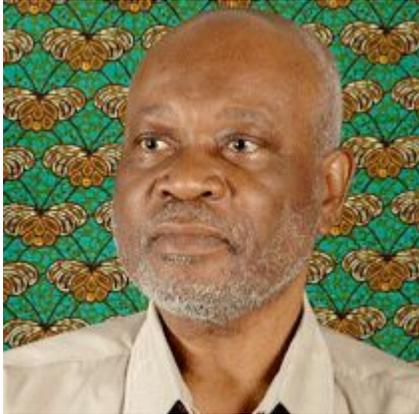


Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal

Official Transcript: Theo Nkembe (Part 2 of 5)



Role:	Archivist
Country of Origin:	Cameroon
Interview Date:	28 October 2008
Location:	Kigali, Rwanda
Interviewer:	Lisa P. Nathan
Videographer:	Nell Carden Grey
Interpreter:	None

Interview Summary

Theo Nkembe talks about how he has been personally impacted by watching footage from the genocide in his role as an ICTR archivist, noting that images from the tapes haunt him ten years later. Nkembe then discusses the responsibilities associated with preserving ICTR records, reflecting that people often have political motives for seeking access to archival material. As such, security must be a top concern. Nkembe also expresses surprise that so many accused have failed to accept responsibility for their actions.

The transcript of Part 2 begins on the following page.

Part 2

00:00 Lisa P. Nathan: Can you tell me about your job, some of the responsibilities of your job?

00:05 One of the responsibilities as I told you is, is to be a custodian of all sensitive document, documentation, documents and archives. We have, maybe you have to see them before you go. If you have seen the same what you have seen in Arusha with Madam Ayo in the, because now the, the, the hea-, headquarters, everything is there.

00:29 But see here in OTP, Office of the Prosecutor, we still have some documents and these documents are on missions, so when people come for missions, they bring very sensitive information. That's . . .

00:46 LPN: Could you give an example of what that would be?

00:47 Example, the reports, mission reports. Mission reports are document-, doc-, documentation that have to be kept in a way that's only people from the unit or from OTP (___). Even sometimes, some investigators do not have the right to know, for example, information that is coming from the tracking team.

01:15 Tracking team which is – I think you met them this morning – tracking team that operates mainly outside the country. They go to Europe. They go to Africa, outside Rwanda. They go to North America. They go all over the world, tracking people that the OTP is looking for.

01:35 So this is very sensitive information. If it falls on the hand that are not supposed to fall, it might jeopa-, jeopardize the work of the Prosecutor. It's a type of – so I'm like somebody who to be trusted. Because somebody can come and say, "Oh, we were just . . ." I don't know. I don't. I didn't see. I do-, didn't hear so I cannot talk. This is my principle. To make sure that my job is done properly. (_____).

02:16 LPN: Can you speak to some of the challenges of your job?

02:20 The challenges goes with what I've just st-, say you, for to you or on the responsibilities – because if I am not responsible enough to keep what I'm supposed to keep, then as I told you, it's, it's a danger. It's a danger because not only inside Rwanda, some people inside Rwanda would like to know what we are doing, would like to know what we are keeping, you know.

02:50 So, although all these documents can be, some of the documents can be at the (___), later stage public when they go to, in front of the court, things become public as you know. But before, if we don't keep things hide, we don't keep them properly, we might be surprised. So, for example, sometimes the defense want to know "XYZ," so come, you know. Do you see what I mean?

03:21 LPN: Yes.

03:21 (_____).