Setting the Machete Aside

*Rwanda was done, and I was done with Rwanda.*
*Killing started in April, and I couldn’t forgive by July.*
*It was easier set my country aside.*
*So much happened, but now peace yields.*
*Conserve the peace that’s grown, and celebrate Rwanda’s life.*
*Celebrate that Rwanda unified.*

*I see those who killed my family, scarred my body, and still must teach forgiveness?*
*I teach my children to love, but sometimes only to spare them the burden of hate.*
*I meet those who killed my family, scarred my parents, and still we are all Rwandans.*
*I forgive them, and let them know to set the machete aside.*

*I was too young to raise a machete then, but I feel its weight now*
*The guilt of an unrepentant father, I’d set aside if I knew how.*
*I wish those who deny what happened would return from exile*
*I wish those who deny what happened would let us all reconcile.*

*Orphans learned love and charity, hopeful principles replacing parents.*
*This education saved Rwanda from itself, and helps me set the machete aside.*
*Unity became the lesson of Rwanda.*
*And education today means a tomorrow for Rwanda.*

*Education today brings peace*
*And peace today builds families.*
*Where peace and families reside,*
*The machete can be set aside,*
*And I can forgive despite*
*Life after the 7th of April.*