

# Social factors lead to tribal conflict

By HELLE NIELSEN  
Staff Writer

Although the killing of 5,000 Hutu by the ruling Tutsi in Burundi last month was called tribal rivalry, the country's century-long conflict has its roots in social inequality, experts say.

In pre-colonial times, Tutsi referred to the ruling class and Hutu to the servant class, said anthropologist Jan Vensina of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. But during the Belgian colonization, Burundians were permanently identified as either Tutsi or Hutu for administrative purposes, Vensina said.

"Tutsi and Hutu refer to social categories," he said. "What you have here is a social conflict."

Burundi, whose borders are Zaire to the west, Rwanda to the north and Tanzania to the east, is one of Africa's poorest countries. More than 90 percent of the 5 million Burundians work in agriculture.

The Tutsi, about 15 percent of the population, hold most positions of political and economic power in Burundi, and the military is exclusively Tutsi, Vensina said.

Since Burundi gained independence in 1962 the Hutu revolted repeatedly "to get a better deal," Vensina said.

At least 5,000 Hutu were killed in northern Burundi in August, accord-

ing to government estimates, when the military attacked the area with helicopters after violence erupted between Hutu and local Tutsi authorities.

"The government intervened in order to establish order," said Simon Findano, counselor of cultural affairs at the Burundian embassy in Washington, D.C. "It is unfortunate that when something like that happens innocent are killed."

Findano said Burundi Hutu living in Rwanda incited local Hutu to riot.

According to wire service reports, violence erupted after two Tutsi police killed a Hutu at a market place, and Hutu retaliated by killing the police officers, Vensina said.

The Chinese press agency, Xin Hua, estimated that 24,000 Hutu were killed, Vensina said. "That may be a bit high, but it has some believability."

The United Nations said an estimated 60,000 Burundians have fled over the border to Rwanda since the massacre, he said.

"I think fear of another revolution is why the army was so savage," Vensina said.

In 1972, a Hutu uprising led to a civil war in which 100,000 to 200,000 Burundians, or 5 to 6 percent of the population, were killed.

Following that war, Hutu with

more than a grade school education were killed in an effort to deny Hutu positions in government, the military and other institutions, Vensina said.

The Tutsi government also expelled missionaries and prohibited local churches from organizing rural economic development programs, arguing that the churches were inciting riots, Vensina said.

"Burundi's upper class has been interested in how the white upper class in South Africa has managed to suppress all the rest (of the population)," he said.

President Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi who came into power after a military coup in September 1987, has tried to ease tensions in the country, and the churches have been allowed to resume their development projects, Vensina said.

"The new military government proposed to try to relax the situation more," he said. "Not by allowing Hutu into the government, but by allowing more freedom."

When Buyoya took over the government, he wanted to ease tensions and establish an understanding among all Burundians, Findano said.

"One of the means . . . is to open a spirit of dialogue between the leaders and the people they administer," he said.

Although the Buyoya government plans to hold elections, no date has been set, Findano said.

"He is trying to work it out," Findano said. "It will take a while, but it will happen. (Buyoya) has to put up a new order."

A U.S. State Department spokesman, who declined to be identified, said the United States urged the Buyoya government to work toward national reconciliation.

"We have been talking to the government constantly," the spokesman said. "We have urged the government to be open about the events and get back on track toward national reconciliation. Buyoya has perhaps the best chance to do it."

Burundi has no strategic importance for the United States, and U.S. relations with Burundi have focused on economic development programs, he said.

The European Economic Community, which includes 12 West European countries, threatened to withhold its economic aid to Burundi unless changes are made in the Tutsi government, Vensina said.

"The United States could do that, too," he said. "Those countries that have some influence should all put pressure (on the Burundi government). They can do that only through foreign aid."

## Chapel Hill Police Roundup

■ The attendant at the municipal parking lot at the corner of Columbia and Rosemary streets was robbed at gunpoint Saturday night. According to police reports, the thief demanded money and "presented a gun to convince her of his seriousness." An undetermined amount of cash was stolen.

■ A breaking and entering occurred at Dickinson Garden Supply at 1510 E. Franklin St. on Sunday. Sometime between 12:50 p.m. and 3 p.m., someone went into the store and stole \$3,160.40 in cash.

■ An employee at the Bread Shop at 411 W. Franklin St. reported Sunday that someone came into the store, went into the office and took a bank bag out of a backpack. The thief then left without being noticed. An undetermined amount of cash was stolen.

■ A police officer saw a 1983 Chevette explode in the parking lot at Northampton Plaza early Saturday. When the officer arrived at the scene of the explosion, the vehicle was engulfed in flames. No one was near the vehicle, and the fire department responded to the explosion.

■ A resident of Avery Residence Hall reported Friday that on Sept. 17, someone entered her room and took her wallet while she was in the shower.

■ Two incidents of vandalism to cars parked at the NCNB parking deck were reported Sunday. The windshield of a 1988 Mazda was broken, and damage was estimated at \$200. The rear window of a 1983 Mercedes was also broken, and damage was estimated at \$150. A BB gun was apparently used in both incidents.

■ A Greensboro man was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon and careless and reckless driving Sunday after he allegedly tried to hit a police officer with the car he was driving.

Jacklord Chijindu Umesi, 25, was stopped for suspicion of impaired driving in the Hill Hall parking lot. According to the arrest report, as the officer got out of his car, Umesi turned his car around and attempted to get away by trying to hit the officer with the car.

The officer avoided the car and was not injured. Umesi was stopped by another officer at the corner of Franklin and Henderson streets and was arrested.

■ A Chapel Hill woman was cited for concealing merchandise after a security officer at Fowler's Food Store at 301 W. Franklin St. saw someone conceal a fifth of Gallo Cream Sherry. The sherry was valued at \$2.69.

■ A Cary man was arrested and charged with driving while impaired Saturday after he was found passed out behind the steering wheel of his car.

Chapel Hill police received a report of a car off the road at Raleigh Road and U.S. 15-501, with the driver slumped over the wheel. The car had not made contact with any object.

When police reported to the scene, they found Guillermo Fernando Arana, 23, behind the wheel of the car. The car's lights were on and the engine was running. Arana was taken to N.C. Memorial Hospital and kept there until he regained consciousness.

■ Several bike thefts were reported to police this weekend, including two bikes stolen from UNC students.

Someone reported a bicycle stolen from the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity house on Friday. There was no suspect information.

A UNC student who lives on Cameron Avenue also reported a stolen bicycle Friday. The bike was stolen from the porch area.

— compiled by Will Lingo

## Department charged with altering report

By ERIK DALE FLIPPO  
Staff Writer

A legislative study commission is investigating charges by environmental groups that the N.C. Department of Human Resources exaggerated figures in a hazardous waste report to strengthen its case for a waste treatment facility, the committee chairman said Monday.

"We're working through the data (in the report) to determine what the state government should do about hazardous waste treatment," said Rep. Joe Hackney of Orange County, House co-chairman of the Hazardous Waste Study Commission.

Environmental groups, including the Clean Water Fund and Lee-Chatham Concerned Citizens, have charged that the government inflated figures in its hazardous waste production report by as much as 25 percent to better plead its case for a state waste incinerator.

A prepared statement released by the groups said some waste that was shipped off-site for treatment was counted twice, significantly inflating the final figures.

While inadvertent double-counting of some waste shipped off-site for treatment is certainly possible, it is

nowhere near the amount the environmental groups are charging, a waste management spokesman said.

"Their numbers are way off base," said Stephen Reid, public information officer for the Solid Waste Management Section. "We are not exaggerating figures to support the need for a treatment facility."

The data used for the report is open to conflicting interpretations because of the way it is collected, he said.

"Everyone who deals with it has to report it," Reid said. Waste shipped off-site is reported by the generator, the transporter, the storage facilities and the treatment facilities, he said.

"Like income tax, it is self-reporting, so the numbers would tend to be on the conservative side," he said.

Hackney agreed, saying there was "a great deal of confusion (about the figures)."

At the committee meeting Friday evening, two members of the government's waste management board explained the interpretation of the data and the various types of toxic waste, Hackney said.

"The raw data produced by the hazardous waste branch is just that

raw data, which is subject to a great deal of interpretation," he said.

The department did make changes to its figures after the charges surfaced, Hackney said.

"The branch did amend their report to some extent," he said. "If it was shipped twice, it may have been counted twice."

A spokesman for the Clean Water Fund said the meeting Friday showed the government had finally acknowledged the problem with the reports.

"It's going to make the state answer some questions," said Chip Hughes,

the group's spokesman. "The state has to go back to thinking about what it really needs."

The commission presents its findings to the 1989 state legislature in January, he said.

Until then, the government cannot proceed on a site selection process for its waste treatment facility, Reid said.

The state needs a treatment facility to comply with Environmental Protection Agency standards for waste disposal and remain eligible for federal funds for toxic waste site cleanup, he said.

## Reaction

the homeless problem, Hoppe said.

He looked worst when discussing why he has suggested appropriating \$1 billion for research on the Strategic Defense Initiative, which he once referred to as "a fraud," Smith said.

Dukakis got his lowest ratings of the evening when he criticized Bush's plea for volunteer solutions to medical problems, Meyer said.

Bush was most effective at painting Dukakis as more liberal than the voters want their president to be, Hoppe said.

According to Beyle, Dukakis' note that Bush never used the Pledge of Allegiance in his seven years of presiding over the Senate embarrassed Bush.

Reese called the pledge an "irrelevant issue," and said the vice president "looked foolish" on the point.

Bush was on the defensive and relied too much on "inside the Beltway language" to defend his positions, Smith said. Most observers said Bush was not specific enough.

Meyer said Bush's biggest negative ratings came on his criticism of Dukakis' educational proposal.

The observers were divided on the

overall importance of the evening.

"Historically, debates don't matter very much," Smith said. But in this race "they have a potential to be influential," due to the closeness of the race.

The questions raised about Dan Quayle's competency might make the vice presidential debate more important, Balthrop said.

## Water restrictions still in effect despite recent rain

By LARRY STONE  
Staff Writer

Voluntary water measures are still in effect in Orange County, and the outlook for more rain is not too bright, according to an Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) spokesman.

Students who sat in soggy Kenan Stadium may not believe that Saturday's rain wasn't much help for the drought situation in the area.

Pat Davis, assistant to the executive director of OWASA, said there was some increase in the level at University Lake, the area's prime water source.

"We received about .66 inches of rain over the weekend and that did give us some improvement," Davis said, "but not to the point where we can lift the voluntary measures."

It may seem like it rained a lot more than that, but the rain occurred over a relatively short period of time, Davis said. For that reason, the lake level increased only about an inch

over the weekend.

Fall tends to be the driest time of year in North Carolina. That gives OWASA officials no way of being sure they will be able to lift the voluntary measures, he said.

For now, students and the public are still being asked to conserve water wherever possible:

- Take four-minute showers instead of long showers or baths.
- When brushing teeth, shaving or rinsing dishes, do not let faucets run.
- Operate dishwashers and clothes

washers only with full loads.

Peter Robinson, associate professor of geography, said history has dictated that fall is usually a dry season.

"Over the last couple of decades we have seen a pattern for fall surface," Robinson said. "We do not experience many summer thunderstorms and winter storms have not really started, so our rainfall sources are limited."

"Obviously, this summer was a bit hotter and drier than usual, but it was

not extreme."

Susan Yeaman, a meteorological technician for the National Weather Service in Raleigh, said the outlook for rain over the fall period is normal.

"The 30-day outlook through mid-October shows a slightly above normal chance of rainfall with somewhat above normal temperatures," Yeaman said.

However, she pointed out that this combination can account for an increased evaporation of the rain that falls.

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