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HIGH COMMISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA  
IN CANADA

# THE 27TH COMMÉMORATION

*of the Genocide against the Tutsi*



THE CEREMONY WILL FEATURE A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH:



Roméo Dallaire



Jean-Paul Kimonyo



Hélène Dumas



Irwin Cotler

April 07, 2021, 12:00 PM (EST)

Livestreamed on:

"RwandainCanada" accounts on



[www.rwandaincanada.gov.rw](http://www.rwandaincanada.gov.rw)

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# THE PROGRAM

April 07, 2021, 12:00 PM (EST)

Livestreamed on:

"RwandainCanada" accounts on



|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 12:00pm | Welcome Remarks followed by a candle lighting ceremony and a minute of silence                                     |
| 12:05pm | Remarks by Representatives of Survivors Associations in Canada   |
| 12:10pm | Music Performance by lamBlameless  |
| 12:15pm | Testimony by a Survivor: Ms. Marie Kosita Musabye  |
| 12:30pm | Messages of Solidarity by Members of Parliament of Canada  |
| 12:40pm | Remarks by the Representative of the Government of Canada  |
| 12:45pm | Address of Mr. Prosper Higiro, the High Commissioner of Rwanda in Canada   |
| 12:50pm | Speech by Guest Speaker: Dr. Emmanuel Havugimana, Member of Rwanda's Senate  |
| 13:00pm | Panel Discussion:<br><b><i>Defying Denialism: How to halt the last stage of the Genocide against the Tutsi</i></b> |
| 2:00pm  | Closing remarks by Mr. Prosper Higiro, the High Commissioner of Rwanda in Canada                                   |



# THE PANEL DISCUSSION

## *Defying Denialism: How to halt the last stage of the Genocide against the Tutsi*

The 27th Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Canada will be organized by the Rwanda High Commission in Canada virtually on April 07, 2021, at 12:00 pm (EST). As an educational endeavor, the ceremony kick-starting the mourning period will feature a high-powered panel discussion that will address increasingly widespread denialism in today's cyber world. Given the increasing avenues for almost anyone to share or promote stories without factual underpinning, the need to confront genocide denial is more urgent than ever.

**The panel will assess the logic behind the resurgence of deliberate distortion of historical facts about the Genocide against the Tutsi witnessed nowadays.** What is the purpose of peddling theories that have been disproved in courtrooms, scholarly debate, and through the testimonies of prime actors, such as genocide perpetrators, the RPF, and several United Nations peacekeepers? Are authors of these acts denying the facts to better deny responsibility?

The panel will also examine multiple cases of denial of the Genocide against the Tutsi and place them in their historical context. The panelist will also seek to explore old and new denialist strategies used by a variety of political actors, academic and/or media circles. **The panel will advance some effective approaches to confronting and resisting denial of the Genocide against the Tutsi and its effects on survivors and the country's collective memory.**

Finally, twenty-seven years on, many perpetrators continue to evade justice. Several reside in countries where, in the name of free speech, denying the Genocide against the Tutsi does not constitute a crime. Having been granted safe harbor in the United States, the United Kingdom, or Canada, these fugitives and their various allies inflict a second cruel ordeal to survivors and families of victims -- first the event, then the pain and insult of denial. **The speakers will explore the best strategies to suppress bigotry and harmful historical revisionism in societies where such acts are not outlawed.**

**Panelists:** Lt Gen Romeo A. Dallaire (Rtd); Dr. Jean Paul Kimonyo; Dr. Helene Dumas; and Prof. Irwin Cotler

**Moderated by:** Mr. Eloge Butera