

Beyond Horror in Rwanda and DRC

- breaking the wall of silence of unprecedented mass violence

Voksenaasen 19th - 22nd November 2008

«The big journey» William B. Miko - 2006. The artist is from Ndola in Zambia
(Voksenaasen collection)



This conference shall deal with the roots and ramifications of genocide in Rwanda and the region, and the mass violence that is currently tearing apart the peoples and nations in the Great Lakes region. It is about colonial and post colonial atrocities, warring fractions, greed and the international community's complicity and negligence in one of history's most gruesome but sadly still ongoing tragedies.

Beyond Horror is first of all about the heroic fight for survival and dignity - and the search for a way forward by the peoples in the region.

Genocides and other mass atrocities are consequences of complex political actions not, as they are often characterised, as simply senseless slaughter based mainly on identity or cultural difference. This means that besides the humanitarian actions to stop or minimise killings, torture and rape of civilians, especially women and children, the crucial challenge to managing or solving them requires political solutions, rooted in participation of all affected persons, truth, power restructuring and reconciliation.+

These words set the tone for the statement submitted from the Voksenaasen conference on Genocide in Nov 2007. pursuing the intentions to continue the painful path into investigating ourselves and the challenges we and others are facing to more adequately respond to the ever growing numbers of victims of global, regional and local injustices committed.+

networkers
**SOUTH
NORTH**

Voksenaasen  Oslo

Wednesday 19th November, arrival foreign participants. Dinner at 2000

Thursday 20th November

0830 - 0835

Welcome, Michael Sahlin

0835 . 0845

Introduction by Øystein Tveter

0845 . 1045

A Long and Winding War

On the Great Lakes region, its history, geopolitics, quest for resources, and humanitarian challenges

Francois Houtart . Keynote

Emily Sikazwe - discussant
Zamzam Kalume - discussant
Mathilde Muhindo - discussant
Gabriel Banda - discussant

Chair: Charles Abugre

(coffee/tea break)

1100 . 1300

Women and Society in Kivu

- Today's atrocities and the way out

Venantie Bisimwa Nabintu M Ę Keynote

Lisbeth Palme - discussant
Randi Solhjell - discussant
Mathilde Muhindo - discussant
Karen Brouneus - discussant
Tasila Mbewe - discussant

Chair: Lucy Muyoyeta

1300 - 1430 Lunch

1430 - 1545

Gaccaca and the National Court System

on current Rwandan challenges

Leslie Haskell

Panel and discussion

1600 - 1800

«Achievements and Remaining Challenges»

- The International Criminal Tribunal on Rwanda at a cross roads

Alex Obote-Odora - Keynote

Trond Dolva - discussant
Siri Frigaard - discussant
Zamsam Kalume - discussant

Chair: Reuben Daka

1900 Dinner

Evening: House Concert (at about 2000)

Friday 21st November

0830 . 1030

The Preventable Genocide, Rwanda Revisited

Ingvar Carlsson - Keynote

Lisbet Palme - discussant
Alejandro Bendaña - discussant
Venantie Bisimwa Nabintu - discussant

Chair: John Y. Jones

(coffee/tea break)

1100 . 1300

Accountability and Complicity in Genocide and Mass Violence

Alex Obote -Odora - keynote

Trond Dolva - discussant
Elinor Sisulu - discussant
Francois Houtart - discussant
Siri Frigaard - discussant
Emily Sikazwe - discussant
Ingvar Carlsson - discussant

Chair: Alejandro Bendaña

1300 - 1500

Lunch

1500 - 1700

Towards a Statement

Charles Abugre
Francois Houtart
Emily Sikazwe
Mathilde Muhindo

Chair: Henning Melber

1900 Dinner and Thank You

Saturday 22nd Nov at 13.00-15.00

EXTRA event in the Networkersq Burning Issues Series: **Crisis Zimbabwe**: Coordinator Elinor Sisulu invites to an open meeting on the current situation in Zimbabwe

Sunday 23rd Nov

Morning: Excursion Tour for participants continuing into the Conference on %Women in the Land of Conflict+Nov 23-25th.

People on the programme

CHARLES ABUGRE is the head of policy at Christian Aid in Britain. He is a development economist and came to Christian Aid from teaching development studies at the University of Wales, Swansea.

GABRIEL BANDA holds an MA in Peace Studies from the University of Bradford, England. He is an independent Zambian development worker, journalist, poet, theatre artist and writer. He is a close associate of Zambia's first president, Dr Kenneth D Kaunda.

ALEJANDRO BENDAÑA, professor, director CEI, Centre for International Studies, Nicaragua, former Nicaraguan ambassador to the UN and engaged in UN peace negotiations i.e. in Indonesia, Horn of Africa and Sri Lanka. He is a board member of Networkers SouthNorth.

KAREN BROUNEUS is a researcher at the Department of Peace and Conflict research at the University of Uppsala. She recently concluded her PhD on the theme: Rethinking reconciliation: Concepts, Methods and an Empirical Study of Truth Telling and Psychological Health in Rwanda.

INGVAR CARLSSON is former Prime Minister of Sweden, and chair of the UN independent inquiry into the actions that the United Nations took at the time of the genocide in Rwanda in 1994.

TROND DOLVA is retired judge of the Supreme Court in Norway.

SIRI FRIGAARD is chief public prosecutor and director of the Norwegian National Authority for Prosecution of Organized and Other Serious Crime. The office is also responsible for the investigation and prosecution of special international crimes, such as war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity

LESLIE HASKELL, Human Rights Watch, is a lawyer currently working in Kigali, Rwanda.

FRANÇOIS HOUTART is a sociologist with a master's degree in political and social sciences and a PhD in sociology of the Catholic university of Leuven where he served as a professor from 1958 till 1990. He is director of CETRI and a leading member of the World Social Forum

JOHN Y. JONES is currently director of Networkers SouthNorth has worked on development education and aid issues. He recently co-edited the book *Global Justice: The White Man's Burden?* (2007).

ZAMZAM KALUME is a youth co-ordinator in Kigali, Rwanda, and engaged in civil society development.

TASILA MBEWE is programme co-ordinator of the Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation, at Dag Hammarskjold Center at Mindolo College, Kitwe in Zambia.

HENNING MELBER is Director of the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation, Uppsala Sweden, an author and researcher, and former Research Director of the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden. He is Vice President of the International Network on Genocide Scholars.

MATHILDE MUHINDO, former member of Parliament in the DRC, and now director of OLAMA, a social assistance agency of the Roman Catholic diocese of Bukavu, on the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

LUCY MUYOYETA is a leading women's rights activist in Zambia and has engaged in and written on Gender and Human Rights issues in her country.

VÉNANTIE BISIMWA NABINTU is executive secretary of Women's Network for Justice and Peace (Rfdp) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). She is a distinguished human rights advocate.

ALEX OBOTE-ODORA is Chief of the Appeals and Legal Advisory Division (ALAD) in the Office of the Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He holds a Doctor of Laws Degree in International Criminal Law and a Master of Law's Degree in International Humanitarian Law from the University of Stockholm in Sweden.

LISBET PALME, member of The International Panel of Eminent personalities to Investigate the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda and the Surrounding Events. She chaired the UN-sponsored Group of Eminent Women for Namibian and South African Women and Children. Ms Palme was engaged in the International Study on The Impact of Armed Conflicts on Children, led by Mrs Graça Machel, and was expert member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

MIKHAEL SAHLIN, is Swedish ambassador to Norway and former director of The Folke Bernadotte Academy

EMILY SIKAZWE has a Master of Adult Education and holds an MSc in Agronomy as well as a Diploma in Community-Based Development and a Certificate in Advocacy and Networking, both from

the Coady International Institute. She is the director of Women for Change, a leading Zambian organization dedicated to the empowerment of women.

ELINOR SISULU is connected to Crisis Zimbabwe and a leading Zimbabwean and Southern African feminist and writer. Ms Sisulu received the Noma Prize for the best African book in 2003, for the biography of Walter and Albertina Sisulu: In Our Lifetime, published in December 2002.

RANDI SOLHJELL is a researcher at NUPI, Oslo. She has recently issued her master's paper on Sexual Violence in the DRC.

ØYSTEIN TVETER is a human rights lawyer and active in the general Norwegian exchange on justice and development issues. Tveter is chair of the board of Networkers SouthNorth.

This conference is organized in consultation and collaboration between the following:

THE DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD CENTER FOR PEACE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE is a part of Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe Zambia, promoting the legacy of Dag Hammarskjöld. An important issue is to develop fieldwork programs in Political Science and Peace-building for youth and students in Africa.

NETWORKERS SOUTH NORTH

Is a network organisation of internationally engaged researchers, writers and civil society representatives focusing on and pursuing Southern perspectives on current global justice-, human rights and development issues.

VOKSENAASEN

is Norway's national gift to Sweden as a token of gratitude for Swedish aid during and shortly after World War II. Voksenåsen of today is the Swedish centre for Culture and Conferences in Norway and one of the leading in its class. We also arrange our own conferences, seminars and cultural events. Voksenaasen has a substantial collection of art and literature.

THE DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD FOUNDATION was established in Uppsala, Sweden in 1962, in memory of the second Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Foundation deals with cross-cutting global challenges, raising issues, and exploring strategies for change, in areas of Development, Democracy, Peace and Security

Secretariat: registration and accommodation

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Practical information

Apply to: program@voksenaasen.no
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by 9th November

Conference fee NOK 500,- per day. Lunch is included. Additional cost for dinner and accommodation. Students may apply for scholarship to cover conference fee. If you cannot attend but would like the conference report sent to you, contact
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