

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES  
UNDER ARTICLE 19 OF THE CONVENTION**

**Concluding observations of the Committee against Torture**  
*(Extracts for follow-up of CAT/C/BDI/CO/2)*

**BURUNDI**

(...)

**C. Principal subjects of concern and recommendations**

(...)

**Allegations of torture and extrajudicial killings**

9. The Committee is alarmed by credible, corroborative and persistent reports of a large number of acts of torture and extrajudicial killings committed by members of the Burundian National Police and the National Intelligence Service. It is concerned about the slow pace and limited scope of the investigations and judicial proceedings that have been opened in this connection, which would appear to corroborate claims that the perpetrators of these acts enjoy impunity. The Committee also finds it regrettable that no information about cases that have gone to trial or the outcome of those trials has been forthcoming. It is also concerned at the absence of protection for victims and witnesses, who are subject to reprisals (arts. 2, 4, 6, 7, 12 and 14).

**The State party should:**

**(a) Adopt all the effective measures necessary to combat impunity by systematically undertaking prompt, impartial and effective investigations into any and all reports of torture or the arbitrary deprivation of the right to life in order to identify and prosecute the suspected perpetrators and, if they are found guilty, punish them appropriately and provide proper redress to the victims or their families;**

**(b) Inform the Committee, in writing, of the outcomes of the investigations and judicial proceedings that are opened and on the convictions and sentences handed down regarding both the above-mentioned reports and those referred to in the list of issues (CAT/C/BDI/Q/2/Add.1, paras. 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15), including the killings that occurred during and in the wake of the 2010 elections and more recent events, such as the killings of several members of religious minorities;**

(...)

**(d) Protect victims from any sort of reprisal and guarantee them appropriate redress, as recognized in article 14 of the Convention and set out in the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2012).**

(...)

### **Political violence**

22. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The restrictions on the right of assembly and demonstration imposed by law enforcement bodies and reports of cases involving the violent suppression of demonstrations resulting in the excessive use of force by the authorities, for example during the protests of March 2014;

(b) The serious human rights violations perpetrated by a youth group (referred to as the *Imbonerakure*) with close ties to the Government, including: the harassment of political opponents; the disruption of public meetings, acts of intimidation, arbitrary arrests and arbitrary detention and other acts of violence; and the use of so-called "amicable" arrangements for settling disputes. The Committee is deeply concerned by reports that the Government is providing this group with weapons and training (arts. 2, 12, 14 and 16).

### **The State party should:**

(...)

**(b) Investigate the *Imbonerakure*, their links to the Government, including the provision of weapons, and their actions, with a view to ensuring full compliance with the Convention.**

(...)

28. The Committee thanks the State party for its willingness to continue the dialogue beyond the interactive dialogue and requests it to provide information by 28 November 2015 on the follow-up given to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 (a), (b) and (d) and 22 (b).

(...)

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