



Burundi Watch Update 02-09 July 2017

EU Parliament warns Burundi Again

An assessment by the European Union Parliament¹ of the situation in Burundi on 5 July 2017 led to the adoption of a resolution that raised concerns over the human rights, humanitarian situation and the political situation in Burundi.

The European Parliament was particularly alarmed by the dangers of the amending the constitution that is mainly motivated by 4th presidential term of President Pierre Nkurunziza.

They denounced the continued crimes and hate speech occurring in the country. They strongly believe that the situation can easily deteriorate into crisis with ethnic overtones.

The Parliament supported targeted sanctions taken against those accused of crimes and the suspension of aid to the government as decided in line to article 96 of the Cotonou agreement. The parliament demanded the desarmament of the Imbonerakure militia.

The other matter that worried the EU include the continued displacement as the number of refugees continue to grow and demanded increase of assistance to refugees that settled within the region.

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=P8-RC-2017-0465&format=XML&language=EN>

Anger as report faults government

The Burundi national human rights institution(CNIDH) came under severe criticisms for siding with the government in face of grave human rights abuses. This is against its mandate under the Burundi constitution. This has led to it being degraded to status B in late November 2016.

This time around as the President of the CNIDH presented the 2016 annual report to the National Assembly on 5 July 2017, the ruling party's MPs including Gelase Daniel Ndabirabe strongly criticised the institution which is now believed to be presenting fake reports on Burundi with the aim to recover credibility from donors.

The President of the CNIDH, Jean Baptiste Baribonekeza stood his ground and contended that on the reporting period, the CNIDH observed a remarkable increase in human rights violation and advised the authorities to take into account the human rights report to address the situation urgently.

Killings and grenade attacks

Some of the reported cases of killings and grenade attacks include:

- On 3 July 2017, An Italian surgeon working with Kira Hospital in Bujumbura, Dr Franco Simoné was stabbed to death in Kiriri in the city of Bujumbura
- On 3 July 2017, Unidentified lifeless body was recovered in Matana
- On 4 July 2017, François Nduwayo was killed by unknown persons in Kiramira in the District of Rugombo
- On 9 July 2017, grenade attack in Shinya in the District of Gatara resulted in eight(8) persons being killed and an estimated number of 66 wounded
- On 9 July 2017, a lifeless body of unidentified person was recovered in Ruvyironza river at Rweza hill in the District of Giheta. The victim showed several traces of wounds

Arbitrary arrests and abductions

Some of the arrests and abductions that were reported during the period report:

- On 4 July 2017, Frank Niyukuri was abducted from Bujumbura by the NIS and taken to unknown destination
- On 5 July 2017, a police search was operated in Gitega central prison. Several items were seized by the police
- On 7 July 2017, two FNL members, Charles Bizimana and Jean Claude Magenge were abducted in Nyamurenza in the District of Ngozi
- On 6 July 2017, three persons were arrested in Jimbi in the District of Makamba
- On 4 July 2017, a journalist working with Radio Maria, Joseph Bananeno was arrested and detained at Buyenzi police station as national police accused him of attempting to public safety. He was released 3 days later
- On 5 July 2017, Ntirampeba was arrested by the governor of Makamba Gad Niyukuri as he returned from exile in Tanzania
- On 5 July 2017, fourteen(14) women, 2 babies and an estimated number of thirty teenagers were arrested by the Imbonerakure militiamen in the District of Makamba
- On 4 July 2017, three persons were ambushed on a motorcycle in Gisuru, Ruyigi. Two were wounded by the assailants who shot at them
- On 5 July 2017, five(5) persons were arrested as they are accused by national police and administration of burning Vyanda national forest

Atrocities Watch Africa

Atrocities Watch Africa (AWA) is a non-partisan, civil society organization and institution that intends to provide continental leadership in matters pertaining to the prevention of mass atrocities

within Africa and beyond, through multi-pronged approaches that infuse ownership, legitimacy, and sustainable interface. AWA's strategic and approaches are grounded in the realization that atrocities can be prevented through various interventions, including, but not limited to, early warning mechanisms, diplomatic efforts, use of social media and new technologies, litigation, and advocacy campaigns.

info@atrocitieswatch.org

www.atrocitieswatch.org

www.facebook.com/atrocitieswatch

www.twitter.com/atrocitiesw