



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Democratic Republic of Congo – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 18 February 2011

Information on corruption and police corruption in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The *United States Department of State* reports:

“...Members of the security forces also continued to abuse and threaten journalists, contributing to a decline in freedom of the press. Government corruption remained pervasive...” (United States Department of State (11 March 2010) *2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Democratic Republic of Congo*)

The same report also states:

“Security forces generally remained undisciplined, lacked training, received little pay, and suffered from widespread corruption (see section 4). Members of the FARDC, police, and intelligence sectors continued to commit the majority of the country's human rights abuses.” (Ibid)

Also in the same report:

“Following his assessment visit in October, UNSRESAE Alston characterized impunity within the security forces as "chronic." He said that "endemic corruption and political interference ensure that anyone with money or connections can escape investigation, prosecution, and judgment."...” (Ibid)

Further in the report under Section 4 Official Corruption and Government Transparency:

“The law provides criminal penalties for official corruption. However, the authorities did not implement the law, as corruption remained endemic throughout the government and security forces. The public perceived the government to be widely corrupt at all levels. According to the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators, official corruption was a severe problem.”

Freedom House states:

“Corruption is rampant in the DRC, particularly in the mining sector. The country ranked 182 out of 183 countries in the World Bank's 2010 Doing Business survey, and 162 out of 180 countries surveyed in Transparency International's 2009 Corruption Perceptions Index. In 2006, the government approved new investment and mining codes and established a commercial court to protect foreign investment. The National Assembly's Lutundula Commission implicated a number of senior officials in corruption that year, some of whom were fired. In 2007, Kabila bowed to international pressure and announced a review of 61 mining contracts with foreign companies, but rejected calls for

independent oversight. The first stage of the mining review was completed in 2008, and the government noted that 26 contracts required renegotiation and 21 faced termination. In 2009, the government began completing negotiations of new contracts and revisions of contract terms. Separately, the government in 2008 announced the results of a World Bank-backed, three-year review of logging contracts, stating that it would cancel more than two-thirds of the contracts and continue a moratorium on logging deals for another three years. (Freedom House (3 May 2010) *Freedom in the World 2010 - Congo, Democratic Republic of (Kinshasa)*)

BBC News state:

“Media watchdog Reporters Without Borders says media workers face arrest, threats and violence. Reporters exposing corruption are at particular risk.” (BBC News (11 December 2010) *Democratic Republic of Congo country profile*)

The *United Kingdom Border Agency* states:

“Transparency International’s 2008 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), released in September 2008, ranked the Democratic Republic of Congo as 42nd of the 47 countries surveyed in Africa, and 171st of the 180 countries surveyed in the world with a score of 1.7. (The CPI score relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen to exist among public officials and politicians by business people and country analysts. It ranges between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt).” (United Kingdom Border Agency (30 June 2009) *Country of Origin Information Report – Democratic Republic of Congo*)

Institute for War and Peace Reporting report:

“Bogged down by corruption and inefficiency, the judicial system has failed the Congolese population on many accounts.

Magistrates are often corrupt and criminals can bribe their way out of jail while poor people remain in overcrowded prisons for interminable periods, often for the smallest infractions.” (Institute for War and Peace Reporting (31 January 2011) *DRC Death Penalty Debate*)

IRIN News reports:

“Legislation has been passed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) national assembly aimed at reforming the country’s police force, which, staffed by ex-soldiers and former rebels - riddled with corruption, poorly trained and lacking basic equipment - is widely seen as more of a threat to the population than a guarantor of its security.” (IRIN News (16 December 2010) *DRC: New law a boon for police reform*)

The same article also states:

“With a salary of barely US\$30 a month, police in DRC often abuse their power by extorting money from civilians.

“The system is rotten to the core with senior officers who take a share of what the lower ranks rip off from people. And since salaries are always paid in cash, there is a lot of

room for 'leakage'," explained a source from the UN mission in DRC's police unit (UNPOL)." (Ibid)

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.

Sources Consulted:

All Africa
Amnesty International
BBC News
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Institute for War and Peace Reporting

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Refugee Documentation Centre Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
UNHCR Refworld
United Kingdom Border Agency
United States Department of State
Yahoo