

For Immediate Release

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JACQUELINE MUREKATETE, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND RWANDA GENOCIDE SURVIVOR, SPEAKS AT MUSIKFEST

On Tuesday, August 7, from 12:30-2 PM at Dankeplatz during Musikfest, Jacqueline Murekatete, a 22 year old survivor of the 1994 Rwanda genocide, will share her story of Rwanda—past, present and hope for the future. Amid the international focus of Musikfest, Jacqueline's story will touch our hearts and show how our caring can make a difference to people on the other side of the world.

Ms. Murekatete is internationally recognized for her work as a youth leader and humanitarian, speaking out for victims and survivors of genocide as well as for those in need of protection in places like Darfur. Born in Rwanda in 1984, Jacqueline was not yet ten when she lost her immediate and extended family in the 1994 genocide.

Since then, her journey has taken her from an orphanage in Rwanda to a new home in the United States. In 2002, Jerry Seinfeld's Foundation offered her a full scholarship to attend New York University for four years. In May 2007, she graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. She is coming to Musikfest to share her story on the 7th and to attend the All Nations Peace Concert on Saturday, August 11. This peace concert is organized by local award-winning songwriter, Jackie Tice and will include Rwandan singer Jean Paul Samputu.

In the past five years, Jacqueline has conducted more than 300 presentations nationwide in schools, churches, and synagogues. Jacqueline has also spoken several times at the United Nations, beginning with the 2003 International Day of Peace event and at the General Assembly as the voice of the survivors for the Day of Reflection for Rwanda on the 10th anniversary of the genocide. Jacqueline challenges people around the world to remember, to fight indifference, and to coexist.

Jacqueline's story has been featured in the *New York Times*, the U.N Chronicle, the *Washington Times*, *Newsday*, *People*, *Glamour*, *Teen Vogue*, NPR, Voice of America, CNN, PBS, NBC, ABC, MTV-U, Polo Ralph Lauren GIVE campaign, and other leading media outlets worldwide.

For her work, Jacqueline has received a number of prestigious awards, including the Global Peace and Tolerance award from the Friends of the United Nations, the Scandinavian Sprit award from the American Jewish Committee, a humanitarian award from the Anti-Defamation League; and most recently an honorary award from New York University at the 175th commencement ceremony.

Jacqueline has volunteered with the non-profit organization Miracle Corners of the World (MCW) since 2003 when she participated in MCW's youth leadership retreat. In April 2007, she founded *Jacqueline's Human Rights Corner*, which aims to help genocide survivors and victims rebuild their lives.

