



## **Burkina Faso – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 7 March 2011**

### **Were colleges and universities closed down because of all of the protests in Burkina Faso in 2000?**

A *Reuters* report refers to the closure of the University of Ouagadougou in October 2000 as follows:

“Burkina Faso has closed the university in its capital Ouagadougou until further notice and scrapped the 1999-2000 academic year following months of student protests about grants. A government statement read on state television late on Friday (eds correct) said that the university's faculties would be reorganised before being reopened. The National Association of Students of Burkina Faso (ANEB) launched its campaign for a new system of grants in April. Students boycotted end-of-year exams. The government said that it had decided to close the university because the attitude of the students had blocked the 1999-2000 academic year and threatened to compromise the new academic year. The university has more than 10,000 students.” (Reuters (7 October 2000) *Burkina Faso closes university*)

See also a *Panafrican News Agency* report which states:

“The University of Ouagadougou has been closed down indefinitely following prolonged boycott of classes by students, the government announced Saturday in a statement which also said the 1999-2000 year had been invalidated. The statement released after an extraordinary cabinet meeting Friday in Ouagadougou also announced the suspension of services provided by the national university services centre and the university statutes as well as the dissolution of all the faculties.” (Panafrican News Agency (PANA) (7 October 2000) *University of Ouagadougou Closed Down*)

A *Reuters* report states:

“Police in Burkina Faso detained around 30 students on Wednesday, the eve of a planned protest against closure of the main university and the scrapping of the 1999-2000 academic year, students said. Ambroise Farama, secretary-general of the West African country's students union (ANEB), told Reuters the students were taken in for questioning by police during a general meeting of the union to organise Thursday's demonstration.” (Reuters (18 October 2000) *Burkina Faso detains 30 students on eve of protest*)

A *Panafrican News Agency* report states:

“Pupils in Ouagadougou's secondary schools Tuesday started a 73-hour strike in support of university students who are pressing for the re-opening of their institution closed 12 days ago. The Burkinabe authorities closed the University of

Ouagadougou 6 October for the 1900-2000 academic year after students went on a strike demanding better facilities and living conditions.” (Panafrican News Agency (PANA) (18 October 2000) *Secondary Education On Strike To Support University Students*)

A Reuters report states:

“Several thousand people protested in Burkina Faso's capital on Tuesday against the closure of the main university and scrapping of the 1999-2000 year, witnesses said. Opposition groups, teachers' unions and student associations took to the streets after rejecting the government's planned reorganisation of the university in Ouagadougou. The university was shut down in early October after months of student protests about grants prevented the completion of the academic year which the government then scrapped.” (Reuters (21 November 2000) *Thousands protest over university in Burkina Faso*)

An Agence France Presse report states:

“Some 5,000 students and school pupils demonstrated Tuesday against the closure of Burkina Faso's university in Ouagadougou.” (Agence France Presse (21 November 2000) *Demonstration against closure of Burkina Faso university*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information found among English language sources 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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