

## **SPEAKERS – 25<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi**

### **GUEST OF HONOR**



Professor Mathilde Mukantabana is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda to the United States of America and non-resident Ambassador to Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina.

Prior to her appointment, Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana was a tenured Professor of History at Cosumnes River College (CRC) in Sacramento, California from 1994 to 2013. She is also co-founder and President of Friends of Rwanda Association (F.O.R.A), a non-profit American relief association created in the wake of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda. In addition, under the aegis of United Nations for Development Programs (UNDP), Ambassador Mukantabana started the academic program of Social Work at the National University of Rwanda in 1999.

Ambassador Mukantabana is an active Board Member of the Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Sonoma State University in

California. She is the acting Chair of the Board of the Organization of African Leaders in Diaspora (OALD) that she co-founded. A featured presenter at several film festivals and an international in-demand speaker, Ambassador Mukantabana has won many awards attesting to her accomplishments including the 2012 Peace and Justice Award from the Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR); Peace and Global Peace Award (on behalf of Friends of Rwanda Association) by Global Majority, 2012 and Crystal Apple Award for Best Instructor at Cosumnes River College, 2012. In addition, she was listed in Who's Who among Professionals in America 2003.

Fluent in English, French, Kinyarwanda and Kirundi, Ambassador Mukantabana holds a Bachelors degree in History and Geography from the University of Burundi as well as a Masters degree in Social Work with special emphasis in Community Organization, Planning and Administration and a Masters of Arts in History from California State University in Sacramento, California, USA.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



General Dallaire is a celebrated advocate for human rights, especially in regards to child soldiers, veterans, and the prevention of mass atrocities. He is also a respected government and UN advisor and former Canadian Senator. Throughout his distinguished military career, General Dallaire served in staff, training, and command positions through North America, Europe, and Africa, rising in rank from Army Cadet in 1960 to Lieutenant-General in 1998. General Dallaire was appointed Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda prior to and during the 1994 genocide. General Dallaire provided the United Nations with information about the planned massacre, which ultimately took more than 800,000 lives in less than 100 days; yet, permission to intervene was denied and the UN withdrew its peacekeeping forces. General Dallaire, along with a small contingent of Ghanaian and Tunisian soldiers and military observers, disobeyed the command to withdraw and remained in Rwanda to fulfill their ethical obligation to protect those who sought refuge with the UN forces.

General Dallaire courage and leadership during this mission earned him the Meritorious Service Cross, the United States Legion of Merit, the Aegis Award on Genocide Prevention, and the affection and admiration of people around the globe. His defiant dedication to humanity during that mission has been well-documented in films and books, including his own award-winning account: *Shake Hands with the Devil: the Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*.

General Dallaire's 1997 revelation that he suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as a direct result of his mission in Rwanda paved the way for destigmatizing this potentially-lethal Operational Stress Injury among military veterans as well as first-responders. Though it led to his being medically released from the Canadian Army in 2000, he has devoted decades of passionate leadership and advocacy to the issue on behalf of other veterans struggling with PTSD, including the publication of his bestselling memoir: *Waiting for First Light: My Ongoing Battle with PTSD*.

General Dallaire has penetrated our national consciousness, often in supremely uncomfortable ways. Setting aside his natural reserve, he has felt compelled to bring national and international attention to situations too-often ignored, whether the atrocities of the Rwandan genocide, the struggle that he and many other military veterans face with post-traumatic stress disorder, or the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

## CEO, RWANDA GOVERNANCE BOARD



Dr Usta Kaitesi is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and currently the acting CEO of the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB). She is also non-permanent commissioner at the Rwanda Law Reform Commission. She previously served as; the Principal of the College of Arts and Social Sciences of the University of Rwanda; the vice Chairperson of the technical support commission to the parliament of Rwanda for the Review of the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda in 2015. She served as Deputy Dean and head of Department at the then Faculty of Law at the National University of Rwanda. Kaitesi is a non-active member of the Rwanda Bar Association and the East African Law Society and a vice chairperson of the Inter University Council of East Africa.

Dr Kaitesi holds a PhD in Law from the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, a Master of Laws from the University of Ottawa, Canada and a Bachelor's degree from the then National University of Rwanda. She has published in the areas of law, human rights and gender including the book entitled *Genocidal Gender and Sexual Violence: The legacy of the IC TR, Rwanda's ordinary courts and Gacaca courts*.

## SCHOLAR & PREACHER



Dr. Emmanuel Rudatsikira is the founding dean of the School of Health Professions (SHP) whose mission is to provide excellence in education for health care professions that fosters collaboration, research, and service within a Christ-centered environment. He earned a doctorate in public health epidemiology from Loma Linda University and a medical degree from the University of Kinshasa. He is a member of several professionals' societies. Dr. Rudatsikira is a recognized figure in the global health field, with particular experience in the areas of disaster management, preparedness for global emergencies, refugee health, violence prevention and tobacco control.

Rudatsikira has a successful and wide-ranging background in leadership in health professions education, as well as a significant history of research, much achieved through receipt of grants from federal, state and private funding agencies. He earned a doctorate in public health epidemiology from Loma Linda University and a medical degree from the University of Kinshasa. He is a member of several professional societies including the American Public Health Association (APHA), the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health, the Global Health Council, Allied Health Research Institute and Sigma Xi Research Society. A devoted researcher, Rudatsikira has published over 90 articles in peer-refereed journals. He is a recognized figure in the global health field, with particular experience in the areas of disaster management, preparedness for global emergencies, refugee health, violence prevention and tobacco control. He has conducted research in more than 30 countries in all regions of the World Health Organization and given a variety of presentations both in the United States and internationally.

Prior to accepting the position at Andrews, Rudatsikira was a tenured professor and chair of the School of Community and Environmental Health at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. He has also served as a professor and program director at San Diego State University and Loma Linda University, developing several new programs and courses in tobacco control, emergency preparedness and response, and public and global health at both universities.

## SURVIVOR



Kizito D. Kalima “Z” is a genocide survivor and the founder/executive director of the Peace Center for Forgiveness and Reconciliation, public speaker, and an advocate for Genocide Survivors. In 2014, he had the pleasure of sharing his story at the United Nations Headquarters.

He is the 2018 D. Susan Wisely Award Winner “Youth Worker of the Year” for helping the refugees youth /second -generation genocide survivors.

## SURVIVOR



Jean Leonard Kagabo “Kaka” is the genocide survivor and the author of the book “ANGELS ON MYTH”. This story carries you off to East-Central Africa and into a delightful childhood interrupted by circumstances that force young Kaka to leave home. There are ditches filled with corpses, bodies trying to crawl out; acts of courageous generosity and costly risk; close calls; unhindered killing; funny moments; sickening loss; constant hunger; humans at their worst and humans at their best.