



Reflections on Burundi's Cinquantenaire

Thursday, June 28th, 2012
9:30AM to 11:30AM

Johns Hopkins SAIS
Kenney Auditorium, Nitze Building
1740 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Forum Details:

On July 1st 1962, Burundi achieved its full independence from Belgium. In advance of the nation's Cinquantenaire, the Great Lakes Policy Forum will hold a session to reflect on the past fifty years and consider the outlook for the future.

Speakers:

Dr. Elavie Ndura

Professor of Education and Academic Program Coordinator of the Multilingual/Multicultural Education program (MME), George Mason University's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD)

Sixte Vigny Nimuraba

Shinnyo Fellow, George Mason University

Joel Nkurabagaya

Diplomat, Embassy of Burundi

Moderator:

Sandra Melone

Executive Vice President, Search For Common Ground

Bios:

Dr. Elavie Ndura is an international education expert with over 20 years of experience in developing, implementing and managing intercultural education and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages programs in the United States and Burundi. She is currently a tenured Professor of Education and Academic Program Coordinator of the Multilingual/ Multicultural Education program (MME) in the George Mason University's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). She is the founder and coordinator of the Shinnyo Fellowship for Peacebuilding through Intercultural Dialogue, a program which provides students with service and leadership experiences that enhance their critical social consciousness and their capacity to engage culturally diverse communities in transformative actions that contribute to intercultural understanding and peacemaking locally and globally. A prominent researcher and scholar, Professor Ndura leads interdisciplinary research projects examining educators' cultural identity development and immigrants' acculturation in the United States. She initiated and leads ground-breaking research examining educators' perceptions of the role of education in peacebuilding; educators' professional development needs and opportunities; and the contributions of teaching materials to peacebuilding in Burundi. She also leads the cross- country study of community-based peace education programs and practices in Burundi and Sierra Leone. She is co-author and co-editors of five books, and has authored more than 30 book chapters and professional journal articles. A frequently sought-after speaker, she has delivered numerous invited presentations and keynote addresses at international, national, and local professional meetings and other gatherings. Professor Ndura was a 2010-2011 Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the recipient of the Peace and Justice Studies Association's 2011 Peace Educator of the Year Award. She is the

founder and coordinator of the Burundi Schools Project which seeks donations of dictionaries and other instructional materials to benefit schools in Burundi, Africa. Professor Ndura holds a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction with emphasis in Bilingual and Multicultural Education from Northern Arizona University, USA; a M.Ed. in Teaching English for Specific Purposes from the University of Exeter, England; and a B.A. in Arts and Social Sciences with emphasis in English Language and Literature from the University of Burundi, Africa.

Sixte Vigny Nimuraba currently serves as a Genocide Prevention Program Assistant in the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (S-CAR) at George Mason University (GMU). He is also a Graduate student in S-CAR, GMU and a Shinnyo Fellow. As a Shinnyo Fellow, he is developing a year-long project through which he plans to bring together international and American-born GMU students through dialogue in order to foster peacebuilding dispositions through intercultural dialogue. He has extensive experience working with civil society and non-governmental organizations to promote social cohesion in Burundi. During his four year tenure with Ligue Iteka, the oldest and largest civil society organization in Burundi, he collaborated closely with UNHCR and other national and international human rights organizations to foster peaceful coexistence. In his capacity as Regional Coordinator within Ligue Iteka's Monitoring of Returnees Project, he first coordinated resettlement and social cohesion activities in five Northern provinces (Ngozi, Kirundo, Kayanza, Muyinga and Karusi) and was then promoted to the position of Southern Regional Coordinator covering the provinces of Makamba, Bururi and Rutana which had a significantly larger population of returnees and a remarkably larger number of land conflicts to mitigate. Before joining Ligue Iteka, Vigny held different positions in local and international organizations such as VISPE, Care International, and CNLS, which inspired his passion to dedicate his life to the quest for peaceful coexistence and social cohesion in Burundi and the African Great Lakes region. Vigny holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from University of Ngozi (Burundi).

Sandra Melone is the Executive Vice President of Search for Common Ground, one of the world's largest and most highly acclaimed international non-governmental organizations working in peacebuilding and conflict transformation - with 400 full-time staff; programs in 30 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East; partnerships with hundreds of organizations; and funding from a large, international platform of donors. Prior to becoming EVP, Sandra founded the Women's Peace Centre in Burundi; and established and ran SFCG's European headquarters in Brussels. Sandra is a founding member of the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation (EPCPT); of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO); and of the Child Soldiers Initiative (CSI) - on whose steering committees she served. She served on the Board of the International Federation of Associations in Belgium (FAIB); and as the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP). She serves on MasterPeace, of which SFCG is a Founding Partner. Before working in conflict transformation, Sandra worked in human rights advocacy and in international education. She has given presentations, workshops and trainings in conflict resolution, mediation, negotiation, consensus-building, team-building, facilitation, cross-cultural communication, the use of media for peacebuilding, fundraising and NGO management; has appeared in the international media and has published articles in a variety of international outlets on the media and conflict resolution; the role NGOs can play in Track II diplomacy and reconciliation; the complementarities of governmental, non-governmental, intergovernmental and private sector initiatives; and civil-military cooperation. Sandra studied at the University of Chicago and at Ludwig-Maximilian Universitat in Munich; speaks English, French, German and Romanian; and has worked in Africa, America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

A PROJECT OF:
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