1996 - The United Nations Office in Burundi (UNOB) is established as a confidence building measure to facilitate the restoration of constitutional rule in Burundi after a six-nation regional summit earlier that year.

1999 - Talks between warring factions are held under the auspices of former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere.

August 2000 - The Government and several Hutu and Tutsi groups sign the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, the basis of the Burundi peace process, however two main Hutu groups refuse to join.

October 2001 - Talks brokered by Nelson Mandela lead to the installation of a transitional government under which Hutu and Tutsi leaders will share power. Main Hutu rebel groups refuse to sign the ceasefire and fighting intensifies.

January 2002 - Jean Minani, leader of the main Hutu party FRODEBU, is elected President of the Transitional National Assembly set up to bridge ethnic divide.

November 2003 - President Ndayizeye and FDD leader Pierre Nkurunziza sign an agreement to end the civil war at a summit of African leaders in Tanzania. Nkurunziza and other FDD members are given ministerial posts. Smaller Hutu rebel group, Forces for National Liberation (FNL), remains active.

June 2004 – The United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) is deployed to assume peacekeeping duties from African Union troops.

December 2004 - The UN and the Government begin to disarm and demobilise thousands of soldiers and armed groups.

January 2005 - The President signs a law to set up new a national army, incorporating Government forces and all but one Hutu rebel group, the FNL.

March 2005 - Voters back a power-sharing Constitution.

August 2005 - Pierre Nkurunziza is elected President by the two houses of Parliament after his party won the parliamentary elections in June.

September 2005 – The FNL rejects the Government’s offer of peace talks.

April 2006 - A curfew, imposed during ethnic violence in the early 1970s, is lifted by the Government. ONUB continues to observe it from 11 PM until 6 AM.

June 2006 - The Hutu rebel Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People-Forces for National Liberation (Palipehutu-FNL) and the Government agree to end hostilities during peace talks mediated by South Africa. However, the two sides fail to resolve differences over reforming the military.


31 December 2006 - ONUB mandate ends.

1 January 2007 - The United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), established by Security Council Resolution 1719, starts its mandate for an initial period of one year.

Sources: United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations Operation in Burundi and BBC News Ltd. 2006

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