

Voice Poem #1

ALL

I sit here.

Looking back, not ready to look forward.

SURVIVOR

Everything has been taken away from me:
My parents, my education, my friendships, my
home.

SURVIVOR

I was betrayed by ones who I assumed were close
to me.

SURVIVOR

I am alone. Broken are my bones and my soul.
All that I hold near and dear is gone, like sand
running out of my hand.

PERPETRATOR

Everything I thought I was making for myself,
crumbled to dust.

PERPETRATOR

I was betrayed by the lack of fear in my heart.

PERPETRATOR

I am alone, surrounded by others coming to grips
with reality.
All that I saw as fitting and right, questioned in my
innermost.

ALL

I can't unsee. I can't unhear.

PERPETRATOR

The smack of the club and the deep crimson
rolling down the hill.

SURVIVOR

The eerie moans of the dying and the mutilating of
the once breathing mum and dad.

ALL

Life taken away with a few strokes and a hasty clash.

SURVIVOR

Gone in an instant my whole world.
Where is the respect and honor for the things I
loved the most?

PERPETRATOR

Gone in an instant my innocence.
Where is my help? Does anyone hear?

ALL

We are human. Treat us like one.

Guide us through this crazy hell we live in.

SURVIVOR

I discover the truth, piece by piece, but there's a
constant nag: is it whole?

PERPETRATOR

I didn't want to do this, but I had no choice.

SURVIVOR

We always have a choice.

PERPETRATOR

Is greed or fear the more powerful motivator?

SURVIVOR

Is understanding necessary for forgiveness?

ALL

What is forgiveness?

What is hope?

PERPETRATOR

To face yourself, to verbalize what you did and face it straight on,
It sends you down a dark path where there seems to be no air.

PERPETRATOR

The shame is so heavy. Can there truly be freedom?
I wait as one repenting, one taking responsibility for my actions.

PERPETRATOR

I tore it apart.

ALL

And now I use my strength to build Rwanda back up.

PERPETRATOR

I caused harm and I am here to repair.

SURVIVOR

It left me weak, to see him again, as the flood of memories, pain, and fear flood my mind far faster and stronger than the initial shock of death.

SURVIVOR

It took every ounce of strength, the very sincerity of my heart, to utter those words.
Words for forgiveness, of miracle.

SURVIVOR

I'm torn apart.

ALL

We want a better future, a different legacy. Let's rebuild, in the unique way that we can.

SURVIVOR

I suffered harm and I am here for a greater purpose.