



Rwanda - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 4 September 2014

Treatment of the political opposition

A publication released in June 2014 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights states that:

“...peaceful protests voicing dissent and criticizing Government policies are reportedly not allowed” (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (10 June 2014) *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association: Mission to the Republic of Rwanda*).

This document also states:

“...political activists who express dissenting views can be arrested for holding meetings to recruit members in public spaces” (ibid).

The special Rapporteur in this report also notes his concern

“...about unequal opportunities presented to political parties to pursue their legitimate activities. He observes undue restrictions on political parties that curtail the opportunity for genuine political participation and dialogue” (ibid).

This document also states:

“...critical political leaders are in jail or in exile” (ibid).

In April 2014 the *United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office* notes in a report that:

“Political space for opposition parties and civil society organisations remains constrained” (United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office (10 April 2014) *Human Rights and Democracy Report 2013 - Country case study: Rwanda – freedom of association and expression*).

A report issued in February 2014 by the *United States Department of State* commenting on events of the preceding year points out that:

“There were reports that local officials and the SSF briefly detained some individuals who disagreed publicly with government decisions or policies” (United States Department of State (27 February 2014) *Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2013 – Rwanda*, Section 1e Denial of Fair Public Trial/Political Prisoners and Detainees).

This document also notes that:

“Some parties were not able to operate freely, and parties and candidates faced legal sanctions if found guilty of engaging in divisive acts, destabilizing national unity,

threatening territorial integrity, or undermining national security” (ibid, Section 3 Elections and Political Participation/Political parties).

References

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (10 June 2014) *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association: Mission to the Republic of Rwanda*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/report-special-rapporteur-rights-freedom-peaceful-assembly-and-association-mi>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Thursday 4 September 2014

United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office (10 April 2014) *Human Rights and Democracy Report 2013 - Country case study: Rwanda – freedom of association and expression*

http://www.ecoi.net/local_link/273751/389516_en.html

Accessed Thursday 4 September 2014

United States Department of State (27 February 2014) *Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2013 – Rwanda*

http://www.ecoi.net/local_link/270785/387583_en.html

Accessed Thursday 4 September 2014

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
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
Reuters

United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.