

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE VOLUNTARINESS
OF REFUGEE REPATRIATION IN AFRICA**

by

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ABSTRACT

Voluntary repatriation has been identified as the ideal solution for most refugees in the African context. In the past, the causes of refugee migrations in Africa were often directly attributable to problems associated with the colonial era. During this period refugees were usually welcomed and well treated in exile and returned home willingly at the end of the conflict. More recently however, conflicts in Africa and the refugee situations created by these conflicts, have become more complex. At the same time, pressures on host nations and communities have increased, making refugees much less welcome in exile. As the international community, the UNHCR and NGOs have become more involved in dealing with refugee populations, they have sometimes been pressured into pursuing repatriation as the best option for refugees.

These diverse pressures have called into question the voluntary nature of several contemporary refugee return migrations in Africa. There is evidence that in some cases, refugees have been forced intentionally or by circumstances, or coerced into returning home. The thesis first outlines the international legal instruments that guarantee that refugee repatriation will be voluntary. Then the information and decision-making processes of African refugees are examined, followed by an analysis the diverse contexts of refugee repatriation. On the basis of this examination, the thesis derives a new typology of refugee repatriation that emphasizes the degree to which the returnees were permitted a free choice in their decision to return home. Several detailed case studies of African repatriation are presented to verify the new model.

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...
So take that look out of here it doesn't fit you
Because it's happened doesn't mean you've been discarded
Pull up your head off the floor and come up screaming
Cry out for everything you ever might have wanted
I thought that pain and truth were things that really mattered
But you can't stay here with every single hope you had shattered
Big Country

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ABBREVIATIONS

EPRDF.....	Eritrean People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front
FRELIMO.....	Front for the Liberation of Mozambique
ICARA.....	International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa
IOM.....	International Organization for Migration
NGO.....	Non-governmental organization
NRE.....	Non-recognized entity
NRM.....	National Resistance Movement (Uganda)
OAU.....	Organization for African Unity
PLAN.....	People’s Liberation Army of Namibia
RENAMO.....	Mozambican National Resistance
SNM.....	Somali National Movement
SWAPO.....	South-West African Peoples’ Organization
UN.....	United Nations
UNDP.....	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR.....	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF.....	United Nations Childrens’ Fund
UNITA.....	National Union for the Total Independence of Angola
UNOSOM.....	United Nations Operation in Somalia
UNRISD.....	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
UNSC.....	United Nations Security Council
WFP.....	World Food Programme
ZANU.....	Zimbabwe African National Union
ZAPU.....	Zimbabwe African Peoples’ Union

Figure 1 Political Map of Africa

