

Advance unedited version

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
Ninetieth session
2 - 26 August 2016

**PREVENTION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING EARLY WARNING
AND URGENT ACTION PROCEDURES**

Decision 1 (90)

Burundi

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in Geneva at its ninetieth session from 2 to 26 August 2016

Acting under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedures;

1. Recalling that the Arusha agreement of 28 August 2000 which ended years of inter-ethnic violence in Burundi provided for a maximum of two terms for the President of the Republic;
2. Noting that the refusal by the President of Burundi to respect that provision, recognized as binding by the Constitutional Court of Burundi in its judgment of 5 May 2015, is endangering the power sharing on political-ethnic basis established by the Arusha agreement and has led to a major political crisis in Burundi and a continuing deterioration of the human rights situation in that country;
3. Alarmed by numerous reports and credible information regarding killings (348 summary executions between April 2015 and April 2016) and disappearances (36 cases in the same period) targeting in particular officers of the former Burundies Armed Forces and which may have an ethnic character, as well as torture (651 cases in the same period) and arbitrary arrests (5811 cases in the same period);
4. Concerned by the genocidal rhetoric in declarations of government officials that are likely to endanger peaceful inter-ethnic coexistence in Burundi;
5. Aware that ethnic tensions have already led in the past decades to acts of genocide, also in particular in Burundi;
6. Disturbed by the refusal by the Government to allow a 228 strong police force in Burundi approved by UN Security Council Resolution 2303 (2016) of 29 July 2016;
7. Deploring the unprecedented lack of cooperation of the Government of Burundi with the Committee against Torture during its 58th session (25 July till 12 August 2016):

1. Calls upon the Government of Burundi to fully respect its international obligations and in particular those arising from the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,
2. Requests the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to draw the attention of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and its special procedures, as well as the treaty bodies established under the human rights conventions to which Burundi is a party, on the human rights situation in Burundi.

*2480th Meeting
23 August 2016*