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UN IN ACTION

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RWANDA TODAY: RISING FROM THE ASHES

VIDEO

STRETCHES OF NATURE AND
TREES

VILLAGERS

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE OF
GENOCIDE

ANONCIATA WALKS IN A FIELD

ANNONCIATA SIFTS THROUGH
ROCKS

AUDIO

NARRATION

As the mist rises above the lush rolling hills of Rwanda, life goes on as usual. (7)

But these everyday images belie a horrific past. A past that saw a genocide unleashed – overnight. (8)

Hutu militias - yielding machetes, spears and knives - took to the streets, hunting and killing minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus at a staggering pace. (10)

When the bloodshed ended some one-hundred days later, an estimated 800,000 people had been killed. (8)

This is the story of one survivor, twenty-nine year-old Annonciata Nyirahategekimana. It's also the story of Rwanda today. (10)

Annonciata's story began one June morning in 1994 in a small village in the middle of the

country. (7)

ANNONCIATA ON CAMERA

ANNONCIATA: (Kinyarwanda) **F**
"We were sitting in the living room and we saw them through the window." (3.5)

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE – MILITIA
 MEN

NARRATION
They were Hutu militia and they quickly descended on her village. (4)

GREEN BRANCHES IN FIELD

Annonciata fled, only to be caught by Hutu militia and raped day and night. (6)

ANNONCIATA ENTERS HER HOME

She was only sixteen years-old. And she was alone... seeking refuge for three months, until she was finally reunited with her mother. Of a family of nine, only the two survived. (13.5)

ANNONCIATA WALKS IN HER
 VILLAGE

Annonciata learned that her father was drowned and the identity of one of the men involved was soon revealed. He was her neighbour. (9)

MEN CROWDED IN PRISON

He and more than 120,000 other suspects were crowded into jails around the country to await trial. (7)

By 2001, Rwanda had tried only a little more than 5% of the more than 100,000 suspects still in detention. (9)

PEOPLE GATHER OUTDOORS

And so, the government turned to its communities to help deliver justice using a

system shaped by centuries-old tradition.
(8.5)

ASSEMBLED PEOPLE SIT ON
GRASS

It's called "Gacaca", a village-level court system. (4)

Fatuma Ndangiza, Executive Secretary of Rwanda's National Unity and Reconciliation Commission. (7)

FATUMA ON CAMERA

FATUMA: (English) **F**
"We have to live together; we don't have a country for victims and a country for perpetrators. It's a question of survival if we want to move on." (9)

ANNONCIATA WALKS CARRYING
BASKET

NARRATION
But moving on was something that Annonciata wasn't sure she could do when, in July 2007, the man that helped kill her father stood in front of their village court.(11)

ANNONCIATA ON CAMERA

ANNONCIATA: (Kinyarwanda) **F**
"He pleaded guilty and confessed before Gacaca court, asked for forgiveness to all Rwandans and to me in particular." (9)

ANNONCIATA SHAKES HANDS
WITH JEAN-MARIE

NARRATION
The community's judgment: permission to return to his village. He and Annonciata were once again to live as neighbours. But they were both left to wonder, can you ever really recover from the wounds of the past?

(13.5)

VILLAGERS

JEAN-MARIE: (Kinyarwanda) **M**
"The people welcomed me back and now, even those I've betrayed, we're living well together." (7)

ANNONCIATA ON CAMERA

ANNONCIATA: (Kinyarwanda) **F**
"You know they're talking about reconciliation these days. Those who've killed my relatives all of them have been released. They confessed, and I have forgiven them." (17)

ANNONCIATA SIFTS THROUGH ROCKS

NARRATION
 Annonciata says she desperately hopes that forgiveness will help her - and Rwanda - rise from the ashes and overcome the memories that remain. (11)

ANNONCIATA AND JEAN MARIE

ANNONCIATA: (Kinyarwanda) **F**
"Today we live side by side in peace, but in my heart I will never forget what he's done to me, as he himself, wherever he goes, whatever he does, will always remember."
 (14)

UN LOGO

NARRATION
 This report was prepared by Andi Gitow for the United Nations.