

**LEARNING BY EAR 2011**

**“CONFLICTS AND RESOLUTIONS RADIONOVELA”**

**TITLE: “THE WAYS OF OUR FATHERS”**

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**EPISODE EIGHT: “Crimes against humanity”**

**List of characters by scenes:**

**Narrator (m/f 30-40)**

**SCENE ONE: MITUMBA SHOT OUTSIDE HIS HOUSE**

- Mitumba (m, 50)
- Lela (f, 20)
- Shani (f, 17)
- Masambo (m, 50)
- Gulu (m, 17)

**SCENE TWO: TORUBE ATTACK KIMBEBE IN THEIR TERRITORY**

- Lawi (m, 21)
- Several men shouting (at least 5)
- women wailing and children crying

### **SCENE THREE: MATONGE, SOMBA AND KERO MEET**

- **Matonge (m, 65)**
- **Somba (m, 55)**
- **Kero (f, 55)**

#### **Narrator**

#### **INTRO:**

Greetings to you, wherever you are, and welcome to your favorite radio program, Learning by Ear. This is the eighth episode of the conflict and resolutions series entitled, “**The ways of our fathers**”. In the last episode, intelligence chief Kero distributed guns to members of the Torube tribe, in a bid to cause a conflict between the Torubes and Kimbebes. This in turn would help President Matonge to win the elections. As the Torubes practised shooting, Mitumba was shot, as he sought to leave his house. All this coming after a hard reconciliation meeting between the Torubes and Koromas. So what happens next? Was Mitumba shot accidentally? Or intentionally? Let's find out, in today's episode, “**Crimes against humanity**”. We begin, right where we left, Mitumba shot next to his house.

## **SCENE ONE: MITUMBA SHOT OUTSIDE HIS HOUSE**

**1. MITUMBA:**           **(still in pain)** Lelaaa! Shaniiii! Aaaaah I am dying..

**2. LELA:**                 Father, you are not going to die. It's just a little scrape on your shoulder, I will take care of it. You will survive.  
**(rushing into the house)**

**3. SHANI:**               **(sigh of relief)** Thank God! I really thought it was the end for you, father. I was so scared.

**4. MITUMBA:**           **(now relaxed)** You talk of being scared? I knew I was dead when that bullet hit me.

**5. LELA:**                 Sorry dad, but I have to put some herbs to disinfect the wound, it will sting a bit.

**6. MITUMBA:**           If I have survived a gun shot, I can survive anything.

**7. SFX: HERBS BEING RUBBED INTO A WOUND**

**8. MITUMBA:**           **(screams in agony)** Arrrrrrrgh!!!! Lela, do you want to kill me? Like those Torubes outside?

**(Both Lela and Shani react shockingly)**

**9. LELA:** But that's impossible! The Torubes are the ones firing? How can they?

**10. SHANI:** Dad, are you sure? Maybe you are still in shock, and don't remember what you saw.

**11. MITUMBA:** I might be old, but not that old. I know what I saw outside. All the men and even young boys from the Torube were firing guns. Gulu, Masomba's son, is the one who fired at me.

**12. SHANI:** **(shocked)** Gulu! That can't be. Why would he want you dead?

**13. MITUMBA:** Maybe he wants me dead, so that he doesn't have to pay me for your dowry.

**(They all laugh but in a controlled way)**

**14. LELA:** That can't be true, Gulu was with us in the farm, helping with planting just the other day. We just had this remarkable peace ceremony, so why this sudden rage and change?

**15. SFX: KNOCKING ON DOOR**

**16. SHANI:**                   **(frightened, whispers)** They are here! They have come to finish us. God help us.

**17. LELA:**                    Shani keep quiet. Father, what should we do? I am scared now too.

**18. MITUMBA:**           **(coming to a realization)** It seems like the Torubes tricked us. My daughters, I am so sorry. But if they are going to kill us, then let them start with me first.

**19. SFX: MORE KNOCKING ON THE DOOR**

**20. MASAMBO:**           **(shouting from outside)** Mitumba! Are you in there?

**21. MITUMBA:**            Masambo, what did we ever do to your people? Why are your people seeking to wipe us out?

**22. MASAMBO:**           **(apologetic)** Thank the fathers you are alright! I thought you were dead!

**23. MITUMBA:**            I know you want me dead. Now you have come to finish what your son Gulu could not. Haven't you?

**24. MASAMBO:**           **(Surprised)** What! Goodness no! I came here, because Gulu told me that he thought he might have shot you accidentally. He was trying out the gun we

got from the government to defend ourselves against the Kimbebe cattle rustlers.

**25. GULU:** (sad and apologetic) I am indeed very sorry Mr. Mitumba, I meant you no harm at all. It was just the excitement. Please forgive me. I would never ever want to..

**26. SFX: DOOR BEING OPENED**

**27. SHANI:** I believe you Gulu.

**28. MITUMBA:** Shani!

**29. MASAMBO:** Please forgive my son Mitumba, and if you wish, I don't know what I can do to repay you. We are kith and kin remember?

**30. SHANI:** Forgive him father, look at him. You see how sorry he is, it was an accident.

**31. LELA:** Father, Shani is right. This could have happened to anyone. And at least we now know that they did not mean to kill us.

**32. MITUMBA:** Okay, okay, Gulu, I forgive you. But next time, shoot

where you aim, or aim where you shoot! Come in, and tell me what's this about the government giving you guns?

**33. MASAMBO:** Don't you know? I thought that they gave everyone in Kijani valley. Anyway you have no reason to fear. You are not our enemies anymore. It is those shameless, cruel Kimbebe rebels who will now have to pay for the loss and pain they have caused us.

**34. NARRATOR:** Masambo took his time to explain to Mitumba about how Kero had come with a military truck of weapons, distributing them around the Torube people. The news brought not only shock, but also fear to Mitumba and his family. They could not understand the reason behind the arming of one tribe, and leaving the other vulnerable. After a few days, the time for revenge had come. Lawi was the one leading the onslaught, at the break of dawn.

## **SCENE TWO: TORUBE ATTACK KIMBEBE IN THEIR TERRITORY**

### **35. SFX: MORNING AMBIENCE IN THE VILLAGE**

**36. LAWI:**                   **(commanding voice, whispering)** Listen to me everyone! The people we are about to attack are not our friends. They are not our brothers, they are not our neighbors! They have killed our friends, taken our people captive, raped our sisters and stolen our cattle. Time and time again. Today, let us take back everything that they have stolen from us. Let us make our fathers and mothers proud! **(shouting)** Okay, let's start the attack - now!

### **37. SFX: FIRING OF GUNS, GRENADES**

**38. (women wailing and children crying)**

### **39. SHORT SILENCE**

**40. LAWI:**                   **(screams)** Torube iyaaah!!

**41. (men respond “iyaah” and start sing victorious war songs: iyaah, iyaah, iyaah.....)**

**42. LAWI:**                   They have surrendered. Let's take the cattle back home, tie up those who have surrendered, and take

them back and hand them over to the government. Do not harm the women or the children! Hey! Don't burn their houses!

**43. SFX: FIRE BLAZING AND RAZING DOWN A STRUCTURE**

**44. LAWI:** (screaming) Noooo! Stop! Stop!! Don't shoot!

**45. SFX: MORE FIRING FROM GUNS**

**46. NARRATOR:** But Lawi was too late, the devastation has already started. Who is to blame for such cruel and horrible acts? Is it the one who fires indiscriminately on unarmed people? The one who gave the guns to the Torubes? The ones who sold the guns? Or the one who is seen as the enemy? Why do we keep up with these senseless killings? As we ponder these questions, Lawi and his colleagues are driving out all the animals the rebels had, leaving behind scores dead and a burning village.

Back in the city, elections were nearing. The polls had turned in favor of Matonge. And he was pleased as he met his two advisers, Kero and Somba.

**SCENE THREE: MATONGE, SOMBA AND KERO MEET**

**47. KERO:** Your excellency, it seems we are back in the race to retain the presidency! Listen to this headline..

**48. SFX: NEWSPAPER BEING SHUFFLED**

- 49. KERO:** (reads out) “Torube vote swings from Roselyn to president ”.
- 50. MATONGE:** I like that one. Tell me, Kero how many Kimbebe rebels did the Torubes capture in their attack?
- 51. KERO:** Several. We already have them in our custody. But their commander Dere was not there.
- 52. MATONGE:** And how many were killed, general Somba?
- 53. SOMBA:** Many. But nothing unusual. These things happen everyday in that part of the country. Important thing is that we are winning this election. Our plan is working.
- 54. MATONGE:** Excellent! Please, General Somba, send in more weapons to the Torubes. They are helping me kill two stones with one bird.
- 55. KERO:** (bursts out laughing) It's the other way round your excellency. To kill two birds with one stone.
- 56. MATONGE:** Whatever way it is. The result is still the same. Killing those Kimbebe rebels and finishing the opposition. Kero, thank you for your loyalty. Believe me you shall be greatly rewarded when this is all over.

- 57. KERO:** We have a slight problem, your excellency. During the attack on Kimbebe rebels, some international aid workers were also among those killed. Those that survived, are saying what happened is genocide, and they have called you a tyrant dictator.
- 58. MATONGE:** Genocide? What is it with these foreign people anyway? My people are attacked daily, they lose their cattle every other day. One attack in revenge and they call it genocide? Where did you hear this, Kero?
- 59. KERO:** That's what is being reported in international news outlets, but I have put a lid on it here. I think you have to do some damage control, offer a public condemnation of the killings and also apologies for those who lost lives. This will also be good for your public image, as a national figure.
- 60. MATONGE:** Kero, you have a brain like a thousand wise old men. Arrange for a presidential speech on the matter.
- 61. KERO:** Right away, sir. Don't forget to mention that you seek only peace with these rebels and if possible amnesty for those who surrender.
- 62. MATONGE:** Don't we all seek peace? It's just that sometimes, it has to come at a huge cost.

**OUTRO:**

How right the president was in his last words. We all seek to live in peace with one another, especially in conflict-ravaged countries. Africa has had a rather large portion of these armed conflicts. From east to west, south to north and central, there is no part of the continent that has not experienced conflicts. What are the solutions to such major conflicts? Join us in our next episode to find out. If you wish to listen to this episode again, send in your comments, visit our website at [www.dw-world.de/lbe](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe). Goodbye for now.