



United Nations Special Council on the Rwandan  
Genocide, 1994

GHS MUN V

## Background

Rwanda, a small African nation with an agrarian economy, contains two major ethnic groups: the Hutus and the Tutsis. The Hutus comprise most of the country's population (around 85%) while the Tutsis make up around 14% and the Twa (the original inhabitants of Rwanda) make up less than 1% of the country's population. Ever since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Tutsi ruled the country despite being the minority. This rule of the minority was reinforced when Germany colonized Rwanda in 1898 during the Scramble of Africa; their approach, which defined the terms Hutu and Tutsi based off physical appearance, created a more distinct difference between the two groups sparking some tensions as the Tutsi ruled with an absolute monarchy. This approach lasted through Belgian rule over Rwanda until 1959 in which the Hutus, tired of the inequality they had been experiencing organized a revolution following the rumored Tutsi assassination of a Hutu leader. The Hutus eventually ousted the Tutsi monarchy and established an all-Hutu government upon Rwanda's official independence from Belgium. However, this transfer of power did not occur peacefully as 300,000 Tutsis were exiled from Rwanda and 20,000 Tutsis were killed

Under this Hutu government – initially led by Grégoire Kayibanda, violence did not slow down with Tutsi slaughtering happening sporadically throughout the 1960s and 70s. In 1973 – following a large transfer of power to more local Hutu leadership – Kayibanda was overthrown by Juvenal Habyarimana and a civilian military; he would remain in power for the next two decades.

### The Start of the Genocide

In 1990, a Tutsi group known as the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) invaded

Rwanda from Uganda. These hostilities lasted for two years until 1992, when a ceasefire was signed. In 1993, Habyarimana signed onto an agreement—the Arusha Accords—that would create a transition government which the RPF would be apart of. This action infuriated Hutu extremists who prepared to take swift action. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1994, Habyarimana and the President of Burundi, Cyprien Ntaryamira, were shot down in a plane over Kigali with both men perishing in the attack. Before a day had even passed following this attack – whose culprits have not been found – the Presidential Guard, the Rwandan armed forces (FAR) and Hutu military groups by the names of Interahamwe and Impuzamugambi began to create roadblocks and slaughter Tutsis and moderate Hutus. One of the earliest deaths was Agathe Uwilingiyimana, the moderate Hutu Prime Minister. This opened a power vacuum allowing an extreme and violent Hutu government to step in. Currently, there is a UN peacekeeping mission in Rwanda however many of them are being hurt in the conflict. The exact start date of the committee will be April 21, 1994.

### Committee Dynamics

Seeing as this committee is a specialized committee, there will be a few special rules which govern it. While all these rules will be explained in more depth at the start of the concepts, I wanted to provide a brief outline of how things will work. **If you don't get what any of this means right now, don't worry! All will be explained in depth at the start of the committee.**

The committee will respond to crisis updates with directives rather than to write long resolutions. This is to simulate how the UN would respond to crisis.

The five permanent members of the security council will have veto powers in order to best simulate the UN. However, frivolous use of this veto power is looked **heavily down upon** by the chair. Vetoes should only be used when a certain directive blatantly contradicts the morals or policy of a country.

There will be no use of personal directives. This means that no country can act independently. However, there will be joint-private directives. These directives must be taken by multiple people but will not be disclosed to the rest of the committee.

## Country Policy

This is just a friendly reminder that, in committee, you're taking on the view of a **specific country**; you won't be representing your own beliefs. As such, make sure to note that your nation's foreign policy stances might prevent you from taking certain important measures in response to this issue. Make sure to **research your nation's response** to the genocide to determine what your country is willing to do to end Rwanda's crisis.

## Further Reading

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Rwanda-genocide-of-1994>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13431486>

<https://www.history.com/topics/africa/rwandan-genocide>

<https://www.e-ir.info/2011/08/03/the-rwandan-genocide-could-it-have-been-prevented-2/>

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/rwanda/etc/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/1994/04/30/world/>

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/civil-war-erupts-in-rwanda>

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/40209383>

## Maps

