



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

## **Burundi - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 20 & Thursday 21 March 2013**

### **Information on police corruption/bribery**

A report published in May 2012 by the *United States Department of State* reviewing events of 2011 notes that:

“The police generally were undertrained, underequipped, underpaid, and unprofessional. They were widely perceived by local citizens as corrupt and were often implicated in criminal activity, including receiving bribes “(United States Department of State (24 May 2012) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2011/Burundi*, Section 1 d Arbitrary Arrest or Detention/Role of the Police and Security Apparatus).

This report also states, commenting on the police, that:

“Due to low wages, petty corruption was widespread” (ibid).

Commenting on corruption, a report issued in December 2012 by the *United Nations Office in Burundi* notes:

“While reminding positive recent reports on Burundian performances, President Nkurunziza called for more efforts to combat corruption in areas where risks are high, particularly « justice and police sectors” (United Nations Office in Burundi (10 December 2012) *United Nations to continue back Burundi in tackling corruption*).

In August 2012 *Transparency International* notes:

“The judiciary and police tie as the most bribery prone institutions in Burundi” (Transparency International (August 2012) *The East African Bribery Index 2012*, p.6).

This document also points out that:

“Police was worst performer on this scale with almost 60% of all respondents having had to pay a bribe each time they interacted with the institution” (ibid, p.7).

A survey published in May 2012 by *Transparency International* includes references to the police by respondents concerning corruption in Burundi (Transparency International (May 2012) *Daily lives and corruption: public opinion in East Africa*, pp.6-7).

### **References**

Transparency International (August 2012) *The East African Bribery Index 2012*  
[http://www.transparency.org/whoweare/contact/org/nc\\_kenya/2/](http://www.transparency.org/whoweare/contact/org/nc_kenya/2/)  
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Transparency International (May 2012) *Daily lives and corruption: public opinion in East Africa*

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United Nations Office in Burundi (10 December 2012) *United Nations to continue back Burundi in tackling corruption*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/united-nations-continue-back-burundi-tackling-corruption>

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United States Department of State (24 May 2012) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2011/Burundi*

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm#wrapper>

Accessed Wednesday 20 March 2013

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre 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.

#### Sources Consulted

Amnesty International

BBC News

Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin Information Network

Freedom House

Google

Human Rights Watch

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

International Crisis Group

IRIN News

Lexis Nexis

Minority Rights Group International

Online Newspapers

Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library

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United Kingdom Home Office

United States Department of State

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