

**Communiqué of the Conférence Episcopale du Rwanda On 07-04-2019**

As part of the 25th commemoration of the genocide against the Tutsi in 1994, the Catholic bishops of Rwanda recently sent a message to the faithful inviting them to continue to build unity and reconciliation, to ask forgiveness and to forgive.

However, some people were hurt by a sentence in this message by which we pleaded for the elderly and sick people imprisoned for participating in the genocide.

We regret that some of its words profoundly affected those people because of the circumstances in which they were delivered. We really did not want to inflict such pain on them. Therefore, we apologize for having said them during the difficult period of commemoration of the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi.

We remain close to the survivors of genocide, in particular and Rwandan society in general, during this moment when we remember ours who lost their lives in the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi in 1994.

May God who comforts the suffering comfort them and keep us in union with them in these painful times.

Done at Kigali on April 13, 2019

**Bishop Philippe RUKAMBA**  
**President of Conférence Episcopale du Rwanda**