

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Estifanos Afeworki Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps at the 27th Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda April 7th, 2021 in Tokyo

- Your Excellency Mr. Ernest RWAMUCYO Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to Japan
- Honorable Mr. KOKUBA Konosuke Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
- Excellencies and Dear Colleagues
- Ladies and Gentlemen

We are gathered here today in Tokyo, in a far-off place from Kigali, to remember and pay our respect to the Rwandan men, women and children who were deliberately killed because they belonged to an ethnic group named Tutsi. Close to 1 million people were killed in this cold-blooded savage massacre in 1994. This phenomenal and sad event happened just when the cold war ended its grip in the African continent.

As we all recall, close to 4 million Jews were systematically murdered during the second world war too. History repeated itself in the African continent once more and only after a period of half a century.

We have witnessed in our recent history the deliberate killings of people with an objective of destroying a nation or an ethnic group for political power and economic objectives. This was and still is a grave historical mistake of mankind.

It is doubly grave to look at political power and human rights in the 21st century Africa, for that matter in the rest of this planet, one is born slave and one is born master because of his ethnicity, color, creed or religious affiliations.

Rwanda genocide is a historic failure of all humanity. We are gathered here today not only to remember all those innocent souls that have been brutally killed and who perished but to plead with all those responsible merchants of wars and the evil hands on our continent to stop their direct and indirect actions in our continent. Africa needs peace and stability more than any time now.

Those who are bent on to make social injustices become rampant in Africa and elsewhere by utilizing political legitimacy for ethnic, religious, and clan objectives must be stopped now.

Those actors from afar and near with irreconcilable objectives and differences of interest must also learn from this grave mistake and catastrophic result to desist spinning dangerous hate languages in media targeting the people of Africa.

The beauty of our African continent is our diversity. Our languages and ethnic histories are our treasure trove be it in Rwanda, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, or beyond.

In this enlightened age of human history, global, regional, national and local rule of wisdom has to prevail over the rule of mediocracy, prejudice and hatred.

Thank you for your kind attention, and allow me to wish all of you good health in this difficult period of COVID-19 pandemic.