

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790615103321
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Titolo	Anti-refugee violence and African politics / / Ato Kwamena Onoma [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-139-89171-5 1-107-27274-2 1-107-27207-6 1-107-27540-7 1-107-27416-8 1-107-27865-1 1-139-56813-2 1-107-27742-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvii, 278 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	325.21096652
Soggetti	Refugees - Violence against Refugees - Public opinion Refugees - Government policy Refugees - Guinea Refugees - Uganda Refugees - Congo (Democratic Republic) Guinea Politics and government 1984- Uganda Politics and government 20th century Congo (Democratic Republic) Politics and government 20th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: generalized anti-refugee violence -- Explaining generalized anti-refugee violence -- An outburst of anti-refugee violence in Conakry, Guinea -- A different approach to counterinsurgency in the forest region of Guinea -- On two competing explanations: co-ethnicity and population numbers -- Not chasing Banyarwanda in southwestern Uganda -- The eviction of 59ers in Kivu,

DRC.

Sommario/riassunto

Using comparative cases from Guinea, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, this study explains why some refugee-hosting communities launch large-scale attacks on civilian refugees whereas others refrain from such attacks even when encouraged to do so by state officials. Ato Kwamena Onoma argues that such outbreaks only happen when states instigate them because of links between a few refugees and opposition groups. Locals embrace these attacks when refugees are settled in areas that privilege residence over indigeneity in the distribution of rights, ensuring that they live autonomously of local elites. The resulting opacity of their lives leads locals to buy into their demonization by the state. Locals do not buy into state denunciation of refugees in areas that privilege indigeneity over residence in the distribution of rights because refugees in such areas are subjugated to locals who come to know them very well. Onoma reorients the study of refugees back to a focus on the disempowered civilian refugees that constitute the majority of refugees even in cases of severe refugee militarization.
