Burkina Faso: A "Sankarist" political party, particularly the treatment of its members by government authorities in 2004 and during the time leading up to the November 2005 election (2004 - October 2005)

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Speaking from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, during an 11 October 2005 telephone interview, the president of the MTP, a "moderate Sankarist" party (Leftist Parties of the World 28 Feb. 2005), stated that he knew of no cases in which a member of a self-declared Sankarist party had run into problems with the authorities because of his or her political persuasion. He explained that Sankarists in particular experienced government repression in the years following former president Thomas Sankara's death in 1987, but since the beginning of 2000, no one, to his knowledge, has encountered repressive treatment as a result of membership in a Sankarist party (MTP 11 Oct. 2005).

The president of the MTP indicated that in anticipation of the 13 November 2005 election, only his party, the FFS [led by Norbert Michel Tiendrébéogo (Leftist Parties of the World 28 Feb. 2005)], and the UNIR/MS [under Bénéwendé Sankara (ibid.)] have put forward candidates (MTP 11 Oct. 2005).
Proactive Disclosure

During an 11 October 2005 telephone interview, the executive secretary of the Burkina Faso Movement for Human Rights (Mouvement burkinabé des droits de l'homme et des peuples, MBDHP), an affiliate of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), indicated that his organization knew of no cases in the last five years in which members of parties affiliated with the Sankarist movement had had problems with government authorities because of their political allegiance, excepting that of FFS president Norbert Tiendrébéogo, who was arrested, jailed, tried and then acquitted of conspiring against national security in 2004. The executive secretary of the MBDHP explained that other arrests were made at the time of Norbert Tiendrébéogo's and that those arrested, however, had different political leanings or did not belong to any political party (MBDHP 11 Oct. 2005).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References


Mouvement pour la tolérance et le progrès (MTP). 11 October 2005. Telephone interview with the president.


Additional Sources Consulted


Internet sites, including: AllAfrica, Amnesty International, ECOI.net, Fasonet, FIDH, HRW, IRIN, ReliefWeb.

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