

# Rwandan Genocide Case Study

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## *The Tall Tree Stands*



# Artist's Commentary

During the 1994 Rwandan Genocide 800,000 were killed, most of them Tutsi, a small portion of them were Hutu. A common phrase used during the Rwandan genocide on Hutu radios was, "It's time to cut down the tall tree," basically meaning, its time to kill the Hutus. This is the main reason I decided to create a painting and include the tree stump as the centerpiece. I used a Ankole cow horn because it represents the Tutsis as a ethnic group, they are traditionally livestock keepers. The machete represents the perpetrators of the genocide since it was the weapon commonly used. The grass surrounding the three objects is meant to represent *Gacaca* court, which was a justice system that happened after the genocide to try those who committed these crimes. Gacaca translates to *short grass*.

Overall, this experience has been very enlightening; it taught me how genocides start and why alianation and indifference are such a tragic issues in the world.

# Sources

- <https://www.history.com/topics/africa/rwandan-genocide>
- <https://www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries/rwanda/case-study/violence/massacre-of-the-tutsi-minority>
- [Legacy](#)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lV1RubWD8Y>