



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Togo: Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 27 July 2009

Specific information in relation to treatment of the opposition by the current administration.

The *US Department of State* reports:

"The government denied the existence of political detainees; however, six persons arrested after the 2005 election and affiliated with the opposition reportedly were being held in a prison near Kara, an area of strong RPT support. AI reported that dozens of persons were in detention following the election. Security forces sometimes moved political detainees to informal detention centers under the control of the military or RPT militia. Because the government did not acknowledge any political detainees, it did not permit any organizations to have access to them." (US Department of State (25 February 2009) *2008 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Togo*)

The same report states:

"The constitution prohibits forced exile, and the government did not employ it. However, several opposition and human rights workers remained in self-imposed exile because they feared arrest." (Ibid)

Also in the same report:

"In August the government prohibited two opposition parliamentarians from leaving the country because they did not notify the president of the National Assembly. Both submitted their letters and were allowed to leave several days later." (Ibid)

Freedom House states:

"Relations between the government and opposition remained tense during the year, but there were no new reports of political or ethnic violence." (Freedom House (16 July 2009) *Freedom in the World 2009 – Togo*)

Amnesty International report:

"In August, the UN and AU Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders conducted a joint mission to Togo. During meetings the government acknowledged past human rights violations and said it would address them. Although the Rapporteurs acknowledged that the number of attacks and acts of intimidation against human rights defenders had fallen, they expressed concern about the stigmatization of human rights defenders who are seen as belonging to

the political opposition. The Rapporteurs recommended that priority be given to ending impunity for violations against human rights defenders.” (Amnesty International (28 May 2009) *Amnesty International Report 2009 – Togo*)

The *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada* state under section Situation of opposition parties:

”According to the 21 October 2007 UFC press release, acts of violence were committed against certain party members and leaders during a protest march. An article published by the Panafrican News Agency (PANA) on 22 October 2007 reported that, according to the UFC, Patrick Lawson, vice-president of the UFC, Jean-Pierre Fabre, party secretary-general, and Crosby Quist, party communications director, were injured (PANA 22 Oct. 2007; see also UFC 21 Oct. 2007). The same article stated that Jean-Pierre Homawoo, political director of the UFC campaign board, and his brother Jean-Claude, a candidate in Lomé-Commune, were also injured (PANA 22 Oct. 2007). Another article published on Afrik.com on 25 October 2007 reported that tear gas was used to disperse party members on their way to a demonstration at CENI headquarters (see also UFC 21 Oct. 2007). Approximately 15 people were reportedly injured at the demonstration (Afrik.com 25 Oct. 2007). A Golfe Info article posted on the UFC website states that a peaceful march scheduled for 4 August 2007 by the UFC and other organizations was banned by the Togolese government for security reasons (17 Mar. 2008).” (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (31 July 2008) *Togo: The situation of opposition parties, including the Union of Forces for Change (Union des forces de changement, UFC), particularly during and after the October 2007 election; the participation of the UFC in political life since October 2007 (October 2007 - July 2008) TGO102895.FE*)

References

Amnesty International (28 May 2009) *Amnesty International Report 2009 – Togo*
<http://thereport.amnesty.org/en/regions/africa/togo>
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Freedom House (16 July 2009) *Freedom in the World 2009 – Togo*
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US Department of State (25 February 2009) *2008 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Togo*
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119029.htm>
(Accessed 27 July 2009)

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:

All Africa

Amnesty International

European Country of Origin Information Network

Freedom House

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Human Rights Watch

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Lexis Nexis

Refugee Documentation Centre Library

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

UK Home Office

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US Department of State

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