

COMMEMORATIONS PROGRAM FOR APRIL 2018

As April approaches, one of the issues that divides Rwandans most is that of memorial.

For nearly a quarter of a century after various tragedies in Rwanda and in the Democratic Republic of Congo that have bruised Rwandan families, a formula that allows all victims to be honoured and fully recognized by all, is yet to be established.

The disagreements are about the date that should denote the beginning of the commemorations, the 6th or the 7th of April. But, in reality these divergences are mainly about whether or not to include other crimes that do not fall within the genocide against Tutsi of April to June 1994.

This controversy, which should not transpire during this month dedicated to mourning, will never end until there is an official program in which all Rwandans feel included and recognized.

As much as there is a hierarchy among the crimes, that of genocide being regarded the most serious of all; there is no hierarchy among the victims. The pain of losing a family member such as a father, a mother, a child or many family members is the same regardless the crime.

That sorrow, which all survivors share, should be reason of unity rather than division.

This is one of the fundamental principle of Jambo asbl. To give the same platform to all victims of all crimes in order to build a common history on the basis of what Rwandans have in common and not what separates them.

Following from our commemoration actions of past other years, we propose to dedicate the entire month of April to all the victims and the survivors.

In practice, we will invite any person (Rwandan or not) **to have a special thought** for all the victims of all the crimes according to a program which ensure no victim or survivor is forgotten:

1. Week from 1 to 6 April: victims and survivors of political killings
2. Week from 7 to 13 April: Victims and survivors of the genocide against the Tutsi
3. Week from 14 to 20 April: Victims and survivors of war crimes
4. Week from 21 to 27 April: Victims and survivors of crimes against humanity (or genocide) against Hutu

We believe that full recognition of all victims is the only solid foundation of a peaceful and reconciled future for all Rwandans.

To conclude the program, we will, as happens every year, **organize a commemoration event** especially intended **for all the victims of all the tragedies that have cast a shadow over the Great Lakes Region of Africa from 1990 to the present day**. The event will be held on the last weekend of April and it will be open to everyone. It will be **Saturday, April 28th**.

In the meantime, we will dedicate our publications and interventions according to the program on a week-by-week basis. We would hope that during the event on Saturday, April 28, all Rwandans and their friends will join and find comfort together.

*For Jambo asbl,
Thierry Ishimwe
Mpore, Mémoire et Justice*

