

Rwanda civil war and genocide, 1990-1994

Since colonial period Rwanda society has been divided in three ethnicity, Hutu around 85% of the population, Tutsi around 15%, and the last one the Twa. Colonials rely on Tutsi to administrate the country, but in 1959 Hutu take the control of the country, kill a lot of Tutsi and nearly 100 000 Tutsi are exiled.

I. Arusha Agreements and UNAMIR creation

In 1990, the exiled Tutsi of the Rwanda Patriotic Front attack Rwanda by Uganda. Rwanda army forces, FAR, are not capable of stopping them. The current president Habyarimana ask for France help in accordance with the bilateral defense treaty signed, Opération Noroît starts. France help will not be enough to stop the RPF to continue its attacks. Arusha agreement will be signed by both part the 4th August of 1993.

UN Security Council by resolution 812 launch United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), its activities were meant to aid the peace process between the Hutu-dominated Rwandese government and the Tutsi-dominated rebel RPF, Noroît Operation leave the country when UNAMIR enter into Rwanda.

Their mission was supposed to be a peace-keeping task, so their shooting orders were very limited, therefore they have been unable to prevent or stop the genocide. In 7th April 1994, an attack killed 10 Belgium soldiers and many Tutsis representants, which launch a new wave of killings : genocide has started. In response Belgium called back their troops, 1200 soldiers, US launch a vote to reduce the UNAMIR forces to 270 soldiers, with only 270 soldiers, the UNAMIR was useless in front of all the killings in the country, and had not the right to intervein, except if it were attacked.

Later UNAMIR II will be voted, to make a new forces with 5500 soldiers with extended powers, the problem is this force will not be in Rwanda before 22th August 1994.

II. French Turquoise Operation

After the beginning of the attacks and the genocide in 1994, France sent mission Amaryllis, to save 1500 of its citizens after the death of three of them in Kigali.. They also saved 400 people related to Habyarimana regime and their embassy. The mission lasted 8 days, but it did not allow the French army to stabilize the country, as the Arusha Accords set any foreign military presence as illegal.

When the UNAMIR is reduced in 1994 and UNAMIR II is voted, France want to send troops to stop massacres before the launch UNAMIR II, really late in the year. Turquoise Operation is voted by resolution 929 of UN Security Council, it aims to created a safe humanitarian area in west of the country. More than 9000 Tutsis, harassed by Hutus, were protected, including 8000 in the camp of Nyarushishi. But this operation leads to mistake, denounced by military like colonel Guillaume Ancel, which declared that the safe zone offer the opportunity for genocide forces to escape to Zaïre with guns. It also helped the official government by advising and supplying its army, and trained its Gendarmerie. This operation make the civil war longer as it prevent RPF army to take all the country and continu fighting against FAR which could refuge in Zaïre.

III. UN Security Council responsibility

UN made several errors, the biggest has been the lack of resources for UNAMIR mission, and wrong assignment in order for the force to make his mission. When the UNAMIR came in Rwanda, the force only had two days of gas, food and water supply, and not enough weapons : some countries sent their troops but argued that it was the task of the UN to equip them if the organization wanted to employ them.

The UN security council also tried to stop its action when the genocide began, US particularly was afraid of a new Ethiopian situation where UN troops died. The commandment on Rwanda was also a disaster : the Belgium contingent was only obeying its own national orders, and the Bengali troops just stopped responding to orders when genocide started. France, Italy, Belgium and the US had saved their own citizens in the country without even warning the UNAMIR, which was also totally ineffective. The conclusion of the report was that the UN should abstain in getting involved in another internal conflict, to not worsen an internal conflict in international one.

By resolution 955, UN Security Council launched the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in 1994. This crisis brought a new type of peace-enforcement and humanitarian intervention. Today we can wish that UN security council learned of its own mistakes.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LAST GENOCIDE OF 20TH CENTURY

Rwanda population got divided in two by colonialist. At first Tutsi minority control the country with Belgian colonials, then Hutu majority take the power and exiled a part of the Tutsi.

1990-1993

Exiled Tutsi in Uganda, RPF, invade Rwanda. The Rwanda president ask for France help. Launch of "Opération Noroît".

1993

Arusha agreement. The 12th of march, resolution 812 is voted by security concil, launch of UNAMIR, and end of "Opération Noroît".

April 6th, 1994

Hutu President, Habyarimana aircraft is shot down in flight

April 7th to July 17th, 1994

Execution of Tutsi Genocide

April 8th, 1994

FPR offensive from Mulandi to Kigali

May 17th, 1994

Resolution 922 : UNAMIR II, up to 5500 men for the 22th of April, embargoes on weapons

June 22th, 1994

Resolution 929 : Launch of "Opération Turquoise" by France under UN autorisation

July 4th, 1994

FPR achive to get Kigadi, start of the escape FAR and Hutu population to Zaïre and Tanzania

July 17th, 1994

FPR get control of Ruhengeri and Gisenyi and declare end of the war.

July 17th, 1994

New gouvernement of national union with Paul Kagame as vice-president in charge of the country

August 22th, 1994

UNAMIR II comes into action, retreat of french "Opération Turquoise"

November 8th, 1994

Resolution 955, Internation Crime Tribunal for Rwanda is created

Aim to protect refugee from violence

Noroît Operation

Operation Noroît is a military operation carried out in Kigali by the French army from 4 October 1990. This operation must leave the Rwanda when MINUAR arrived to the contry in 1993.

Turquoise Operation

Operation Turquoise is a military operation organized by France and authorized by Security Council Resolution 929 of 22 June 1994. It aims to make a safe zone for the population.

UNAMIR I

Created by resolution 812 of security council. Must ensure the implementation of the Arusha agreements, will be unable to stop the Rwandan genocide from its beginning.

UNAMIR II

Decided on 8 June and resolution 925. Its mandate is being expanded to better protect refugees. Will be active in 22th August and remplaced Turquoise Operation.

FRANCE

UNITED NATIONS

Help 1990 Rwanda
gouvernement against
RPF army

RWANDA 1990-1994

TUTSI

HUTU

RPF Army Branch

Originally constituted of exiled Tutsi in Uganda, declare the war on Rwanda Gouvernment in 1990, and in 1994 to protect Tutsi population.

Attack in 1990 from
Burundi



RAF

Hutu Government Forces of Rwanda.
Made up only of Hutu people, fought against the RPF and actively contributed to the genocide.

Interahamwe

The Interahamwe are the most important of the Rwandan militias created by Hutu political parties. They contribute a lot to the genocide with the RAF.

1994 new attack to stop the genocide

Genocide in 1994