day provides a starting point for each generation to identify and raise their voices against such human atrocities in the global support of “*never again.*”

In a world where silence should not be prized as ‘the golden rule,’ it is clear that accountability matters but this calls for proactive responsibility. As distant neighbours the government of Jamaica has always acknowledged the historical and important significance of this day. Last year Prime Minister Andrew Holness expressed solidarity on behalf of all Jamaicans, and his administration continued efforts to stand with the Rwandan people as he paid “homage to the resilience of the Rwandans, not only as survivors but as a people who have overcome the monumental challenges of restoring a nation.” The historic visit of Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda to Jamaica on April 13, 2022, reinforced the gradual strengthening of relationships between the two countries while promoting bilateral relations.

Twenty-nine years have passed since the Rwandan genocide, but the memories are forever etched in the minds of survivors, the people of Rwanda and the international community. Let us reaffirm the shared commitment to safeguard and defend basic human rights and to continually raise awareness of the “inherent dignity of every human being.”



Source: Kigali Today

Website Sources:

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