

Coup d'état reported

A coup is reported to have occurred today in Bujumbura, capital of Burundi, while President Pierre Nkurunziza was at an East African Community (EAC, comprising Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) Summit in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, intended to try to resolve the current crisis in Burundi. The Summit is reported to have been cancelled. President Nkurunziza reportedly left Dar es Salaam with the intent of returning to Bujumbura, but his flight reportedly returned to Dar es Salaam, as airports and borders were ordered closed by the coup leader.

The coup is reported to be led by General Godefroid Niyombare, a former intelligence chief of Nkurunziza's, dismissed in February for reportedly having been critical of a third term bid for Nkurunziza. He has announced that a transitional government would soon be formed. Although he has spoken on private radio, he has not yet spoken on the Government-controlled Radio-Télévision nationale du Burundi (RTNB). In a significant development, *Radio Publique Africaine* (RPA) is broadcasting again, having been closed for nearly two weeks.

The situation is rapidly evolving and confused, with a wide variety of reports coming in that are difficult to confirm.

Humanitarian developments in Burundi

There do not appear to be any significant new humanitarian developments since yesterday's [Flash Update 4](#), which noted that some humanitarian needs had begun to emerge, notably at certain border-crossing points, where populations had become congested as they wait to be processed or access boat transport. Official figures to date report 20 deaths and 200 wounded as of yesterday during protests in Bujumbura.

Refugee numbers rise above 70,000

According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), refugee statistics for Rwanda were 25,455 as of 11 May; for the Democratic Republic of the Congo were 8,750 as of 12 May; and, in a major development, 37,474 as of 13 May for Tanzania, comprising 15,452 new arrivals in Nyarungusu Camp; around 20,000 waiting in Kagunga village, and 2,022 on the way to Nyarungusu Camp. Several hundred people were reported to be in hard-to-reach areas with limited support. OHCHR reported they had seen a return to Makamba Province (southern Burundi) of families that had initially fled to Tanzania, citing worsening humanitarian conditions (challenges in accessing food, shelter, sanitation and the presence of diseases which reportedly resulted in the deaths of at least eight people, including seven children). Key challenges reported from Tanzania are in the domains of water and sanitation (WASH); health; shelter; security in Kagunga village (which is overcrowded) and slow transportation out of Kagunga village (a second boat for transportation is awaited); lack of transit facilities in Kigoma; congestion of Nyarungusu Camp; and a lack of non-food items (NFIs).

Background

Civil unrest erupted on 26 April in Bujumbura after the ruling CNDD-FDD party elected President Pierre Nkurunziza on 25 April as its candidate for the 26 June presidential election. Nkurunziza has been in office for two terms since 2005, and a broad array of actors (including the UN) warned that an attempt to seek a third term is unconstitutional and contrary to the spirit of the 2000 [Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi](#) that ended a decade of civil war in the country. Despite an appeal by the Senate, Burundi's Constitutional Court determined that President Nkurunziza was eligible for re-election – although the Court's deputy president fled to Rwanda prior to this decision.

The next Flash Update will be issued in the next 48 hours. In the meantime, for further information, contact Matthew Conway, Public Information Officer, OCHA Eastern Africa, at conwaym@un.org. To receive this and other OCHA Eastern Africa reports, please subscribe at <http://bit.ly/1lunDLk>