

Security Council: Topic B Primary Sources

The Situation in Burundi

Here are the primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.

Source #1: Arusha Agreement

This source is the peace treaty that brought the Burundian Civil War to an end. It was signed in August 2000 in Tanzania. It's 4 major points sought to: A) establish a power sharing formula of ethnic quotas in politics; B) ensure equitable representative in government; C) constitutional restrictions to prevent Burundi from becoming a single-party state; D) efforts to integrate rebels and ethnic minorities into the armed forces. Additionally, it established a truth and reconciliation commission that was to investigate ethnic conflicts since Burundi's independence in 1962.

<https://peaceaccords.nd.edu/accord/arusha-peace-and-reconciliation-agreement-burundi>

Source #2: Security Council Resolution 2248 (2015)

Adopted in November of 2015, this resolution focused on past statements made by Burundi's president as well as his role in the political impasse in the country. It goes on to remind Burundi's government of the need to uphold the Arusha Agreement and the important role that a stable Burundi can play for the whole region. It goes on to urge Burundi to work with the United Nations and East African Community to find a peaceful solution.

<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2248>

Source #3: Representative Comments on Adopted of Security Council Resolution 2303 (2016)

This source contains a brief summary of Security Council Resolution 2303, passed in July 2016. More importantly, it contains comments from the representatives of the nations on the Security Council about the resolution. Resolution 2303 was pushed for by the Western powers, with the French government a strong supporter. According to their representative, they hoped to avoid a genocide, saying the Security Council has learnt from the Rwanda Genocide. The American representative thought the resolution was a positive step, but was concerned that it did not pass unanimously; believing that this demonstrated a lack of willingness to act in the future.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12469.doc.htm>

Source #4: Security Council Resolution 2303 (2016)

This source is the text of Resolution 2303. This is a crucial resolution for understanding the situation in Burundi as it more concretely involved the United Nations in the country. While the resolution reiterated previous resolutions in calling for a peaceful resolution and the establishment of a dialogue, it also appointed a UN police force to be established throughout the country to monitor the security situation. The resolution was passed with 11 votes and 4 abstentions.

<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2303>

Source #5: Security Council Statement April 2018

While the Security Council has not approved a Burundi-specific resolution since Resolution 2303, it released a statement in April 2018 bemoaning extrajudicial killings in Burundi, the violation of human rights, and its decision to suspend cooperation with UN police forces. It, again, reiterated the need for dialogue in Burundi.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/04/1006701>