



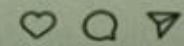
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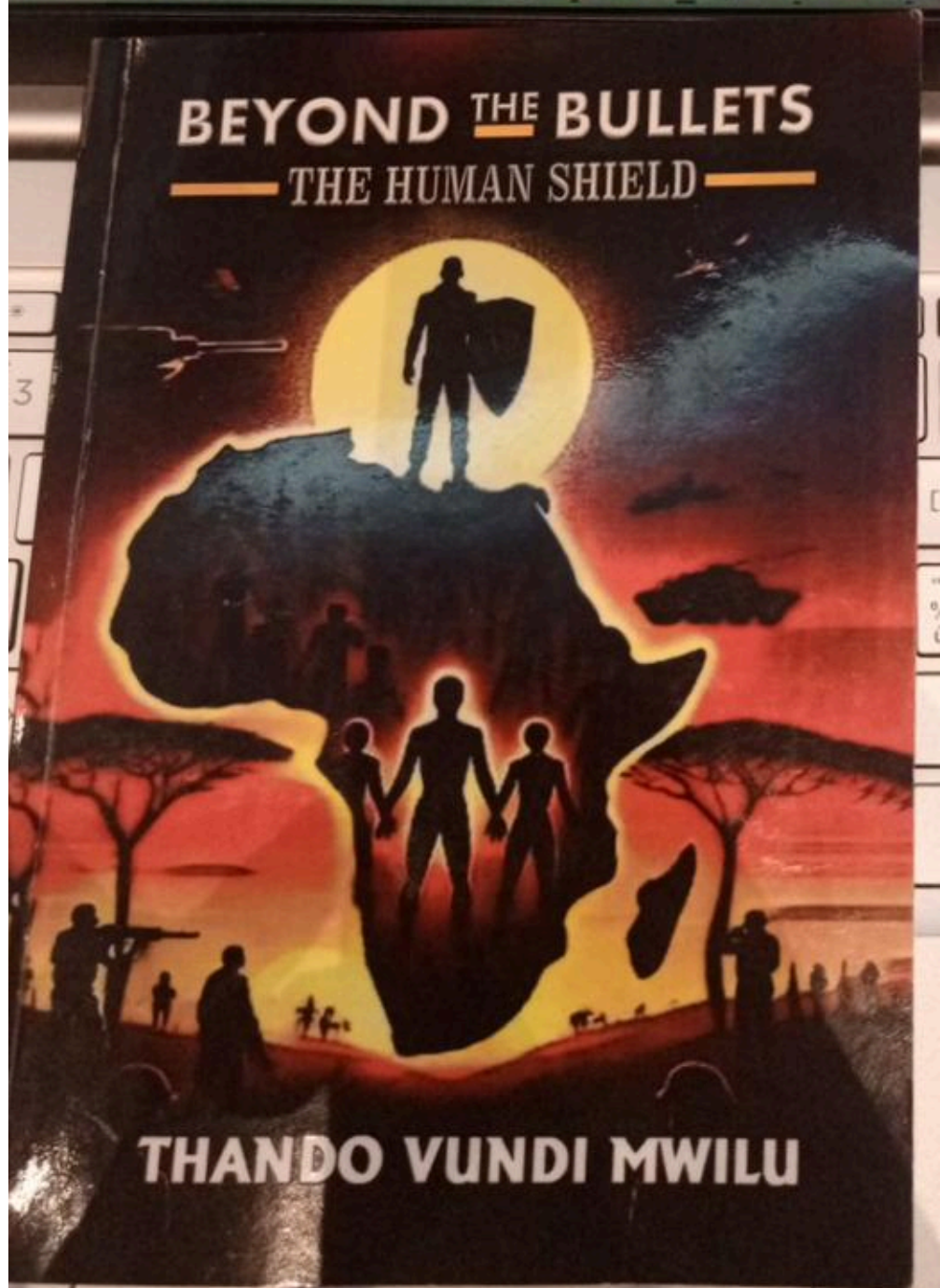
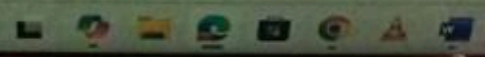
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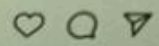
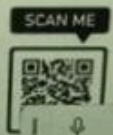
DR. WAMUYU WACHIRA IBVM
Co President Pax Christi
International



SPEAKER

29th March 2025
 3PM - 6PM

Ufungamano House
State House Road.
RSVP: +254 113 910 080



7 J'aime
27 mars

Connectez-vous pour aimer

VUNDI MWILU

Vundi is a young Kenyan researcher, writer, poet and advocate for human-centered development in Africa. With a background in Peace and Conflict Studies, he has worked extensively on issues of peacebuilding, human rights and security reform. As the Founder of Y-PEACE Kenya, Vundi is dedicated to fostering inclusive dialogue and sustainable solutions to Africa's challenges.

Beyond the Bullets THE HUMAN SHIELD

Africa's security challenges have long been addressed through militarization, yet the cycle of conflict persists. In *Beyond The Bullets: The Human Shield*, the conversation shifts from firepower to people, exploring how human-centered approaches can create lasting peace and stability. By prioritizing education, health, and equality over force, this book reveals a path to addressing the root causes of insecurity.

Through compelling insights and real-world examples, this book reimagines security as a shared responsibility that empowers communities and strengthens nations. *Beyond The Bullets* is a call to action for leaders, policymakers, and citizens to champion a future where human dignity becomes the foundation of Africa's resilience.

Beyond The Bullets: The Human

I extend my deepest gratitude to the Almighty God for granting me good health, wisdom and resilience throughout the process of researching, writing and publishing this book. His grace has been my anchor throughout the process.

To St Paul's University and to my lecturers, led by the inspiring Dr Wamuyu Wachira PhD, the Program Director for Peace and Conflict Studies St Paul's University, Mr Divina Gekonge and Mrs Ruth Muia (health practitioner whom we met at The National Cancer Institute of Kenya) I owe the both of you a special debt of gratitude. Your guidance and encouragement during moments of uncertainty especially in choosing between Oncology and Peace Studies helped me embark on this transformative journey.

To Madam Elizabeth Kanini and Mr Kamonye Manje, your mentorship laid the foundation for my understanding of conflicts in Africa and beyond, as well as sustainable strategies to promote peace.

I am immensely grateful to the Rethinking African Security Conference team for the invaluable opportunity to present this work as a speaker. The conference, organized by Pax Christi International in collaboration with St. Paul's University's Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, Special acknowledgment to Mr Jerome Van de Loo for his generosity and funding the conference. This conference was a defining moment in shaping my ideas. Listening to brilliant minds like Hubert Heindl from the University of Peace Africa, Prof. Martin Waals, Prof. Esther Mombo and Prof. Munene

Macharia Professor in International Relations and History USIU Africa challenged and refined my arguments on the need for African states to move beyond militarization toward human security.

Dr Wamuyu Wachira holds a special place in my heart. Her unwavering support, belief in my abilities and mentorship from the first time we knew each other in my first year at the university virtually and later in person; about a year and a half later have been invaluable. She has been a true blessing and one of my greatest supporters throughout this journey.

To my family and friends who have walked this journey with me, your love and encouragement have been my source of strength. To my mother, whose sacrifices and prayers keep me grounded, and to my younger brother, Steve Lonzi, your unwavering support means the world to me. A heartfelt thank you to our dear family friend Irene Wairumu, who stood by me tirelessly and offer the editorial services and to Mrs Dinnah Gahamanyi for her prayers and support.

To my friends Javan Otieno, Gloria Bon, Derrick Onsarigo, Kelvin Kibe, Sarah Adeyemo and Priscilla Ayuen—your constant calls, texts and motivation kept me focused and determined to complete this project.

7 To my Senior H.E. Gonzague-Patrick Balagizi, Senior Political Officer of the African Union office of the Great Lakes Region Burundi, your dedication and generosity in writing the foreword for this book is deeply appreciated. Thank you for believing in the vision of this work.

FOREWORD

Since I met VUNDI in Nairobi, Kenya last year, I have had extensive engagements both at personal and professional level with him. This relationship has enabled me to discover his burning desire to contribute to the rethinking of Africa security discussions on the continent.

As a Senior Officer of the African Union Commission with particular interest and practice in the field of Peacebuilding, Governance and security, I am very pleased and honored to write the Foreword to his Book with the title: "Beyond the Bullets: The Human Shield".

First of all, I would like to warmly congratulate the Publishers and the Editors, on their initiative in bringing together – between the covers of this Book a wealth of information and expertise on rethinking Africa Security.

This Book will – I am sure – be of great interest to Think tanks, academics, researchers, diplomats and students in various fields as well as professional advisers, in the planning and execution of their various intervention on the African continent and beyond.

For me – and also for many others involved in the Great Lakes region particularly and on the African continent at large – a particularly valuable feature of this Book is that the reader is able to navigate key concepts such as Human Security: An approach to security that prioritizes the protection of individuals' rights, well-being, and dignity, extending beyond traditional state-centric notions of security focused primarily

on military threats. In addition, the author thinks beyond the Militarized Security Paradigm: A security approach that emphasizes military solutions and interventions as the primary means of addressing threats and maintaining order. This takes into account the Peacebuilding as a range of activities aimed at reducing the risk of renewed conflict, establishing sustainable peace, and promoting reconciliation; Good Governance as the process of managing public resources effectively, equitably, and transparently, ensuring accountability, participation, and respect for the rule of law; and finally Equitable Development: Development that prioritizes inclusivity, reducing inequalities and ensuring that benefits reach all segments of society; as per the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063.

This is particularly important, when – as in my own case – one needs to analyze the dynamics on the African Continent, taking into consideration the global security dimension. I must admit that the future of Peace and security, especially the Peacebuilding activities on the continent relies on the youth with their capacity of challenging the status quo inherited from colonial legacy. We are witnessing a paradigm shift in the rethinking of Africa Security, which will be challenged by the ICT particularly the artificial intelligence.

While the world is facing various challenges as a result of new repositioning and geostrategic dynamics shift, uncertainty with the risk of the World War III, this book provides the pathways toward rethinking the African security in form of a dream, that is meant to become a reality. A dream that is enshrined into the continental vision of the Agenda 2063 of the African Union through its 20 objectives.

So, as you can see from my own professional engagement, this Book will be a very welcome and invaluable resource for you reading it . And one that I can heartily recommend to all others who – in any way – are involved in diplomacy, research, etc.

GONZAGUE-PATRICK BALAGIZI, SENIOR POLITICAL
OFFICER, AFRICAN UNION OFFICE FOR THE GREAT
LAKES REGION-BURUNDI

Bujumbura, JANUARY 10TH 2025.