



# Land Conflict in Burundi, Lessons Learned and New Challenges

Thursday, February 09, 2012  
9:30am-11:30am

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

## Forum Details:

Burundi is the second most densely populated country in Africa, and is among poorest countries in the world and mainly dependent on agriculture. Land tenure, food security, and conflict have been interwoven throughout Burundi's recent history. As many as 80% of all Burundians were displaced at least once during the crisis between 1993 and 2002, and some land disputes go back for decades. Land conflicts have divided families and communities, and often opposed citizens and the state. Now, many of the refugees and IDPs have returned to their areas of origin, and Burundi is looking to make new progress in stability and development. This Great Lakes Policy Forum will present new research documenting the lessons learned from years of land conflict resolution programming in Burundi, and examine the challenges lying ahead.

## Speakers:

### **Kelsey Jones-Casey**

Research Associate & Land Tenure Specialist, Landesa

### **Frances Fortune**

Africa Regional Director, Search for Common Ground

## Moderator:

### **Elavie Ndura**

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)

## Bios:

### **Kelsey Jones-Casey**

Kelsey Jones-Casey is a Research Associate & Land Tenure Specialist at [Landesa](#) (formerly the Rural Development Institute). Landesa's mission is to improve the lives of the world's poorest people.

Recognizing that the lack of secure land rights is a root cause of global poverty, Landesa's land law and policy experts help poor countries develop and implement land laws, policies, and programs that provide ladders out of poverty for their citizens and promote long-term economic growth. Kelsey is a member of Landesa's Africa Program. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in Burkina Faso, as well as in Ghana and Burundi. Her work at Landesa has looked at women's access to and control over land, land tenure and agricultural technologies, and of course, land-related disputes and conflict.

### **Frances Fortune**

Frances Fortune is the Africa Programs Director for Search for Common Ground, responsible for SFCG's work in 11 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and for regional strategies in the West Africa and Great Lakes regions. She is responsible for fundraising, development, strategic and transitional planning, and operations and compliance. With over 20 years of experience in managing projects in conflict sensitive environments, Frances has a unique skill set in conflict and post conflict interventions, with a particular focus on integrating outreach and media to inform, educate and foster dialogue. She is the founder of the Independent Radio Network (IRN) in Sierra Leone. Frances has an extensive background in women's rights and is an active campaigner for women's empowerment. Prior to SFCG she worked for a variety of development agencies including GTZ, Conciliation Resources, Government of Sierra Leone's Structural Adjustment Support Program, and CUSO (Canadian volunteer organization). Frances holds a Master's in Conflict and Peace Studies from Royal Roads University in British Columbia.

### **Dr. Elavie Ndura**

Dr. Elavie Ndura is 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 earned 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. She has been teaching college graduate and undergraduate Multicultural Education and TESOL courses in teacher preparation programs for many years. She is the coordinator of the Shinnyo Fellowship for Peacebuilding through Intercultural Dialogue at GMU. Her research interests are in the areas of diversity and multicultural education, cultural identity development, immigrants' acculturation, students' academic achievement in culturally diverse educational settings, critical multicultural and peace education, and peaceful conflict resolution. She has delivered numerous presentations and keynote addresses at international, national, and local professional meetings and other gatherings. 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.

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