

Justice and Commemoration

—Problems for National Reconciliation in Rwanda—

Shin'ichi TAKEUCHI

(Institute of Developing Economies)

Introduction

National Reconciliation:

Important issue for many post-conflict societies as well as international community

Justice, Commemoration: necessary path for national reconciliation

Influence of real politics

The case of Rwanda: Increasing criticism

1. Civil War and Genocide

1994 Rwandan Genocide

Ethnicity in Rwanda: Hutu more than 80%, Tutsi about 15%, Twa 1%

Same language and religion, living in mixture.

October 1990, Outbreak of the Civil War in Rwanda

Invasion of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), mainly Tutsi

Habyarimana regime, mainly Hutu (North West Region)

August 1993, Arusha Peace Accord

Fear of losing power for the Habyarimana regime's hard core

Intensification of ethnic propaganda by the Habyarimana regime

April 6, 1994, Assassination of the President Habyarimana Mass killing

Victims: Tutsi civilians, Hutu oppositions (by the order of the interim government)

(mainly Hutu) Civilians (by the RPF)

Consequence: the military victory of the RPF.

Establishment of new regime in July 1994

2. Justice and Reconciliation

Justice in abroad

ICTR: established in November 1994 by UN. 69 Arrested. Symbolical meaning.

Europe and America: Belgium's “Universal law”

Justice in Rwanda

Detainees over capacity

Gacaca: Judgments at village level. Importance of confession

Justice and Reconciliation in different interpretations

UN: deterrence (of ethnic antagonism) by impartial tribunal reconciliation

Rwanda: disappearance of the “culture of impunity” by punishment,

Maintenance of peace and security reconciliation

Tension between Rwanda and UN: Treatment of possible War Crime of the RPF

Problem of definition of the Genocide in Rwandan context.

(itsembabwoko n'itsembatsemba jenocide)

3. Commemoration and Reconciliation

Commemoration in April 7, 1995 in Kigali, the Capital.

6,000 anonymous victims (mainly Tutsis), and Hutu politicians assassinated
in the Genocide.

Attendance of various religious leaders

Change after 1996

Reburial, “Exhibition” of remains and bones,

Hostility to religious groups (especially catholic church)

Demands to the International Community

Responsible for the Genocide(in 1994, from the colonial times)

Aids

Transformation of the RPF regime

Concluding Remarks

Politicization of the “national reconciliation” process

Problems of the RPF regime

National reconciliation and political power