

PAPER VERSIONS OF TESTIMONY CLIPS

*Resource 5-3 *Alternative Option*



FREDDY MUTANGUHA

- Survivor, Tutsi Genocide (Rwanda, 1994)
- Born: 1976, (Bujumbura, Burundi)
- Date of Interview: September 1, 2010

Testimony clip courtesy of
USC Shoah Foundation

www.iwitness.usc.edu

A TUTSI GENOCIDE SURVIVOR TALKS ABOUT BEING REFERRED TO AS A COCKROACH BY A CLASSMATE AND THEN A VIOLENT INCIDENT THAT TOOK PLACE AT SCHOOL, SEVEN YEARS BEFORE THE EVENTS OF THE GENOCIDE.

[Note: During the 1994 Tutsi Genocide in Rwanda, members of the majority group, the Hutus, organized and carried out a genocide by mass murder primarily targeted at one minority group, the Tutsis. In the year leading up to the genocide, language was used to dehumanize Tutsis.]

“You know one of the students in my class was very, very extremist, and he kept calling Tutsis as “cockroaches.” Cockroaches is, inyenzi, is and yes is because of translation, but, cockroaches is a small, a small insect which actually eat, make mess at home, and eat the food, they eat the food, and it has a very bad smell, and eat on the clothes of your home, things like that. They are so bad, bad, bad insect.

And where they live, if you have three or four cockroaches in your home, you had always bad smell there.

So calling you cockroach, it’s very, very bad for a student. It’s like you smell bad. You make a mess. You very, very disturbing for a human being.