

**His Excellency President Paul Kagame
Urugwiro Village - Kacyiru
Kigali - Rwanda**

Kigali, July 15, 2019

Your Excellency,

I am prompted to write you this letter after the gruesome murder of a prison guard named Jean Paul Mwiseneza aka Nyamata who was repeatedly stabbed and then beheaded on June 10, 2019. Mwiseneza was a friend of mine. He was killed shortly after talking to me about the unrest at the Mageragere penitentiary early last month which left many inmates in critical condition.

Your Excellency, Mwiseneza was a survivor of the Genocide against the Tutsi. He lost all his family during the Genocide except for one sister. Mwiseneza himself was left permanently disfigured with multiple machete wounds.

Unfortunately, he is not the first Genocide survivor to have met an unfortunate end at the hands of security organs. Many survivors have lost their lives at an alarming rate (please see list below). Non-survivors are dying too. But for the purpose of this letter I will focus on survivors as we are in the 100-day mourning period of the 25th year commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Your Excellency, I choose to write to you directly about this disturbing matter because organizations like CNLG and Ibuka – which are responsible for seeking justice for survivors - are too afraid to stand up to the ruling party. Like other “independent” institutions in this country, they operate based on orders taken from “above”.

Your Excellency, your government rightly seems committed to retaining the searing memory of our loved ones killed during the Genocide. There is no doubt we should do this. But why isn't the same level of respect shown to the living? Why isn't the same level of concern and care shown to the survivors of those atrocities? Honoring the deceased, yes. But why not start by preserving the living?