

SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL

In 1926, the Belgian colonists began a system of ethnic identity cards, differentiating between Hutu and Tutsi. The minority Tutsis were favoured by the Belgians in terms of government appointments, education, and jobs. As the Belgians withdrew in 1962, the Hutus swept into power and sought revenge on the Tutsis for their years of privilege. In 1990, Tutsi rebels led an attack from their exile in neighbouring Uganda. A peace treaty between the two sides was signed in 1993 and the UN established a peacekeeping mission called UNAMIR, under the command of Canadian Major-General Roméo Dallaire.

The movie is a series of flashbacks as General Dallaire remembers them from his therapist's office. Different people "appear" with him in that office as he remembers them. The question the therapist asks is very real – General Dallaire still suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Roy Dupuis, who plays General Dallaire in the movie, raises the UN flag *at the actual location* where the real general raised the flag in 1994. Virtually all of the scenes of this movie are filmed in their actual locations in Rwanda.

1. A major part of the peacekeeping mission is to patrol the demilitarized zone (DMZ). But at all times, General Dallaire instructs his soldiers, they must do what?
2. Who are the young men in the blue wigs? What are they there for?

Rwanda had a female prime minister in 1994 (Prime Minister Agathe). Rwanda has the highest proportion of women in their government of any country in the world.

3. As the commander of the mission, General Dallaire was charged with negotiating with both sides to establish an interim government and security for everyone in Rwanda. Who is the key player for the government (Hutu)? Who is the leader of the rebels (Tutsi)?
4. Why is Colonel Marchal both hated (by some Rwandans) and desperately needed (by the UN) considering his nationality?
5. Who is "Jean-Pierre" and what does he tell one of the Belgian soldiers about?
6. What does General Dallaire want to do given this new information? But what happens?
7. The security council extends UNAMIR's mandate for six weeks, but is asking for what from General Dallaire to be used if there is no transitional government set-up?

8. What happens on the evening of April 6, 1994?
9. Prime Minister Agathe's house is being protected by UN soldiers, but what are their rules of engagement?
10. General Dallaire needs to continue dialogue with both sides. The soldiers guarding the compound says nobody passes, but...?
11. What does General Dallaire see in Camp Kigali en route to Colonel Bagasora?
12. UNAMIR is protecting people in a number of places around the city... General Dallaire ensures his troops are doing what at the stadium, hospital, and the Hôtel des Mille Collines, which was the setting for *Hotel Rwanda*?
13. What happens that effectively nullifies the UNAMIR mission? How does General Dallaire respond?
14. What *perception* challenges does UNAMIR and General Dallaire face, given their rules of engagement?
15. What would it take to end the slaughter? How accessible are these resources? What happens instead?
16. What has the UN ordered of UNAMIR? Else? Dallaire's response?
17. What does General Dallaire offer the journalists? Why?
18. There are refugees from both sides that need to be transferred to more permanently safe locations. Who needs to agree to this? What happens?
19. While waiting for the second round of transfers, why does General Dallaire reach out to the militia member threatening to kill him?

General Dallaire goes to meet with General Kagame again. General Kagame explains that "the rivers are awash with the blood of those we couldn't save." **Avert your eyes for a moment if you are sensitive to disturbing images.** Walking over that bridge and realizing what was underneath really changed General Dallaire. He had always "put up a protective screen" around him, but this opened his eyes to the severity of what was going on around him.

20. After going out to wildly protect the goats and seeing the reaction of his staff, what does General Dallaire realize that needs to happen?

General Dallaire meets with some Rwandans to say goodbye, but as the scene progresses, the movie flashes forward from 1994 to June 2000, when Dallaire was found passed out on a park bench in Hull, Quebec, still suffering from depression.