

IGSC



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## MISSION, GOALS, AND ACTIVITIES

Interdisciplinary Genocide Studies Center

# MISSION STATEMENT

- The Interdisciplinary Genocide Studies Center (IGSC) is a nonprofit organization based in Kigali, Rwanda, with the mission to testify, to study genocide through rigorous cross-disciplinary scholarship, and to understand various mechanisms and structures of violence with the goal of preventing genocide and mass violence.

# GOALS

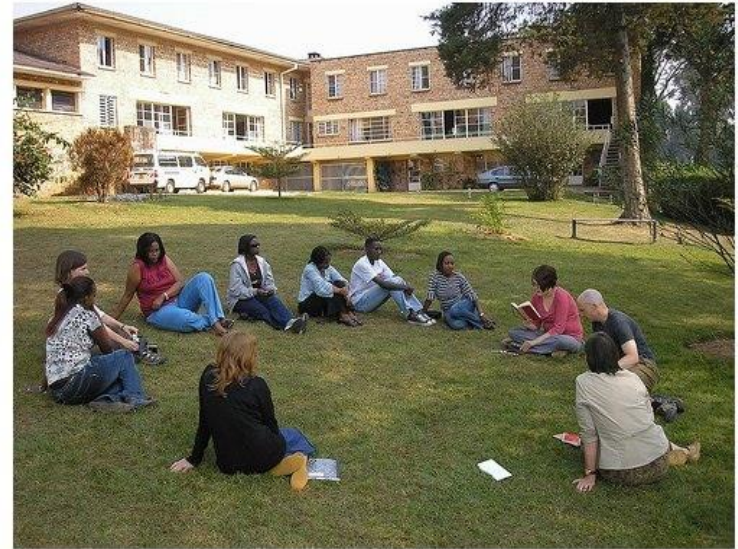
- ❑ Encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary research on the Rwandan Genocide and other crimes against humanity;
- ❑ Gather, organize, preserve and catalogue documentation on the Rwandan Genocide;
- ❑ Create a library of writing on the Rwandan Genocide;
- ❑ Publish and disseminate scholarship on the Genocide;
- ❑ Record and publish testimonials;
- ❑ Assist and facilitate creative writing by survivors;
- ❑ Generate plays, fiction, poetry, etc. in collaboration with Rwandan and international artists as a result of the exchange program;
- ❑ Organize and host conferences, colloquia and symposia on the Genocide;
- ❑ Organize and facilitate summer courses at the Center;
- ❑ Promote affiliations and collaboration with independent artists, academic institutions and professional associations, domestically and internationally;
- ❑ Fight genocide denial.

# ACTIVITIES

- Summer Genocide Studies programs in Rwanda
- Annual Arts in the One World Conference
- Conferences in country and abroad
- Creative writing workshop with survivors
- Library
- Publications
- Future projects and activities

# Summer Genocide Studies programs in Rwanda

- Two- to three-week programs in Rwanda in summers of 2005-2011
- Approach
  - ▣ introduction to the history and events of the genocide
  - ▣ interpretative analysis of post-genocide reconstruction
  - ▣ personal or group research project



- Guest speakers have included:
  - ▣ the President of Rwanda
  - ▣ Rwandan Ministers of Justice, Communication, Culture, Science and Technology, Education
  - ▣ Personal of CNLG
  - ▣ Personal of Ibuka
  - ▣ the Prosecutor General

# Annual Arts in the One World Conference (AOW)

- A series of performances, lectures, exhibits, gallery shows, and screenings as an artistic response to the genocide
- In partnership with Brown University and CalArts since 2009
- The 2010 conference featured over a hundred panelists and participants from Armenia, Canada, China, Lithuania, Northern Ireland, Palestine, Rwanda, Singapore, and Uganda.

# Conferences in country and abroad

- **June 7, 2007 (Paris/France):** “Rwanda. Génocide et traversée de la mémoire”
  - in partnership with La Direction des Relations Internationales de l’ENS, le Département de Littérature et Langages de l’ENS, Aircrige, Jeune Afrique et Présence Africaine
- **July 2008 (Kigali/Rwanda):** “Genocide in Rwanda and Reconstruction of Knowledge”
  - in partnership with the Rwanda National Commission Against Genocide, Ibuka, California Institute of the Arts, School of International Studies at the University of the Pacific Stockton, Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at the State University of New Jersey, Université de Québec à Rimouski, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, Université de Paris VII, Groupov (Belgium), Université Libre de Kigali, Kigali Institute of Education, Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (Rwanda).
- **April 2010 (Macalester/USA):** “Rwanda: Genocide, Denial and Hope”
- **April 2011 (Ohio/USA):** “Genocide in Rwanda: Between the Fragility of The Good and the Humanity of the Killer”
  - African Literature Association, Ohio University,
- **July 2011 (Buenos Aires/Argentina):** “Post-Genocide Rwanda: Challenges to Recovery and New Paths”
  - 9th Biennial Conference of the International Association of Genocide Scholars
- **August 2011 (Kigali/Rwanda):** “Effects of Tutsi Genocide on African Studies”

# Creative writing workshop with survivors



- June-August 2007 workshop at the Gisozi Memorial Center
- Supported by the UNDP





# Library

- ❑ Focused on but not limited to genocide
- ❑ Houses 400 books, journals, DVDs and electronic resources
- ❑ Subject areas include:
  - ❑ History
  - ❑ Sociology and cultural studies
  - ❑ Drama, literature, and poetry
  - ❑ Social ethics and theology
  - ❑ Peace building and conflict resolution
- ❑ Acts as a community center
- ❑ Considered as CalArts' sister library



# Selected Publications

- *Génocide et la traversée de la mémoire*, 2008, Université Libre de Bruxelles
- *Genocidio de Los Tutsis de Ruanda: La Memoria en Camino, Interrogar Las Formas Literarias y Artisticas*, 2011.
- *Peace Review: Children in Armed Conflict* (to be published in 2012)





IGSC students with President Kagame, 2006



Researchers with President Kagame, 2011

# Future projects and activities

## UNIVERSITY COURSES, LIBRARY, WORKSHOPS, PUBLICATIONS, AND CONFERENCES

- July 2012 (?) Workshop and conference with African writers and journalists
- Advocacy Group
- Collection of conference papers from July 2008 “Tutsi Genocide and Reconstruction of Knowledge” and July 2011 “Effects of Tutsi Genocide on Research in Africa” for publication (Karthala-Terroir, French Version, English version)
- Collection of conference papers from April 2010 “Rwanda: Genocide, Denial and Hope”
- Conferences and panels in Senegal, Rwanda, US, France, Belgium, Argentina, Austria, and Spain





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# IMAGES OF RWANDA: TAKING OWNERSHIP

Kigali, 2012

Interdisciplinary Genocide Studies Center

# Rwanda Day in Chicago: Example of press coverage

- Facts:
  - 4,000 people attended the event
  - 23 protestors gathered outside

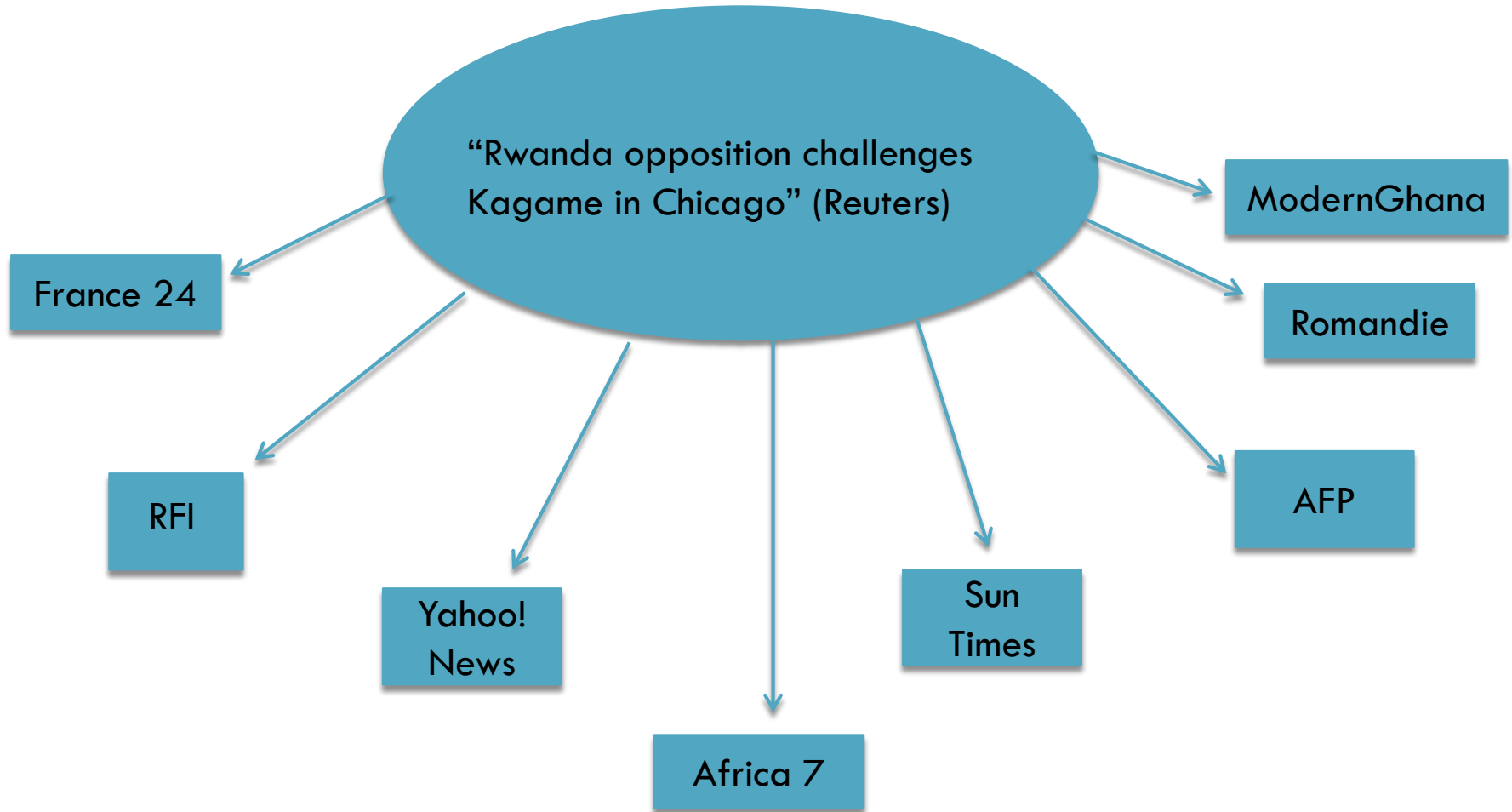


# Press Coverage

- “His visit provoked resistance from Rwandan opposition leaders in exile in the United States. They protested near the hotel...” (James Akena, Reuters)
- “‘*War criminal,*’ ‘*dictator,*’ these are the terms used by a small group of opposition leaders against the Rwandan regime...” (Raphaël Reynes, RFI)
- “‘Kagame is the worst dictator you can even think about because the entire political space has been closed,’ said Theogene Rudasingwa...” (Mira Oberman, “Rwanda opposition challenges Kagame in Chicago,” AFP)
- “Rwandan opposition leaders called President Paul Kagame a corrupt dictator and war criminal...” (ModernGhana.com)
- “Rwandan opposition leaders called President Paul Kagame a corrupt dictator and war criminal at a protest.” (Vancouver Sun)
- “Man who inspired ‘Hotel Rwanda’ protests visit by nation’s leader” (Darryl Holliday, Sun Times)
- “Kagame dictator and war criminal” (Romandie.com)



# Reproduction of coverage



# Taking Ownership



- General Considerations
- Recommendations for constructing our own images
- Project proposal: African writers and journalists visit

# General Considerations

- Facts don't speak for themselves; we interpret facts.
- Technology as an instrument
- Denial of Tutsi genocide leads to denial of Rwandan progress
- Violence of innovation

# Recommendations for constructing our own images

- Reinforcing capacities of our local newspapers (hard copy in English, French and maybe Spanish versions online)
- Establishing a clear role of ICT in production of knowledge and its implications in rehabilitating the image of Rwanda
- Remodeling ORINFOR and New Times to be able to use multiple technologies to address our audience about issues in Rwanda, the Great Lakes Region, and Africa
- Valorizing social sciences and humanities (vs. sciences)
- Creating a culture of civic engagement and advocacy to avoid dependence
- Creating policy analysis and policy planning as a discipline/practice to bridge the public and private spheres
- Increasing and/or producing a national policy agenda and suggestions for social development

# Project proposal: African writers and journalists visit

- Objective: to study the history of the genocide against the Tutsi, the progress achieved by Rwanda since 1994, and the structures put in place that accompanied the country's development in order to establish an informed and active “news” network
- Will bring together African researchers, writers, journalists and professors invested in African current affairs
- Will include three components:
  - Tour of Rwanda and memorial sites
  - Workshop
  - Conference

# ADVOCACY GROUP

- AG ACTIVITIES
  - Universities courses (syllabi)
  - Library abroad
  - Conferences and panels
  - Interviews
  - Letters
  - Articles in Newspapers