

## 2011-K374

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION urging President Barack Obama and the members of the New York State Congressional delegation to commemorate the 17th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, on April 7, 2011

WHEREAS, This Legislative Resolution arises from a sense of human decency and respect for the people of Rwanda and their Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to urge President Barack Obama and the members of the New York State Congressional delegation to commemorate the 17th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, on April 7, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Rwandan Genocide against the Tutsi was the mass murder of people in the small East African nation of Rwanda over the course of approximately 100 days after the assassination of the then President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6, 1994; and

WHEREAS, Rwanda existed, for centuries, as a centralized monarchy under a succession of Tutsi Kings from one clan, ruling a population of Hutu and Tutsi living in symbiotic harmony; and

WHEREAS, The "Revolution" of 1959 targeted the Tutsi in an indiscriminate manner, causing hundreds of thousands of deaths and sending masses into exile; and

WHEREAS, The First Republic under President Gregoire Kayibanda and the Second Republic, under President Juvenal Habyarimana, institutionalized discrimination against the Tutsi and subjected them to periodic massacres; and

WHEREAS, On October 1, 1990, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), a rebel group composed mostly of Tutsi refugees, launched an armed liberation struggle for democracy and for the right of refugees to return to their motherland; in response, the Government Army and militias launched massacres against the Tutsi in various parts of the country; and

WHEREAS, International pressure on the Government of Juvenal Habyarimana resulted in the Arusha Peace Accords in August 1993: his assassination in April 1994 was the pretext for a genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi and moderate Hutu, planned by Hutu extremists from the ruling

party MRND, particularly, Akazu, inner circle of President Habyarimana;  
and

WHEREAS, The execution of the genocide was supported and coordinated by the national government as well as by local military and civil officials and mass media, particularly by the Radio Television des Mille Collins (RTLM); and

WHEREAS, In response to the killings, the RPF restarted its offensive, eventually defeating the genocidaire government, stopping the genocide, and embarking the country on the path of post-conflict recovery, justice reconciliation and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, The International Panel of Eminent Personalities to Investigate the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda and Surrounding Events was convened by the Organization of African Unity and issued a report on July 7, 2000, with recommendations including the substantial re-examination of the 1948 Geneva Convention on Genocide; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the anniversary of this horrific event and urges all New Yorkers and the international community as a whole to act with a sense of urgency in condemning such atrocities and preventing crimes against humanity like this from ever happening again; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to urge President Barack Obama and the members of the New York State Congressional delegation to commemorate the 17th Anniversary of the

Rwandan Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, on April 7, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause further in its deliberations to honor and remember the victims of the Rwandan Genocide; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to President Barack Obama, and to each member of the Congressional delegation from the State of New York.