

49. Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen, 1-6 Mai 2003
Festivalkatalog

Re<local>ization
War. Local Traces

Itsembatsemba, Rwanda un génocide plus tard
Itsembatsemba, Rwanda one genocide later
France 1996
35 mm
13'
Regie: Eyal Sivan / Alexis Cordesse

The genocide in Rwanda (Itsembatsemba), a hundred days in the spring of 1994. Military and militia forces murder 700.000 Tutsis. Photographer Alexis Cordesse went to Rwanda two years after the event. The black-and-white movie consists of stills. The sound originates in the places depicted by the photographs: digging noises from the exhumation, playing children, religious chants, a nursery rhyme, in which 'coupable' (guilty) rhymes with 'cadavre' (dead body). And in between on the sound track one finds recordings from the radio broadcasting station RTLM, "the friendly radio", which has since 1991 with support from the government added its share to the discreditation of one community, the Tutsis who were declared the scapegoats. With "Christian" paroles the listeners were encouraged to extinguish them. The film was produced by "Médecins sans frontières" _an example of a successful NGO-Spot. The position of the chronicler and outsider is accompanied by a precise montage of fragmented images of the results of the genocide, which do not illustrate the hateful rhetoric of the radio station.