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Rwanda

# A look back at the genocide and the essential role of France

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**For the French authorities, things are very simple. The plane carrying the presidents of Burundi, Cyprien Ntaryamira, and Rwanda, Juvénal Habyarimana, was shot down on 6 April 1994 by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), representing the Tutsis, immediately triggering a widespread massacre of the latter by the Hutus. France, in an uprush of humanitarian concern, sent its valiant paratroopers in order to avoid a second genocide that the RPF would not fail to perpetrate in retaliation.**

PS:

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[1] Jean Carbonare, *le Nouvel Observateur*, 4 August 1994.

[2] April 2006 Human Rights Watch (HRW). "[The Rwandan Genocide: How It Was Prepared A Human Rights Watch Briefing Paper](#)".

[3] HRW Report 1995.