

## **Jeanne is a Hutu from Burundi but she had Tutsi relatives - and so she was targeted by the rebels....**

There have been long standing conflicts and divisions between the Hutu and the Tutsi ethnic groups of Burundi and Rwanda. The bloody history of these conflicts stained the 20th century, and forced thousands of innocent Hutus and Tutsis to flee their homes and seek refuge in nearby Tanzania, Zaire and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Today, many remain as refugees in these countries.

In Burundi, Jeanne's husband was shot by Hutu rebels and her two daughters were killed. A year after this happened Jeanne's family were attacked again and her sister had her throat slit in front of the family. It was after this incident that Jeanne, like thousands of others, decided to flee to Tanzania with her young family to seek safety.

In Tanzania Jeanne was recognized as a refugee and registered with UNHCR and placed in a camp. After living in the camp for more than 5 years both she and her daughter were raped. As a consequence of this rape Jeanne's daughter bore a child and Jeanne was injured and then hospitalized for some time. Rape is a common weapon of assault in the camps and unfortunately women and girls cannot be guaranteed protection by camp authorities.

Jeanne was referred to Australian immigration authorities after the rape and given assistance to leave Tanzania for Australia on an offshore humanitarian visa. In this case Jeanne was one of the lucky few – as Australia only allows entry to around 13,000 people each year from both onshore and offshore refugee applicants.

Jeanne's other daughter was married whilst they were living in the camp and she had already fled Tanzania to live in a refugee camp in Kenya - where they are now registered as refugees. Jeanne came to CASE For Refugees for assistance in completing an application as she is now seeking to bring her older daughter to Australia.

Jeanne now bears physical scars from her injuries and she has sustained psychological trauma due to the instances of violence and abuse she has suffered. We hope that her application will be successful so that they may be able to start a new life in Australia.