



**Togo – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 18 December 2014**

**Any information on a political/social group called FRAC - structure, leaders, etc. Any information of people from opposition parties being forced to denounce/implicate the opposition on TV**

An entry for Togo in the African Elections Database, in a paragraph headed “Coalitions”, refers to the Republican Front for Alternation and Change (FRAC) as follows:

“Republican Front for Alternation and Change (FRAC) [Supported Jean-Pierre Fabre in the 2010 Presidential Election] Member parties include the Union of Forces for Change (UFC), Alliance of Democrats for Integral Development (ADDI), Democratic Alliance for the Fatherland (ALLIANCE), Socialist Pact for Renewal (PSR), and the Sursaut-Togo Association.” (African Elections Database (4 December 2010) *Elections in Togo*)

A report from the Xinhua General News Service states:

“Togo's Jean-Pierre Fabre, secretary general of the West African country's leading opposition party UFC, reinstated his bid on Wednesday to run in the presidential elections early next month. He said will be the candidate of several opposition parties. Fabre, previously the candidate of the United Forces for Change (UFC), was repositioned on Wednesday as the candidate for a collection of political parties under the umbrella of the Republican Front for Alternation and Change (FRAC). FRAC brings together ADDI, Alliance, PSR, the association working for Kofi Yamgnane, the independent candidate whose documents were rejected by the constitutional court and the UFC. Yamgnane was named as the spokesman of FRAC, and the UFC's first vice president Patrick Lawson was appointed as the director of election campaigns.” (Xinhua General News Service (17 February 2010) *Togo's Fabre reinstates election bid as collective opposition Leader*)

A UN Security Council report, in a section titled “Togo” (paragraph 14), states:

“Presidential elections in Togo were held on 4 March amid growing tension between the ruling party, the Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais (RPT) and opposition parties, in particular the Union des Forces de Changement (UFC), on various aspects of the electoral process, as outlined in my previous report. Although the voting proceeded in a peaceful atmosphere, the results announced by the Constitutional Court on 6 March declaring the incumbent President, Faure Gnassingbé, the winner with 60.92 per cent of votes, were deeply contested. Opposition parties, rallied in a coalition, the Front Républicain pour l'Alternance et le Changement (FRAC), rejected the results and initiated a series of demonstrations to request recognition of what they claimed to be a clear victory of the UFC candidate, Jean-Pierre Fabre.” (UN

Security Council (21 June 2010) *Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for West Africa*, p.5)

See also UN Security Council report which, in a section titled “Togo” (paragraph 23), states:

“Throughout the period under review, opposition parties under the umbrella coalition Front Républicain pour l’Alternance et le Changement (FRAC) continued to protest against the re-election of President Faure Gnassingbé.” (UN Security Council (3 December 2010) *Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa*, p.6)

The 2011 Amnesty International report on Togo, in a paragraph headed “Freedom of assembly, excessive use of force”, states:

“In April, members of the gendarmerie broke up a meeting of the opposition umbrella organization Republican Front for Alternation and Change (FRAC) and arrested more than 70 people. They were detained for a few hours and some alleged they were beaten.” (Amnesty International (13 May 2011) *Annual Report – Togo*)

A 2013 Jane's Intelligence Weekly report states:

“Togolese opposition coalition Save Togo (Collectif Sauvons Le Togo: CST), and the alliance, the Republican Front for Alternance and Change (Front Républicain pour l'Alternance et le Changement: FRAC), organised a peaceful protest on 3 August in the streets of the country's capital, Lome. The turnout was not as large as the protests that marred the run-up to the election, which resulted in arrests and detentions, injuries, arson, and property damage worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.” (Jane's Intelligence Weekly (7 August 2013) *Togolese opposition calls for protest*)

References to individuals being forced to denounce the opposition on Togolese television were not found among sources available to the Research and Information Unit.

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

## References:

African Elections Database (4 December 2010) *Elections in Togo*  
<http://africanelections.tripod.com/tg.html>  
(Accessed 18 December 2014)

Amnesty International (13 May 2011) *Annual Report – Togo*  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/togo/report-2011>  
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Jane's Intelligence Weekly (7 August 2013) *Togolese opposition calls for protest*

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UN Security Council (3 December 2010) *Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa*

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/4d2590742.html>

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UN Security Council (21 June 2010) *Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for West Africa*

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/4c35b1b02.html>

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Xinhua General News Service (17 February 2010) *Togo's Fabre reinstates election bid as collective opposition Leader*

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#### **Sources Consulted:**

African Elections Database

Amnesty International

Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin

Google

Human Rights Watch

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Lexis Nexis

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

UNHCR Refworld

US Department of State