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UNSC
UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

SHANT AMERKANIAN
CHAIR

GLORIA KHAFIF
MODERATOR



HoMMUNC XXXIII

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LETTER FROM THE SECRETARIAT

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DEAR DELEGATES,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to Horace Mann's 33rd Annual Model United Nations Conference, HoMMUNC XXXIII! Since 1985, HoMMUNC has brought together future world leaders in a day full of intellect, discourse, and compromise. The conference engages academically minded high school and middle school students to contemplate and discuss imperative global concerns. We are honored to have inherited the responsibility of organizing this conference for all of you, the over 1000 delegates that will attend HoMMUNC this year. We hope you are excited as we are for the conference to begin!

We encourage you to deeply explore your topics and arrive at HoMMUNC prepared to engage in the discourse of your committees and truly involve yourself in the negotiation process, regardless of your age or experience in Model UN. Each committee is comprised of a wide-ranging group of delegates and will address a pressing global issue. We challenge you to delve deep into your topics and think creatively. Take this opportunity to learn as much as you can, create the best solutions possible, and lead your committee to a world-changing resolution.

Model United Nations has played a tremendous role in our lives over the past three years, and we are thrilled to share this activity with all of you. It has been our pleasure preparing HoMMUNC XXXII along with our dedicated junior and senior staff over the past six months. We hope you have an enriching and enjoyable experience at the conference.

Sincerely,

CONNOR MORRIS AND JULIA HORNSTEIN
Secretaries-General
HoMMUNC XXXIII

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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DEAR DELEGATES,

Hi, my name is Shant Amerkanian, and I am so excited to be your chair for the Security Council at HoMMUNC XXXIII! I will be running this committee with my moderator, Gloria Khafif, who is a junior at Horace Mann. I'm a senior and started HM MUN when I was a freshman. I live in New Jersey. My favorite shows to watch are *How I Met Your Mother* and *Billions*. This is my third and final HoMMUNC, and I am both nostalgic about the experience as well as grateful for so many years of the HM MUN family.

For this conference, we will be discussing the Rwandan Genocide. The topic is very important to me because I am Armenian, and the event was closely related to the Armenian Genocide. Although it is a sensitive topic, it is still important to stay true to your country's policy and ideology. Therefore, you will all be assessed based on your knowledge of the topic and policy -- not by our own opinions.

Every piece of information given in this background guide is taken as part of the "universe" of our crisis. So, be sure to make sure to read for specific details, dates, and events that have occurred and those which have not. However, we also do strongly recommend that you conduct research outside of the information in this background guide. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me. We can't wait to see you all at HoMMUNC XXXIII! Happy Researching!

See you in October!

SHANT AMERKANIAN

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Chair, UNSC

COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURE

Committee Background

As one of the six principal organs established by the UN Charter of 1945, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was founded to maintain international peace and security based on the United Nations' principles and purposes.¹ The Council is composed of fifteen members: its five permanent founding members, China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and ten temporary members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly. Each member has one vote, and decisions on "substantive matters" made by the Council require affirmative votes from the five permanent members but can also be vetoed by these nations.² A member state of the United Nations, but not of the Security Council, may participate

in discussions when its country's interests are affected or at stake.

The UN Security Council deals with threats to peace, primarily by suggesting peaceful and diplomatic solutions, but may also use issue a ceasefire, enforce peacekeeping measures, or impose sanctions if hostilities escalate. While also being an active body, the Council can investigate any international issues or topics and recommend admission of new member states to the United Nations. Other General Assemblies and Councils may only make suggestions to nations, but the UNSC is the only body of the United Nations that has the power to mandate implementation of their decisions.³ This gives the Security Council the greatest ability to take



Security Council Chambers

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2017/04/28/un-security-council-zw-orig.cnn>

immediate action on pressing issues and make globally-applicable changes.

A representative from each member must be present in New York City at UN Headquarters to meet in rapid response to any immediate crises.⁴

The UN Security Council committee will require the same well-informed diplomacy that the real United Nations would require. The actions of the Council must fall under their mandate of maintaining peace and security, and that requires quick and efficient action in response to disturbances. These can be divided into two different categories including peaceful agreements and response to hostilities.

The Council's ability to settle international issues as they relate to peace is unmatched by other UN bodies, making it uniquely powerful in this area. Investigation and mediation are two of the steps the Council can take to better respond to the issue and participate in a nonviolent closure. They can dispatch a mission or appoint special envoys to have representatives

and agents directly inserted into the situation.

If hostilities arise or further escalate, the Security Council is uniquely afforded the powers to bring them to an end. Some of these powers include ceasefire directives to slow or halt any escalation of the conflict, and the Council can also send peacekeeping forces to intervene opposing forces and “establish a calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought.”⁵ These peacekeepers should only be used when needed in a time of growing tension to decrease, not increase, conflict. While these two methods may be able to accomplish the goal of easing tensions and ending disputes, the Council can also enforce measures by way of economic sanctions, arms embargoes, travel bans, blockage of diplomatic relations, blockades, or even collective military action.⁶ Any action they take must reflect the international community’s values and reduce damage to the world population as much as possible.

Procedure

This crisis will begin with a start date of June 15th, 1994. Researching information before that date will not be necessary for this committee. As a crisis committee, the format of the debate will be different from a General Assembly. The committee will operate as a constant moderated caucus, whose speaking time will be agreed upon at the start of committee but changed at any time with a motion. The only two motions that may interrupt this flow are a motion for an unmoderated caucus or a motion to introduce directives. Once these motions expire, a moderated caucus will resume. At any time, the chair may rule a motion dilatory if he feels it is disruptive to the flow of debate or irrelevant to the current focus of committee. Past these motions, there are four types of legislation that may be submitted: directives, press releases, communiqües, and unilateral actions.

Directives

Directives are decided upon by all present member states to solve issues posed to the committee. These are written in response to crisis updates and must be written in clause format, similar to a resolution. Any delegate may sponsor a directive, but it is at the discretion of the committee to vote. Each directive requires a set number of sponsors and signatories to be passed, and the chair will set this amount at the start of committee. Introduction of directives must be prompted by a motion which will be voted on, at which point the chair will read out the directive and allow for questions to the authors or proposal of amendments. The committee can then move directly into voting procedure or choose to direct debate into a moderated caucus to discuss. Following the Council's discussion and consideration, the directive must meet the requirement of voting delegates to be put into action.

Press Releases

Press releases formally communicate the situation of the committee and status of the conflict to the public. The release may convey sentiments regarding a crisis to inform and influence the United Nations and the broader audience of the world. The exact wording of its author is used in expressing the Security Council's progress or statements, so the sponsors must be sure of the content and syntax.

Communiques

Communiques address a nation, person, or organization similar to a press release but are not expressed to a broad audience. They are written in the same format and may express the same or similar message as a press release. Though communiques are a directed message, they still represent the whole Security Council and not one individual nation.

Unilateral Actions

A unilateral action is a power given to a specific nation that allows delegates to use their nation's resources

to further the goal of the committee as well as their personal interests. Actions must be feasible given the nation's position, and thus, delegates should understand their nations' capabilities. These will be submitted as crisis notes, which are passed around the room. Any private actions may be exposed during updates and can benefit or hurt the nation and the Council, depending on their content and whether or not they are successful. These notes are also the channel through which delegates may communicate to people outside the committee. Countries can also use these notes to combine many nations' resources and create joint-unilateral actions.

THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

Rwandan Ethnic Tensions

By the early 1990's, Rwanda, the most densely populated country in Africa, was among the most rural countries in the world, centered around a mostly agricultural economy. This state of economy and population has been long standing, but there has not always been peace within the nation.⁷ The population's ethnic division was the cause of much strife throughout its history. The two main ethnic groups present in Rwanda throughout its history are the Hutu and the Tutsi.



<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/maps/africa/rwanda/>

Though the two groups have the same language, religion, and culture, the composition of the population between the Hutu and Tutsis has fluctuated. By 1994, the time of the Genocide, the Hutu made up 85% of the population and the Tutsi only 14%.⁸ Before European powers colonized the nation, the Tutsis formed the higher class in the social system, and the Hutus were associated with the lower class. Through marriage and acquisition of cattle and wealth, mobility was possible between the two groups.⁹ The majority of tensions between Hutus and Tutsis in Rwanda was nothing new, but began to take off during the colonial period and grew significantly leading up to the genocide.

When Germany lost power over Rwanda and other colonies during the First World War, the territory was placed under the control of the Belgians. The divide between Hutus and Tutsis deepened, as the Belgians assigned value and weight to a person's ethnicity. For example, during the

period of Belgian control, every person was mandated to have an identity card that labeled them within each group.¹⁰ The Belgians further divided the groups by oppressing the Hutu, who composed 90% of the population, and favoring the Tutsi, who made up 10% of the Rwandan population. In sum, the Tutsi were favored, and the Hutu were repressed. Tutsis were given better jobs and educational opportunities than the Hutu during the 20 years of Belgian colonization, building up resentment and discrimination against Hutus. In response to the Belgians and Tutsis, the Hutu began to amplify their political voice as the majority against the Tutsi, who refused to relinquish power by strong-arming democratization and holding onto the privileges given to them by the Belgian leadership. As segregation continued, tensions increased, and eventually, violence erupted in Rwanda.

In November of 1959, a rumor spread that Tutsi aggressors sought out and killed a Hutu leader. This violent

action pushed the Hutu into two years of what is now known as the “Hutu Peasant Revolution” or “social revolution.” As many as 300,000 Tutsis fled the country during this time, and by the end of the revolution, Rwanda’s Tutsi monarch had been forced into exile.¹¹ The nation was declared a republic. After a United Nations referendum that year, Rwanda officially gained their independence from Belgium in July of 1962.¹²

Preface to the Genocide

In 1988, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) was formed by primarily Tutsis that fled during the exile in 1959 in neighboring Uganda as a movement whose goal was to return all refugees from exile and reform the Rwandan government. Many of the RPF’s members had previously served in the National Resistance Army, which had overthrown the previous government in 1986.¹³ The group responded to Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana, who was losing

popularity, knowing that their political opposition and voice could be better heard among a nation of Rwandans opposed to their leadership.

Reformation of the government included equality of ethnicities among the government and the nation as a way of demonstrating frustration and anger about having been exiled and having had their political voice taken away in the process. As a result, the teachings of the group included the existence of harmony before the colonial regime tore apart the two ethnic groups and divided them. They claimed that it was the Rwandan people's responsibility to reunite the two.

On October 1, 1990, the Front launched an attack on Rwanda with an army of 7,000 fighters. Because the group was primarily Tutsi, all Tutsis within the country were labeled as disloyal or accomplices of the RPF while media continued to spread manipulated facts about the group.¹⁴ Three years later, the Arusha peace agreements were signed as an end to

the conflict between the Rwandan government and the Rwandan Patriotic Front, with aid from governments in the region and the Security Council, who established the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda to support and give humanitarian aid. The agreement called for both sides to aid in the implementation of a democratically-elected government that would be balanced and impartial to both Hutu and Tutsis.¹⁵ Also, the two sides would integrate their armed forces and help the refugees exiled during the conflict in 1959 come back and reintegrate into the country and its society. As both the Hutu Government of Rwanda and the Rwandan Patriotic Front invited the Security Council to participate as an assisting party, the United Nations helped in the implementation of the agreement.¹⁶

Due to the slow application of the agreements, human rights violations were rampant in Rwanda and continued to spread. Until 1993, the RPF attacked and killed throughout

northeastern Rwanda. These soldiers killed and abducted civilians, attacked a hospital, and pillaged a displaced persons' camp. Though actively stating their commitment to human rights, this message was not practiced.

The Genocide

The Rwandan Genocide began when on April 6th, 1994, President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and Burundi's President Cyprien Ntaryamira's plane was shot down over the capital of Kigali. Although the culpable party was never determined, both Hutu extremists and leaders of the RPF have been blamed.¹⁷

Almost immediately, the president's death spurred revolts and violence against Tutsi and moderate Hutu throughout the country. In just a few hours, the Rwandan armed forces, the Presidential Guard, and Hutu militia set up roadblocks and began mass killings of Tutsis and moderate Hutus.¹⁸ These government soldiers

and militias blew up Tutsis in churches where they had taken refuge and used machetes as weapons of choice to hack away the Tutsi population. Within the first day, the Hutus successfully took down the moderate government opposition, including Hutu Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingimana and her ten bodyguards. This political vacuum and mayhem allowed Hutu extremists to run rampant, killing anyone suspected of being or having ties to a Tutsi.¹⁹

The political vacuum enabled Hutu Power leaders to take over the country on April 9th, allowing them access to lists of Tutsi targets and government radio stations.²⁰ Stations broadcasted a murderous message to all civilians to turn against their own Tutsi neighbors and Rwandans. The lists included names, addresses, and sometimes license plates. Recruits were called on all over the country to carry out slaughter against the opposition.²¹ Military officials, politicians, and businessmen were

among many others in Rwanda to contribute to the chaos and mass murder throughout the nation. Those active in the killings were given incentives such as money or food to carry out these killings.

Over the next 100 days, the Rwandan Patriotic Front continued fighting as civil war continued and accompanied the genocide. The genocide led to the deaths of more than 800,000 people.²² According to UNICEF, 300,000 of those victims were children.²³ Children not harmed physically experienced a significant loss of either parents or friends, leaving them in poverty, uneducated, orphaned, and at risk. These numbers mean that nearly six men, women, and children were killed by the Rwandan Armed Forces and other brutal Hutu militia every minute of every one of the 100 days.²⁴ Anywhere from 150,000 to 250,000 women were raped within the same three months, and a large number of those were executed immediately after.²⁵ Rape and sexual violence were



<http://endgenocide.org/learn/past-genocides/the-rwandan-genocide/>

used as a war tactic against Tutsi women and any Hutu women related to or associated with Tutsi men. Rape, forms of genital mutilation, hacking off of breasts, sexual slavery, forced abortion, and forced marriage are some of the forms of extreme humiliation and brutality against women during the genocide. These methods were considered another way to destroy the ethnic group, both by emotional pain and the health problems that would result.

The Power of Media

Illiteracy in Rwanda meant that many civilians could not read and write. Thus, the only way for the government to convey messages other than speaking to crowds was the radio. The radio was an effective way for media outlets to mass produce information to reach all people within the broadcasts' reach. People could listen to the radio for music, talk shows, and, most importantly during the Rwandan Genocide, news. Before the Genocide, President Habyarimana used the national station to broadcast news directly from the government to the people. The station broadcasted the usual news, along with other announcements including the appointments and resignations of leaders, government meetings, and lists of candidates admitted to secondary schools. Messages from the president - reminders to work hard and live moral lives - were included in that daily broadcast as well. This connection was significant, as it signifies the way in

which the voice of a higher power was personalized and grounded to be more interactive with the population and better reach the Rwandan population.

Roméo Dallaire, the former United Nations force commander in Rwanda, claims, "In Rwanda, the radio was akin to the voice of God, and if the radio called for violence, many Rwandans would respond, believing they were being sanctioned to commit these actions."²⁶ Control of the radio proved to be a vital tool in inciting demonstrated killing as the Rwandan Genocide begun and escalated over the first 100 days. Stations such as Radio Television Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM), before the genocide began, were considered to be the voice of ordinary people. The station played a dominant role in broadcasting propaganda to instruct organized forces on where to find Tutsi targets. This information included names, addresses, and sometimes even license plate numbers of Tutsis, fueling the rising anger of extreme forces. Even

immediately after the assassination of President Habyarimana and the Burundi president, reports of the events were sensationalized to emphasize and bring out the underlying message of Tutsi brutality to heighten Hutu fears of Tutsi.

The voice of other radio broadcasters echoed similar themes of Hutus subjected to terror and control by Tutsis. Radio stations capitalized on the past, including during and before the Belgian colonial period, when Tutsi power and privilege over the Hutu was prevalent. Strong language recounted

the discrimination of Hutus under the power of Tutsis by describing the Hutus as slaves to incite anger and bring about a rebellion and uprising. The RTLM repeated messages of the differences between Hutu and Tutsi and the different nature of the Tutsi to finally derive their lack of Rwandan claim and the disproportionate power of Tutsis and Hutu. The tone of the media gathered the riled anger and put it into action.



<https://www.amnesty.de/journal/2012/februar/der-soundtrack-des-voelkermords>

International Involvement

Two months before the start of the Rwandan Genocide, the head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda sent a message to UN headquarters regarding the state of danger in the nation. He said that the security of the people and the country was depleting over time and that violence, attacks, assassinations, and killings were becoming more and more frequent. Information about preparations for attacks and genocide were conveyed to the Security Council and other bodies capable of action, but this information, along with many other reports, went ignored. A reporter during the time stated that both the US and UK refused aid and vetoed reinforcement of peacekeeping missions in Rwanda. Whether these reasons were economic or otherwise, the consensus of the members of the Security Council and the rest of the United Nations, other than the UNAMIR, was to ignore the genocide.

Despite all of this information influx to the UNSC, a vote in April led to the withdrawal of most of the peacekeeping mission which was previously aiding the implementation of the Arusha accord. The number of peacekeepers on the ground decreased from 2,500 to 270 very quickly.²⁷ The remaining forces were ill-equipped. They used nearly non-functional vehicles that were handed down from different forces, so the equipment was in disrepair or at its end. Medical supplies ran out quickly because of a lack of funds to restock or resupply, which consequently led to a lack of other supplies necessary to the upkeep of the mission.²⁸ The lack of preparation of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Rwanda demonstrated apparent neglect for the crisis and diversion of attention to other matters by the Security Council.

Possible Solutions

Because of the lack of international intervention, the conflict between moderate and extremist, Rwandan Patriotic Front and government allies, and Hutu and Tutsi civilians all over the nation continues at a pace that continues to increase. It is the role of all of the governments in the Security Council to come to the aid of these citizens. Possible solutions to this conflict would require every power of the UNSC to intervene in existing tensions. Firstly, the Security Council can improve and better fund their peacekeeping efforts in the area in order to do more to help the Rwandans by providing some impartial intermediary that is otherwise not present. These peacekeepers would be able to be impartial and protect targeted Tutsis and Hutus while also dealing peacefully with all parties to restore the rule of law and apply international morals and codes.

Because the government is currently unstable and incapable of

proper governance, a campaign supporting the transitional government drafted in the Arusha agreements could be launched in order to neutralize the media that fuels the atrocious violence. This campaign could be broadcasted over radio, TV, and print media to reach all rural and urban neighborhoods being contacted by extremism. The message would be impartial, as is the role of the United Nations when intervening in a domestic conflict, but spread a positive message of peace and understanding between the two to bring the conflict to a close hopefully. At that point, leaders from all parties in the conflict could be assisted by a UN-moderated talk to finalize a treaty that could hopefully create an agreeable and applicable solution.

Bloc Positions

The United States

During the period of transition after the Arusha talks, the United States threatened to withdraw UN operation if the transitional government was not established. Despite media reports by several reputable outlets in the United States such as the Washington Post and the New York Times, President Clinton specifically avoided U.S. involvement in Rwanda, as there were no interests there and therefore no reason. Senior staff among the administration chose not to acknowledge the genocide, though they knew the potential for violence or destruction, as proved in a release of intelligence by the Freedom of Information Act. In ignoring the atrocities in Rwanda, the U.S. was able to detach from the situation.

France

Approved French intervention by the UN allowed their troops to enter Rwanda. Despite the RPF's active forces, the French set up a humanitarian zone in southwestern

Rwanda to save thousands of Tutsi lives while also helping some of the plotters of the genocide to escape. These plotters included French allies during the President of Rwanda's administration immediately before. French officials were complicit in the Rwandan Genocide, and a report commissioned by the Rwandan government shows that they supplied weapons, forces, and support to militias culpable during the Genocide.

Other Nations

The international community stayed mostly unaware, or ignorant, of the crisis in Rwanda. During the Arusha peace talks, the UNSC was substantially involved in not only the talks but also creating missions to aid in peacekeeping. The agreement included repatriation of refugees, a democratically elected government, a transitional government, and joining of armed forces on both sides, and the United Nations played a role in guiding the process of implementation. In October of 1993, the Security Council

established the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda to help the integration of the agreement into the new government and military systems. Their aid and involvement also gave the body the power to monitor the two sides and actively participate in the nation.

Questions to Consider

1. What was your nation's stance on involvement in Rwanda? For example, was your nation opposed to or in favor of strengthening UN peacekeeping forces in Rwanda and sending humanitarian aid?
2. What resources does your nation have that may be of assistance or use to the Security Council's goals and solutions to the issue?
3. Because the start of debate begins in the midst of the Genocide, delegates must consider how the Genocide ends. What would be your nation's course of action to bring the Genocide to an end?

SOURCES

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