

# BBMUN GAZETTE

DAY 1

# Threats of Peacemaking: Lessons Learnt from

## Peacemaking in Rwanda

-By Samridhhi Roy

This article aims to deconstruct the Arusha Peace Accords of August 1993 signed between the Government of Rwanda (GoR), on one hand, and the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), on the other. The Arusha Agreement, which was in continuation of a series of negotiations and mediations,<sup>1</sup> was aimed at ending the three-year long civil war that had been waged between the RPF and GoR in 1990. Designed around sophisticated academic literature by well experienced personalities,<sup>2</sup> the Accords were aimed at resolving deep rooted ethnic differences of the two parties through the communicative processes of conflict resolution. However, the implementation of the peace agreement was instead met by one of the bloodiest mass genocides ever witnessed, i.e the Rwandan Genocide.<sup>3</sup> An enquiry into the very peace-making process and the contents of the Accords therefore, becomes necessary.

### **Brief Overview**

The Rwandan Civil War was a result of a build-up of decades of ethnic tensions and rivalries between the two main ethnic communities of Rwanda, the majority Hutu and the minority Tutsi.<sup>4</sup> Mobilized and trained under the banner of the rebel RPF, the Tutsi minority (that had taken exile in neighboring countries such as Uganda and Burundi in 1959), attacked northern Rwanda in October 1990.<sup>6</sup> Two years into the fighting, as the two parties reached a stalemate, and as the crisis received significant regional and international attention, the parties consented to a peacemaking process. Sponsored by the government of Tanzania -- in conjunction with the Organization of African Union (OAU), governments of France, Belgium, and the USA as key mediators -- the GoR and the RPF negotiated over a span of fourteen months to produce the Arusha Peace Accords.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This included high-level meetings at Mwa, Gbadolite (DRC), Goma Zanzibar (Tanzania) and Dar-e-Salaam (Tanzania) between 1990-1991 (Source: Official Arusha Accord)

<sup>2</sup> It is interesting to note that some of the participants, such as Ambassador Ami R. Mpungwe, who was a renowned academic, Herman Cohen, who was Assistant Secretary on African Affairs for United States of America, etc. contributed immensely in laying down the conceptual framework of the Accords.

<sup>3</sup> Jones, Bruce D. *Peacemaking in Rwanda: The Dynamics of Failure*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2004:pp 72.

<sup>4</sup> Clapham, Christophe. "Rwanda: Perils of peacemaking." *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 35 (1998): pp 198.

<sup>5</sup> It is interesting to note that in his paper, "Perils of Peace-making", scholar Clapham, argues that that the initial distinctions between the two Hutu's and the Tutsi's was a result of the colonial projects led by Germany and then Belgium. Clapham points that the Colonisers would use "stereotypical" ascriptions to distinguish between the two ethnicities while conducting censuses. The seeds of political tensions were sowed during the de-colonization process, where the Hutu majority aspired to hold powerful positions otherwise historically held by the Tutsi minority.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. 198

<sup>7</sup> Information extracted from the original peace pact on the United Nations.

## **Deconstructing the process and the contents of the Accords**

In his book, *Peacemaking in Rwanda*, author Bruce D. Jones makes the argument that, procedurally speaking, the Arusha Accords made for a perfect “bookish” example of conflict resolution mechanism.

Owing to the highly professional figures who participated in the peacemaking process, the Arusha Accords had strong academic and conceptual foundations. With the result, the mediation encouraged the contending parties to together reach settlements.<sup>8</sup> Jones further contends that it was in fact the contents of the Accord, which Juvenal Habyarimana, the President and the official representative of the GoR, was eventually coerced to agree to, that were responsible for polarizing the Hutu extremists.<sup>9</sup> In this section I build on Jones’ key arguments and further problematize the process and the contents of the Arusha Accord.

The Arusha negotiations touched upon key issues of contention such as ceasefire agreements, rule of law, reparation of the Tutsi refugees and, most importantly, the political and military distribution after the elapse of the Transitional Government.<sup>10</sup> The two main sets of issues, Jones mentions, responsible for leaving a bitter taste among the Hutu extremists, were the question over the distribution of seats in the parliament and the respective share of armed forces between the two ethnic groups.<sup>11</sup>

By the fifth phase of Arusha Accords, which began around October 1992, tension on the issues of the transitional government came to the foreground. It was decided that a Broad Based Transitional Government would be adopted for a span of 22 months, followed by which a shift would be made to a parliamentary system through free and fair elections.<sup>12</sup> However, the distribution of seats in the Broad Based Transitional Government was not touched upon.<sup>13</sup>

In November and December of 1992 the question over the distribution of seats gained momentum. The CDR, which received only a single seat, was enraged to see RPF, that occupied a far smaller portion of the territory, succeed at securing five portfolios for themselves in the transitional government.<sup>14</sup><sup>15</sup> A glance at the official documents of the US observer lends a better understanding of the political atmosphere at the negotiating table leading up to the Accords.<sup>16</sup> As noted by the

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<sup>8</sup>Jones makes mentions of several examples to prove this point. The peace-making process respected dissents among the Government of Rwanda. Moreover, to much of scholars’ contention, the peacemaking process managed minimal biases where countries like France, America and Zaire equalized each other’s power and influence (Jones 91).

<sup>9</sup>Jones, Bruce D. *Peacemaking in Rwanda: The Dynamics of Failure*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2004: pp 72

<sup>10</sup>Ibid. 82

<sup>11</sup>Ibid. 93

<sup>12</sup>Ibid. 80

<sup>13</sup>Ibid. 81

<sup>14</sup>Ibid. 82

<sup>15</sup>Source: <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB469/docs/DOCUMENT%208.pdf>

<sup>16</sup>Willard, Emily. “Rwanda: The Failure of the Arusha Peace Accords.” *The National Security Archive*, 21 May 2014, [nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB469/](https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB469/)

US observers, the protocols of November and December triggered several splits among the parties represented under the GoR (which included President Habyarimana's party, MRND, PSD, PL and CDR).<sup>17</sup> By posing the CDR party as a threat to the "code of ethics" and "national reconciliation" among the ethnicities, the RPF succeeded at sidelining them under the eyes of the other parties, barring President Habyarimana.<sup>18</sup> With the result, the RPF, in an alliance with the MDR, PL and PSD parties, refused to distribute any legislative seats to CDR and distributed major portions among themselves. It was therefore decided that the MDR would get four portfolios, RPF and MRND five, and PSD and PL would each get three seats. The success of RPF in sidelining the Hutu extremists especially placed the CDR in a vulnerable position. For the CDR, the growing strength of the RPF was a key cause of concern.



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<sup>17</sup>From the minutes of US Embassy in the Protocols of November and December.

<sup>18</sup>Jones, Bruce D. *Peacemaking in Rwanda: The Dynamics of Failure*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2004: pp 81

# The Continent Torn Asunder and Imperiled

**-Deepanksha Wadhwa opines on plight of the forlorn and forcefully displaced Africans**

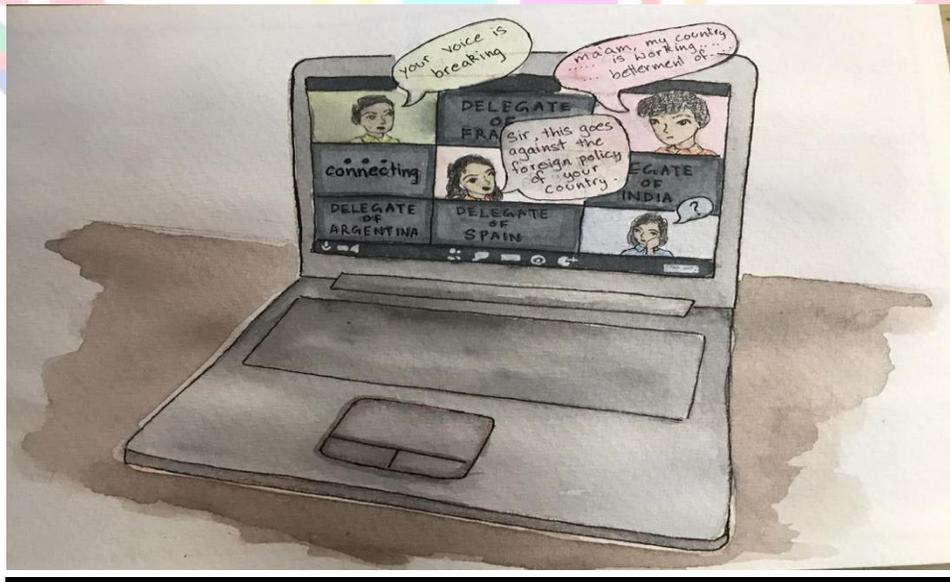
Not too long ago, countries took pride in hosting African refugees and considered it a co-aspect of Pan-Africanism and an act of munificence. Even though the African Union declared 2019 as the Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, no 'durable' solutions were suggested. As promised and fast forward to the present, African refugees are left to die in tents incapable of surviving even the weakest storms, let alone the coronavirus. Millions remain stranded away from their countries in Libya's horrid land, where men are sold like livestock and women raped, only in the hope of reaching Europe one day. Not only are Africans crossing international borders but are also highly internally displaced. So, what changed? What led to the mass exodus of over 4 million people?

The incapability of national governments in stabilizing the economy and reducing violence and the African Union's incompetence in coming up with a superstructure to deal with the matter at hand are issues that can be identified from the brink. As we move further and to the center of the problem, perturbing and perplexing problems come into view. Terrorist groups have continued to affect northern Mali, Burkina Faso, and the Lake Chad Basin region. Heads of State hold office for longer than they are legally allowed to and massively exploit citizens' rights if there are any at all in the first place.

The civil wars in Africa from that of Ivory Coast in 2004 that of Chad in 2010 to that of Libya in 2011, are classical testimonies that violence is rampant in the continent. As refugees flee the scene of violence and war, they end up in different places but find themselves ridden and vexed with the same conditions, often worse. 43,000 South Sudanese refugees have fled to eastern Darfur. That's right — Darfur, home to one of the 21st century's worst ongoing humanitarian crises. Nearly 100,000 Ethiopians and Somalis traveled by boat to Yemen, one of the world's most dangerous countries. This is merely a window into a tragic and bewildering refugee crisis in Africa that is often overshadowed by migration flows to Europe. The violence and insecurity have become so parlous that families are seeking shelter in other war-torn countries.

Internally Displaced Persons have become invisible and have been ignored by the authorities for way too long because they do not cross international borders. However, that does not change the harsh truth of them being forcefully displaced. Many countries not only have not ratified the convention for IDPs but also have not domesticated its provisions. Nor do they have the proper mechanism and resources to deal with the problem. There is a system for refugees seeking asylum, even though murky. However, there is still a process for refugees to get registered and cross international borders. IDPs find themselves at a loss here, especially considering that their numbers are more than double that of refugees.

Most people fail to acknowledge that the African Union is not doing as much as it can make its way through this crisis, considering its chairman himself has been charged with several humanitarian laws' violations. There have been refugee protocols since the 1960s, and yet, over the years, the conditions have only gotten worse. There cannot be peace without development, and international communities ought to show more political will in this area to mitigate the losses the continent suffers.



# Health or Wealth?

-By Avani Singh

The USA has the world's most coveted healthcare facilities, but sadly these facilities are the harbingers of inequality, deaths, and anxiety. A democracy that always has jinn in the bottle seems quite out of the pocket for addressing the life expectancy gap between rich and poor. This gap, which has been widening since the 1970s, will keep exacerbating if the undefeatable COVID-19 keeps expanding its reign of terror. The difference between the richest and lowest 1% is now standing at 10.1 years for women and 14.6 years for men, nearly the same number of years by which smoking shortens our precious life. Today, despite gains due to the ACA, 27 million Americans remain uninsured. Most of the uninsured have annual incomes near or below the official poverty line (\$11770 for an individual in 2016). Medical bills are a significant contributor to household debt and bankruptcy. Poor and uninsured are more likely to crowd the emergency wards because they cannot cure the disease at its nascent stage, making healthcare facilities both a cause and a consequence of poverty. The wealthy 1% get everything from a silver spoon to a healthcare swimming pool, whereas the poor still fight to access their fundamental right of health care facility.

The USA, a messiah to the world of politics and administration for some selected countries, has turned its bottle down and landed itself on the floor of spoiled broccolis. Though being nutrient-rich, it has lost its flavor altogether. To hark back and amend the burned tenet of medical science, the USA has to come out of private health insurance policies or fallacies slowly. Community-based health clinics can catalyze to improve the aggrandizing situation. The healthcare prodigies need to come out of the cocooned knowledge-based consciousness and use brainstorming to combat the situation. It is imperative to teach not just low but everyone to take care of their chronic diseases not just in pink paragraphs but in transgressing practices. The government can control the price of medication and medical services through negotiation and regulation. As life is slowly coming back on track, it is time for America to eliminate the administrative cost of dealing with private health insurers.

It is time for medical science to come out of their world of technological warfare and drag themselves into their job's moral onus to serve unconventionally. That is to become knights in shining armor for every ebbing soul in the clout of disparities.





# The Meteoric Escalation of Technocracy:

## Lethal but Legal

-By Deepanksha

Contrary to the arms race in the 1940s, when the US dropped its first atomic bomb and openly declared its motive of destruction, the new autonomous arms race is said to have a similar intent. However, with the façade of technology, which lets them claim that the application of autonomous weaponry and unmanned vehicles is both civil and military. However, is that so?

The realm of international law has discovered another patch of legal grey amidst the vast expanse of dubiety for almost a century. This pertains to the legal position of lethal autonomous weapons systems or LAWS as they are un-ironically called. Before any question of legality comes the question of ethics. Can autonomous weaponry be expected to pertain to ethical obligations? So far, in the Industrial Arms Race 4.0, the world is only moving towards developing 'killer robots' without considering the hell they can unleash if not managed by an international authority. Researchers and companies are subject to no fixed rules or even specific professional guidelines regarding artificial intelligence. Technocratic smokescreens have made it difficult or intimidating for many people to question the implications of these technologies.

Next comes the issue of accountability, which has been up in the air for quite some time now. When states are not ready to take responsibility for Unmanned Vehicles, how can we possibly hold them accountable for the death of innocent civilians when killer robots are out in the world? A tragic series of mistakes by the air force, naval, and intelligence officers led to an airstrike in which four Palestinian boys aged 10-11 playing on a beach in Gaza in 2014 were killed by missiles launched from an armed drone. They were pursued and killed by drone operators who mistook them for militants in broad daylight. The attack was carried out with reckless disregard for civilian life and without proper authorization. However, the Israeli military denied the accusations and advocated peace and security.

Armed Control and watchdog organizations, such as Human Rights Watch, rally for a complete ban on these weapons systems. These rights groups vociferously support the ban, but despite the colossal amount of ethical concerns delineated by these groups and several other influential individuals and states pertaining to the potential use of LAWS, there remains a dearth of sufficient cause and lack of legal precedent to completely 'ban' the weapons system. The prospect of deployment of LAWS has drawn frowns. However, the call for a blanket ban on them at this stage is myopic. There is an urgent need for an independent body to deal with partially or utterly autonomous weaponry laws, its manufacture, and to discuss its prohibition on different levels.



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# DEALING WITH INTER-STATE WATER CRISIS

*“If the earth is a mother then rivers are her veins.”*

— Amit Kalantri.

**-By Nancy Christina**

Piped water has run dry in Chennai, the capital of the southern state of Tamil Nadu, and 21 other Indian cities are also facing the spectre of "Day Zero," when municipal water sources are unable to meet demand. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promised piped water for all Indians by 2024. The Indian government could meet that goal by looking beyond the gray confines of concrete to the green of robust natural water systems that worked in the past and could work again. Mr. Modi's government's focus on massive projects is flawed because moving waterworks only if there is water to move. However, to even consider surviving the climate emergency underway, India needs more than megaprojects. It needs the collective power of great, small-scale, nature-based efforts to seize the seasonal bounty across the diverse landscape of South Asia. River Board Act, 1956: This empowered the GOI to establish Boards for Interstate Rivers and river valleys in consultation with State Governments. To date, no river board has been created. Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956: Under this act, if a state government or governments approach the Centre for the constitution of a tribunal, the government may form a tribunal after trying to resolve the dispute through consultations. These never spotlight the well-being or the issues faced by the middle class and BPL class people (consisting of tribal people), who are the primary victims of such inter-state water disputes.

Inter-state water disputes cause the lower class of the society's financial, economic, and geographical crisis. Thus far, all the bills passed have not reached a proper conclusion and are still in an argument, causing economic and geographical misbalance.

The task should be concluded by assigning parameters and considering them and seeing it properly functioning. Safe and Adequate Drinking Water in rural areas; Open Defecation Free Districts; Installed Sewage Treatment Capacity; Annual Ground Water Withdrawal; are just a few measurements that can profoundly change in the society. India is urbanizing at a rapid pace, and amid that human, density lies opportunity. Thus, rapid advancement in the matter of inter-state water crisis is necessary.



# COMBATING STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TO GENDER INEQUALITY

-By Nancy Christina

*“You will often feel as if you don’t fit, but it has never been your destiny to fit in. You were born to stand out.”*

— Melene Rossouw

In an unequal world, a health crisis like the one we face today hurts women disproportionately. We call on leaders to act now to include vital gender dimensions in the response. The primary motive of today's agenda limits academic education and self-defense and the need for primary constraints apart from health and wellness.

The spotlight required here is centrally on education and health. However, what we are truly missing is the in-built structure/role of the women (or a single woman) in civilization.

The member of International Press wants to draw attention to the following points:

1. Not only by providing education and health can bring gender equality, but trivial notices to the functioning of the society towards the female can help this situation considerably;
2. Education not only in the erudite field but also in the defense and regardless of health not as in of providing sanitation but access to contraception should be more defined to today's generation notwithstanding of gender;
3. Gender inequality is. Instead, a phrase is used to describe and hide the horrors of amenities. Thus, more view should be given to the lower sections of the society to help this situation thrive;
4. Education should not only be administered to the female of the society but also the male division for a better future of both the gender categories;

Health, social and economic concerns are interconnected. That means designating as superior services all supporting women affected by gender-based violence, with immediate effect. We need more emergency helplines and shelters for women to escape from their offenders. We need child-care centers and elderly support that will allow many female health specialists to continue working to save our lives. We could also acknowledge expanding support to small enterprises and the self-employed. Moreover, we must design measures to avoid deepening educational and social inequalities, both within countries and between advanced and emerging economies.

The message is simple. As mentioned above, the responses (as in sustaining education and health) need to consider this asymmetric impact. Otherwise, we risk making the same mistake as we did in the 2008 financial crisis when our response did not focus on the most vulnerable in our society; people like single mothers will have a higher risk of falling below the poverty line after the confinement.

