

***VARIOUS IMPACTS CAUSED BY THE GENOCIDE IN RWANDA: QUOTED
FROM KOMPAS MEDIA COVERAGE***

**BERBAGAI DAMPAK YANG DITIMBULKAN OLEH GENOSIDA DI
RWANDA: DIKUTIP DARI LIPUTAN MEDIA KOMPAS**

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ABSTRACT

In 1994, Rwanda experienced a genocide that resulted in hundreds of thousands of casualties at that time. There are two major tribes in this country, namely the Tutsi tribe and the Hutu tribe. The conflict between these two tribes was what initiated the genocide in Rwanda. As a media outlet, Kompas explains in depth how this genocide has caused significant impacts in Rwanda, namely social, legal, and political crises. Through qualitative methods, this article will explain the causes of how this genocide occurred, the process of post-genocide reconciliation in Rwanda, and how Rwanda rebuilt and transformed its country.

Keywords: Rwanda Genocide, Kompas Media, Reconciliation

ABSTRAK

Pada tahun 1994, Rwanda mengalami genosida yang mengakibatkan ratusan ribu korban jiwa pada saat itu. Di negara ini terdapat dua suku utama, yaitu suku Tutsi dan suku Hutu. Konflik antara kedua suku inilah yang memicu terjadinya genosida di Rwanda. Sebagai media massa, Kompas menjelaskan secara mendalam bagaimana genosida ini telah menimbulkan dampak signifikan di Rwanda, yaitu krisis sosial, hukum, dan politik. Melalui metode kualitatif, artikel ini akan menjelaskan penyebab terjadinya genosida ini, proses rekonsiliasi pasca-genosida di Rwanda, serta bagaimana Rwanda membangun kembali dan mentransformasi negaranya.

Kata Kunci: Genosida Rwanda, Media Kompas, Rekonsiliasi

INTRODUCTION

Kompas Media is a print and digital media company that is very familiar and well-known to us, as it is one of the largest media companies in Indonesia, providing the most current news, both domestic and international. On the website (kompas.com), it is often found in internet searches as one of the most trusted in Indonesia, due to its data accuracy, and it has received recognition both nationally and internationally. Then, at the level of electronic media, Kompas TV is also a television channel that is current, inspiring, informative, and popular, due to its various programs and diverse themes that it tries to cover, such as entertainment, politics, health, education, economy, social issues, and others.

Including the theme of the article we raised about the Rwandan genocide, Kompas also provides information about what happened behind the event, starting from its history, background, the process of the genocide, the impact of the genocide, to how the reconciliation process attempted by Rwanda post-genocide. Kompas presents the Rwandan genocide as a piece of historical information and a lesson, because there is a lesson to be learned, how Rwanda once experienced a difficult time called genocide, but was able to rise and carry out reconciliation to transform its country into a better place today.

In addition to quoting from the coverage by Kompas media, the author here also adds several from various websites and other articles that support how we discuss and uncover the dark

mystery of how thousands of people died due to the dark event of the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

Before we discuss how this genocide occurred, let's delve a bit into the history of Rwanda. Rwanda is one of the countries with a historical legacy and a long struggle in rebuilding its nation. Rwanda is inhabited by two main tribes, the Tutsi and the Hutu. These two tribes have almost identical physical characteristics. However, due to the lack of unity between these two major tribes, they end up looking down on each other. For example, the Tutsi tribe views the Hutu tribe as a poor tribe. Wealth becomes the measure between the two tribes, where if a Tutsi becomes poor and loses all their wealth, that person will be considered as belonging to the Hutu tribe. The deeply rooted ideological statements between the two tribes have caused animosity between both sides. And the situation was further exacerbated after the German colonial period (United Nations, 2015). So, after Germany lost in World War I, Germany's position was finally relinquished and handed over to the Belgian administration. In 1950, Belgium took control of Rwanda as a representative of the United Nations (UN) and also acted as the supervising body for Rwanda's independence. During this period, the conflict between the two tribes intensified. The Belgian government implemented a policy where every identity card in Rwanda was differentiated based on the ethnic and tribal specifications of Rwandan society, which intensified and made the tensions in Rwanda unavoidable (Britannica, 2025). Because the process of categorizing ethnic groups led to increasing clashes of interest between these two major tribes, the differing interests between the Hutu tribe, which sought emancipation, and the Tutsi tribe,

which sought political dominance, resulted in a continuous shift in conflict (Chibelushi, 2024).

The conflict between the two groups began to reach its peak in November 1959, when an act of violence triggered a rebellion by the Hutu tribe. As a result, hundreds of people from the Tutsi tribe were killed, and around 330,000 Tutsis left Rwanda, fleeing to several neighboring countries, which caused the population of Rwanda at that time to decrease significantly (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022) (Britannica, 2025).

The first attempt to improve the situation in Rwanda was to resolve this issue. The UN finally granted independence to Rwanda, and Rwanda officially became independent on July 1, 1962 (United Nations, 2015) (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022). Independence does not always yield good results. The cycle of violence in Rwanda became lower, but violence caused by ethnic conflicts remained a major point that was still difficult to extinguish. Additionally, at that time in Rwanda, the political situation was still tense, when a moderate Hutu named Juvenal Habyarimana ruled for 4 terms from 1973 to 1993 as the president of Rwanda (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022). In fact, President Juvenal Habyarimana, as president, made efforts to unite Rwanda by creating a national revolutionary party called the National Revolutionary Movement for Development (NRMD). but in 1990, there were groups of Tutsi people outside Rwanda, who were refugees in various countries like Uganda, forming the Rwandan Patriotic Front (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022). The

background is that these Tutsi refugees harbor a past grudge against the Hutu who are currently in power in Rwanda. Finally, an invasion by the RPF occurred at that time, with the RPF coming from Uganda and directly attacking Rwanda (Kompasiana, 2022). The tension escalated because at that time the Rwandan government believed that the Tutsi people in Rwanda were the right-hand men of the RPF (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022). However, there was a lack of strong evidence to support this claim. President Habyarimana accused the Tutsi people in Rwanda and arrested hundreds of them (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022). Between 1990 and 1993, massacres against the Tutsi people occurred again, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of people due to these events. Additionally, a ceasefire between the Rwandan government and the RPF in 1992 worsened the situation at that time (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022).

Seeing the escalating tension and conflict that had already caused such deep bloodshed, President Habyarimana at that time took a step to find a point of peace. In Tanzania in 1993, an agreement known as the Arusha Accords was reached (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022). Basically, the main points of the Arusha Agreement are how to end this prolonged civil war, then to empower the Tutsi tribe, ensuring that their rights as Rwandan citizens are respected, and integrating the RPF into the Rwandan government, including in political parties and within the Rwandan military. However, in reality, this has not yet brought peace to the country of Rwanda, because there are Hutu extremists who do not agree

with this. They are disappointed with the steps taken by President Habyarimana regarding the transitional government that involved the RPF in the government structure, and the actions taken by President Habyarimana actually marked the beginning of the genocide in Rwanda (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022).

RESEARCH METHODS

Qualitative research methods as a research approach will be discussed. Unlike quantitative methods, qualitative methods focus on the collection of non-numeric and descriptive data expressed through writing rather than numbers (Lamont & Boduszynski, 2015). Qualitative methods occupy a central position because they aim to produce narratives, words, descriptions, and key ideas that are articulated in both empirical and interpretative studies. In communication studies, this method is often used to describe and summarize the broad and complex phenomena of communication influence. The data collection technique used is secondary technique, sourced from existing materials such as books, journals, articles, websites, and so on (Klotz & Prakash, 2008).

As in this article, the author takes the narrative points predominantly quoted by Kompas media and incorporates a few points from other articles and websites that can serve as supporting material for the author. And from the Kompas media itself, in its efforts to gather data on everything related to the Rwandan genocide, they collect data by analyzing factual historical information that is ensured for its accuracy, for example, through official documents regarding the Rwandan genocide, historical archives, and also studying how the international

court records on the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

As a result, after President Habyarimana's decision through the Arusha Agreement, on April 6, 1994, the plane carrying the president was shot down and crashed in Kigali (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022), resulting in the president's death. This led to mutual accusations between the RPF and moderate Tutsis due to the president's death. Because of the political power vacuum following the president's death, killings resumed in Rwanda, and war continued and became inevitable between the RPF and the moderate Hutus. Actually, there were some Hutu who did not want to get involved, but due to the dissemination of hate propaganda and the publication of newspapers to exterminate the Tutsi (Kompas, 2022) created by moderate Hutu, even those Hutu who did not want to intervene were provoked, leading to an extraordinary massacre of the Tutsi tribe. The acts of violence committed were truly brutal, with many Tutsi people being beaten and stabbed with sharp weapons such as machetes, spears, and others. Many women became victims of sexual harassment and rape by armed Hutu groups, and some perpetrators even deliberately transmitted HIV/AIDS to Tutsi women (BBC, 2019). In that incident as well, the Prime Minister of Rwanda, Agathe Uwilingiyimana, along with ten Belgian peacekeeping soldiers assigned to protect her, were brutally murdered by Rwandan extremist forces. This murder occurred when they were attacked at the prime minister's residence. In this genocide event, many members of the Tutsi tribe sought refuge in neighboring countries such as Ethiopia, Tanzania,

and Uganda (Chibelushi, 2024) (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022). Thousands of victims fell due to the Rwandan genocide, and the RPF continued to resist. During a ceasefire that lasted several months, RPF forces managed to capture the capital of Rwanda on July 4, 1994, with the help of UN forces (Britannica, 2025). The UN changed its decision and approved the formation of a new force consisting of 5,500 personnel, and a national unity government transition was established on July 19, 1994, which appointed Pasteur Bizimungu, a Hutu, as president and RPF leader Paul Kagame, a Tutsi, as vice president (Britannica, 2025). The RPF successfully took control of Kigali in early July 1994. This also marked the end of the Rwandan Genocide of 1994 (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022).

Kompas reports, the impact of the Rwandan genocide itself is quite profound, with 800,000 people becoming victims while nearly 2 million more fled to neighboring countries (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022). In the Rwandan government itself, Pasteur Bizimungu, a Hutu, and Paul Kagame, a Tutsi, became the president and vice president of Rwanda, respectively, symbolizing Rwandan unity as they attempted to rebuild their country (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022). In the resolution of the Rwandan genocide, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was established in Tanzania, with the aim of prosecuting the perpetrators of the genocide (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022). Initially, it was quite

difficult to carry out the judicial process because many identities were missing and their whereabouts were unknown. However, one of the masterminds was successfully found, named Theoneste Bangosora, who was sentenced to life imprisonment, until finally, Theoneste Bangosora died in prison (Adryamarthanino Verelladevanka and Ningsih Widya Lestari, 2022).

The Rise of Rwanda
After the Rwandan genocide tragedy ended, many changes were made by the new Rwandan government. In 2000, Paul Kagame was appointed as the President of Rwanda and is considered to have contributed significantly in many areas, especially in the sectors of development and national stability. Some of the strategies implemented by Paul Kagame in rebuilding Rwanda from its downturn include strengthening social integration, building various state infrastructures, increasing investment in the agricultural sector, improving the quality of health and education, developing and revitalizing the tourism sector, and strengthening the political and anti-corruption system. Rwanda's new national reconciliation focuses on the slogan "One Rwanda for All Rwandans" as a new national identity. Paul Kagame also utilizes various media and speeches to continuously promote reconciliation. This is done to prevent ethnic violence from recurring while also improving Rwanda's image in the eyes of the world (Taylor, 2022). In addition, Paul Kagame also implemented various types of participatory programs for the community, one of which is the revival of Umuganda. Umuganda is a monthly tradition of the Rwandan people as a symbol of mutual cooperation and the closeness between leaders and the people (Umuganda, n.d.). In practice,

Umuganda is a national communal work involving the entire Rwandan community and is mandatory for those aged 18 to 65, while for those over 65, Umuganda is optional, allowing participation but not mandatory (Putri Diva Lutviana and Dzulfaroh Ahmad Naufal, 2024). Umuganda was revived by Paul Kagame in 1998 as a step in the initiative to restore Rwanda and strengthen the national identity.

Kompas reported that umuganda has had an impact and brought changes to Rwanda, particularly in the field of cleanliness, making Rwanda one of the cleanest countries in the world (Putri Diva Lutviana and Dzulfaroh Ahmad Naufal, 2024). Then Umuganda itself also becomes a way for Rwanda to solve every problem, manage, and maintain infrastructure. The Director General of the Ministry of Local Government (Minaloc) of Rwanda, Richard Kubana, stated that the main goal of Umuganda is to solve community problems, such as infrastructure maintenance. "We conduct Umuganda to solve these problems without investing money. We use our resources and people," said the Director General of the Ministry of Local Government (Minaloc) of Rwanda, Richard Kubana. Then Rwanda also became one of the countries that banned the use of plastic, so the daily life of Rwandans involves using bags made from environmentally friendly materials such as paper, cloth, banana leaves, papyrus, and other biodegradable materials (Putri Diva Lutviana and Dzulfaroh Ahmad Naufal, 2024). In addition, the Rwandan people are very active in the movement to plant millions of trees, which the Rwandan government has tried to implement. In several forest areas that have successfully undergone reforestation

with millions of trees, several national parks have emerged in Rwanda (Putri Diva Lutviana and Dzulfaroh Ahmad Naufal, 2024). The wealth of national parks and forests that have been successfully preserved and maintained by Rwanda attracts tourists to visit Rwanda and can increase the country's foreign exchange earnings (Putri Diva Lutviana and Dzulfaroh Ahmad Naufal, 2024).

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The Rwandan genocide of 1994 is a tragic example of the crimes against humanity that occurred in Rwanda in 1994. Kompas Media noted the significant impact caused in the social, political, and legal fields. Thousands of innocent lives became victims as a result of this tragedy. Rwanda began the reconstruction and reconciliation of its country after, within the Rwandan government itself, Pasteur Bizimungu, a Hutu, and Paul Kagame, a Tutsi, became president and vice president, and when the ICTR started prosecuting the perpetrators of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Hope for a better future came when reconciliation was successful and umuganda, which strengthened the national spirit of the Rwandan people to work together and unite, was successfully implemented. Kompas Media notes that several positive impacts of reconciliation in Rwanda have emerged, including the creation of infrastructure maintenance and empowerment, Rwanda becoming one of the environmentally friendly countries due to its cleanliness, and making Rwanda an attractive country for tourism because of the beauty of its forests.

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