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100 DAYS of blood and horror

THE 100-day genocide started after Hutu president Juvenal Habyarimana was assassinated on April 6, 1994.

The same night, Hutu extremists embarked on a pre-planned massacre of minority Tutsis across the country.

The international community dithered while the death toll reached one million. The bloodbath ended after the Rwandan Patriotic Front, a Tutsi rebel movement, defeated the Hutu regime.

- **April 6, 1994:** President Habyarimana is killed when a rocket mysteriously downs his plane over Kigali. Opposed to his power-sharing deal with Tutsis, Hutu extremists are thought to be responsible.
- **April 7:** Massacre of Tutsis and moderate Hutus on death lists of extremist Hutu militia and military elements begins. UN peacekeepers forbidden to intervene.
- **April 8:** The Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front, led by current President Paul Kagame, launches major offensive to stop genocide. Exhorted by radio propagandists, however, ordinary Hutus join the slaughter.
- **April 9-10:** French, Belgian and American civilians are evacuated.
- **April 14:** Belgium withdraws its UN peacekeepers after 10 Belgian soldiers are slain.
- **April 21:** UN cuts forces by 90 per cent to just 270 troops. International Red Cross estimates 100,000 have died.
- **April 30:** UN agrees on resolution condemning the killing but omits the word 'genocide'. Refugees pour into neighbouring Burundi, Tanzania and Zaire.
- **May 17:** UN Security Council now says 'acts of genocide may have been committed'. It agrees to deploy 5,500 troops with powers to defend civilians. But mission delayed by financing disputes between the UN and the United States. Death toll reaches 500,000.
- **May 22:** Rwandan Patriotic Front captures Kigali and extends control over northern and eastern Rwanda.
- **July 13-14:** Hutu government flees to Zaire, joined by flood of refugees. A humanitarian crisis is created.
- **July 18:** Rwandan Patriotic Front announces end of war, names Pasteur Bizimungu as president.

