

The Gap in Peacebuilding: Case of Reconciliation in Post-Genocide Rwanda

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Keywords: International relations, Peacebuilding, Post-Genocide Rwanda, Reconciliation, Local people

Abstract. The question of peacebuilding after violent conflicts has been widely debated in International politics, with scholar such as Paris [1] arguing a criticism of liberal theory of peacebuilding. How the international society has constructed peace in the countries which experienced mass violence is the urgent issue. However, this perspective has not adequately addressed the issue of local level peacebuilding. Although literature review has tended to focus on macro level such as the international society and governments, my research addresses the issue of peacebuilding in local level with special attention to the case of post-genocide Rwanda. Specifically, in my project, I will be looking at the case of reconciliation in Rwanda which lies in central Africa and experienced genocide in 1994 in order to show peacebuilding of local people. I will juxtapose Rwandan reconciliation policies after genocide and how victims and perpetrators who encountered mass genocide have tried to reconcile each other to reveal the previously misunderstood connections between the international society and local people. My research is based on the participatory fieldwork for four months and a minute interview to thirteen victims and ten perpetrators who experienced genocide. Through their narratives, I conclude ‘everyday practicies’ of reconciliation and argue that peacebuilding needs the both viewpoints of macro and micro levels. In conclusion, this project, by closely examining the case of Rwandan reconciliation of local village, sheds new light on the neglected acknowledged issue of the large gap of peacebuilding between the international level and local level.