

Forum: Security Council (SC)
Issue: The Situation in Burundi
Student Officer: Christopher Foteinelis
Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates of the Security Council,

My name is Christopher Foteinelis and I currently am an IB1 student at Pierce-The American College of Greece. In this year's PSMUN, I have the honor to serve as the Deputy President of the Security Council, something that I was always looking forward to obtaining and successfully executing. Having been an active member of the MUN community the past three years, I thoroughly understood the significance each conference makes to me and the importance of developing skills such as organization, time-management, collaboration etc.

Without further ado, it is certain that the Security Council is objectively one of the hardest committees an MUN conference may have. Its widely different approach towards lobbying and debating and its completely advanced topics and resolutions make this committee especially demanding but also a nice and challenging experience to develop one's skills further.

The Security Council, in general terms, is a United Nations primary Organ that includes five permanent members (P5-China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States) and ten other members which are elected in the UN General Assembly. Contrary to General Assembly resolutions, all Security Council resolutions are binding to the UNSC member states and focus on disputes (internal or external) and crises that are in need of a solution (such as the Situation in Burundi). The resolutions you are called to create may include operative words such as Demands, Condemns etc. that essentially and legally bind the states to follow the resolution signed.

The Situation in Burundi is an especially current but also demanding topic that talks about how the internal conflict in a certain country can affect neighboring countries (refugees) and how human rights' violations wholly affect the status of Burundi.

Being fully aware of the complexity of the issue and bearing in mind that this study guide should not be your only source for research, you may contact me at any time if you have any questions in regard to the topic as a whole.

Yours Truly,

Christopher Foteinelis (c.foteinelis@acg.edu)

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Burundi is a country situated in Southeastern Africa. It started off as a Kingdom before the European powers managed to reach it. It was initially colonized by German forces, then Belgium forces and lastly gained its independence in 1962. It is essentially a region that has been subject of exploitation from other countries for many centuries and thus it is undoubtedly an economically, politically and socially drained nation. It is in fact characterized as a less economically developed country (LEDC) that is currently under a unitary presidential republic government that is split into two houses: the Senate and the National Assembly, which came in the foreground amid the start of a plethora of demonstrations to eventually support the republic and maintain order.

In the Burundi region, there are two main races that both have had their chance to obtain governmental positions but are socially characterized as polar opposites: Tutsis and Hutus. These two races have taken on the ruling of the territory and their polarity is proven through the fact that each time one or the other race in the form of a political party are elected, a genocide occurs. The First & Second Burundian Genocide were characteristic examples of how divided the two populations were and how the hatred between two groups caused several national crises the last 60 to 70 years.

The aforementioned demonstrations were the primary reason of nationwide unrest during decades and especially in the 20th and 21st century. These tensions in conjunction with a civil war occurring among the two primary opponents of the nation evoked a major refugee wave. More than 400,000 individuals have fled the country in fear of getting arrested, assaulted or even killed thus creating one of the worst refugee crisis in the African continent. Most refugees flee to the neighboring countries which are Rwanda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The historical background of the nation along with the exploitation by other countries and the refugee wave that is severely hurting the infrastructure, working class and population as whole make Burundi economically drained and in need of political and most importantly democratic stability.



Figure 1¹: Map depicting the current geographical location of Burundi along with all neighboring countries

¹ "Bujumbura." Encyclopedia Britannica, www.britannica.com/place/Bujumbura.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Constitution²

Constitution is described as the set of political principles according to which a state is governed, with emphasis on the rights of the people it governs.

Constitutional Monarchy³

Constitutional Monarchy is a political system within which the monarch's power is especially limited since they act only on the advice and command of the politicians who form the government in the contextual state.

Genocide⁴

Genocide is described as the murder or usually the massacre of a whole group of people and especially of a group belonging in a particular nation or race.

Independence⁵

Independence is essentially the freedom a group or country acquires from being in a state of ruling by another country.

Mandate⁶

A mandate is best described as the authority granted to a specific group of people, the government or an intergovernmental organization to govern a certain country for a brief period of time.

Peacekeeping⁷

Peacekeeping is essentially a set of missions aiming towards preventing acts of violence and war especially through the use of armed forces that are not involved in the disagreement of preventing fighting in the contextual area.

Political Opposition⁸

Political opposition is defined as a group of people or political party in a multiparty political system that is opposed to or criticizes continuously the government or political party in power.

² "Constitution." Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/constitution

³ "Constitutional Monarchy." Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/constitutional-monarchy

⁴ "Genocide." Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/genocide?q=Genocide

⁵ "Independence." Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/independence?q=Independence

⁶ "Mandate." Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/mandate?q=Mandate

⁷ "Peacekeeping." Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/peacekeeping?q=Peacekeeping

⁸ "What is Political Opposition." IGI Global: International Academic Publisher, www.igi-global.com/dictionary/the-pragmatics-of-political-deception-on-facebook/54116.

Reconciliation⁹

In politics, reconciliation means a situation in which two governments or groups that have opposite beliefs, ideas or ideologies reach a consensus and thus mediate their conflict.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Africa Partition Plan (1885-1914)

Before the region of Burundi, which is situated in Eastern Africa, ever came in the foreground, the African continent was a vast region rich of resources and minerals that Major Economic Powers of the 19th and 20th century could exploit. Amid the pretext of World War I, Germany, as one of the Central Powers and a more economically developed state, orchestrated what it is known as the Berlin Conference that lasted from 16th November 1884 to 26th February 1885. The purpose of this conference was to discuss one of the main issues that was bothering the European countries back then: how the partition of the African territory will occur and which country gets to keep which part of land. It can, thus, be characterized as a conference whose main goal was to regulate the colonization and economic regions Africa held from all countries that were financially able to exploit them.

The primary outcome of the conference was the “Africa Partition Plan” that separated the territories, although unevenly, to the major powers that participated in the conference (Great Britain, France, Germany, Portugal, Italy, Belgium, Spain). The German Empire along with the constitution of the German colonial empire managed

to obtain the land around the Great Lakes of Africa where Burundi is currently situated, the Angola region as well as the territory of Cameroon. The Great Lakes’ land Germany occupied was, thus, named “German East Africa” or GEA.

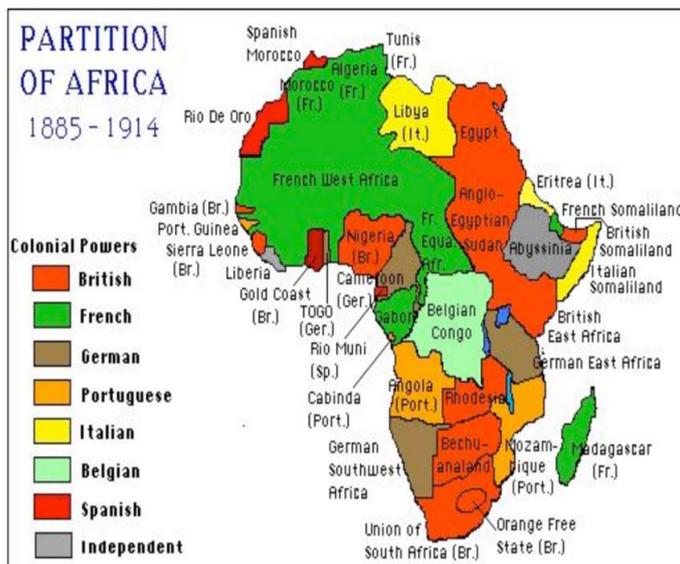


Figure 1¹⁰: Map depicting the division of African territories according to the Africa Partition Plan (1885)

⁹ "Reconciliation." Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/reconciliation.

¹⁰ "Partition of Africa (1885-1914)." Social Studies Lesson Plans, World History LessonPlans, US History Powerpoint Presentations: MultiMediaLearning, multimedialearning.org/FreeDownloads/2010/AfricaPartitionMap.pdf.

East African Campaign (1914-1922)

Once World War I started in July of 1914, Europe was split into two main belligerents: the Central Powers comprising of the German Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire & the Ottoman Empire and the Allied Powers which were the Third French Republic, the British Empire and the Russian Empire. As soon as the war was evoked, the African colonies that belonged to the Allies and were geographically near the German East Africa planned a plethora of battles and attacks toward the colony.

More analytically, the belligerents of the East African campaign (the colonial battles of the Allies against the Central Powers) were the British Colonies of the area (British East Africa and Egypt), the Belgian Colony of Congo and the Portuguese Colony of Mozambique. On the opposite side of the conflict, the German East Africa wanted to sustain its territory while the war was still occurring.

After the war ended in 1918 and with the Central Powers as the defeated, the East African Campaign also concluded with the complete invasion of the Allies in order to eventually partition the GEA. The Germans solidified their surrender from the territory via the Treaty of Versailles that was signed on 28th June 1919 in the Palace of Versailles. Therefore, the GEA was separated into two League of Nations Mandates: the Tanganyika Territory which was passed on to Britain and the Ruanda-Urundi Territory that was passed on to Belgium. The geographical position of Burundi as we know it today was part of the Ruanda-Urundi land.

The aforementioned mandates were furthermore made official with the formal statement of the League of Nations issued on 20th July 1922 that essentially approved

of the League of Nations' supervision on the territories that belonged in a transitional stage from being colonized to becoming independent.

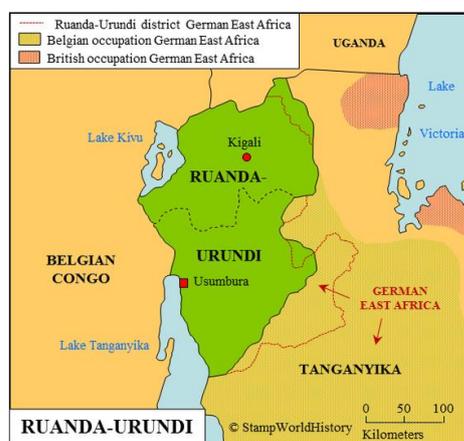


Figure 2¹¹: Map depicting the occupation of the German East Africa by Belgian forces in Ruanda-Urundi (1922)

Status in World War II (1922-1946)

Amid the solidification of the League of Nations mandate in the Ruanda-Urundi state in 1922, the administration of the territory was passed on to the government of Belgium on 1st March 1926. Belgium militarily occupied the region and focused the work of the colony on crops, acquisition of resources and farming as it was a fruitful and resourceful region. Failed crops during certain time periods created four primary

¹¹ "East Africa." Away from the Western Front, 11 Dec. 2021, awayfromthewesternfront.org/campaigns/africa/east-africa/.

famines that essentially ravaged the population and also failed to meet the economic expectations of Belgium.

After World War II ended, the League of Nations, being unable to maintain peace and prevent this war from occurring, was disbanded. This led to the creation of the United Nations as we know it today and the formation of the Trusteeship Council: one of the main UN organs at the time. The Trusteeship Council assigned to it a Trust Territory title in December 1946 that essentially started preparing the country for independence. A prerequisite for such action to occur was the political reform of the authoritative power which was again Belgium as appointed by the Trusteeship Council.

Independence of Kingdom of Burundi (1946-1965)

During the Belgian administrative authority in the Burundi region (Ruanda-Urundi), the Belgian government supported the Ganwa dynasty which was a dynasty that traditionally ruled Burundi since before its first occupation by German forces in the 19th century. Wanting to maintain order in the territory, Belgium financially supported the rulers especially after World War II, once the Trust Territory title was appointed. The King that ruled Burundi after World War II and until its independence was Mwami Mwambutsa IV.

Mwami made several requests towards the supervisors of Burundi which were the Belgian authorities at the time in order for the country to politically reform and thus, gain its independence. Wanting to end this colonial rule which was bothering the population since 1922, Mwami declared the country as independent on 1st July 1962 and was, therefore, renamed “Kingdom of Burundi”. The Belgian rulers had, hence, no political power in the region and the UN involvement in the country’s independence stopped.

This is when the two primary antagonists of the conflict appear: Burundi was always a country occupied by two races which were the Tutsis and the Hutus. Tutsis held more leadership positions, political and economic power and public influence as the Ganwa dynasty was Tutsi-dominated. On the other side, the Hutus were always a population that suffered severe discrimination and tended to revolt against contextual rulers (with no success).

Mwami, as a Tutsi himself, in an attempt to calibrate the internal tensions between the two races and as the monarch of Burundi, appointed a Hutu prime minister who was named Pierre Ngendandumwe to take over the miscellaneous matters of the government. This attempt by Mwami proved a hoax since the prime minister was assassinated on 15th January 1965 by a Tutsi.

Declaration of Republic of Burundi (1965-1966)

After the assassination of Pierre, the Burundi civilians demanded parliamentary elections in order to elect and not appoint a prime minister and members of the Burundian parliament. Hence, the 1965 Parliamentary Elections in Burundi took place on 10th May and eventually, the results of the elections seemed to especially favor the

Hutu-controlled political party granting it the majority of seats in the National Assembly. However, this did not stop Mwami to disregard the elections completely and abuse his powers to appoint Michel Micombero (Tutsi) as the prime minister of Burundi. This, undoubtedly, increased internal tensions between the two populations since the Hutus, as a revolutionary race, deemed it unjust, abusing and discriminating.

One of the immediate reactions of Hutus and especially the Hutu army officers was to plan a coup d'état in October of 1965. Amid this announcement, Mwami fled the country to Congo and was replaced by his son Prince Ntare V. The plan eventually failed and the relations between the two races reached a climax.

Michel Micombero, who was the Prime Minister at the time, carried another coup d'état on 8th July, 1966 which deemed successful in abolishing the constitutional monarchy of Burundi and declaring the country as a republic. His rule was characterized as a military dictatorship and the political ideology Michel exercised was African socialism.

First Burundian Genocide (1972)

The tensions that had escalated to a maximum point between Hutus and Tutsis in conjunction with the revolt that governed the Hutu mindset led to one of the worst crisis the country had ever encountered: the First Burundian Genocide of 1972.

It is a fact that the revolutionary attempts against the new government of Burundi were mostly led by educated and financially developed Hutu individuals that were knowledgeable enough to plan ahead a potential overthrow of both rules of the nations. These people were the primary targets of the Tutsi army and government because without them, the revolutionary spirit of the Hutus would, undoubtedly, cease to exist. In the end, however, this attempt by the government did not go according to the labelled goal.

The First Burundian Genocide occurred from April to August of 1972. It was essentially a massacre led by Tutsis against Hutus that lived within Burundi and eventually eliminated most of the threat the government thought it had. More than 100,000 individuals from both sides were killed. The Tutsi army under the command of Michel Micombero removed all Hutu politicians and officers from their ranks in an attempt to overall ensure that the dictatorship would remain unchanged by the Hutus revolutionary tendencies.

Second Burundian Genocide (1993)

After two decade-long tensions between Hutus and Tutsis and after the first Burundian Genocide, the elections of 1993 (June 1993) turned out in favor of the Hutu Party FRODEBU that supported the further development of the nation regardless of the internal tensions between the two populations. The new prime minister was Melchior Ndadaye (Hutus) and, thus, a completely new government was formed under his rule. Ethnic polarization also reached a climax seeing as the ruling of the nation was changing favoring one party over the other in certain times.

Prime Minister Ndadaye was eventually assassinated on 21st October 1993 during a failed coup attempt orchestrated by the Tutsis. The young division of the FRODEBU party having already been severely influenced by Ndadaye, armed themselves and started taking Tutsis hostage. Even from the following day, the number of Hutus attacking and killing Tutsis within the whole nation skyrocketed leading to an immediate rise-up of intensive violence and fatal incidents.

The plentiful crimes committed during 1993 signified the Second Burundian Genocide this time led by the Hutu-controlled government against the political minority who were the Tutsis. More than 200,000 individuals were killed by the Hutu forces which eventually proved that the incidents within the Burundi territory were, indeed, massacres.

Burundi Civil War (1993-2006)

Upon the execution of the second Burundian genocide of 1993, it was certain that the assassination of Prime Minister Ndadaye who had adopted a pro-Hutu behavior when it came to national affairs, the economy and the community as a whole was the pretext of what came to be the Burundi Civil War. After approximately a century of crimes, violence and tension, the Burundi Civil War was declared in order to eventually eliminate one or the other opponent. The belligerents of the conflict were the Hutus government and Tutsi militants that openly and severely opposed its oppression.

The Burundi Civil War is seen as also one of the deadliest internal conflicts the African Continent has experienced since the death toll was estimated to be more than 300,000 casualties.

After numerous crimes and acts of violence were demonstrated during the decade between 1993 and 2005, the immediate result of this conflict were the Arusha Accords (signed on 28th August 2000) which were formally named Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreements between the Tutsis and the Hutus. These agreements were part of Nelson Mandela's plan to restore peace within the African continent and these agreements managed to ease the situation and limit the conflict as much as possible. The Arusha Accords were essentially a transitional peace agreement that did, in fact, mediate the situation and removed notable rebel groups from the war but it was not until another incident that the war was deemed over:

In 2005 and after many elected presidents of Burundi controlled the army and the nation as a whole, the peace process reached a peak where there was a granted constitution on 15th May 2005. After numerous attempts to hold a nationwide election, the request was passed and thus, a referendum to the creation of a constitution was initiated marking the first time Burundi civilians voted since 1994. A couple months later (July 2005), one more set of elections occurred that had to do with electing the Burundi parliament. Once the results were out, Pierre Nkurunziza (Hutu) was elected as the new president of Burundi, granting the proposed constitution and initiating a ceasefire between the Tutsi Army and the Hutus Rebels

who comprised the rebel group National Liberation Forces (FNL). The ceasefire occurred on 15th April 2006 and it signified the ultimate end of the Burundi Civil War.

Burundian unrest (2006-2016)

From 2006 until approximately 2015, the Burundian community seemed especially influenced by western civilization. In an attempt to modernize society, Nkurunziza took on the initiatives to promote infrastructure development, social stability and taking on projects that were severely costly like bridge and road creation as well as entirely and economically reconstructing the country.

Due to this alleged exploitation of the state economy, there were, undoubtedly, a multitude of reactions by student protesters, political opposition members as well as the other members of the ceasefire of 2006 which were members of the National Liberation Front (FLN), none of which had an essential impact on how the government functioned and the ideology Nkurunziza executed.

Some notable events that occurred from 2006 until 2015 that steadily increased the tensions in Burundi were the following: from late 2007 to early 2008, the National Liberation Front attacked fortified government camps in Burundi as a means of opposing the President's plans, clashed the capital in opposition to the parliament, used child soldiers to rebel against the military and thus, resulting in high rates of violence in areas of Burundi.

In 2008, the FLN bombed the capital for a second time while the Burundian governmental army fought back killing a severe number of FLN soldiers. On 26th May 2008, new ceasefire between Nkurunziza and FLN leader was introduced which was proved to be a superficial attempt since it did not have an impact on the relations and tensions between the two opponents. Regardless of this political and social stability in 2008, many refugees that left the territory during the Civil War returned but there was no infrastructure, jobs, houses and no tangible property to reconstruct Burundi in order to support the individuals that returned.

Disregarding the above, Nkurunziza had already been elected twice to the presidential position of Burundi but it was not until the parliament proposal to allow him to run for a third term that sparked nationwide unrest also known as Burundian Unrest of 2015-2018. All of the aforementioned issues between the two parties in conjunction with this proposal led to immense protests, demonstrations and eventually the government crackdown.

The civil conflict was split among two belligerents: the Burundian government led by Nkurunziza and the National Liberation Front which comprised the Burundian opposition to the government. The first event that occurred under the umbrella of the unrest was an attempted coup orchestrated on 13th May 2015 by the FLN while Nkurunziza was absent from the country while on a trip to an emergency meeting in regard to the internal disputes. The coup eventually failed due to inability from the opposition to handle the determination the Burundi governmental military had against the rebels. Once the President returned to the capital of Burundi, he removed

three ministers from his cabinet that were not able to withstand the coup (national defense, trade and foreign affairs). Apart from them, almost 500 protesters were arrested from the government.

Regardless of the demonstrations occurring in the Burundi territory, the national elections occurred having Nkurunziza as a candidate along with the leader of the FLN. On 21st July 2015, the elections resulted in favor of President Nkurunziza once again and he ran for an additional term. Tensions between the two parties continued being especially high for the years to come.

Refugee Crisis – Current Status of Burundi (2016-now)

At this point, it is crucial to mention the refugee crisis that occurred in and around Burundi since the pretext of the Civil War until now. Amid the declaration of the Burundi Civil War between the Hutus and Tutsis, the first wave of refugees began leaving the nation and fleeing towards neighboring countries such as Tanzania, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The estimated number of the refugees during the period 1995-2005 was more than 112,000.

The second refugee wave leaving the country occurred during the start of the Burundian unrest in 2015. Upon the exploitation of Burundian resources by the government and the initial crackdown of the state's economy, gradually more people migrated to adjacent nations due to economic reasons or due to hardship in keeping up with the constant protesting and violent demonstrating governing the country. Until February 2008, the high commissioner office of the UN reported more than 420,000 refugees fleeing Burundi to the mentioned countries.

These two major waves undoubtedly caused a severe enhancing of demands in the neighboring countries such as infrastructure and funding to maintain the well-being of the refugees. Keeping in mind that neither Tanzania nor DRC nor Rwanda are financially able to sustain individuals that have fled Burundi, these waves formed what is now known as the biggest refugee crisis the African continent has ever faced.

On a general note, during the conclusion of the Burundian unrest, there was a constitutional referendum in May 2018 which moved forward the idea of Nkurunziza ruling until 2034 but he eventually declared that he would stop serving in 2020. Thus, on 20th May 2020, Evariste Ndayishimiye became the newly elected president of Burundi when Nkurunziza stepped down from the position. The newly formed government would be composed of a National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) majority which was Evariste's political party.

With the new government rising which was focused on Hutu nationalism and economically right tendencies, the tensions between the Hutus and Tutsis still existed but were not as evident as before the rising of CNDD-FDD.

In regard to the situation in Burundi from 2020 to 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council mission which was sent there during late 2020 reported a multitude of

human rights violations and extreme violence from the government and its respective administrative bodies against civilians. This continuous and alleged abuse of power by the current government also affected other sectors of the community such as the freedom press held, the elective & security system of Burundi and the economic sector of the nation.

Last but not least, Burundi is currently characterized as one of the poorest countries in the world as already mentioned. It handled the COVID-19 pandemic inadequately due to a lacking health and economic foundation. All of the aforementioned in conjunction with the ongoing refugee crisis clarify that the situation in Burundi is of vital importance since the global community must suffice to limit the internal disputes, solve the refugee crisis and lastly, ensure stability, reliability and transparency of the Burundi government under whichever ethnic group has been elected to it.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Burundi

The Republic of Burundi is essentially the protagonist in the story. Since its independence from the Belgian rule, Burundi has had many governments and many rulers that each practised their own set of ideologies and focused on entirely different sectors of society. All of them had one thing in common which was discrimination against the opposite ethnic group. For example, the two pillars of Burundian history were the two genocides that occurred within its region. The two genocides were, as mentioned, immediate outcomes of the hatred each race had against the other. The interchanging governments of Burundi since its independence until now, therefore, play a major role on the escalating conflict between the opposite groups and, hence, comprise the main reason why the refugee crisis occurred and why the country faces all its internal disputes.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a country geographically adjacent to Burundi that plays one major role in the situation there: the DRC acts as the coordinator of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries which is a community comprised of all countries that belong in the African Great Lake region. One of those countries is, since 2007, Burundi since it evidently belongs in the mentioned economic region and its membership's purpose is to ensure economic flourishing or at least economic stability. Even though the Burundian economy does not notice any stability, the DRC has always supported Burundi both economically and socially.

South Africa

The country of South Africa, although a neutral country to the issue, was the one that initiated the Arusha Peace & Reconciliation Agreements between the two sides of the Civil War and as mentioned, was the manager of the task force after the AMIB

replacement. This supervision wanted to ensure peace within the country and thus played an important role on the mediation goal for the community.

Tanzania

The country of Tanzania also took on an assisting role when it came to the stability of Burundi. Initially, the Tanzanian government played a key role in helping Pierre Nkurunziza be elected amid the deescalation of tensions in the early 2000s. Tanzania also meticulously received refugees after 2008 and during the Burundian unrest, hence severely assisting in the situation. It is crucial to further mention that the Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere initiated the Arusha Peace agreements before South Africa took over the entire process.

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

The International Rescue Committee is a committee that, along with other issues it focuses on, also focuses on the humanitarian and social crisis in Burundi, with the primary focus being rehabilitating refugees and protecting them from violence and abuse especially from military forces. The committee also provides education, health aid and safety to all the Burundian refugees that have fled the country towards all neighboring ones. Their ultimate goal is to ensure a better future for all the individuals that have suffered in the crisis within Burundi and to eventually solve the refugee crisis Africa is currently facing.

HelpAge International (HAI)

HelpAge International (HAI) is a non-governmental organization that also focuses on humanitarian relief in the region but is comparatively more direct than any other organization's attempt to solve the issue. Having headquartered in Tanzania, the NGO has already supported more than 10,000 refugees that have fled Burundi to Tanzania through either economic relief or raising awareness to the local populations for potential donations. Its goal is to also eliminate the refugee crisis in Burundi while also ensuring the well-being of all refugees in Tanzania.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date of Event	Description of event
16 th November 1884 – 26 th February 1885	Berlin Conference occurred where the Africa Partition Plan was signed among eight European countries.
28 th June 1919	Treaty of Versailles was signed in the Palace of Versailles solidifying the German surrender of Burundi and the Belgian takeover.
20 th July 1922	League of Nations characterized the region of Burundi as a Belgian Mandate.
1 st March 1926	Administration of the mandate was passed on to the Belgian Government.
December 1946	The UN Trusteeship Council assigned to Burundi the Trust Territory title.
1 st July 1962	Mwami Mwambutsa IV declares the country as independent and renames it to “Kingdom of Burundi”.
15 th January 1965	Assassination of Pierre Ngendandumwe (Prime Minister) by a member of the Tutsi party
10 th May 1965	The 1965 Parliamentary Elections took place favoring the Hutu party.
October 1965	The 1965 failed coup took place to overthrow the unlawfully appointed Tutsi prime minister.
8 th July 1966	Michel Micombero (appointed Tutsi prime minister) carries the 1966 coup abolishing the monarchy and declaring Burundi a Republic.
April-August 1972	The First Burundian Genocide took place led by Tutsis against Hutus.
June 1993	The 1993 Parliamentary Elections took place favoring the Hutu party (new prime minister Melchior Ndadaye).
21 st October 1993	Prime Minister Ndadaye assassinated following a failed coup.
21 st October 1993 – 15 th April 2006	Burundi Civil War
28 th August 2000	Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreements were signed.

2003	The African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB) was put into action.
21 st May 2004	The United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) was put into action.
15 th May 2005	The 2005 elections occurred in which a referendum to establish a constitution was passed.
July 2005	The 2005 Parliamentary Elections took place favoring the Hutu party (new President Pierre Nkurunziza).
15 th April 2006	Ceasefire between Tutsi Army and Hutu Rebels occurred.
25 th October 2006	The United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) is put into action.
2006-2016	Nationwide Burundian unrest
26 th May 2008	A failed ceasefire was introduced between FLN and the government.
December 2010	The United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) is established in Burundi.
1 st January 2015	The United Nations Development Assistance Framework takes over the UN attempt to mediate the situation.
April 2015 -	The United Nations Human Rights Council sends month reports of the Situation in Burundi.
13 th May 2015	A failed coup against the government occurred where the FLN wanted to take over the capital.
21 st July 2015	The 2015 Parliamentary Elections took place favoring President Nkurunziza once again.
May 2018	Referendum to extend Presidential term was introduced but failed.
20 th May 2020	The 2020 Parliamentary Elections took place where Evariste Ndayishimiye was elected president.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

There have been multiple attempts to mediate the situation in Burundi, especially by the African Union and the United Nations with its peacekeeping attempts:

African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB)

Initially, the African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB) was mission orchestrated by the African Union that started after the Arusha Agreements (2003) as an international peacekeeping force of the region amid the gradual mediation of the Civil War. This mission was, later on, passed to South Africa's supervision and was, thus, renamed African Union Special Task Force (AU STF). The mission is still active in the region providing the union with monthly reports of the situation between the government and the civilians.

United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB)

After the initiation of the AMIB, the United Nations intervened in the situation as well with the UN Operation in Burundi (ONUB) that was created under the UN Security Council Resolution 1545¹². The mission was put into action on 21st May 2004 and its aim was the disarmament of forces in the Burundi region and the protection of the well-being of all citizens affected by the Burundi Civil War. The ONUB did, in fact, play a major role in stabilizing the peace agreement until the end of the civil war. However, the mission was discontinued on 1st January 2007 and was, thus, deemed ineffective.

United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB)

Once the ONUB was discontinued, the UN solidified their intervention in the region by creating the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) under the UN Security Council Resolution 1719¹³, put into action on 25th October 2006 and right after the mandate of ONUB ended. Its primary aim was to prevent another war from occurring, to ensure political stability after a newly granted constitution, to support the freedom of press, and to make sure of the accordance of the ceasefire that occurred in 2006. Both the mission and the office were discontinued on 1st January 2011 and, thus, were deemed ineffective.

United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB)

One subsequent action orchestrated again by the United Nations was the implementation of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB), created under the UNSC Resolution 1959¹⁴ signed in December 2010 and put into action after the mandate of BINUB ended. Its aim was once again to ensure peace and stability after the 2008 ceasefire and to protect the potential human right violations in the Burundi territory primarily by power-abusing officials. The end of the mission was on 1st

¹² "S/RES/1545 : UN Documents : Security Council Report." December 2021 Monthly Forecast : Security Council Report, 21 May 2004, www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/burundisres1545.php.

¹³ "Security Council Resolution 1719." UNSCR - Search Engine for the UN Security Council Resolutions, unscr.com/en/resolutions/1719.

¹⁴ "Security Council Resolution 1959." UNSCR - Search Engine for the UN Security Council Resolutions, unscr.com/en/resolutions/1959.

January 2015, when the UN Development Assistance Framework took on all the disputes in the African continent. Since no essential change occurred, this attempt was proved to be ineffective.

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Action

One more involvement of the United Nations in the dispute was through one of its organs, the UNHRC. The United Nations Human Rights Council, through the Resolution 33/24¹⁵ (Commission of Inquiry on Burundi), started investigating human rights violations in Burundi from April 2015 onwards in order to condemn all perpetrators and to eventually limit their rate of occurrence. Some violations that were reported by the body were unlawful executions, torture, degrading, arbitrary arrests, rape and other crimes that had to do with the abuse of power by officials or the especially violent nature of protests. This UN action was and still is deemed as one of the most effective ones, since it meticulously reports the crimes that occur in the Burundi region.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Burundi (TRC)

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Burundi was essentially a committee established within the Burundi nation by the Burundi government amid the Arusha Agreements were signed. It was formally put into action when President Nkurunziza got elected for the first time and its initial run was for four years that was later on extended to eight years. The panel put in practice a plan to find and embalm burial sites, identify victims and offenders where it was feasible, and lastly exhume them with proper funerals, so as to ensure their human dignity. The TRC is responsible for the identification of over 150,000 victims and has proved helpful in the documentation of the situation since 1962.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Taking into consideration all of the above facts and figures, it is safe to say that the situation in Burundi is not only internally but also externally influencing the African community. The only solutions that can be proposed have to be based on two main pillars: maintenance of peace through promotion of constitutional changes and global financial and educational assistance.

Peacekeeping Forces Involvement

The first primary pillar that can be characterized as a possible solution to the issue is the maintenance of peace on a nationwide scale. It is already a fact that the United Nations have sent a multitude of missions in order to eventually tackle the constantly increasing tensions in the region but not all of which have had any concrete impact on the situation there. Even though these missions could be characterized as peacekeeping missions, there has not been enough involvement in the matter so that the UN can have an influence on what the government decides and how it acts

¹⁵ "Human Rights Documents." ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/33/24.

countering demonstrations and protests that are oscillating during certain periods. By promoting even more peacekeeping forces that are more upright, demanding and legally benefited, both the government and the civilians may be able to stabilize their relationship in an attempt to maintain peace, as it was the primary goal of the forces in the first place.

Constitutional Changes

As Burundi is a member state of the United Nations and abides by all rules laid out by the UN, it also experiences influence by the UN Security Council. Keeping in mind that the Security Council resolutions are indeed legally binding for all member states, another suggestion on how to ensure peace is through altering the constitution into a more straight-forward set of principles. The misinterpreting of the constitution was the primary reason why protesting and demonstrating escalated into violence and why the government abused its power to condemn civilians. By proposing and, hence, forwarding constitutional changes, valid legal frameworks and laws that are in accordance with international customary law, the constitution of Burundi can be altered into a more exact sum of rules that could perhaps place the law above both the government and the demonstrators.

Global Financial & Election Assistance

On the second pillar of possible solutions, financial support provided by countries on a global level towards a less economically developed country seems like a reasonable suggestion when it comes to the situation in Burundi. Keeping in mind that the funds will be obtained by the government and, thus, one of the main parties of the ongoing conflict, strict monitoring has to be endorsed so that the government will not potentially misuse the funds to its favor. The monitoring body may also have another branch of use which is to monitor and, thus, supervise all electoral procedures so as to prevent potential governmental fraud, boycotting of results or even faking the results of an election to its favor. By establishing this monitoring body, any economic and electoral mistakes can be monitored and in case of a possibility arising, even corrected.

Global Educational Assistance

One additional measure that can be seen as a potential solution to the internal conflict is education. Bearing in mind the economic hardships the nation has faced the past centuries, one additional sector that has faced tremendous drawbacks is the educational sector. Burundian citizens may be able through the process of education to have conscience of what is happening around them, why are certain things occurring and what has already happened in the Burundi territory. If the global community jointly promotes the education of the Burundi population regardless of ethnic group, then the future of the country can be in the hands of educated and knowledgeable individuals rather than severely influenced demonstrators that are currently the opposite side of the conflict. Undoubtedly, education is indeed a weapon to prevent the conflict from evoking again and through global assistance, this solution is more than feasible.

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