



## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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The Board		23 October 2009
About the Board	<b>RWA103252.FE</b>	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Rwanda: The level of corruption in government institutions, including the involvement of army personnel, police officers and government employees in extortion practices (2004 - 2009)	
Employment		
Legal and Policy	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa	
References		
Publications	<b>Scope of the corruption</b>	
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division	In 2008 Rwanda ranked 102nd out of 180 countries on the Transparency International (TI) <i>Corruptions Perceptions Index</i> (CPI), which is based on composite survey data that reflects the perceptions of resident and non-resident business people and country analysts (TI 23 Sept. 2008). Scores range from 0 (perceived to be highly corrupt) to 10 (perceived to be highly clean) (TI 23 Sept. 2008).	
Immigration Division	According to their score, countries are ranked according to the perception that they are less corrupt (1) to most corrupt (180) (ibid.). In 2008, Rwanda ranked 16th out of 47 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (TI 2008). Rwanda's CPI score has gradually increased from 2.5 out of 10 in 2006 (TI 2006), to 2.8 in 2007 (TI 2007) and 3.0 in 2008 (TI 2008).	
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions		
Forms		
Statistics		
Research		
Research Program	A report published on 16 April 2008 by the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre (U4), a resource centre operated by the Norwegian-based Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) that "assists donor practitioners in more effectively addressing corruption challenges" (U4 n.d.), states that Rwanda has made significant progress in controlling corruption, but that it is still prevalent in the country (U4 16 Apr. 2008, 2). The U4 also cites a report by the Great Lakes Centre for Strategic Studies (GLCSS), published in 2006 and based on 2005 data, that indicates that corruption cases had declined 28.5 percent from the previous year and over 80 percent from 2004 (ibid., 3).	
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets		
Responses to Information Requests	<b>Sectors affected by corruption</b>	
Recent Research		
Media Centre		
News	An article published on 26 February 2009 by InfoSud Belgique (InfoSud), a news agency that covers North-South issues and is a member of the Syfia International network of news agencies (InfoSud n.d.), states that in 2008, the participants at a Dialogue meeting of representatives of all of Rwanda's social strata, determined that the sectors that are [translation] "particularly affected by corruption" in Rwanda are [translation] "the departments responsible for government procurement, basic services, and the judicial system, including the national police."	
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According to Syfia Grands Lacs, some Rwandans become involved in

corruption because of the wide variety of government measures and regulations, the slow administrative processes, and the fact that local authorities and the Local Defense Force (LDF) are not remunerated, among other reasons (23 Feb. 2007). However, in the opinion of a human rights activist from Kigali who was cited in an article published on 26 February 2009 by InfoSud, [translation] “the leaders who are the most corrupt or who misappropriate the most funds are those with the highest salaries’.”

### **Corruption of government employees**

Many sources reported the arrest, detention and dismissal of senior officials on charges of corruption (InfoSud 26 Feb. 2009; ARI 6 July 2009; VOA 22 Apr. 2009). An article published on 30 June 2009 by *The New Times*, a Kigali daily newspaper, indicates that a team from the anti-corruption unit arrested a prosecutor attached to the Ngoma Intermediate Court for extorting money from several suspects. An article published on 22 April 2009 by Panapress (PANA) reported the arrest of the former minister of Environment, Mining and Natural Resources in [translation] “a case of corruption in illegal government contracting.” Another article published on 22 April 2009 by Voice of America (VOA) announced that the director of the Rwandan Information Office (Office rwandais d’information, ORINFOR) had been arrested for [translation] “the abuse of funds” and that a deputy had been dismissed on suspicion of [translation] “tax evasion.” According to a magistrate cited by PANA, [translation] “if he is convicted, the former minister faces a sentence of 20 years in prison” (22 Apr. 2009). According to InfoSud, between the end of December 2008 and the end of February 2009, the directors-general of the Rwandan National Institute of Statistics (Institut national de la statistique du Rwanda, INSR) and the Central Bureau of Public Investment and Offshore Financing (Bureau central des investissements publics et des financements extérieurs, CEPEX), three secretaries-general of the ministries, twelve prison wardens, and officers of the survivor assistance fund were arrested and prosecuted for [translation] “corruption or misappropriation of government funds” (InfoSud 26 Feb. 2009). Nineteen employees of the Rwandan Revenue Authority (Office rwandais des recettes), the mayor of a district and a significant number of service administrators were reportedly relieved of their duties (ibid.). Moreover, the Minister of Internal Affairs reportedly fired eight of his employees because they could not explain the origin of their assets (ibid.). A report on Rwanda published in 2009 by Freedom House indicates that many high-ranking government officials have been dismissed and prosecuted for “corruption, embezzlement, and abuse of power” in recent years. Moreover, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2008* from the United States (US) Department of State indicates that in 2008, the Rwandan government “investigated several senior officials on corruption charges, including two vice-mayors and the executive secretary of [the] Gasabo district in Kigali,” and that it conducted an “inquiry into misuse of public funds by 46 government institutions” (US 25 Feb. 2009, Sec. 3).

### **Police corruption**

*Country Reports 2008* indicates that there were cases of police “corruption” in 2008 (US 25 Feb. 2009, Sec. 1d). In February 2005, a spokesperson for the police announced the dismissal of 34 Rwandan police officers for [translation] “unruly behaviour, criminality and corruption” (PANA 28 Feb. 2008). That incident was also mentioned in an article published by *The New Times* on 24 February 2008. According to the article, more than 100 police officers, including senior commanders, were also fired in 2007 in an effort to combat corruption (*The New Times* 24 Feb. 2009).

### **Measures taken by the government to combat corruption**

Sources state that fighting corruption is important in Rwanda (InfoSud 26 Feb. 2009; VOA 22 Apr. 2009) and that it is one of the government’s top priorities (Bertelsmann Stiftung 2007, Sec. 15; U4 16 Apr. 2008, 4). Some sources note the

existence of anti-corruption organizations, such as the Office of the Ombudsman (Office de l'Ombudsman), the Auditor General's Office (Office de l'auditeur général des finances de l'État, OAG) and the National Tender Board (ARI 6 July 2009; U4 16 Apr. 2008, 5; Freedom House 2009). According to the U4, these organizations were put in place in 2004, 1999 and 1997, respectively (16 Apr. 2008, 5). Moreover, the Anti-Corruption Advisory Board (Conseil consultatif anti-corruption) was created in January 2009; it consists of representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the police force, the Supreme Court and the prosecutor's office (InfoSud 26 Feb. 2009). The Office of the Ombudsman is responsible for coordinating the Board's activities (ibid.). According to an article from Syfia Grands Lacs, new directors must submit a financial statement of their situation to the Office of the Ombudsman when they assume their duties (23 Feb. 2007). According to InfoSud, the ombudsman indicated in his report at the end of 2008 that [translation] "many government employees collect unjustified wealth" (26 Feb. 2009). InfoSud also notes that, in February 2009, the Minister of Internal Affairs required every police officer and prison guard to clearly indicate how much money they had before they began working and to agree to submit to investigations when necessary (InfoSud 26 Feb. 2009). Moreover, the National Tender Board has called for more transparency in government contracting, which it is responsible for, and has therefore organized anti-corruption media campaigns that focus on the penalties imposed on the person offering the bribe and the person accepting it; those penalties range from two to ten years of imprisonment and can include fines of up to ten times the bribe paid (Syfia Grands Lacs 23 Feb. 2007).

Rwanda has signed various anti-corruption agreements, including the United Nations (UN) Convention against Corruption (UN n.d.; US Feb. 2009) and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (ibid.; African Union 10 July 2009).

Sources indicate that the Rwandan government has demonstrated its resolve to combat corruption (U4 16 Apr. 2008, 4; US Feb. 2009). However, corruption is still a "significant problem," despite the many anti-corruption measures put in place (Freedom House 2009). The problems persist despite the penalties set out in the legislation and the government's increasing effectiveness in implementing them (US 25 Feb. 2009, Sec. 3).

Information on army personnel involved in corruption from 2004 to 2009 could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

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 sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

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