



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

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Information on the involvement of the UFC in government / administration in Togo

The Togolese government website *republicoftogo.com* reports in September 2009:

“Kinam Henri Lardja Kolani was elected as chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission on Monday [14 September]. He is one of the executive members of the PDR, the Party for Democracy and Renewal (opposition). The election has already been challenged by the Union of Forces for Change (UFC), which is denouncing "the obstinate refusal of the RPT [Rally of the Togolese People] government to accept dialogue for the consensual organization of a free, fair and credible presidential election". Gilchrist Olympio's party is even talking about "a new exploit of the RPT regime". CENI is made up of 17 members including five representatives from RPT, five from the parliamentary opposition, three representatives from the extra-parliamentary opposition, three representatives from civil society and one representative from public administration - an equitable apportionment that was keenly negotiated and guarantees the organization of a free and fair election but UFC is not happy with it” (Republicoftogo.com (17 September 2009) *Togolese opposition challenges choice of new polls body chief*).

The Togolese government website *republicoftogo.com* states in July 2009:

“Blaise Compaore, president of Burkina, arrived in Lome on Tuesday [28 July] morning to meet with political leaders who have problems with harmony with a few months to go for the presidential election: an essential poll to accompany the new democracy put in place by Faure Gnassingbe since 2005. Among the problems dividing the political parties is the composition of the Permanent Forum on Dialogue and Consultation (CPDC), boycotted for some weeks now by the two main opposition political parties, CAR [Action Committee for Renewal] and UFC [Union of Forces for Change] and that of the Independent National Electoral Commission [CENI]. Since 2006, Mr Compaore has been playing the role of mediator between the government in power and the opposition” (Republicoftogo.com (28 July 2009) *Burkinabe leader arrives in Togo to resolve differences between parties*).

Earlier in July 2009 the Togolese government website *republicoftogo.com* notes:

“The Union of the Forces of Change (UFC) led by Gilchrist Olympio seized the Constitutional Court on Tuesday [30 June] to protest against the passing of the new electoral law by the National Assembly. Parliamentarians from the opposition parties criticized, especially, the composition of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) which made provision for five members of

the majority, five members of the opposition, three members for civil society and three for the extra-parliamentarian parties” (Republicoftogo.com (01 July 2009) *Togolese main opposition party protests adoption of new electoral law*).

No further information could be found on this issue among sources available to the RDC.

References

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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.

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