



This is the sixth newsletter of *Mukomeze*. The *Mukomeze* Foundation aims to improve the living conditions of women and girls who survived rape or other forms of sexual violence during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. The newsletter is issued about 2 or 3 times a year.

### A Look Back at the Exhibition at Camp Vught National Memorial "De mannen die mij hebben vermoord"



In 2010, the idea arose at Camp Vught National Memorial (Camp Vught NM) to organise an exhibition on the Rwandan genocide. By focusing on both the Holocaust and the Rwandan genocide at this site – an SS concentration camp during World War II – visitors were shown that genocide is not only a thing of the past. In addition, the exhibition highlighted sexual violence as a form of war violence, an often overlooked but common aspect of warfare.

During 2010, we met Brigitte de Kok and Anja Spaninks of Camp Vught NM several times to exchange ideas on the setup and elaboration of the exhibition. We decided to base the exhibition on testimonies and photographs of survivors of sexual violence during the Rwandan genocide, which are brought together in the book "The Men Who Killed Me". The exhibition was scheduled to coincide with the release of the Dutch version of the book, "De mannen die mij hebben vermoord".

A selection of photographs and testimonies of Rwandan survivors of sexual violence was made, supplemented with photos of other Rwandan survivors by Canadian photographer Samer Muscati. The idea was to allow the survivors to share their experiences prior to, during and after the genocide based on magnified photos and fragments of their testimony. To provide appropriate background information, the United Nations was asked to make banners available which provide an insight into the causes of, and events during, the genocide.

The result was impressive. Brigitte de Kok brought the pictures and texts together marvellously in an impressive exhibit. The photos were displayed in such a way that both the pain and trauma and the hope of the survivors were conveyed in one glance. In this way, the exhibition managed to reflect the complex reality of these women and men.

On Sunday, 6 February 2011, the time had finally come. After opening remarks by Jeroen van den Eijnde, the director of Camp Vught NM, the exhibition "The Men Who Killed Me" was introduced by Anne-Marie de Brouwer of *Mukomeze* with the presentation of the book by the same name, of which she is the co-editor. A full room of invitees speechlessly watched the powerful images of the short documentary "Intended Consequences" and the detailed testimony of genocide survivor Denise Uwimana. Then, the first copy of the Dutch version of "The Men Who Killed Me" - "De mannen die mij hebben vermoord" - was presented to Christian Democratic MP Kathleen Ferrier by Anne-Marie. After an impressive speech by Ms. Ferrier, which confirmed her commitment and dedication to the subject, she proceeded to officially open the exhibition to the public together with Anne-Marie and Denise.

Then followed a period of two months during which we organised a range of activities together with Camp Vught NM to draw extra attention to the exhibition, to reach beyond the visitors which Camp Vught NM normally draws. This included two afternoon screenings of the films "Shooting Dogs" and "A Sunday in Kigali". The turnout was high and the lively discussions that ensued, in the company of Rwandan Alphonse Muleefu (Ph.D. researcher at Tilburg University), showed clearly that the attendees were moved by the awful events. Our stand, which provided information about our foundation and offered the book as well as various handicrafts made by Rwandan women for sale, was well-attended. In addition to the afternoon screenings we were also involved in a number of other activities, including a guided tour through the former camp provided by a Camp Vught NM volunteer, for students of the student society Magister JFT of Tilburg University, and the Friends' Day of Camp Vught NM on which we were in attendance in the exhibition space to answer visitors' questions.

Finally, the exhibition also served as a way to call attention to sexual violence in other African countries. In cooperation with Camp Vught NM, Amnesty International, represented by Wies van Bommel, organised a film afternoon on sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which included a screening of the documentary "Fighting the Silence". Here too we were on hand to tell the story behind the exhibition.

The turnout for our activities was exceptional. We look back at the exhibition with a lot of satisfaction, in particular due to the pleasant cooperation with the staff at Camp Vught NM, the dedication of our volunteers, the interest shown by friends of *Mukomeze* and by all the other visitors. Thanks also to you, the exhibition was a great success!

For a photographic impression of the (opening of) the exhibition, click [here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail [info@mukomeze.nl](mailto:info@mukomeze.nl)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, send an e-mail to [info@mukomeze.nl](mailto:info@mukomeze.nl)



Two Vacancies for Board Members

Mukomeze is looking for two enthusiastic new board members. Experience in public relations, fundraising and/or organisation of activities is an advantage. If you are interested, please contact us: [info@mukomeze.nl](mailto:info@mukomeze.nl)

Book: "De mannen die mij hebben vermoord"



Since February 2011, a Dutch translation of the English-language book "The Men Who Killed Me" has been available! The launch of this book - "De mannen die mij hebben vermoord: Rwandese overlevenden van seksueel geweld" – took place on 6 February 2011 at Camp Vught National Memorial (see heading "Exhibition Camp Vught NM") where Kathleen Ferrier (Christian Democratic MP) was presented with the first copy. The impressive book brings together testimonies and portraits of 17 survivors of sexual violence (16 women and one man) with the intention

to draw attention to sexual violence as a weapon of war and its consequences for human lives. In addition to the testimonies, the book contains an introductory chapter which discusses the run-up to the genocide and the sexual violence during it. A concluding chapter examines the consequences of sexual violence for survivors in Rwanda, as well as the national and international responses to it. The publication of the book prompted media coverage. Are you interested in the reviews (Dutch)? Have a look on [our website](#).

The book "De mannen die mij hebben vermoord" can be ordered on the website of [Wolf Legal Publishers](#). Part of the proceeds of sales benefit the Mukomeze foundation. For more information about both the English and Dutch editions, see [www.menwhokilledme.com](http://www.menwhokilledme.com).

Exhibition "De mannen die mij hebben vermoord" on Tour

In cooperation with Mukomeze, Camp Vught NM developed the exhibition "The Men Who Killed Me" (see heading "Exhibition Camp Vught NM"). This exhibition, consisting of photos of Rwandan genocide survivors by Canadian photographer Samer Muscati, was on display between 4 February until 27 March of this year at Camp Vught NM. If you are interested to host (a part of) this exhibition temporarily, or if you have a suggestion, we would be grateful to hear from you at [info@mukomeze.nl](mailto:info@mukomeze.nl).

Presentations Spring 2011

We spoke about our work for Rwandan survivors of sexual violence during the genocide at the following locations: student society S.S.R.-N.U. in Utrecht (13 January 2011); Webster University in Leiden on the occasion of International Women's Day (2 maart 2011); and Rotary Vught in Maurick Castle at Vught (23 March 2011).

We are happy to talk about our work for Rwandan survivors of sexual violence. Would you like to know more or would you like us to visit you once? Send an e-mail to [info@mukomeze.nl](mailto:info@mukomeze.nl) and we will contact you.

17th Commemoration Genocide in Tilburg and The Hague

On 5 April 2011 a symposium took place at Tilburg University on the Rwandan genocide, which discussed the causes and consequences, including legal consequences. The second part of the afternoon was devoted to the 17th commemoration of the Rwandan genocide. Immaculee Uwanyiligira (the Ambassador of Rwanda in the Netherlands) delivered a [speech](#) contemplating the past of her country, but also in particular the present situation and future of Rwanda.



She was followed by Annemarie Middelburg (Mukomeze foundation) who spoke about the victims and survivors of sexual violence. She read out part of the testimony of Marie Louise, from the book "The Men Who Killed Me". She explained that Marie Louise hopes her testimony will bring others

to listen and seek to understand what happened during those dark days of the Rwandan genocide: "that justice may prevail and such crimes may never be committed again". Annemarie provided a further explanation of the scale of sexual violence during the genocide, the consequences for the women who lived through it and the ways in which Mukomeze tries to help these women. She concluded with the words: "Let us never forget the approximately one million people who lost their lives during the genocide. And let us at the same time never forget the people who survived the genocide, including the women and men who fell victim to sexual violence."



The 17th Rwandan genocide commemoration took also place on 7 April 2011 at the [Institute of Social Studies](#) in The Hague. Anne-Marie de Brouwer spoke here on behalf of Mukomeze.

Agenda 2011

- 7 September 2011: Lecture at Soroptimistclub Bommelerwaard on the work we do for Rwandan survivors of sexual violence.
- 3 October 2011: Presentation at KVO Ulvenhout about our work.

Mukomeze in the Media

Mukomeze was in the news surrounding the 17th commemoration of the Rwandan genocide, to speak about dealing with trauma in Rwanda and how we try to contribute to this. You can listen to the radio interview with "Twee Dingen" (Radio 1) of 6 April 2011 [here](#) (Dutch). For further newspaper clippings, blogs and interviews, see "[Mukomeze in the news](#)" on our website (Dutch).

**Make a difference:**  
Sponsor a Rwandan woman today!  
For more information, visit [our website](#).