

## **Rwanda Outrage over BBC Documentary on Genocide**

In 2004 the world was shocked with a dreadful incident that ravaged a country within a period of 100 days as the international community idly watches how Rwandans slaughter themselves. This ugly scenario still haunts the country as they try to rebuild their country from scratch.

On 1 October 2014 in a documentary titled “Rwanda’s Untold Story” British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) aired a movie that sparked controversy over the Rwanda Genocide that suggest that President Kagame had a hand in the downing of the airbus that killed his predecessor and eventually led to the massacre of Hutus and Tutsis. The documentary also portray that the official figures of the deaths and the story as presented is equally hokum.

The documentary has attracted criticisms from many, for instance, Mr. Bernard Makuza who is the president of the senate said “What we are saying is that this gross denial of the genocide and disregarding facts to trivialize our history should not go unpunished,” also, University students have organized rallies against this documentary while law makers in the country demand an apology from the Corporation. While the Rwandan parliament has passed a resolution to ban BBC and lay claims against the journalist; in response BBC contend that the documentary does not violates the rules and regulations of the Cooperation and to this effect found no reason to apologized.

While President Kagame has accused BBC of genocide denial, the Cooperation spokeswoman affirmed that: “The Rwandan genocide raises extremely painful issues but the BBC has a duty to investigate difficult and challenging subjects.” She continue similarly that “We believe this programme, which was produced by a BBC current affairs team in London and broadcast in the UK, made a valuable contribution to the understanding of the tragic history of the country and the region.” She continues that the BBC regretted calls for sanctions against it and that “threatening an independent broadcaster is inappropriate”.

President Kagame has been very instrumental in up lighting the standard of living of his people, and as a result he is well respected for the progress that the country has experience since the

genocide that plagued the country. He is equally very vocal about issues in Africa and has been calling on his fellow countrymen in the continent to tackle hard issues rather than wait for 'external help'.

Rwandans have to stand united during periods of challenges facing their country and other countries like Côte D' Ivoire, Burundi, with the understanding that there will always be those who are disgruntled with the *status quo*; accept criticisms to improve knowing that no country can stand isolated especially in this intertwined world we presently find ourselves with technology narrowing the space and distance that use to divide communities and groups.

In any event, the burden lies on Rwandans to shape their destiny, to move forward, the tradition has been cooperation and negotiations with partners and other actors involve in the process of nation building. My humble submission is that Rwanda and other African countries should work with the institutions available while also reconciling the differences that may exist in the hope that we build a peaceful world that all a sundry will co-exist with each other.