

-Part 1. In Rwanda.

In early 80s I was born in Rwanda and spent my childhood in Kigali primarily occupied with my family, friends, and school. This changed on April 6th 1994 when the then president was assassinated. This provided the catalyst for what is known as the genocide against Tutsi.

My immediate family lived in constant danger until the mainly Tutsi rebel group the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) were able to enter the capital city where we lived and relocated us and others who had survived to a refugee camp.

We stayed in that camp that was in the northern part of the country for the remainder of the genocide. There I worked in an orphanage home not too far from the camp. The children in that orphanage home had all witnessed the genocide and some had physical wounds from it that they did not survive.

My immediate family stayed in the camp, and me at the orphanage home until July 1994 when the RPF had put to cease the genocide and it was safe to return to what used to be home.

-Part 2. In Diaspora.

-In July 1995 exactly a year after the genocide was over, fortunately one of my aunt who was in the United States with her family during this ordeal was able to bring my two sisters, a cousin, and I to Nairobi, Kenya. There we studied English and Swahili as she put together immigration papers to bring us to Portland, Maine.

-In early 1996 we joined our cousins (my aunt's children) and continued our education after a two years hiatus from the classroom.

-I attended Portland High School, and then Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts where I focused on the Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

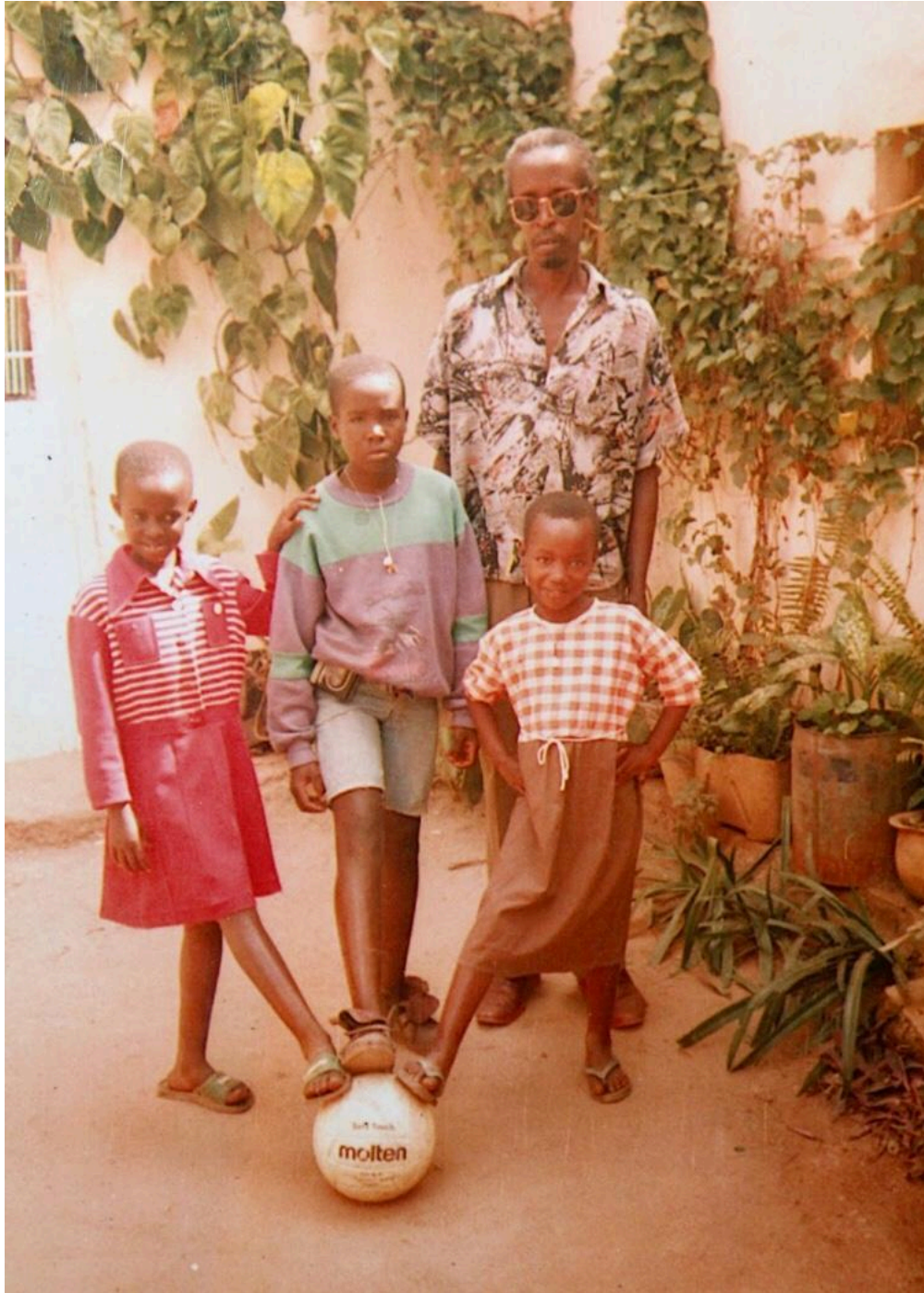
- In 2005 I received a bachelor's degree in History from Clark.
- In January 2018 I completed a graduate level Holocaust and Genocide Studies certificate program at Salem State University in Massachusetts.
- Throughout my studies I have been fortunate to travel to East Europe; Prague/Terezín, Czech Republic Republic: (visited Theresienstadt concentration camp.)To Kraków, Poland: (visited Auschwitz-Birkenau.)

The Balkans: Sarajevo/Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (visited Srebrenica-Potočari Memorial), to Spil/ Dubrovnik Croatia, and Kotor, Montenegro.
- Most recently in 2015,'16, and '17 I visited Rwanda with Salem State University study/travel program with different groups of undergraduate/graduate students. (<https://www.salemstate.edu/chgs>)
- There we worked closely with a high school of the most vulnerable youths.
- I continue to testify about the tragedies that I witnessed in the genocide to different high schools and Universities in collaboration with Facing History and Ourselves (www.facing.org) whom I have been a resource speaker for since I was an undergraduate student in early 2000s.
- Overall I aim to educate others on what is genocide and war crimes since unfortunately history does repeat itself.
- My objective is; to *continue raising awareness in hopes of minimizing ignorance* about this human catastrophe that is genocide.

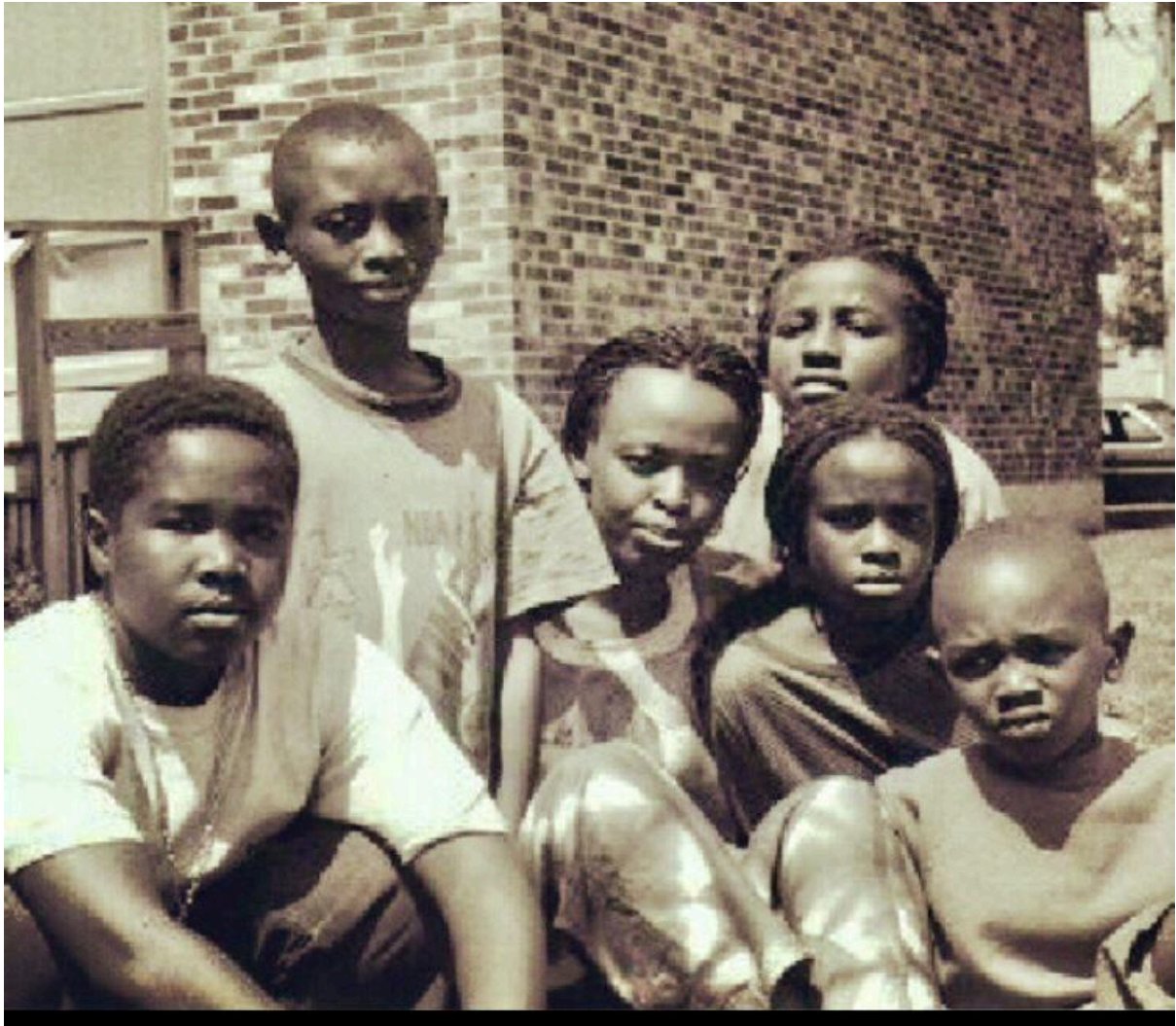


-With my immediate family. The only photograph left with my mother in it. She passed away not long after it was taken.

-This photograph was taken few months after returning to what used to be home from the refugee camp.



-With my siblings when we first got to the US. Two of my cousins in the photograph were already in Portland.



***-With my aunt Mukakazana Fatuma Yolanda (who brought us from Rwanda)
and my sister Liliane at the Boston Commons.***



-At Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village. (<https://www.asyv.org/>)



-With my sisters, nephews, and niece. Claire under the umbrella never left Rwanda. Claudine in purple was returning for the first time af two decades.





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-Kaitare Claude