



Burundi - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Monday 22 May 2017

Information on indiscriminate violence vis-à-vis armed conflict

In May 2017 *Amnesty International* states:

“Hundreds have been killed and thousands displaced since...in April 2015, when President Pierre Nkurunziza announced he would seek a third term in office” (Amnesty International (19 May 2017) *Burundi: Regional leaders must prioritize ongoing human rights crisis*).

A report issued in February 2017 by the *United Nations Security Council* states:

“Many Burundians live in fear as a result of widespread repression and increasing intimidation by the Imbonerakure, the ruling party’s youth wing” (United Nations Security Council (23 February 2017) *Report of the Secretary-General on Burundi*, p.2).

In January 2017 *Human Rights Watch* points out that:

“Members of the Burundi ruling party's youth league, the Imbonerakure, have brutally killed, tortured, and severely beaten scores of people across the country in recent months...” (Human Rights Watch (19 January 2017) *Burundi: Attacks by Ruling Party Youth League Members*).

This report also notes that:

“Imbonerakure members have become increasingly powerful in some provinces in recent months. Some members collaborate closely with the national intelligence service (Service national de renseignement, SNR), arresting perceived opponents, beating them, and transferring them to intelligence agency offices. Imbonerakure members have at times worn police or military uniforms, carried weapons, and operated side by side with the police or military. In parts of the country, witnesses said some members of the Imbonerakure are more powerful than the police, who do not intervene even when they know that Imbonerakure members torture, arrest, and ill-treat residents...Imbonerakure members have also set up makeshift roadblocks on main and secondary roads in several provinces, including Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Muramvya, Ruyigi, and Ngozi, detained passersby, extorted money or valuables, and sometimes beat them. Some victims said Imbonerakure members accused them of collaborating with opposition groups. In other cases, it was unclear why they were targeted” (ibid).

An *Amnesty International* report issued in February 2017 commenting on events of the preceding year notes:

“Hundreds of people were unlawfully killed in targeted and indiscriminate killings related to the crisis” (Amnesty International (25 February 2017) *Amnesty International Report 2016/17 – Burundi*).

In November 2016 the *International Federation for Human Rights* states in a report that:

“Since the beginning of the crisis, several hundreds and even thousands of summary and extrajudicial executions have been carried out by Burundi’s Defense and security services...The victims are most often unarmed civilians, particularly men suspected of being opposed to the regime in power, of having taken part in demonstrations or of supporting armed rebel groups” (International Federation for Human Rights (November 2016) *Repression and Genocidal Dynamics in Burundi*, p.46).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

References

Amnesty International (19 May 2017) *Burundi: Regional leaders must prioritize ongoing human rights crisis*

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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

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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
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