



# Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal

## Official Transcript: Beth Lyons (Highlight)



<b>Role:</b>	Defense Counsel
<b>Country of Origin:</b>	United States
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<b>Interviewers:</b>	Batya Friedman Ronald Slye
<b>Videographer:</b>	Max Andrews
<b>Interpreter:</b>	None

In this highlight, Beth Lyons speaks on...  
definitions of genocide

*The transcript of the highlight begins on the following page.*

00:00 My own view is that the word genocide implies that there was a plan, that it wasn't a spontaneous act. It wasn't a spur – it was, it, it was a planned action. That is the thesis of Alison Des Forges in the Prosecution's office, and I should say, having read judgments and been involved in two cases, I have never seen any evidence of a plan on the part of those who are accused to commit genocide.

00:38 And I want to say that, because genocide is loosely used. That is not at all to mitigate the horrors or the tragedies faced by all of the people, but I think genocide connotes in large part also an emotional reaction.

00:59 I believe that under some systems, there was a plan, you know. I think in the case of Germany there was a plan against all of the peoples that were murdered. And ( ), in the apartheid regime planned, and they documented apartheid. There has been no documentation provided by the prosecution as proof of a plan.