

*For God so loved
the world...
shouldn't we?*

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***Praying for the World
One Country at Time***



**Burundi
July 10, 2011**

Burundi

Full Name

Burundi

Capital

Bujumbura

Location

Central Africa, east of Democratic Republic of the Congo

Leadership

Republic. President Pierre NKURUNZIZA - Hutu (since 26 August 2005)

Overview

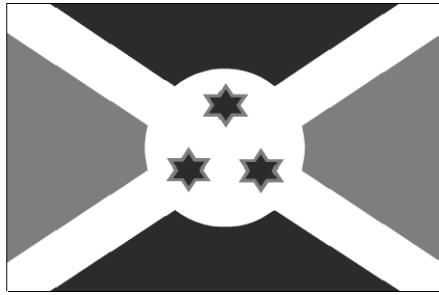
Burundi, one of the world's poorest nations, is emerging from a 12-year, ethnic-based civil war. Since independence in 1961, it has been plagued by tension between the dominant Tutsi minority and the Hutu majority. The ethnic violence that sparked off in 1994 made Burundi the scene of one of Africa's most intractable conflicts. The country is now beginning to reap the dividends of a peace process. But it faces the formidable tasks of reviving a shattered economy and of forging national unity. Burundi's first democratically elected president was assassinated in October 1993 after only 100 days in office and so was its second, just a few months later. The third Hutu president, appointed in 1994 was forced out of the office setting the scene for years of Hutu-Tutsi violence in which an estimated 300,000 people, most of them civilians, were killed. Hundreds of thousands of Burundians were internally displaced or became refugees in neighboring countries. Following long-running talks, mediated by South Africa, a power-sharing government was set up in 2001 and most of the rebel groups agreed to a ceasefire. Four years later Burundians voted in the first parliamentary elections since the start of the civil war. The main Hutu former rebel group won the vote and nominated its leader Pierre Nkurunziza as president. The government and the United Nations embarked on the lengthy process of disarming thousands of soldiers and former rebels, as well as forming a new national army.

Population

8.5 million (despite high birth rate population is shrinking due to AIDS epidemic)

Religion

Christian 67% (Roman Catholic 62%, Protestant 5%), indigenous beliefs 23%, Muslim 10%



Economy

Burundi is a landlocked, resource-poor country with an underdeveloped manufacturing sector. The economy is predominantly agricultural which accounts for just over 30% of GDP and employs more than 90% of the population. Burundi's primary exports are coffee and tea. Burundi's export earnings - and its ability to pay for imports - rest primarily on weather conditions and international coffee and tea prices. The Tutsi minority, 14% of the population, dominates the coffee trade. Burundi's GDP grew around 4% annually in 2006-10. Political stability and the end of the civil war have improved aid flows and economic activity has increased, but underlying weaknesses - a high poverty rate, poor education rates, a weak legal system, a poor transportation network, overburdened utilities, and low administrative capacity - risk undermining planned economic reforms. Burundi will continue to remain heavily dependent on aid from bilateral and multilateral donors. Government corruption is also hindering the development of a healthy private sector as companies seek to navigate an environment with ever-changing rules.

Prayer Concerns

An ethnic-based war that lasted for over a decade resulted in more than 200,000 deaths, forced more than 48,000 refugees into Tanzania, and displaced 140,000 others internally. Only one in two children go to school, and approximately one in 15 adults has HIV/AIDS. Food, medicine, and electricity remain in short supply. Less than 2% of the population has electricity in its homes.