



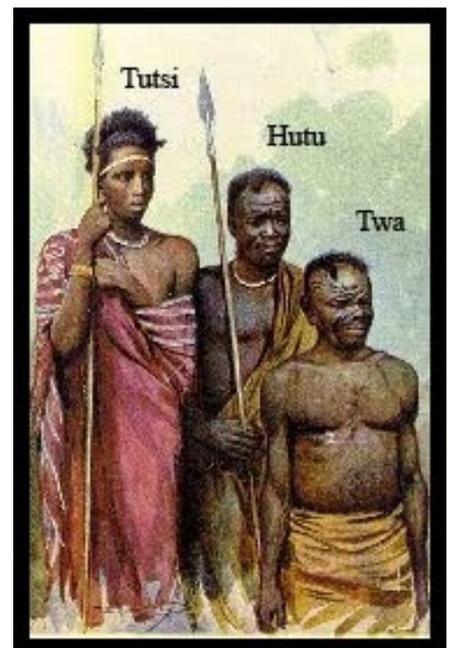
**Committee:** United Nations Security Council

**Issue:** The Situation in Burundi

**Student Officer:** Süha Nurhat (President Chair)

## Introduction to the Issue

Burundi is a central African country, placed in the African Great Lakes region of East Africa. The country is encircled by Rwanda to the north, Tanzania to the east and south and the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west. The capital of Burundi is Bujumbura. Its population is 9,5 million, which is the statistic from 2009. The public is divided into ethnic groups, Hutus and Tutsis, and the country has suffered many bloody conflicts in its history. With the election of CNDD-FDD party in 2005 and the commitments of President Nkurunziza, showing good intention, it appeared to the people of Burundi the civil war might be over. The country seemed reunited after Pierre Nkurunziza began to govern the country. Nevertheless some issues came to surface once again and re-appeared in 2015. The announcement of the political party ruling Burundi CNDD-FDD, stating that president wanted to run for another term, his third. Outbreaks and demonstrations began and numerous civilians have lost their lives during clashes with the police and the soldiers of Nkurunziza. The country remains unstable and requires immediate action of United Nations Security Council.



*(Physical Appearances of the citizens)*

## Key Terms

**Hutu:** Hutu, also known as the Abahutu, is the ethnic group living in the region of African Great Lakes. They have always formed the majority of the population in Burundi and Rwanda. They are part of the ethnic-based crisis as a tribal population along with the Tutsi and the Twa.



**Tutsi:** Despite the fact that the Tutsi are the second largest population in Burundi, Rwanda and the northeastern part of Democratic Republic of Congo, throughout the history, they have always managed to overcome the Hutu people. They were the minority but almost every single upper-class ruler, president, leader was Tutsi.

## **Involved Countries & Organizations**

### **Burundi**

The official stance of the government of Burundi (lead by President Nkurunziza and the CNDD-FFD) is that there are no human rights violations in the country and any installment of UN Peacekeepers should be considered as a violation of the country's sovereignty.

### **United States of America**

The former Secretary of State of the US has repeatedly condemned the human rights violations in the region along with some intimidations restricted with the suspension of foreign aid to the region and etc. Being the country which sustained its strict stance against of the human rights violations and condemn the actions which was taking place, the government of the US contributes to the UN missions in the territory along with indirectly blaming the government of the Burundi.

### **European Union**

As a former Belgian colony, Burundi's ties with the EU are strong, and the EU played an important role in the prosperity and stabilization of the country after the civil war. However, the EU is one of the fiercest critics of President Nkurunziza's recent actions. At the beginning of the crisis and after various independent organizations such as the UN and the Human Rights Watch, reported that human rights violations were committed in Burundi, the EU suspended its aid and strongly condemned the situation. The EU supports an international peacekeeping effort in order to avert the further escalation of the conflict in the region.



## **National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD)**

The CNND-FDD is the current ruling political party in Burundi. In 2005 presidential elections, the CNND-FDD won the majority of votes (58.55%) and came to power promising the promotion of unity and solidarity between two ethnic groups in Burundi. However, President of CNDD-FDD, Pierre Nkurunziza kept on increasing his power over years and when he announced his unconstitutional run for a third-term in office and he was responded with violent protests and angry riots.

### **National Forces of Liberation**

The part was formerly named Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People. The National Forces of Liberation is the opposition political party and the rebel group in the current situation. The part previously fought in the Burundian Civil War, which lasted 12 years for the ethnic Hutu group. Agathon Rwasa, a Burundian politician, is the leader of the National Liberation Forces. The ideology of the party is parallel with Hutu interests and it is believed that part has approximately 3,000 fighters.

## **Detailed Analysis of the Issue**

### **1. Background Information**

#### **1.1 The Kingdom of Burundi**

In the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Hutu people are believed to be the first ones to settle in the region. After approximately hundred years Tutsi settlers began to appear migrating from the Nile region in search of new cattle pastures. The physical appearance of Tutsis was rather intimidating, since they were tall and martial people. Tutsis were never accounted for more than 15% of the populations, however they managed to gain economic and political control of the territory by effectively subduing the Hutu majority.

The Distinct Burundian Kingdom emerged in pre-1500s when the Tutsis were more dominant over the ethnic Hutu population in the region, which were larger in number. Before the arrival of European colonists, The Kingdom of Burundi was a polity ruled by a traditional monarch in modern-day



Republic of Burundi in the African Great Lakes region. As said, despite the clear majority of the ethnic group Hutu, the monarch was from the Tutsi ethnic group and was called the *mwami*. Under the monarchy system of government power, the borders continued to expand, encircling parts of present-day Rwanda and Tanzania. However, succession struggles were common and internal conflicts led eventually to the decentralization of rule, followed by a system that is very likely to feudalism.

## 1.2 The Arrival of European Colonists

In 1858, British explorers named Richard Burton and John Speke visited Burundi. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the area was colonized by Germany and the kingdoms of Urundi and Ruanda (modern-day Burundi and Rwanda) were incorporated into German East Africa. Armed forces were established by the German Empire and were involved in action. Germans made a deal with the Tutsi king, guaranteeing him protection from his enemies in exchange for following German commands, thus making the king a puppet.

With the defeat in the I. World War, in 1916 Belgian army occupied the area with 1,400 troops to the African continent and Germany had to cede control of the territory to Belgium. In 1923 Belgium received League of Nations (a former organization with the similar purpose of United Nations, which is to maintain international security and to prevent any possible further world wars.) mandate to administer Ruanda-Urundi and they were officially declared a Belgian mandate by the League of Nations. In practical terms, it was considered as a part of Belgian colonial empire. Prior to colonialism, Burundi was led by a Tutsi monarchy like its neighbor Rwanda. The Belgians and the Germans found it convenient to rule through the existing power structure in which the Tutsi were already dominant over the Hutu. They therefore perpetuated Tutsi domination.

Following World War II, Ruanda-Urundi was classified as a United Nations Trust Territory under Belgian administrative authority. During the 1940s, a series of policies caused some problems concerning separation of powers in the legislative division of Burundian government between the chiefdoms and lower chiefdoms. Multiple parliamentary elections were held in order to determine who will be in charge of land. In 1948, Belgian authorities had introduced an element of democracy to the Burundian political system and allowed the region to form political parties. However, they couldn't foresee the fact that this factor contributed valuably to Burundi, gaining its independence



### 1.3 From Colonization to Independence

In 1959, Burundian political parties began to advocate in order to end the Belgian colonial rule and the separation of Rwanda and Burundi. Independence journey was led by a cross-communal party of Prince Louis Rwagasore, which was the first and largest political party of the aforementioned political parties, called the Union for National Congress (UNPRONA). Burundi's push for independence was influenced by the Rwandan Revolution and the accompanying instability and ethnic conflict that occurred there. As a consequence of the events in Rwanda, an influx of Tutsi refugees from Rwanda between the years 1959 and 1961 caused ethnic violence in Burundi as well.

The first elections in Burundi happened on 8 September 1961. UPRONA, the multi-ethnic unity party led by Prince Rwagasore won 1961 legislative elections with just over 80% of the votes and Louis Rwagasore became the first prime minister of the country. In the wake of the elections, on 13 October 1961, the 29-year-old Louis Rwagasore was assassinated, robbing Burundi of its most inspiring and well-known nationalist at a time when they needed him the most. He was then succeeded by his brother-in-law, Andre Muhirwa.

Burundi and Rwanda were populated by the same ethnic groups and spoke the same language, United Nations found it rational for them to remain as one nation, but the two wished for independence separately. The United Nations had to acquiesce. When they declared independence in 1962, the Burundian area reverted to Tutsi rule. Rwanda, unlike Burundi, was controlled by the Hutu.

Burundi claimed independence on 1 July 1962. The country legally and officially changed its name from Ruanda-Urundi to Burundi. Burundi became a constitutional monarchy under King Mwambutsa IV, Prince Rwagasore's father serving as the country's king.

Anti-Tutsi sentiment began to intensify among the Hutu in Burundi and in 1963 thousands of Hutus fled to Rwanda claiming they were exposed to ethnic violence. In 1965 parliamentary elections Hutus had the popular vote, but King Mwambutsa refused to put a Hutu prime minister in charge and this was followed by an angry Hutu reaction and rebellion Hutus were strongly against this unjust appointment. Ethnic tensions were increased and uprisings were put down violently. In October 1965, an attempted coup was prevented by an army chief named Michel Micombero. This attempt to overthrow the



Burundian monarchy led to Mwambutsa leaving the country. In his absence, Micombero showed resistance against the perpetrators of the coup. In July 1966 a second coup was carried out and as a result, Mwambutsa was deposed by his son Ntare V. After he had claimed the throne, when he was on a trip to the neighbor country Republic of the Congo in November 1966, just 4 months later, a third coup was put into action. This coup d'état abolished the monarchy and replaced it with a military-run government, putting Michel Micombero in power. The republic was proclaimed on 28 November. The outcomes were both revolutionary and painful. Michel Micombero ousted the king, strengthened his power by declaring himself both the president and the prime minister in December 1966, though his one-part government was in fact effectively a military dictatorship. As president, he represented the African socialist ideology and thus he received decent amount of support from the People's Republic of China. His ideology of "democratic centralism" was successful and managed to bring all the country's institutions and media under the regime's control. On the other hand, he being in charge and leading a coup ended up with further Hutu deaths.

#### **1.4 Massacre: the 1972 Genocide**

There were two main events behind the genocide, committed by President Micombero targeting the ethnic Hutu group. These occasions caused the outbreak of the 1972 Burundian Genocide also known as the First Burundian Genocide.

In April 1972, Hutus have rebelled and declared a short-lived republic called Martyazo Republic. The Hutu rebels assaulted the Tutsis and also people of their own, who opposed to join their uprisings. An estimated number of casualties during this outbreak are around 800 to 1,200. Meanwhile the 24-year-old King Ntare V enters the country after a period of exile and tension was raised once again politically. In the same month, he was killed.

In the subsequent months, series of brutal events happened. The Tutsi-sided government of Micombero gathered an army to fight the Hutu Rebels and slaughtered members of the Hutu people, instigating genocide. The exact number of lost lives could never be determined but today's estimates indicate that between 80,000 and 210,000. Bearing in mind that several hundred thousands of Hutus fled to neighbor countries, the number becomes even scarier.



## **1.5 Endless Ethnic War Begins**

The government of Micombero was later deposed because of another military coup led by Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, which was non-violent and bloodless. The coup's leader, Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, was elected as president. His administration drafted a new constitution in 1981 that maintained Burundi as a one-party state under UPRONA. After the election, Bagaza organized a military operation against the Roman Catholic Church. His government seized control of the seminaries, banned Catholic prayer meetings and imprisoned priests. These actions were largely unpopular, so Bagaza had decided to soften his stance.

Six years later, in 1987, President Bagaza's administration was deposed in a coup constructed by Pierre Buyoya, another Tutsi. He suspended the constitution which had been active since 1981. In the following year, thousands of Hutus were massacred by Tutsis and more fled to Rwanda. As president, Buyoya endeavored to ease the tension between the two groups, being Tutsis and Hutus and to bring stability, peace among them by including representatives of both parties in the cabinet. Instead of helping the problem, his reforms instead served to inflame ethnic tensions as hope grew amongst the Hutu population that the Tutsi monopoly was at an end.

## **1.6 First attempt at democracy, genocide against the Tutsi**

In 1992, a new constitution, providing a multi-party governance and election system, was approved. The new system was adopted in a public referendum. Recalling to the parliamentary elections back in 1965, when the Hutus had won more votes than the Tutsis, but weren't allowed to rule by Tutsis, Hutus had again the majority of votes in 1993 elections; this time Hutu leader Melchior Ndadaye, from Front for Democracy in Burundi Party was elected office as the president. This ended the military rule and led to the installation of a pro-Hutu government. His term in office was yet short since Tutsi soldiers assassinated him in October 1993. The members of Front for Democracy in Burundi Party sought revenge and in order to end their bloodlust, some of the party members murdered a group of Tutsis. The country descended into a period of civil strife. The army began reprisals and Burundi is plunged into a civil war, trapped into violence, rage and hatred. Hutus responded violently and launched attacks on Tutsis. The ethnic conflict caused 50,000 to 100,000 casualties. A 1996 UN report into Ndadaye's assassination and its aftermath, concluded that "acts of genocide against the Tutsi minority were committed in Burundi in October 1993".



An estimated 250,000 people died in Burundi from the combined conflicts between 1962 and 1993. Since Burundi's independence in 1962, there have been two events called genocides in the country: the 1972 mass killings of Hutus by the Tutsi-dominated army and the 1993 mass killings of Tutsis by the Hutu majority. Both are described as genocide in the final report of the International Commission of Inquiry for Burundi presented in 2002 to the United Nations Security Council.

### **1.7 1993-2005: Dashed hopes and transitional government**

In January 1994, a new Hutu president named Cyprien Ntaryamira came to power, however his destiny wasn't so different from his predecessor Ndadaye. After a short time in office, the airplane carrying him and the president of Rwanda was shot down. The circumstances were suspicious. This incident sparked the better-known Rwanda genocide and further ethnic-based conflicts in Burundi. In October 1994, the parliament speaker Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, a Hutu, was appointed president. A government of coalition was formed, which consisted of 12 of the 13 parties. In 1995, the carnage of Hutu refugees helped the ethnic problems pick up the pace and renew violence in the capital, Bujumbura.

*Buyoya returns.* – Ex-president Pierre Buyoya, who was defeated in country's first multi-party election in 1993, took power through a coup d'état in 1996. After 2 years he had seized power, in 1998, Buyoya and parliament agree on a transitional constitution under which Buyoya was officially sworn in as president. Under Buyoya's demand, long peace talks began, mediated by South Africa. Government forces and Tutsi rebel parties involved in conflict have come to a common ground which is to sign ceasefire agreements but Hutus kept on holding out. As expected, that led to flare-ups of violence.

The president of Tanzania, who had contributed in peace talks between the Hutu and the Tutsi, called upon sanctions against the Buyoya government, and the rest of the world responded by freezing trade and international flights. In 1999, when the sanctions were lifted, Nelson Mandela was chosen as moderator of the peace talks.

In August 2000, a transitional government for Burundi was outlined as a part of Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement. The transitional government was authorized for a trial basis for five years of time period. Later, a 2001 peace plan and a share of powers agreement were relatively successful; a ceasefire was signed in 2003 between the Tutsi-led Burundian administration and the biggest Hutu opposition group named CNDD-FDD (National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the



Defense of Democracy).

In April 2003, leader of main Hutu party FRODEBU, Domitien Ndayizeye succeeded Pierre Buyoya as president under terms of three year. Three months later, a major riot took place in Bujumbura. Around 300 rebels and 15 government soldiers died during the protests. In 2004, the UN peacekeeping troops take over the responsibilities and duties from African Union forces.

## **2. Nkurunziza Becomes President**

In August 2005, Pierre Nkurunziza, once a leader of a Hutu rebel group, was elected president. He awakened a lot of hope among the people of Burundi by showing a sign that the tension could finally be over after a very long time of suffering by lifting the curfew, which had been imposed during the brutality in 1972. On 15 April 2006, after 12 years of a life with a midnight-to-dawn curfew, the Burundians were allowed to stay out late if they wanted to, for the first time since 1993.

## **3. Paving the way for a third term**

The election of Pierre Nkurunziza in 2005 was seen as a sign of an end to the 12-year Burundian ethnic war, which had commenced in 1993. He was appointed with great hope, promising a united new country for the people of Burundi.

In June 2010 presidential elections, Nkurunziza was re-elected in uncontested poll, since the main opposition parties boycotted the vote and the parliamentary polls. As a result of withdrawals and alleged fraud and intimidation, incumbent President Pierre Nkurunziza was the only candidate. As the aftermath effects of the elections followed, FNL leader Agathon Rwaswa fled the country and hid due to speculations, saying that the government ordered his arrest on charges of preparing a coup. He was quoted as saying that "They're [the government] looking for me because I told the truth, because I said publicly that I don't accept the results of the local elections. [Last] Wednesday they wanted to arrest me again. I got wind of it and I disappeared from circulation." It was presumed that he was in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

During his second term of presidency, Pierre Nkurunziza was accused of restricting media and political freedom. In June 2013, the president approved the new media law, which brought some serious



restrictions to the press freedom and was considered as an attack on press freedom. Law forbade reporting news that could undermine national security, public welfare or the economic status.

After 9 years long with Nkurunziza's administration, in April 2014, Burundi demanded a senior UN official to exit the country. The reason behind such an action was the need of precaution. A UN report had warned the government to put an end to arming its young sympathizers ahead of the elections in 2015. The government denied the claims however this helped the opposition parties to realize something is going on that they are not aware of.

#### **4. The Crisis, President Nkurunziza runs for an unconstitutional third term in office**

##### **4.1 What causes a revolution?**

"No one but the revolutionary can know." says Enrique Yanniraldi, a political philosopher from the University of Erasmus. "Until we see the aftermath of the revolution, the motive is a secret. We only can know what a government does to trigger it." (Simons, 137)

The situation in Burundi nowadays is the live proof of what Yanniraldi said sixty years ago. We may not know how it was the uprisings of opposition party that triggered a major crisis, resulting in an unstable country, but we are aware of President Nkurunziza's ambition of power. If corruption, unemployment, authoritarianism and sectarianism are in every stages of government; this administration that cannot make their citizens feel safe and united. As a country divided from within both political-based and ethnic based, the question here is if the decision of President Nkurunziza to stand for 2015 elections is constitutional or not. Has he become a dictator or not? Has it been his intention to hurt any person who does not go along with his opinions and ideology or not? The opposition side of the conflict sees the protests as a revolution and they undergird their actions showing the poor decisions made by the Burundian government that provoked the people and made them realize they are being treated in an unjust way.

With this aspect being brought up in front of you, delegates must remain actively seized on the matter and try to handle the situation from a variety of perspectives from both sides of the conflict.



## 4.2 Coup attempt

On 25 April 2015, the CNDD-FDD has made an statement, announcing that the incumbent president Nkurunziza would run for a third term, even though the constitution indicates the opposite, saying that there is a constitutional two-term limit for presidency. People responded violently and criticized this as *an attempt of an unconstitutional coup from within*. The next day, on 26 April 2015, outbreaks began in Bujumbura, the capital city of Burundi. In May 2015, the supreme court of country, The Constitutional Court approved Nkurunziza's candidacy. There were claims of government officials intimidating and threatening judges during the process. People were outraged and thought this much of power in possession of one man only extremely dangerous. Riots spread to the northern provinces of Burundi and situation was deemed critical. Protestors filled up the streets and tens of thousands fled the violence, left the country, hundreds of people were arrested by government officials, many rebels and policemen were killed. An army officer's coup attempt failed in the same month. President Nkurunziza constructed a plan almost flawless and gained power in an enormous way that even a well-structured coup couldn't make a difference. On July 2015, President Nkurunziza was re-elected with 70% of the votes. Opposition leader Agathon Rwaswa described the polls as a "joke". He objected to the voting procedure and stated that the result of the election was obviously rigged. He believed that most of the people were actually against the president Nkurunziza

## 4.3 Aftermath

The riots and protests related to Pierre Nkurunziza's presidency of a third term in Burundi have not reached a conclusion yet. The troubling situation keeps getting worse and has spread around the country. Reports say that not only military-related people but also civilians are being targeted in the assaults. The actions of President Pierre Nkurunziza are considered as trigger for an armed conflict. Major media news insist on referring to the issue using the words "political crisis", however the conflict is getting out of hand and is becoming a never-ending war like the civil war in Syria. The UN has warned that "a complete breakdown of law and order is just around the corner" for Burundi. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the UN high commissioner for human rights, said growing reports of atrocities in the east African country meant that "all the alarm signals – including the increasing ethnic dimension of the crisis – are flashing red".



It is in the hands of the delegates of United Nations Security Council to not history repeat itself and mess the situation in Burundi up. The UN previously failed during the Rwandan genocide and the consequences were undoubtedly horrible. Bearing in mind that, the complicated history of Burundi full of ethnic confrontation and two genocides committed by both ethnic groups, UN has to make sure that the repeating mechanism of history doesn't function this time.

Although, many reports of human rights investigators from United Nations Human Rights Council and International Federation for Human Rights, indicate that violence against civilians and innocent people are being used, Burundian government states that the reports are being manipulated by opposition parties and accuses the aforementioned organizations of spreading false information, raising awareness in a biased way.

## List of Important Events

<b>Date (Day/Month/Year)</b>	<b>Event</b>
1923	Belgium receives League of Nations mandate to administer the area that is now known as Burundi.
1962	Burundi becomes independent and a separate kingdom
2005	After decades of ethnic conflict between Tutsi and Hutu, Burundi adopts a new constitution and Nkurunziza gains Power.
2010	Nkurunziza is re-elected in an uncontested poll after the opposition parties boycotted the vote, claiming that Nkurunziza rigged earlier regional elections
2013	Nkurunziza passes a law that restricts media. It was widely criticized as a law that goes against the freedom of the press.
2014	High ranking UN official is ordered to leave the country after president claimed that the youth wing of the CNDD-FFD was arming in order to influence the election result.
May 2015	Nkurunziza's decision to run for a third term is approved by the constitutional court. This decision resulted in mass



	protests and violence. An attempted army coup d'état fails.
June 2015	The Vice President leaves the country because he opposed Nkurunziza's third term plan.
July 2015	President Nkurunziza wins the elections for a third term in office with 70% of the vote. The opposition leader Agathon Rwaswa describes the polls as a "joke"
March 2016	The European Union suspends the external aid to Burundi.
October 2016	Burundi withdraws from the ICC (International Criminal Court)
August 2016	President rejected the UN involvement to the territory reasoning that the UN peacekeeping violates the territorial sovereignty.
2017	ICC judges approve the opening of a full investigation into alleged crimes against humanity in Burundi.
May 2018	A constitutional reform that will allow Nkurunziza to stay in power until 2034 is adopted.
June 2018	Nkurunziza stated that he will not seek for an election in 2020.

## Past Resolutions and Important Documents

Past relevant resolutions are listed down below so that you have an idea about how the UN Security Council and other bodies of UN have previously approached this issue, however I, personally, as your President chair, do not advise you to research any further dates, agreements, resolutions, etc. in order to avoid being biased beforehand. These resolutions may include reasonable clauses, but as seen, Burundi continues to remain unstable and it doesn't seem like they worked neither efficiently nor sufficiently. You should also keep in mind that although this topic has its roots in a certain region of the world, its impacts are at a much larger scale, taking into consideration that ethnic-based problems are widely seen all over the world. We would like you to create unique, effective and sufficient resolutions that justify your actions. It does not matter if your actions are proactive or retroactive; what is important



is to be able to substantiate your actions and provide the legal framework while doing so.

UN Security Council resolution 2303, (S/RES/2303), “The Situation in Burundi” July 29, 2016.

UN Security Council resolution 2279, (S/RES/2279), “The Situation in Burundi” April 1, 2016.

UN Security Council resolution 2248, (S/RES/2248), “The Situation in Burundi” November 12, 2015.

UN Security Council resolution 1959, (S/RES/1959), “The Situation in Burundi”

UN Security Council resolution 1719, (S/RES/1719), “The Situation in Burundi”

UN Security Council resolution 1650, (S/RES/1650), “The Situation in Burundi”

UN Security Council resolution 1545, (S/RES/1545), “The Situation in Burundi”

UN Security Council resolution 1040, (S/RES/1040), “The Situation in Burundi”

UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), “Report of the United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIB) established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-24/1\*” (A/HRC/33/37) September 20, 2016.

## **Past Attempts to Solve the Issue**

**East African Community:** The East African Community (EAC) has played an essential role in the conflict and has taken various measures. Unfortunately, the EAC has lacked of making bold decisions when it was needed. The EAC showed the stakes being very high as the main reason of their passive policy. Thus the East African Community let the matter to get out of hand.

**United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB):** ONUB was founded by the United Nations Security Council in May 2004, in order to ensure the security at the application of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement. The operation was completed with success, according to the Secretary-General’s report The ONUB stopped acting actively in the problem on 1 January 2007 and its responsibilities were transferred to the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi.



**United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB):** It was established by the United Nations Security Council in order to replace the important duty of ONUB and fulfill its tasks. The BINUB have taken part in the ceasefire agreement, signed on 7 September 2006 between the government and the opposition party. Furthermore BINUB contributed in the installation of the rule of law, healthy administration and freedom of press. The responsibilities of BINUB were later taken over by the United Nations Office in Burundi on 1 January 2011.

## Possible Solutions

The crisis in Burundi has taken a complicated shape over time. In order to resolve the issue in a realistic way, a stabilized area needs to be provided. It is essential that further uprisings, protest and violent riots in Burundi are prevented. The region is already under a large amount of pressure and the civilians are traumatized by the constant brutality around them. Another important point would be to promote democracy by assuring the initiation of a fair and free public referendum, in which the freedom of speech is thoroughly respected and all of the political parties, including the opposition parties would have the opportunity to express their opinions under proper conditions without being criticized, judged or targeted. You must remember that the military intervention guided by the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces is the last option in your hands. If you have a slight chance to solve this matter without any military actions, use that chance. This action can only be implemented as a last resort. The tension needs to be eased and deploying peacekeeping troops in the territory could have two consequences, one being the perfect solution of the problem which is warning the two sides in a serious way, taking the situation under control and the other one being the worst-case scenario which is to complicate things even more, increasing tension, anger, hatred between the two sides. The peacekeeping missions always carry a heavy risk. They can either go successfully as planned, or backfire with disastrous consequences. Furthermore, delegates must try to protect the rights of the civilians and manage a possible refugee crisis in the best way. They must focus on cooperating with other UN bodies to work more efficiently.

In a satisfactory resolution some questions have to be encompassed. Delegates have to discuss the issue from a variety of aspects. The legal perspective of the situation is still uncertain, whether



Nkurunziza is eligible for a third presidential term. The role of military is another matter to discuss, bearing in mind that the military has attempted to seize power 6 times before and 4 of them were successful coups. As already mentioned the ongoing conflict in Burundi have led to a stream of refugees leaving the country and the neighbor countries are overstrained with the massive influx of refugees and are struggling. Delegates must focus on what can be done for the refugees and endangered civilians. If delegates approach the ongoing crisis in Burundi in a reasonable way, they very well may find solutions to end the sufferings, once and for all.

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