



**This is the testimonial of Alexandra, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide**

I was 15 years old. I was a student in my first year of secondary school. My life was spared by the killers, but I did not escape rape. After the genocide I went to live in an orphanage.

In my district, women and girls were not killed, only older women. The killers selected those between the ages of 7 and 35, strong girls and women, and packed them into huts. There was literally nowhere to sleep. At night the killers came, took us out of the huts and raped us. We would then be returned to the huts, one after the other, early in the morning. The killers often threatened to burn the huts



Once the refugees were assembled, the killers then surrounded the camp. But thanks to a Colonel in charge who, knew the killers plans and had soldiers on standby to halt any killing, the final massacre was prevented. This was because, the French soldiers were due to arrive that evening to set up a safe zone for refugees, know as French Turquoise.

We were saved. But my mother had no means to bring us up, so we ended up in an orphanage. We now live with my mother, but our experiences have left