IMPLEMENTING TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN BURUNDI

Socio-Political Navigations of the ‘Toolkit Approach’

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS & OUTLINE

- How the Transitional Justice toolkit get implemented? Why such approach can be perceived as a limitation of the Burundian TJ process?
- Ideological Discussion: Existing critique of the toolkit approach and its policy response
- Empirical Discussion: The Toolkit Approach in Action
- What does it mean for understanding statehood in Burundi?
THE THEORY OF HOLISM
THE TOOLKIT APPROACH AND THE NEED TO LOCALIZING TJ

- Denounce the ‘one-fits-all’ and ‘tick box’ - Disconnections from local priorities and practices
- Depict international actors and local elite as engineers to rebuild the ‘broken society’ or ‘failed state’
- Ideological, conceptual and pragmatic dimensions that obscure different normative frameworks
- Policy response to toolkit critique: the Holistic vision (Acknowledge need to adapt to local contexts and focus on victims)
THE HOLISTIC VISION: A CARE BEAR IDEOLOGY?
HOW THIS GETS IMPLEMENTED?
BRINGING THE TOOLKIT APPROACH TO BURUNDI
LISTENING TO THE TJ BROKEN RECORD
MULTI-LAYERED NAVIGATIONS

• UN and Burundian Authorities Relationship while discussing 2014 law
• Arguing about Truth while Commemorating Victims
WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN FOR STATEHOOD, STATEBUILDING AND POLITICAL TRANSITIONS?

• Behind the Illusion of Legal order: Ability to embrace (or at least not reject openly) the toolkit approach and CNDD-FDD rule but constant subtle navigations through important disagreements

• Who is the Evil Wizard? Limitations of understanding ruling regime as sole source of problems – More complex power relations and political nature of international normative frameworks

• Failed in building state legitimacy because of failure to deal with the past at the international level

• Uncertainty in terms of possible outcome of TRC and state-building benefits

• Fluidity of Unit of Analysis – Political Affiliation of institutions and individuals more relevant than state/nonstate, national/international divides