



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

UNA-USA Newsletter - Nashville Chapter
P.O. Box 121745, Nashville, TN 37212
Spring 2008 (615) 837-3581



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Published by the United Nations Association – USA Nashville Chapter

63nd Annual Dinner and Plenary Meeting

Lessons from Civil War and Genocide in Burundi:
What role should international organizations and society play in restoring peace and hope in this African country?

Steve Ndabambalire
Caterpillar Financial Services

Belmont United Methodist Church
(Corner of Acklen Avenue and 21st Ave. South, Hillsboro Village)

Tuesday April 8, 2008

Reception 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Program 7:00 p.m.

(no charge for program only)

Price: \$16

Student Price: \$12

(scholarships available)

RSVP by Noon, Sunday, April 6, to the UNA Office, 615-837-3581.

(Vegetarian meals available upon request when making a reservation.)

Please note – We purchase food based on the number of reservations.

If you are unable to attend, a donation to cover our costs is appreciated.

Steve Ndabambalire is a Cash Manager for a Fortune 500 Company in Nashville, TN. His expertise includes Sales and Marketing, Collections, Financial Management and Project Management. Prior to moving with his wife, Lyse, to Nashville in 2004, he held a four-year assignment with the same company in Paris, France.

In 2005, Steve and Lyse founded their retail business, BK Traders, and the brand, Mwizero. (Mwizero means "hope" in the Burundi native language of Kirundi.) Mwizero features gourmet coffee made of premium organic Burundian beans roasted locally, and a broad selection of arts and crafts handmade by Burundi artisans.

Steve is a Burundian national. He grew up in the culturally diverse Burundian Capital of Bujumbura and attended the international school. During his childhood years in the 1980's, Bujumbura was a magnet attracting people from all over the world: diplomats, businessmen, students, development volunteers, tourists, and migrants seeking opportunities. Due to his father's assignments as Ambassador in Tripoli, Libya, Steve lived and traveled throughout North Africa as a boy. His father helped instill the Republic of Burundi following the 1966 Revolution.

President's Corner

Tennessee State University Participates at Regional and National Model United Nations Conferences in 2008

The Tennessee State University International Affairs Society participated for the second year in a row at the Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference in Atlanta, GA in November 2007. Six TSU students represented the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Students learned about the country as well as its position in the Middle East. Students wrote position papers while also sharpening their public speaking and negotiating skills. The six TSU students who participated were: Catherine Jackson, Tekari Kelley, Shalinda Miller, Karen Tankersley, Latoyia Trotter, and Veronica Walker. They interacted with students from all over the country. For several of the students it was their first experience with Model UN and they had a great time while impressing their fellow delegates.

In addition Tennessee State University will once again be participating at the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City April 22-26, 2008. The National Model United Nations Conference is one of the largest collegiate Model United Nations conferences in the world. It brings together as many as several thousand student delegates from many different countries. This will be the 8th year in a row that Tennessee State has attended the conference. TSU has previously represented Eritrea, Libya, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Malta, the Solomon Islands, and Sudan. This year Tennessee State University will be representing The United Arab Emirates. There will be 8 students attending the conference along with their faculty advisor Dr. John Miglietta. The students will be participating on the following committees at the conference:

- General Assembly Plenary
- General Assembly 1st Committee
- General Assembly 2nd Committee
- General Assembly 3rd Committee
- Commission on Status of Women
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- Organization of the Islamic Conference

The students spend most of their time at the conference working in their respective committees. In preparing for the conference the students are learning about the United Arab Emirates and its policies with respect to the issues that will be discussed in their respective committees. In addition since the UAE is a member of the League of Arab States as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council the students are studying the politics of the Middle East. The UAE has economic and political relationships with diverse countries such as Iran and the United States. So while representing a small country the TSU delegation is in a unique position of facilitating compromise on several key issues.

For more information on Model United Nations in general, as well as Tennessee State University's program contact Dr. John Miglietta.

John Miglietta
Faculty Advisor Tennessee State University International Affairs Society
President, UNA-USA Nashville Chapter
963-5515, jmiglietta@tnstate.edu

For additional information about the National Model United Nations Conference, visit <http://www.nmun.org/>.

UNA-USA EDUCATES *Model UN*

The UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI)

(taken from <http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/issues/international-security/iraq.html>)

In August 2007 and with the support of the United States, the UN Security Council's 15 Members unanimously voted to significantly expand the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI). The mission was expanded in three key ways:

- **National Reconciliation:** It calls on the UN to help Iraqis review the Constitution, mediate internal border disputes, strengthen the rule of law and human rights, and conduct a census.
- **Regional and International Support:** It calls on the UN to facilitate dialogue among Iraq's neighbors, particularly on border security, energy, and refugees matters, in addition to continuing to garner international assistance.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** It asks the UN to play an increased role in returning refugees and displaced people to their homes and coordinating humanitarian aid delivery in Iraq.

U.S. Ambassador to the UN Zalmay Khalilzad welcomed the resolution as an indication that the international community was developing a shared vision for the future of Iraq. And he has repeatedly noted the unique ways the UN can help mediate the complex political landscape in and around Iraq.

In September 2007, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Staffan de Mistura of Sweden as the Special Representative to Iraq. Thus far, Mr. de Mistura is emphasizing sorting out disputed internal boundaries, like Kirkuk, and the constitutional review process. The UN's mission is expanding in some key areas of Iraq, such as Basra and Irbil, to extend its reach throughout the country.

Tell Congress to Fully Fund the UN in FY 2009

The President recently proposed a budget request for next year that would dramatically underfund the United Nations. Despite the fact that the U.S. is asking the UN to take on a growing number of peacekeeping missions—saving American resources and lives—the President has shortchanged UN peacekeeping by \$600 million.

The Better World Campaign is calling on Americans to voice their support for full funding for the United Nations before Congress makes its final decisions. Make sure your Representatives know that our UN dues are a commitment we must honor and that UN peacekeeping is a wise investment. Support for the UN's peacekeeping operations ensures that Americans don't have to pay all the bills or take all the risks in securing peace around the world. We simply cannot afford to go it alone.

ACT NOW: Ask Congress to support full UN funding today!

Visit the Better World Campaign's website

http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1517/t/6029/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=23645

to express your support or contact your congress person directly.

UN Association Seminars

Please note the change in location for these interesting and informative foreign affairs seminars, another educational service of the Nashville Chapter, UNA-USA:

April 17, 2008 – 4:30 p.m.

Location and Speaker - TBA

May 15, 2008 – 4:30 p.m.

Location and Speaker - TBA

All Seminars are free and open to the public. Please check our website, www.una-nashville.org for the latest information on location and times.

Save a Tree!

If you'd like to receive the UNA Newsletter via e-mail rather than via regular mail, please contact Tim Stewart, stewartt@mail.belmont.edu.

Thanks!

Your Support is Appreciated!

Thanks to our many friends and members for your generous support. Dozens of you serve on boards and committees, volunteer to staff our office, organize our programs, and provide ongoing financial assistance to help make everything possible. We couldn't do it without you!

Please be sure and renew your membership when it comes due, or consider joining the UNA if you haven't already. You can join at our website, <http://www.una-nashville.org>, or contact our office at 615-837-3581 and we'll send you a brochure. Our main sources of income are a portion of each member's dues, and annual contributions from our members and friends.

As always, we welcome donations any time throughout the year. Please send your contribution directly to the UNA, P.O. Box 121745, Nashville, TN 37212. Do not send a gift for our Nashville Chapter with your dues to New York. Thanks to everyone who is supporting us in this way.

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