



IFUNA *news*

Quarterly Magazine of Indian Federation of United Nations Associations



SINO-INDIA *Relations*

Special Feature

‘WE *the*
PEOPLES,
World Federation of
United Nations Associations



a peoples'
MOVEMENT
in SUPPORT of the
UNITED NATIONS

IFUNA PEACE AWARD 2010

MAHARASHTRA UNA ORGANISES

Model United Nations Assembly

A report by A.A. Syed, Secretary General, MUNA

On November 21, 2010 the Maharashtra UN Association organised a Model United Nations Assembly in association with various Rotary Clubs of Mumbai. It was hosted by Rotary Clubs of Mumbai Green City, Mumbai Khar, Bombay West along with co-hosting Rotary Clubs Mumbai West Coast, RC Mumbai Juhu, RC Mumbai Versova and Bombay Bandra at Rotary Service Centre, Juhu Tara Road, Santacruz from 9 am to 5 pm. Around 80 students, mostly non-rotaractors from various colleges in Mumbai representing 28 countries, participated in the event. The DG Rtn. Jayant Kulkarni inaugurated the event. PDG Rtn. Ulhas Kolhatkar along with PP. Rtn. Virendra Khurana and Mr. Mudit Singhvi (secretary of the youth wing of Maharashtra UN Association) were the judges for the event. Rtn. Pankaj Patharphod (District chair - Rotaract) presided over the Model UN Assembly proceedings.



Mr. Ashraf Ahmad addressing the audience

revaluations and role of Conflict Diamonds. All the resolutions were enthusiastically debated upon and many amendments were proposed, voted upon and a few passed. A majority of the participating students were attending a Model UN Assembly event for the first time and it was a great learning experience for them to understand the workings of the United Nations as well as get a perspective of the views of the various countries that they were representing on these three topics.

Participation certificates were given to all participants. Trophies along with certificates were given to the best dressed team and runners up, best speaker and runners up, best team and runners up and best researched team and runners up. All certificates were jointly signed by Rotary District 3140 as well as the Maharashtra UN Association. Participants were also given souvenir mugs bearing their represented country flags. There was a very good feedback from the participating students who wanted to participate in more such events in the future.



Group photo of the audience

There were three resolutions that were discussed during the proceedings – Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, resolution for policies to govern and regulate currency

LESSONS FROM RWANDA

An Exhibition on Rwanda Genocide

A report by Mr. A.A. Syed

A three-day exhibition was organised by the S.N.D.T. Women's University's Law School and Maharashtra United Nations Association (MUNA) in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre New Delhi, on the genocide which took place 16 years back in 1994 in Rwanda, in Africa at the University's Santacruz Campus from August 12 to 15, 2010. Estimated 800,000 Rwandans were killed in the span of 100 days from April to June 1994.

Most of the dead were Tutsis and most of those who perpetrated the violence were Hutus. The Exhibition named 'Lessons from Rwanda' sought to create awareness about the meaning, causes, eventualities and consequences of Genocide on the society. The Exhibition included screening of award winning documentary film. 'As we forgive and the much acclaimed Invictus.'

MAHARASHTRA UNA



Dr. Kiran Sharma lighting the ceremonial lamp at the Exhibition Rwanda

Even for a country with such a turbulent history as Rwanda, the scale and speed of the slaughter left its people reeling. The genocide was sparked by the death of the Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, when his plane was shot down above Kigali airport on April 6, 1994. Numerous elite Hutu politicians have been found guilty for the organisation of the genocide. The Rwandan Military and Hutu militia groups systematically set out to murder all the Tutsis they could capture, irrespective of their age or sex, as well as the political moderates. Hutu civilians were forced to participate in the killings or be shot and were instructed to kill their Tutsi neighbours. Most nations evacuated their nationals from Kigali and abandoned their Embassies in the initial stages of the violence. The Exhibition not only intended to bring to the light the horrific event but also the ways, methods and mechanisms to prevent or stop such events from taking place in future.

The exhibition was inaugurated on August 12 by Vice-Chancellor of the S.N.D.T. Women's University Dr. Chandra Krishnamurthy, in the presence of Registrar Dr. Madhu Madam, the Hon. Secretary of MUNA and IFUNA Executive Committee Member, Adv. Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh, students and teachers of Law School to name a few Dr. Kiran Sharma, Dr. Chaya Gala, Adv. Usha Andewar, Adv. Shobhana Nambiar, Adv. I.A. Syed, Adv. Smita Shah and various other departments of the University. It was followed by a candle-lighting session as a tribute to those who lost their lives in the genocide. It was not only in their memory but also as a mode to show protest against such ghastly

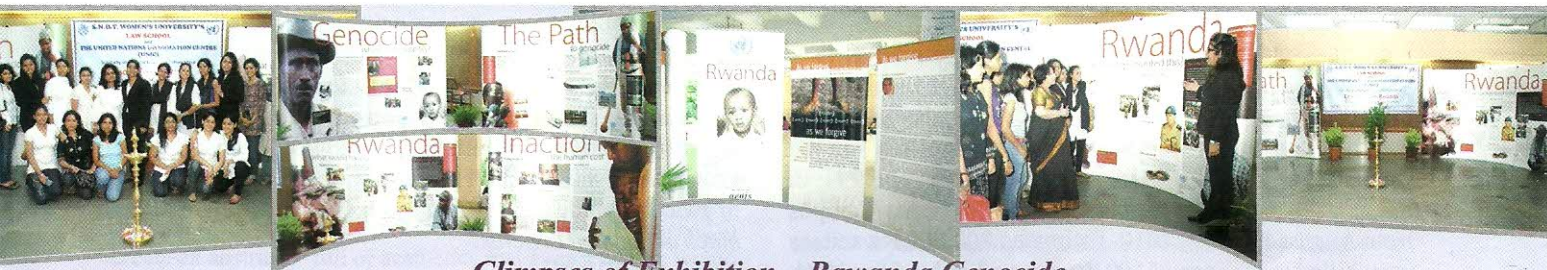
events and to create a kind of deep social awareness among everyone who visited it. Pictures displaying the sufferings that people in Rwanda had to bear with were also there. One such particular poster spoke about the sexual violence that the Rwandan girls and women were subject to during this horrible event in history of Rwanda. The Special Rapporteur estimated that between 250,000 and 500,000 Rwandese women and girls had been raped. A 2000 report prepared by the Organization of African Unity's International Panel of Eminent Personalities concluded that "we can be certain that almost all females who survived the genocide were direct victims of rape or other sexual violence, or were profoundly affected by it".



Dr. Kiran Sharma inaugurating the Exhibition on Rawanda Genocide

Every visitor was briefed about the lesser known Genocide and then taken for a stroll to have a look at the panels which were specially sent from the UNIC Delhi for the exhibition. The panels titled 'Genocide – whose responsibility?' 'The Path to Genocide', 'Rwanda – what would have prevented this?' A booklet containing excerpts from Nelson Mandela's speeches from 1961 to 2008 was also distributed to the visitors.

The SNDT law students who volunteered this event were especially deeply moved and have decided to keep the 'Lessons from Rwanda' in their minds and try their best to prevent, stop and condemn any such event in future. Thus, as it is said, it was 'Education achieved not only received'. □



Glimpses of Exhibition – Rawanda Genocide