



Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal

Official Transcript: Linda Bianchi (Highlight)



Role:	Appeals Counsel
Country of Origin:	Canada
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Location:	Arusha, Tanzania
Interviewer:	Lisa P. Nathan
Videographer:	Max Andrews
Interpreter:	None

In this highlight, Linda Bianchi speaks on...
the need for skilled prosecutors in securing rape
convictions

The transcript of the highlight begins on the following page.

- 00:00 From the word go, it ha-, it, it needs very special training on the part of investigators and prosecutors to deal with victims of rape and sexual violence. What we've learned from the Rwandan context is that the topic is so taboo, that to elicit the evidence in the first place was very difficult.
- 00:22 And you know in those cases, what we found was in those cases where there were successful prosecutions, there was always a prosecutor involved who was completely dedicated to the cause, treated the victims in a certain way, you know, trying to elicit the evidence in a way that gave the victim a lot of support and encouragement, while not invading her privacy or you know, not being too bully-ish about it.
- 01:02 But, you know, there, we have found that there was a certain way, and, you know, there is a certain way that the victims needed to be approached and treated in order to be able for the witnesses to feel and the victims to feel open, and secure, and safe to share that kind of information. And that's true for I would say most rape and sexual violence wi-, crim-, victims no matter what the context.