



Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal

Official Transcript: Alex Obote Odora (Highlight)



Role:	Chief of Appeals
Country of Origin:	Uganda
Interview Date:	22 October 2008
Location:	Arusha, Tanzania
Interviewers:	Lisa P. Nathan John McKay
Videographer:	Nell Carden Grey
Interpreter:	None

In this highlight, Alex Obote Odora speaks on...
the decision not to locate the Tribunal in Rwanda in
1994

The transcript of the highlight begins on the following page.

- 00:00 You see when people are getting out of extreme tensions like in Rwanda, one cannot simply assume that overnight people will begin to see themselves as being colleagues and members of the same community, of the same country. So putting the tribunal in Rwanda at that time would have I think exacerbated the tensions.
- 00:35 I don't think the management of the court process would have been easy. I do not even know whether the anger of the general public could have been contained if soon after the genocide some of these key individuals were now being flown into Rwanda and being put in jail. I don't know whether the government would have provided enough security to stop the general public from actually storming the place and lynching these people.
- 01:10 That's a real possibility because when you get to know Rwanda very well you find that there are individuals who did not only lose the entire members of their family but a whole community, a whole village is destroyed and you cannot imagine the anger of these individuals, how they would react. I think they needed a cooling down period. 'Kay?
- 01:35 Now after 14 years I believe trial can now be held in Rwanda now; pe-, they are fairly calm, they have, they have been able to address this, to reflect on this and also they have read what outsiders say about the conflict in Rwanda. There is now a basis upon which they can objectively try and look at those issues but to have put the tribunal there in 1994, my personal view is that would have been a great mistake.