



## **Sources Template: The Genocide in Rwanda**

**Document A:** <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB53/rw051694.pdf>

5/16/1994: Legal Analysis:

### The Definition of Genocide:

As defined in the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, to which the US is a party, “genocide” has been committed when three criteria are met:

1. Specified acts are committed:
  - a. Killing
  - b. Causing serious bodily or mental harm
  - c. Deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about physical destruction in whole or in part
  - d. Imposing measures intended to prevent births, or
  - e. Forcibly transferring children to another group
  
2. These acts are committed against members of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, and...
  
3. They are committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the group as such

In addition to “genocide,” conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, attempts to commit genocide, and complicity in genocide are also offenses under the Convention.



**Document B:** <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB53/rw051694.pdf>

5/16/1994: Legal Analysis:

The Existence of Genocide in Rwanda

There can be little question that the specific listed acts have taken place in Rwanda. There have been numerous acts of killing and causing serious bodily or mental harm to persons. As international humanitarian organizations estimate that killings since April 6, 1994 have claimed from 200,000 to 500,000 lives.

The second requirement is also clearly satisfied. As research indicates, most of those killed in Rwanda have been Tutsi civilians, including women and children. The Tutsis are an ethnic group. Moderate members of the Hutu ethnic group have also been killed. In addition, both Hutus and Tutsis have been killed in battles between Government forces and the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). The RPF has also executed extremist Hutus.

It also appears that the third element has been satisfied. At least some of the prohibited acts have apparently been committed with the requisite intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the Tutsi group as such, as required by the Convention ---

“International organizations, foreign diplomats and indigenous eyewitnesses have reported systematic executions of Tutsis in villages, schools, hospitals, and churches by the RPF... Many have been killed or gravely injured by machete-wielding militia members because they are ethnic Tutsis, have Tutsi physical characteristics, or support Tutsis.”



**Document C:** <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB53/rw051894.pdf>

### Rwanda – Geneva Convention Violations

Bloody, inter-ethnic struggles between Tutsis and Hutus date back to the colonial period. An estimated 20,000 Tutsis were killed between 1959 and 1964 during the struggle for independence when the Tutsi monarchy fell, but the recent killings far surpass anything in Rwanda's history. Since the April 6 downing of an airplane carrying Rwandan President Habyarimana and Burundian President Ntaryamira, massacres in Rwanda have claimed from 200,000 to 500,000 lives, according to international humanitarian organizations. We believe 500,000 is an exaggerated figure, but no data is available, if systematic killings began within hours of Habyarimana's death. Most of those killed have been Tutsi civilians, including women and children.

### Who Killed the President?

The assassins of Presidents Habyarimana and Ntaryamira may never be known. The black box from the airplane has probably been recovered by Rwandan government officials who controlled the airport when the plane was shot down or, according to unconfirmed reports, by French military officials who later secured the airport and removed the body of the French pilot from Habyarimana's plane after the crash. Reports alleging that Hutu government leaders have created lists of Tutsis and moderate Hutus to be killed cannot be confirmed, but soldiers engaged in specific executions of Tutsis and moderate Hutu officials reportedly referred to lists and addresses. There are credible, but unconfirmed reports that Hutu elements in the military opposed to the Arusha Accords killed Habyarimana in order to block the accords and eliminate the Tutsi-dominated RPF and sympathetic Hutus.



Document D: <https://genodynamics.weebly.com/data-on-violence.html>

