

# End Poverty, Protect the Planet, and Ensure Prosperity for All - Part 1

By Michael Shank, PhD Alumnus and Adjunct Faculty, mshank@gmu.edu

The United Nations recently brokered two historic agreements applicable to every person on the planet. In September 2015, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were launched to guide the U.N.'s work over the next 15 years, and in December, the U.N. created a roadmap in Paris for reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and responding to their devastating impacts. The world in 2030 will look very different if we get these goals right. The hope is that we will have



Michael Shank.  
Photo: Michael Shank.

agreement are clearly interconnected and any effort to tackle one without immediate consideration of the other will do serious disservice to both. (It is not unlike the lack of coordination between the UN's Security Council and the UN's Economic and Social Council when dealing with global violence; the former body, which is predominantly reactive to conflict, would do well to prioritize preventive approaches in direct conversation with the latter body.)

Both SDG and climate commitments bring with them unimaginably hefty, but necessary, workloads. Hefty in that we are still over-reliant on unsustainable systems and must transition to something more socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable. Necessary in that we must do it now in order to survive. Done together however, we might actually have a shot at this. But that means that myriad communities committed to the SDGs – e.g. poverty, hunger, health, education, gender, etc. – will need to be in direct and daily conversation with climate organizations. This is not a groundbreaking proposition. Many of my colleagues are already pounding this pavement but it definitely bears repeating as this is going to require an entirely new modus operandi, unlike anything that has been orchestrated before.

*Continued on Page 7*

COMMENTARY

## Inside This Issue...

- 2 Network: Nigeria's Former INEC Boss Joins Mason as a Visiting Scholar
- 3 Initiatives: Working with UNHCR to Help Refugees in Africa
- 4 Event: An Afternoon with Nadia Murad: A Survivor of ISIS Enslavement and Genocide
- 5 Press: Media Appearances  
Opinion: The Rwandan Genocide 22 Years Later
- 6 Spotlight: Kaitlin Conway, MS Alumna  
Obada Shtaya, MS Student

# Nigeria's Former INEC Boss Joins Mason as a Visiting Scholar

By Ernest Ogbzor, PhD Candidate, eogbozor@masonlive.gmu.edu

The former chairman of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Attahiru Jega, has joined George Mason University as a visiting scholar. Professor Jega, a scholar and practitioner of international politics and democracy, previously served as the Vice Chancellor of the Bayero University Kano. He was also a former National President of the Academic Staff Union of Universities in Nigeria.

Among his recent accomplishments, Professor Jega successfully managed and transformed the complex Nigerian electoral system of 69 million registered voters, 155,000 polling booths, and 700,000 staff. The credibility and transparency of Nigeria's 2011 and 2015 elections were attributed to his excellent leadership skills. Professor Jega is also the only chairman of INEC who has organized two national elections, the most recent resulting in Nigeria's first democratic transfer of power to an opposition party.

Since the end of the 2015 election, the former



Left to right: Dr. Barkindo, Professor Jega, Mr. Abubakar, Professor Paden, and Ernest Ogbzor.

Photo: Ernest Ogbzor.

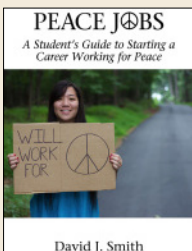
INEC chairman has received many accolades and commendations, including 2015 Elections Commissioner of the Year Award given by the International Center for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS), and winner of the 2015 IFES Democracy Award among others. Before joining Mason, Prof. Jega left INEC in June 2015 at the end of his tenure, to return to

his lecturing job at the Department of Political Science, Bayero University Kano. Now a visiting scholar, Professor Jega will spend six months at Mason working on a book project about his experience in the 2015 election.

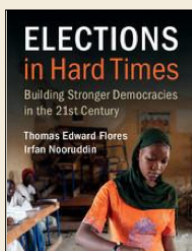
The Nigeria team at Mason, led by Professor John Paden, Clarence Robinson Professor of International Studies, facilitated Professor Jega's fellowship. The other members of the Nigeria-Mason team include Dr. Muhammadu Barkindo, newly nominated OPEC Secretary General and also Mason visiting scholar; Ahmad Abubakar, Rice Fellow; and Ernest Ogbzor, PhD Candidate at the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. ■

network

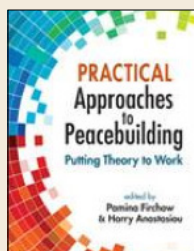
## Recent S-CAR Books



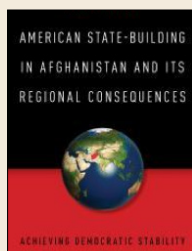
Peace Jobs: A Student's Guide to Starting a Career Working for Peace by David J. Smith.



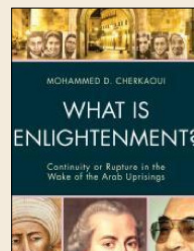
Elections in Hard Times: Building Stronger Democracies in the 21st Century by Thomas Flores and Irfan Nooruddin.



Practical Approaches to Peacebuilding: Putting Theory to Work by Pamina Firchow and Harry Anastasiou, ed.



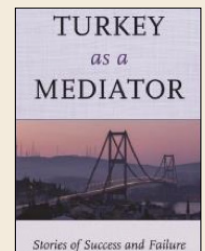
American State-Building in Afghanistan and its Regional Consequences by Neamat Nojumi.



What is Enlightenment? Continuity or Rupture in the Wake of the Arab Uprising by Mohammed Cherkaoui.



Libya's Displacement Crisis: Uprooted by Revolution and Civil War by Megan Bradley, Ibrahim Fraihat, and Houda Mzioudet.



Turkey as a Mediator: Stories of Success and Failure by Doga Ulas Eralp.

For more, visit [scar.gmu.edu/books-roster](http://scar.gmu.edu/books-roster)

# Working with UNHCR to Help Refugees in Africa

By Jackie Finch, Career and Academic Advisor, [jfinch4@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:jfinch4@masonlive.gmu.edu)

In May 2004, S-CAR MS student Kofi Goka, left Ghana to further his education in the U.S. He first attended Kutztown University in Pennsylvania and then Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, where he obtained a Master's of Arts in International Affairs degree. Kofi's course work at S-CAR, focuses primarily on conflict resolution and management, relating to violent extremism in West Africa.

In his first year, Kofi worked as a network analyst and research assistant at the Terrorism Transnational Crime and Corruption Center at Mason, analyzing the illegal trade networks for rhino horns and identifying the transnational chains moving them from Africa to other places of the world. In addition Kofi worked as a volunteer at the Genocide Prevention in Africa Initiative (GPAI) at S-CAR.

Kofi is currently back in Ghana, interning at the United Nations High Commission For Refugees (UNHCR) field office in Accra, a position he found through the S-CAR Community Network and Forum. Under the UNHCR field office in Accra, Kofi works with the Durable Solutions Unit, which is tasked with the responsibility of finding long lasting solutions for the resettlement of refugees. The division focuses on three main areas, namely voluntary repatriation – where refugees decide to return to their country voluntarily; local integration – the integration of refugees into the local society; and resettlement – where refugees are relocated to another country. Kofi's primary task is to conduct research on national legislations and policies related to refugees and work with asylum seekers in urban areas to identify their specific protection needs. Kofi also helps with weekly counseling services for refugees and helps them pursue durable solutions to bring closure to their respective situations, a key objective for UNHCR in Africa in 2015.

Kofi's work also has a continental focus. He frequently coordinates with other UNHCR field offices in the region to gather data on best practices. For example, the regional comprehensive solutions strategy for the Democratic Republic of Congo refugee situation being implemented in the Central Africa and Great Lakes sub region, foresees the resettlement of at least 50,000 Congolese refugees between 2012 and 2017. This policy will be complemented by efforts to advocate for better protection and local integration opportunities through enhanced livelihoods and better



Kofi Goka.  
Photo: Kofi Goka.

access to social services for refugees. Where conditions for safe return are met, UNHCR will continue to support voluntary repatriation. In Tanzania, UNHCR will strengthen its support for the local integration of more than 162,000 Burundian refugees who have been living in the old settlements since 1972. In September 2014, the Government of Tanzania confirmed its decision to grant citizenship to these long-staying Burundians. UNHCR, together with other partners, will strive to assist their self-reliance and ensure access to basic services.

Conditions in the north of Mali remain generally insecure, unpredictable, and not yet conducive for the promotion of voluntary repatriation. However, UNHCR

will continue to assist the spontaneous return of those willing to do so. UNHCR and the governments of Mali and Niger signed a tripartite agreement for the facilitation of voluntary return was signed in May 2014. It is expected that similar agreements will be concluded with the governments of Burkina Faso and Mauritania, where significant numbers of Malian refugees live.

The UNHCR field office is working together with the governments of Benin and Ghana to develop durable solutions for Togolese refugees. In 2016, the government of Benin issued residence permits for a 10-year period for refugees from Chad, the DRC, Rwanda, and Togo. Opportunities have also begun to emerge for Mauritanian refugees in Mali.

In addition, efforts to achieve local integration of Angolan, Liberian and Rwandan refugees will be pursued. In Zambia, the Government's pledge to locally integrate some 10,000 former Angolan refugees is being implemented. In the DRC, up to 18,000 former Angolan refugees will be assisted to integrate locally. In Namibia, after successful implementation of solutions for the majority of refugees, UNHCR will phase out its presence, while continuing to engage closely with the Government through the Regional Office in South Africa.

Kofi's experiences working with organizations in both Ghana and the U.S. have given him a unique global perspective. For him, all of these efforts should aim to provide a platform for discussions of concerns of governments and the refugee communities, rather than just encouraging repatriation. Kofi will return to the U.S. after this internship to finish his degree at Mason, but he would like to continue working with refugee communities all over the world afterwards. ■

initiatives

# An Afternoon with Nadia Murad: A Survivor of ISIS Enslavement and Genocide

By Roj Eli Zalla, PhD Student, rzalla@masonlive.gmu.edu

In August 2014, while many observers believed the Islamic State's (ISIS) focus was on Southern Iraq, the organization suddenly shifted its focus to the Kurdish north. On August 3, 2014, ISIS attacked and captured Shingal, a predominant Yazidi town. The sudden offensive did not allow many families in Shingal and surrounding villages the time to escape. Kocho, a village to the south of Shingal was one of the villages that fell into the hands of ISIS.

ISIS fighters rounded up the residents of the village, killed the men and elderly women, and took the younger women captive as sex slaves. The entire population of the village (approximately 400 men and



Nadia Murad Basee Taha, an Iraqi woman of the Yazidi faith, bows her head after telling her story during the Security Council meeting Maintenance of international peace and security Trafficking in persons in situations of conflict.

Photo: Flickr User UN Photo/ Amanda Voisard.

to escape her captors and reach safety. She is now an activist speaking up for many Yazidi women and children who are still held captive.

I invited her to share her story with the S-CAR community. With the help of a non-profit organization, Yazda, she visited the School, where she met with not only students and faculty at S-CAR, but also human rights activists and journalists. A total of five TV channels attended the talk, one of the TV channels broadcast the event live to its viewers in Kurdistan Region of Iraq, while AlHurra TV recorded the entire session

for later use in a documentary about Nadia Murad.

Nadia Murad, devastated and terrified by what she witnessed, has decided to "not rest until the story of the Yazidi women are heard." Her mission is now to recount the atrocities in order to raise awareness about what is now recognized as genocide against Yazidis. In addition to sharing her story, Nadia shed light on what needs to be done to help survivors like herself and many other Yazidis who have been victimized. In the response to a question on what can one do to help, she replied, "There are many ways to help. We have many women and children who have survived and now live in refugee camps, any help would be appreciated."

Murad said she was glad that the United States government and the European Union have recognized the massacre as genocide, but she will continue to press for "Getting rid of ISIS and restoring safety to the Yazidi community" and putting in place some sort of measures to prevent such atrocities from recurring. "This is not the first time massacres take place against the Yazidis" she said, "And this massacre was not carried out by just a group of ISIS fighters, we saw our neighbors turning against us just because we were Yazidis. We have lost trust."

A link to the event video can be found at: <http://scar.gmu.edu/event/life-under-isis-yazidi-womans-story-of-surviving-enslavement>

1000 women and children) were either killed or enslaved. Witnesses recount the horrific moments when the merciless extremists showed up in the village.

Nadia Murad, a senior high school student, 20 years old at the time of the attack, was one of the many women who witnessed the massacre of the residents. "We heard the gunshots when the fighters were shooting our men," Murad said. The fighters spared Murad's life in the interest of using her as a slave. After spending three months in slavery, she managed

## Upcoming S-CAR Community Events

### Thursday, May 5, 2016

World Café: Braiding Narratives from Syria and

Iraq of Achievements

9:00am-12:00pm

### Friday, May 6, 2016

Conference: Power Shifters: Changing the

Narrative on Violent Extremism

9:00am-5:00pm

### Friday, May 27, 2016

The Sixth Annual Graduate Education

Symposium in Peace and Conflict Resolution

12:30pm - 5:30pm

For more, visit [scar.gmu.edu/events-roster](http://scar.gmu.edu/events-roster)

# Student Opinion: The Rwandan Genocide 22 Years Later

By Innocent Rugaragu, S-CAR PhD Candidate, [irugarag@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:irugarag@masonlive.gmu.edu)

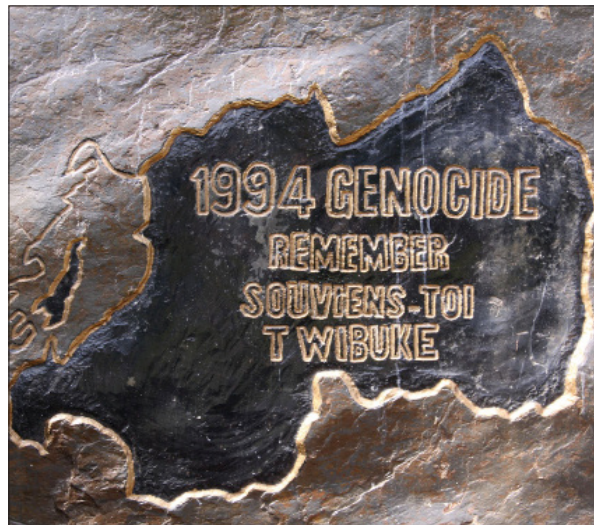
This year marked the 22nd commemoration of the Rwandan genocide that claimed over one million lives. Each year since 1994, *Kwibuka*, meaning “remember,” is held to commemorate the lives lost during the Tutsi genocide. To encourage a commitment to oppose genocidal ideology, this year’s commemoration was held around the world under the theme *Kwibuka 22: Fighting Genocide Ideology*.

As a community, S-CAR had an opportunity to remember the Rwandan genocide at an event held on April 7, 2016. The first part of the evening was dedicated to watching a documentary titled *Ubumuntu* which translates to mean “humanness.” The plot of this movie followed Hutu families and a missionary priest who narrate why they decided to hide and save Tutsis, even at the risk of their own lives. This documentary reminded me of another situation, where students in *Nyange* in northern Rwanda, refused to obey the orders of killers to allow for the killing of Tutsis. These martyred students refused on the grounds that they were “all Rwandans.” Unfortunately their stance was shortlived as the militia attacked and killed many of them. These students still remain an inspiration for me and have even been honored as national heroes in Rwanda. They embody the vision that Rwandans desire and deserve, which is to live and die as Rwandan, and not as an exclusive ethnic group.

The *Nyange* students, the subject of *Ubumuntu* among many other living and dead Rwandans, protected each other with great love, radical care, compassion, mercy, patience, and courage. It is my hope that none of us at S-CAR have to make such a sacrifice, but if such an unfortunate situation presents itself as we engage in conflict resolution, management, and transformation work around the world, it is my belief that many of these courageous individuals from Rwanda can inspire us to say no to hatred and the culture of immoral or amoral indifference, and stand by those beliefs.

The second part of S-CAR's evening of commemoration involved a panel discussion which was uncomfortable, during certain periods, yet very important. The panel featured Dean Kevin Avruch; Rwandan Ambassador, Prof. Mathilde Mukantabana;

Dr. Douglas Irvin-Erickson, Director of the Genocide Prevention Program at Mason; Dr. Zachary D. Kaufman, a fellow at both Harvard and Yale Universities; and myself, who served as the moderator. These distinguished scholars helped the audience discuss the 1994 genocide in light of the past, present, and the future of Rwanda. I extend thanks to all who were able to attend and special thanks to the panelists, who reminded us that our words and our actions or inaction have costs and consequences in the context of genocide. The way we educate our children at school and within the family, construct our history and memory, exercise national and international justice, lead and exercise power nationally and internationally, and finally the way we worship and practice religion all matter in promoting or preventing genocide and genocide ideology.



Rwanda and Ouganda: An exceptional journey for lovers of Africa!

Photo: Flickr User Voyages Lambert.

## Recent S-CAR Media

### We're Fiddling as the Climate Burns

Michael Shank, S-CAR Alumnus  
*USA Today* 04/19/16

### Solon Simmons Weighs in on the Crucial New York Primaries

Solon Simmons, S-CAR Faculty  
*CTV News* 04/19/16

### To Save his Middle East Legacy, Obama must Recognize a Palestinian State Now

Ibrahim Fraihat, S-CAR Alumnus  
*Middle East Eye* 04/13/16

### Healing the Heart of Conflict: Rabbi Yanklowitz Interviews Professor Marc Gopin

Marc Gopin, S-CAR Faculty  
*Valley Beit Midrash* 04/12/16

**Conflict Analysts from S-CAR have appeared on 19 occasions since the last newsletter. These 4 represent a sample of those publications. For a complete list, visit <http://scar.gmu.edu/media>**

In the past 22 years and in the process of preparing for *Kwibuka 22*, I have had opportunities to interact with friends, colleagues, fellow Rwandans, and non-Rwandans who either challenge or support “the truth” about remembering the genocide. The major categories that I have encountered are those who believe that surviving the genocide is a privilege and so remembering is a duty; those who believe that remembering the genocide is a must, lest we forget and see a recurrence, as “Genocide Never Again” meaning nothing in Rwanda and many other places around the globe.

press

Continued on Page 8

## Kaitlin Conway, MS Alumna

By Kwaw de Graft-Johnson, PhD Candidate, kdegraft@masonlive.gmu.edu

After graduating from the Masters program in 2014, Kaitlin Conway joined Training Resources Group (TRG), an organization that provides training, consulting, facilitation, and organizational development services to their clients. "The skills I learned and developed at S-CAR, such as facilitation, reflective practice, and narrative evaluation and praxis, are ever present in my work with our clients who range from large to small corporations, international organizations, federal and state government agencies, as well as non-profit organizations."

Kaitlin Conway, a native of Alabama, attended Troy University, a small yet internationally focused university south of Montgomery. While there, she studied Political Science with a focus on International Politics and Leadership Studies. Kaitlin recalled, "After about a year into my undergraduate degree, I felt that my studies were devoid of an approach that examined international and domestic political trends and historical events in an interdisciplinary manner, especially in a way that I wanted to approach solving some historical conflicts." In addition, Kaitlin was also looking for some level of practice-based curriculum to complement all the theory that she was learning.

For Kaitlin, the "what is next?" question drew her to the program at S-CAR, which promised to bring together the development of theory, research, and practice to address the conflicts of today. "Overall, I think my experiences at S-CAR, especially those focused on practice and field work, showed the impact and applica-



Kaitlin Conway.  
Photo: Kaitlin Conway.

tion of a variety of intervention strategies on a variety of levels across vast contexts."

Kaitlin recounts initially feeling anxious when she realized that the World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund, and USAID were some of the clients of TRG. "I remember feeling some pressure when I first started working at TRG. After completing some work for our clients, I came to the realization that my work was just an extension of my S-CAR education, an ongoing process I should add." Kaitlin recalls Dennis Sandole's Three Pillar approach, an integrative model that encourages a systems approach to both analysis and resolution. It is a model she says informs her

own work, but allows flexibility for interventions in that the model explores different levels of the conflict. She says "In my own work this encourages action, as a change at one level will inevitably affect other levels, with deep and broad analysis to ensure effectiveness." In addition to this, she has done some work that involves tracking conversations at a meeting with government and NGOs about the United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security as well as successfully organizing an internal learning session based on Sara Cobb's Narrative Praxis course. "The content was well received and many trainers at TRG were interested in ways that these principles could be implemented in their own work."

Currently, Kaitlin is enjoying working for TRG but she hopes to do more in the field. "I am learning a lot and would like to be a trainer/facilitator who works more closely with clients in future." ■

## Obada Shtaya, MS Student

By Kwaw de Graft-Johnson, PhD Candidate, kdegraft@masonlive.gmu.edu

Obada Shtaya is a current MS student, born and raised in Nablus in the north of the West Bank, Palestine. After earning his undergraduate degree in English literature at An-Najah National University, and working for a while, he decided to move to the U.S. in August 2015, after he received a Fulbright Scholarship to further his education at Mason.

Obada describes his undergrad years as "full of curiosity and exploration" as he sought to better understand the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and identify approaches to resolve it. After graduating, he started to work with the organization OneVoice movement. "I was introduced to OneVoice movement, a grassroots organization that uses conflict resolution lenses to try to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through solution-oriented discourse, and narra-



Obada Shtaya.  
Photo: Obada Shtaya.

tive analysis among others."

After working with OneVoice for five years, Obada decided that it was time to complement his practical experiences with a deeper understanding of conflict analysis and resolution theories and approaches.

After graduating from S-CAR, Obada hopes to have gained a better understanding of the use of interdisciplinary approaches in conflict analysis and the dynamics and lifespans of protracted conflicts that have somehow been resolved. "I believe that there is always a way to achieve a breakthrough, even in such a complicated conflict such as the one being

experienced in Israel-Palestine. We should always strive to find out how this can be achieved and this is one of my biggest drives." ■

# Ending Poverty, Protecting the Planet and Ensuring Prosperity for All

Continued from page 1

There is some discussion now, but it must increase tenfold.

If we are to efficiently and effectively tackle what is in store, we will need to come out of the gate strong this year. There is no time to waste, which is why some cities in the US – such as New York City, Baltimore and San Jose – are already adopting urban SDG agendas on top of their climate commitments. They did not want to wait; we should not wait. The agenda begins now, and a first step in that process is ticking through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and enumerating their climate connection clearly, lest anyone still doubts that these agendas are interrelated.

Eradicating poverty and hunger, the first two SDGs, are perhaps the most obvious in their connection to climate, yet funding streams and workflows are still siloed or marginalized. The anti-poverty and anti-hunger camps, for example, have yet to fully integrate the climate narrative. And yet, climate change is one of the UN's biggest obstacles in its 15-year goal setting on these two fronts. Not only will extreme weather force more people into poverty, disease, and malnutrition, it will destabilize everyone and everything that is already vulnerable. Putting poor populations at the fore of any climate fix will be essential, as will difficult decisions regarding diet. Increasing food production 70 percent by 2050, to feed the nearly 10 billion people that will live on this planet, is going to require a massive uptick in plant-based diets given the carbon intensity of the animal industry. There's no easy way around this and it'd behoove both camps to get on board this train sooner than later, something they have yet to do.

Health is a no-brainer as dirty fossil fuels are killing us. Air pollution alone kills 3.3 million people a year, a deathly figure set to double in 35 years if we don't change course. Hotter temperatures, and the heat records we continue to break, bring all sorts of harmful health impacts. Simply put, that means more strokes, heart attacks, mosquitoes and ticks. Thankfully, the highly reputed Lancet Commission is already addressing this issue, but more needs to be done to engage health practitioners in the telling of the climate story, whether in mobile clinics, emergency rooms, or hospital boardrooms. The climate-health connection needs to be as commonplace in the public's mind as prep for cold season and flu shots are at your local Walgreens and CVS stores.

As you can see from the first three SDGs above, there is an obvious disconnect developing. The gaps should be self-evident. Much of it has to do with communication but also with improved education, which will have a better chance of succeeding if people are out of poverty, healthy, and well fed. Kids can be what they should be – i.e. students – when poverty, which will worsen with global warming, is not



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals Poster. Image: United Nations.

forcing them to work the fields or the sweatshops. Additionally, any climate change curricula has a much better chance of landing on less-distracted ears if basic human needs – like shelter and food – aren't so out of reach.

Gender equality is another obvious goal despite the fact that many women's rights organizations are not yet fully on board the climate train. With every possible climate impact, women are, without question, the most vulnerable. In most countries, they are still the ones primarily handling the water, food, firewood, and maintenance of household

infrastructure – all of which becomes more onerous and arduous as the planet warms and extreme weather worsens. They are also more likely to die from, and be exploited during, disaster situations. Worse, the unequal distribution of the climate burden undermines every other gender equality target. This fact alone should make this SDG deserving of both camps' attention.

The next goal related to water is arguably the most important. Yet, for some unknown reason, it remains one of the least urgent among advocates. Despite the devastating climate-induced droughts and floods on every continent – from California to the UK, from Sao Paulo to Syria – we have not yet woken up to the reality that freshwater, as we know it, will not be around for the taking much longer. Billions of people are already living in physical water scarcity or water shortages, and these numbers are set to grow substantially with global warming. While talk of water conflict and water wars is rightly on the rise, much more will be needed, including a complete rethink on water-intensive industries, from food and fashion to tech and trade.

Energy is obvious. No need to spend much time talking about this as both camps are already on board, talking about 100 percent (renewable energy) for 100 percent (of the world's population). What is great about the clean energy revolution, if done right, is that it will help accomplish other UN goals: It is good for health, it is good for economic growth, it is good for gender and income equality, and it is good for democracy. In fact, the democratization of energy, enabling and empowering people anywhere and everywhere to harness the sun and the wind, should be front and center for international financial institutions. Mirror what the Internet and mobile technology did for the majority, globally, and similarly free up renewable energy and make it easy for the taking. It's no wonder that Tea Party libertarians in America are already all over this issue. So should every other party.

### Part II of this article will be published in the next issue of the S-CAR newsletter. ■

## The Rwandan Genocide 22 Years Later

Continued from page 5

In addition, we also have those who believe that remembering prevents genocide victims from forgiving, forgetting, and reconciling; those who believe that remembering is not in the interest of the victims but of politicians, both governmental and opposition, who use commemoration to score political points; and finally those who deny that a Tutsi Genocide took place and believe that it was simply people killing people, with both Tutsis and Hutus killing equally, and as such Tutsis should not monopolize it.

The above positions and conflicts remind me how complex the word “truth” is. No wonder Immanuel Kant had to write three volumes about this concept. Both synthetic and analytic judgments are based on truth, which presupposes fact, reality, and authenticity. Mindful of such complexity of “truth,” I believe that we should not politicize an event such as the April 1994 Tutsi genocide. I hope to continue the conversa-



Innocent Rugagu.  
Photo: Innocent Rugaragu.

tion with myself, our panelists, and others about the 1994 genocide. Maybe S-CAR, as an academic institution for conflict analysis and resolution, and as the home of faculty such as Dr. Erickson, Director of the Genocide Prevention Program at Mason, and Dr. Stanton Gregory of Genocide Watch, can consider starting a memory center about this genocide, which can help to address and resolve conflicts that have continued for 22 years.

As a member of civil society, witnessing the genocide and its aftermath, losing so many family members and fellow Rwandans, and seeing so many people left traumatized, I have come to believe that a culture of remembering and honoring the memory of the genocide is inextricably linked with a culture of gratitude, hope, and healing. Hence, a culture of “remembering” in “truth” remains important for the future of Rwanda. ■

The views expressed in S-CAR News represent the personal perspectives of each author and do not reflect any institutional position of George Mason University or the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution.



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