

# Verse: *Living Witness*

By Fidel Mwendambali Nshombo

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You were there when they were killing them  
You were there when they disappeared,  
It was not an easy thing to bear,  
I understand it hurts,  
I know it's painful  
And I know this not because I heard,  
But I was there with you  
We shared the same pain.  
We went through the same torture,  
We suffered the same loss  
But it's time to change and move on  
Because we are a living witness

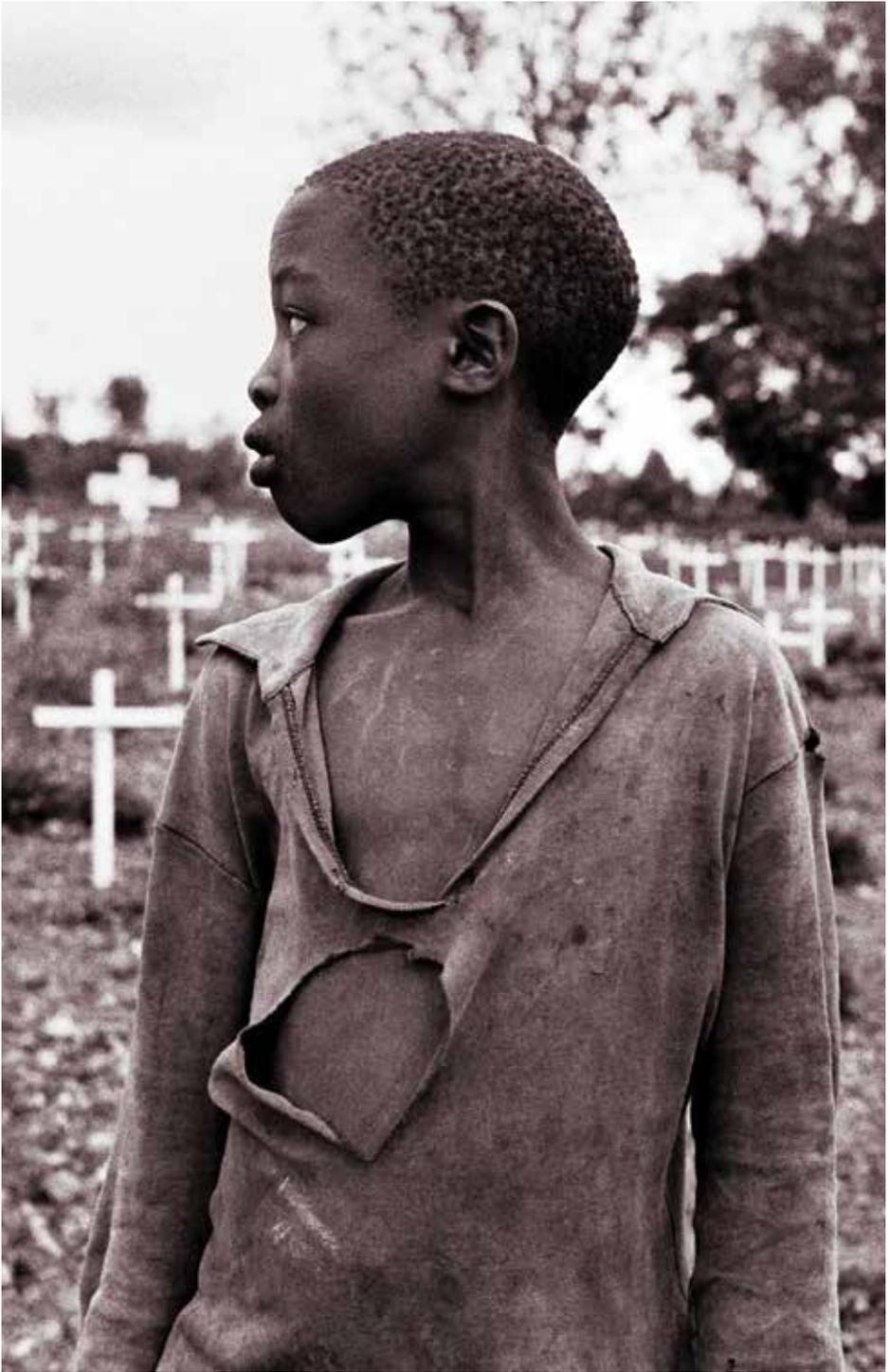
I understand you hate them,  
You always talk about revenge,  
But that's not what I am about,  
I had moved on so long now,  
And so you should because,  
Not every Hutu is my brother  
not every Tutsi is my enemy  
Not every Congolese my friend,

Not every Rwandese my enemy  
I am a man of peace,  
And peace is my friend and my brother  
I will spread peace around the world  
I will take no part in your revenge  
I will take no part in your evil deeds  
And I will never do the evil you want to do,  
I have seen what you've seen,  
I've suffered what you suffered  
I've endured the pain that you endured  
But I don't know what you know  
And I don't want to do what you do  
And I certainly don't believe in revenge  
that You believe in  
I believe in God, love, peace and forgiveness  
I have moved on so long now, and so you should  
  
I'm a living witness, now I know that...  
And so you should be.



From *Route to Peace: The Cries of the Forgotten Refugees in Deadly Camps* (2009).

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A living witness stands in a graveyard, Rwanda, 2013.