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Genocide Survivor Embraces Her Ordeal to Educate Others

July 26, 2010. **Fast Company** - DoSomething, headed by Fast Company columnist Nancy Lublin, has recognized five young social entrepreneurs with \$10,000 grants--and one with a prize of \$100,000. Cardozo student, Jacqueline Murakatete, is one of the five finalists. In 1994, the year Jacqueline Murekatete turned 9, her parents, her six siblings, nearly all her aunts, uncles, cousins, and extended family were murdered. All of them Tutsi, they died in the massive, mostly Hutu-perpetrated genocide that took some 1 million lives in a matter of weeks. "One day everything was normal and then we were being called cockroaches and snakes," she recalls, still with some disbelief. "The plan for extermination was set." Murekatete was one of the lucky ones. She lived. She was granted political asylum and came to the United States to stay with her uncle. You might have expected Murekatete to keep her horrific ordeal a secret, but when she was 16, Murekatete began to tell her story. "A lot of students had a sense of outrage and a determination to contribute towards the future of this country and the world," she says. "I suffered through things that no human being should have to experience and people need to know what happened." In 2007, she started Jacqueline's Human Rights Corner through Miracle Corners of the World, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to molding young people to become leaders of change. She knew that many Rwandan villages lacked places where citizens could come together and learn, so her idea for a community center was hatched. As a recent New York University political science graduate, Murekatete had high hopes for her community center. She helped raise nearly half of the \$200,000 needed for the center by 2008 but ran into some roadblocks. "I first had to find people that had a mission and starting my own nonprofit would have been so difficult with my schedule," she says. "There was also the challenge of getting funding during a recession, but I'm grateful that people have been so receptive."

For more about Jacqueline:

[Dosomething.org](#)

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