

## **Dr. Sheriff Folarin Participates in National Symposiums in Rwanda, Africa**

Dr. Sheriff Folarin, a visiting professor at Texas State University and the editor of the Africa Symposia Issue of the *Good Governance Worldwide* of the American Society for Public Administration was a central part of two important national security symposiums in the Republic of Rwanda between May and June 2024. Dr. Folarin, who teaches at the Political Science Department of Texas State University headlined the Rwandan National Police's "Peace, Security and Justice", which was the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual National Police College's symposium.

Folarin, a Nigerian professor of international relations and an expert on African governance, strategic studies, and comparative public administration, while handling the subject of "Understanding Peace and Security: State of the Debate", opened the debate with the conceptual and theoretical constructs that needed to be re-interrogated to understand the current dynamics in global peace, conflict, and security. He argued that security when properly reconstructed meant the provision of the good life to the people with happiness for at least the majority of them, which was a pathway to enduring peace.

Folarin is a resource person and an expert who has been teaching in the Senior Officers Course of the Rwandan Defense Force Command and Staff College since 2020 as a visiting professor at the Center for Conflict Management, and taught the doctoral students of Peace, Security and Conflict Studies in the 2022/23 academic session. In the course of his speaking engagement at the events in Rwanda this past May and June, he has had institutions and dignitaries reaching out to him for collaborations and future engagements in scholarly endeavors.

The professor posited that conflict and insecurity would live with human society as human beings have a nature to kick against climes that are unsavory. Using the analogy of babies that protest in the womb or the moment they are delivered by kicking or crying, Folarin pointed out that human beings were naturally obstinate and reactive to dissatisfaction and that the knowledge of this was enough to avert conflict and insecurity by intentionally providing basic and wholesome conditions that could guarantee human security such as access to good food, water, healthcare, job opportunities, good roads, education, and so forth. Citing the submission of Hans Morgenthau that men would not need arms to fight because they could still do so with their bare fists, Folarin warned that nothing could stop societal crisis or breakdown of law and order even if the security agents were fully armed if the basic needs of the people were not met. "To fight insecurity or ensure peace, we would need less arms and force, but more food on the table for the masses, gainful engagement of the youth through employment, and other necessities of life. If we understand the Dollard and Doob 'frustration-anger-aggression' hypothesis at the highest level, we would understand that we would need less policing and little budget for physical security, and pay more attention to standard and quality of living.

Professor Folarin witnessed all other panels and sessions and contributed through clarification and adding to the debate on specific security issues, including African conflict and UN peacekeeping missions on the continent, terrorism in Africa, and particularly the question of Boko Haram in the Lake Chad region. "The UN structure of 1945 cannot tackle the problems of 2024. The Security Council structure is moribund, archaic and needs reforms. Until Africa has a permanent member in the Security Council, all peacekeeping efforts may suffer failure as it did in Rwanda in 1994. Between 1994 and now, what has changed? Can anyone point at any success story of the UN in any African peacekeeping missions in Africa since 1994?

The five permanent members are strange bedfellows, and they are gored only by their self-interests and old Cold War rivalry. The UN is doomed to fail unless this structure and situation change”, Folarin argued. The Rwandan police symposium was attended by security chiefs across Africa, diplomats, high-profile government officials in Rwanda and other African countries, the United Nations, the African Union and officials of sub-regional organizations, academics, students of the Police College, and members of the general public.

Before the National Police College symposium in Musanze, Rwanda in June, the Rwandan Defense Force National Security Symposium was held in Kigali in May. Dr. Folarin is a regular participant in this annual event. The symposium, “Contemporary Security Challenges of Africa”, was attended by similar guests as was the case of the Police College, exploring themes and issues that were pivotal to sustainable national development, national security, human security, regional integration and peace, Africa’s readiness for future pandemics, internal self-reliance and mutual interdependence among Africans to avoid reliance on foreign help, and good governance.



As a guest of the Rwandan National Police and Inspector-General of Police of Rwanda, at the 11<sup>th</sup> National Police College Symposium in Musanze, Republic of Rwanda.



Folarin opens the floor with the presentation, "Understanding Peace and Security: State of the Debate".



Folarin taking questions while addressing the “State of the Debate on Peace and Security”, while listening are other speakers, Lt-General Daniel Sadiki Traore (Former Force Commander of UN Peacekeeping Mission in Central African Republic, MINUSCA) and Ms. Christine Fossen (Police Commissioner for the UN Mission in South Sudan, UNMISS) listen.



Symposium on Peace, Security and Justice  
PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE EVOLVING GLOBAL DYNAMICS: IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICA  
National Police College Musanze - Rwanda

Professor Folarin (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) in a group photograph with Mr. Felix Namuhoranye, Rwanda's Inspector-General of Police (4<sup>th</sup> from right), Rwanda's Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Ms. Ujeneza (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), Nigeria's Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Dasuki Galadanchi (4<sup>th</sup> from left), and Mr. Evariste Murenzi, Rwanda's Commissioner-General of Correction Services (3<sup>rd</sup> from left).