JoMUN XVI

**Forum:** Historic Security Council

**Issue:** The Rwandan Genocide - 1994

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**Position:** President

# INTRODUCTION

Following years of unrest and violent rioting, intense conflict broke out in Rwanda between its two major ethnic groups: the Hutu majority, and the Tutsi minority. Over the course of 100 days, from April to July 1994, the Hutus murdered up to 800,000 people, most of which were Tutsis. Initiated by extreme Hutu nationalists, the genocide, targeting Tutsis as well as any political opponents of the Hutus, spread across Rwanda with such magnitude that even ordinary citizens took up arms against one another. In July, when the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front took over the capital, gaining control over the country, hundreds of thousands of Rwandans had already died or been displaced. The RPF victory, in turn, caused the Hutus to flee, resulting in around 2 million Rwandan Hutu refugees.

# PROCEDURES OF THE HISTORIC SECURITY COUNCIL FOR THIS ISSUE

For this issue, the Historical Security Council will simulate the real Security Council in 1994.

Each delegate will either get one of the 15 Security Council countries or one of 2 organizations relevant to the issue and it will be their responsibility to act with their country’s/organization’s beliefs and stances. Please keep in mind that the country/organization the delegate receives for this issue will be different than the one for the Congress of Vienna issue.

The debate will be set on April 6, 1994, directly after the apparent assassination of President Habyarimana. The main goal of each delegate’s resolution will be to prevent the outbreak of violence within Rwanda.

# DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

**Tutsi**

An ethnic group making up roughly 14% of Rwanda’s population in 1994. In the past, Tutsis had generally held a higher social standing than their Hutu counterparts.

**Hutu**

An ethnic group making up roughly 85% of Rwanda’s population in 1994.

**Genocide**

The systematic murder of a group of people, usually of a certain country or ethnicity.

**Moderate**

A person or group without any extreme political viewpoints.

**RPF**

The Rwandan Patriotic Front, a rebel group founded by the Tutsi exiles in Uganda as a political and military movement aiming to overthrow President Habyarimana, gaining the freedom for exiled Rwandans to return to their nation, and reforming the Rwandan government. Although the majority of its members were Tutsi refugees, it had some Hutu members as well.

# BACKGROUND ON THE ISSUE AND TIMELINE OF EVENTS

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| **1993** | 18 American soldiers are killed in a failed Somalia mission. |
| **11th January 1994** | Major General Romeo Dallaire, the UN commander of forces within Rwanda, sends an urgent fax to the UN’s New York headquarters, with a warning of the imminent outbreak of violence and the possibility of a genocide in Rwanda. Despite this knowledge, the UN forces were ordered not to intervene. |
| **6th April 1994** | The Hutu President of Rwanda, Juvenal Habyarimana, dies when his plane crashes after being shot at. The Hutu extremists, assuming the RPF organized this, begins the intense violence. However, some say the murder of the President was organized by Hutus to use as a pretext to begin the genocide. |
| **7th April 1994** | - The Rwandan armed forces begin to attack and murder Tutsis and moderate Hutus.  -The RPF fights back against the Rwandan militia  -The Rwandan Prime Minister, Agathe Uwilingiyimana is murdered by government soldiers, along with the 10 peacekeepers from Belgium who had been assigned to protect her. |
| **April-July 1994** | Within 100 days, around 800,00 Tutsis and moderate Hutus are murdered. |
| **21st April 1994** | Belgium and other countries with forces in Uganda ask to withdraw their troops on account of the murders of their peacekeepers. The UNAMIR force is reduced from an initial 2,165 to 270 (UN). |
| **17th May 1994** | UN Security Council acknowledges the ongoing genocide, but does not send aid to Rwanda. |
| **22nd June** | The Security Council authorizes Operation Turquoise, a French-led humanitarian mission to assist Rwanda. Although it saved many civilian lives in South West Rwanda, the French also allowed some organizers of the genocide to escape due to previous ties with them.  The systematic killing of Tutsis continues in other areas. |
| **4th July 1994** | The killings stop as Tutsi-led rebel movement RPF takes military control over the capital. |
| **July 1994** | Roughly 2 million Hutus escape to Zaire to escape possible revenge attacks from the Tutsis. |

# KEY COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

**Tutsis**

The Tutsis had long enjoyed better jobs and educational opportunities than the Hutus ever since the Belgian colonizers considered them superior.

**Hutus**

The Hutus resented the Tutsis for their higher social standing. The Hutus made up the Rwandan government after Rwanda’s independence from Belgium. Many extremists believed that the Tutsis had to be eliminated altogether in order for the Hutus to keep their position of power.

**RPF**

After the outbreak of the genocide, the RPF took the opportunity to resume fighting for control over Rwanda, creating a civil war on top of the ongoing genocide. By July, most of Rwanda, including the capital Kigali, was under the control of the RPF. The RPF victory resulted in around 2 million Hutus fleeing to Zaire and other neighbouring countries for fear of vengeance.

**Interahamwe**

The governing party of 1994, NRMD, had a youth wing called Interahamwe. Encouraged by propaganda broadcasted through the radio, they became an unofficial militia group, murdering many.

**UN**

The United Nation became actively involved in Rwanda from 1993, when Rwanda requested peacekeepers along its Ugandan border to prevent any aggression or military action by the RPF in Uganda. In response, the UN established the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR). In October 1993, the Security Council established the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) to aid with the governmental transition under the Arusha accord. However, in April 1994, the UN withdrew most of UNAMIR from Rwanda due to a Security Council vote.

Despite the possibility of a genocide being raised with the Security Council by the UN human rights investigator for Rwanda in 1993, the UN failed to provide substantial aid to Rwandans. This was partly because the Member States, especially the US, were unwilling to respond. The initial troops, vastly comprised of personnel from Belgium and Bangladesh, withdrew after 10 soldiers were killed. After this, the Rwandans were largely left alone to face the crisis.

By May 1994, when the genocide had gained international relevance, the Security Council decided to supply a force of 5,000 or more troops. However, this plan was put into action at too late a stage, and the genocide was long over by the time these troops were put together.

**America**

After losing 18 soldiers in Somalia the previous year, the US was strongly against any further involvement in Africa. It used its influence in the UN to advocate against sending aid to Rwanda. Before the genocide, the US had been supplying weapons to the RPF in Uganda, refusing to issue sanctions.

**France**

Allies of the Hutu government, the French carried out a UN approved intervention, Operation Turquoise, in June. Their intervention was confined to a “humanitarian zone” in the southwestern parts of Rwanda. Although they were successful in saving many lives, they also allegedly helped some of the organizers of the genocide, presumably former allies, to escape.

**Zaire (DR Congo)**

As soon as the RPF secured victory over Kigali, around two million Hutus fled to Zaire. Later on, this leads to further conflict in the area, with up to five million deaths.

# HUTU AND TUTSI HISTORY

About 85% of the population of Rwanda is comprised of Hutus, but despite being a minority, the Tutsis had held more power in the past. When the Belgian colonizers arrived in Rwanda in 1916, the decided that the Tutsis were superior to the Hutus. This translated into the Tutsis having a higher standard of living in general, with better education and jobs. This inequality caused the Hutus to resent the Tutsis, which ended up causing a series of riots in 1959 with more than 20,000 fatalities, as well as many displaced Tutsis.

In 1959, the Hutus gained political control over the nation by overthrowing the previous Tutsi monarchy. As a result, tens of thousands of Tutsis fled the nation, seeking refuge in the neighbouring countries. This is how the RPF came to form in Uganda. When Rwanda gained independence from Belgium in 1962, the Hutus seized power.

Violence based on ethnicity continued in Rwanda even after its independence. Additionally, Tutsi refugees from the neighbouring countries staged attacks on the Rwandan government in an attempt to return to their previous position in the country. Between 1962 and 1967, ten such attacks took place. Each resulted in the Hutu government killing innocent Tutsis in Rwanda to retaliate. By the late 1980s, there were roughly 480,000 displaced Rwandans in neighbouring countries.

In 1973, Major General Juvenal Habyarimana, a moderate Hutu, gained power over the nation. He founded the National Revolutionary Movement for Development (NRMD) party. Fighting broke out once again in 1990, when the RPF invaded Rwanda. By 1992, a ceasefire was called, so that the Rwandan government could negotiate with the RPF. In August 1993, an agreement to create a transition government in collaboration with the RPF was made, and signed by president Habyarimana. However, the Hutus were unwilling to share their power, which may have inspired them to take immediate action.

# POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The goal of the treaty formed by this committee will be to prevent the outbreak of violence in Rwanda. Some of the ways in which this can be achieved include:

* A UNAMIR conducted weapons raid to prevent the militia from getting armed to begin with.
* The immediate dispatch of UN peace keeping forces to Rwanda.
* Prompt financial and military reinforcement for UNAMIR.
* Peace talks between Tutsis and Hutus to negotiate peace, and a possible joint government.

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Winfield, Nicole. “UN Failed Rwanda.” Global Policy Forum, 16 Dec. 1999.

# APPENDIX OR APPENDICES

<http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/rwanda/education/rwandagenocide.shtml>

This website gives an in-depth explanation of the build-up, duration, and aftermath of the Genocide.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-26875506>

This website has concise and comprehensive answers to key questions.

<https://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/201-rwanda/39240.html>

A report exploring the UN’s shortcomings in handling the genocide.