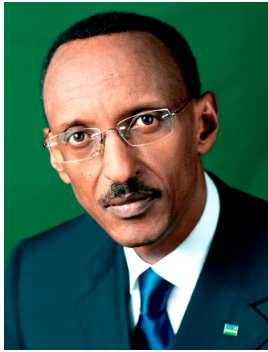


Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda



The Center for the Global Business and the Economy introduces today's speaker:

President Kagame has received recognition for his leadership in **peace building** and reconciliation, development, good governance, **promotion of human rights** and women's empowerment, and advancement of education and ICT, and is widely sought after to address regional and international audiences on a range of issues including African development, leadership, and the potential of ICT as a dynamic industry as well as an enabler for Africa's socioeconomic transformation.

Kagame's contributions to the rebuilding of Rwanda in the aftermath of the devastating genocide of 1994 are indisputable. However, equally unquestionable is his role in the destabilization of the neighboring **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and the resulting deaths of millions of Congolese. Stanford should not advertise President Paul Kagame as a "promoter of human rights", when researchers from leading academic institutions have produced incontrovertible evidence of his significant **human rights violations**. Kagame's record includes leading campaigns of mass murder and foreign invasion, the suppression of political dissent, and assassination and should cause us to interrogate his presence as a speaker on our campus.

As you learn about Kagame's accomplishments in the arenas of economic growth, health, and education, weigh these with the following facts about his horrific violations of human rights.

Kagame's Human Rights Record

- During the military operations both before and after the genocide, Kagame's army, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) composed almost entirely of minority Tutsi, conducted "military campaign style mass murders," across Rwanda, rounding up unarmed Hutu civilians by the thousands and machine-gunning them. A UN report estimated 35,000 Hutu were killed in this manner between April and September 1994 in the 28% of the country that was surveyed but didn't release the information until years later due to RPF pressure and US fears that such news would weaken the new government.¹
- In 1996, a coalition made up mostly of Rwandan, Ugandan, and Congolese actors -- in which Kagame played an instrumental role -- invaded the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo (at that time, Zaire) with the stated purpose of hunting down the genocide perpetrators who were residing in refugee camps in the eastern Congo. The result, however, was the First Congo War, the overthrow of Mobutu Sese Seko and the instatement of president Laurent Kabila, which planted the seeds of further conflict in 1998, when Kabila expelled Rwandan forces from the Congo and Kagame's forces invaded once again.



¹ <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303603904579493440845328418>

- The 2010 United Nations Mapping Exercise Report documented crimes committed by the Rwandan Army in the Congo from 1993 to 2003, noting that “the apparent systematic and widespread attacks described in this report reveal a number of inculpatory elements that, if proven before a competent court, could be characterized as crimes of genocide.”²
- In June of 2012, the UN Group of Experts reported that Kagame's government [armed and supported](#) the M23 rebel group, which [raped and murdered](#) civilians in Eastern Congo, displacing over [800,000 people](#).³ The US warned Kagame that this could serve as grounds for prosecution for war crimes and subsequently blocked military aid in October 2013 for his role in supporting this rebel group.⁴

Suppression of Political Dissent

- Kagame's repressive government [kills its opponents and critics](#).
- Kagame's successful August 2010 election, in which he won with 93% of the votes, was marred with political violence, incarceration, and intimidation and repression of press freedom. Amnesty International claimed in its 2011 report that the RPF “tightly controls political space, civil society and the media, contending that this is necessary to prevent renewed violence. Human rights defenders, journalists and political opponents cannot openly and publicly criticize the authorities. People who do speak out risk prosecution and imprisonment.”⁵
- The White House warned that “Rwanda's stability and growing prosperity....will be difficult to sustain in the absence of broad political debate and open political participation.”⁶
- In May 2011, British news sources reported attempted assassinations carried out by Rwandan government personnel against Rwandan refugees and exiles,⁷ and the death Rwanda's former spy chief in Johannesburg this past January has aroused suspicions. Despite denying involvement in his death, Kagame stated in an interview, “I actually wish Rwanda did it.”⁸
- On March 12, 2014, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives wrote a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry to express his “deep concern over the numerous attempted attacks and killings of Rwandan dissidents living outside that country.” Chairman Royce called on the State Department to “reevaluate U.S. engagement with Rwanda.”⁹

STAND's Statement

We at Stanford STAND cannot begin to imagine the difficulties, traumas, and obstacles for regrowth that would come along with an event like the Rwandan genocide. The strides that President Kagame and millions of Rwandans have made to rebuild their country is inspiring. Yet, given how Kagame and the RPF have often framed Rwanda's recent history in a way that justifies their claims to power and conceals their own significant abuses, it is essential that we take this opportunity to provide information about how Kagame and the RPF have, since taking power in 1994, committed a number of horrific human rights abuses. These include crimes committed during Rwanda's extensive involvement in the conflict in Congo, which has claimed an estimated 5.4 million lives, as well those perpetrated in an effort to maintain authoritative power at home, including significant political repression, intimidation, and assassinations. If Kagame is not held responsible for these abuses, it is likely only a matter of time until another case of horrific violence occurs in

² <http://www.ohchr.org/en/Countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/RDCProjetMapping.aspx>

³ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/dec/19/obama-rwanda-support-congo-rebels>

⁴ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/jul/25/rwanda-paul-kagame-war-crimes>
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/03/us-usa-africa-childsoldiers-idUSBRE9920SJ20131003>

⁵ <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR47/002/2011/en>

⁶ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/08/13/statement-national-elections-rwanda>

⁷ <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2011/05/20/uk-police-rwandan-government-threatens-exiles/>

⁸ <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304632204579338811856671086>

⁹

the already fragile region--a conclusion shared by a 2010 Human Rights Watch article: "if leaders continue to ignore the darker side of Kagame's story, they will only compound the problem. Burying the truth about horrific crimes is a very effective way to sow the seeds for future grievances and more violence."¹⁰

¹⁰ <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/09/21/rwanda-president-crisis>