

## Primary State Forces and Opposition Groups Active in Burundi Crisis

Name	Govt vs Opp	Leadership	Arms?	Affiliations	Primary Involvement in Political Crisis	Goals	Time Period Active	Region of Operation
<b>Police - API Unit</b>	Govt	Operates under command of national police	Y	CNDD-FDD & SNR	Suspected of extrajudicial executions of political opponents; suspected of executing 21 civilians following clashes with armed group in Nyakabiga in Dec 2015	Police unit responsible for protecting state institutions & fight against acts of terrorism	Created in Sept 2015	Countrywide, with majority of activity in Bujumbura Mairie
<b>Police - GMIR Unit</b>	Govt	Under authority of SNR	Y	Operates under authority of SNR; also affiliated with API Unit	Searches and violence against civilians	Specialised reserve police providing rapid response to emergencies	Established in 2006 as part of SNR; became stand-alone force in Dec 2007	Based in Bujumbura, with majority of activity in Makamba Province bordering Tanzania
<b>Police - SNR Unit</b>	Govt	Former leaders include Godefroid Niyombare (dismissed Feb 2015) & Adolphe Nshimirimana (de facto head of internal security at time of assassination in Aug 2015)	Y	CNDD-FDD, GMIR & API Unit	Searches, arrests, and torture of suspected rebels	Seek out info contributing to protection of State and its institutions; detect activities aimed at creating insecurity or threats to constitutional order	Under CNDD-FDD since Aug 2005; general intelligence services provided for 2000 Arusha Accords; exempt from ethnic quotas	SNR detention centres operate throughout country; unofficial detention centre in Bujumbura known as 'Chez Ndayaye'
<b>CNDD-FDD</b>	Govt	Pascal Nyabenda, party president since 2012	N	Police & national security forces; Imbonerakure youth militia of CNDD-FDD	Ruling political party; has held pro-government protests and strongly opposes Rwandan involvement in Burundi; individual CNDD-FDD members have been victims of violence, particularly in Jun 2015, perpetrated by police, military & UAGs	Supports legitimacy of Nkurunziza's third term; silences opposition & those critical of regime; stated support for intl 'presence' but not intl peacekeeping forces	Founded in 1994 as CNDD (political wing) and FDD (military wing); Nkurunziza led faction of 20,000 rebels that split from group in 2001; signed ceasefire with Transitional Government in 2002; CNDD & FDD merged into a registered political party in 2005	Countrywide ruling political party
<b>Imbonerakure</b>	Govt	Ezeziel Nibigira	Y	Youth wing of CNDD-FDD; SNR	Intimidation & violence towards civilians, particularly those attempting to flee or re-enter the country from neighbouring states; suspected of carrying out instructions from general police forces to harm or harass civilians; often wear police or military uniforms	Maintain security at local level; prevent movement of suspected rebels & spies	Reports differ as to whether Imbonerakure established in 2010, or as early as 2007	Countrywide, with large presence in border provinces of Bubanza, Kirundo, Makamba, Ngozi & Ruyigi
<b>Amizero y'Abarundi</b>	Govt	Agathon Rwasa	N	FNL (primarily Hutu) & UPRONA (primarily Tutsi) formed Amizero coalition in 2014, symbolising political divides along ideological lines rather than historically ethnic ones; supported by MSD	Although boycotted parliamentary elections in Jul 2015, won 11 seats; members often searched & arrested by police & security forces	FNL & UPRONA united against CNDD-FDD regime	Since 2014; often referred to as Coalition of Hope Burundians, or Independents of Hope	Countrywide coalition; members often searched & arrested in Ruyigi Province; have also clashed with Imbonerakure in Bujumbura Mairie in Jun 2015 & in Bubanza in Jul 2015
<b>FNL</b>	Opp	Agathon Rwasa	Y	In 2014, formed opposition coalition Amizero y'Abarundi with UPRONA; actively supported by MSD political party	Battles against CNDD-FDD & Imbonerakure in Kirundo, Bubanza, Cibitoke, & Gitega Provinces; only one battle with UAG	Founded upon Hutu interests; has since coordinated with UPRONA (historically Tutsi-supported) in opposition of CNDD-FDD regime & Nkurunziza's third term	Founded in 1980 in refugee camps in Tanzania, as Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People (PALIPEHUTU); armed wing FNL established in 1985; last active rebel group during civil war to sign a peace agreement with government in 2006; registered political party in 2008	Clashes against CNDD-FDD & Imbonerakure have occurred in Kirundo, Bubanza, Cibitoke, & Gitega Provinces; historically engaged in armed rebellion in eastern DRC

<b>FOREBU</b>	Opp	Executive leader is former military General Godefroid Niyombare; military leader is General Philbert Habarugura	Y	On 6 Feb 2016, coordinated with RED-TABARA to carry out grenade attacks on civilians in Cibitoke & Kinanira neighborhoods of Bujumbura	Only confirmed attacks are on a police station in Musaga on 5 Feb 2016, killing 4 Imbonerakure, & grenade attacks on civilians the following day; actual number of attacks attributable to group may be higher	Established to oust Nkurunziza & to restore principles of Arusha Accords	Formed in Dec 2015	Confirmed attacks on security forces and civilians in various neighbourhoods of Bujumbura
<b>FRODEBU</b>	Opp	Jean Minani, party president since 1995; Secretary-General Léonce Ngendakumana, since 2006	N	Following suspicions of a tainted 2010 presidential election, FRODEBU led creation of opposition coalition: Democratic Alliance for Change (ADC)	FRODEBU members often arrested by police and SNR; beaten by Imbonerakure; prominent FRODEBU member Jean Paul Ngendakumana assassinated in Jun 2015	Founded upon Hutu interests	Founded in 1986 by followers of Melchior Ndadaye, the first democratically elected Hutu president of Burundi; in 1993, retaliated against Ndadaye's assassination by reportedly killing 25,000 Tutsis at start of civil war	Arrests & violence targeting FRODEBU occurs mainly in Kirundo & Makamba provinces
<b>MSD</b>	Opp	Alexis Sinduhije	N	In support of FNL combatants	MSD members have been arbitrarily arrested in Kirundo, accused of supporting rebels; victims of violence against civilians mainly in Bujumbura Mairie, however, MSD leaders in Muramvya & Kanyanza provinces have also been targeted & killed	Founded in Dec 2007; government refused to allow MSD to register as a political party until 2009	Convince regional & intl governments that abuses & corruption by Burundian Government justify armed rebellion	Countrywide
<b>RED-TABARA</b>	Opp	Melchiade Birembe, chief of staff of armed forces since Feb 2016	Y	On 6 Feb 2016, coordinated with FOREBU to carry out grenade attacks on civilians in Cibitoke & Kinanira neighbourhoods of Bujumbura	Clashes with police and military in Bururi in Jan 2016; grenade attacks on civilians in Bujumbura in Feb 2016; actual number of attacks attributable to group may be higher	Oust Nkurunziza, form a transitional government, & disarm Imbonerakure; protect civilians in absence of regional or intl intervention force	Established 24 Apr 2011 following allegedly tainted 2010 elections; comprised of former military, former FNL militants, & youth; armed activity since Jan 2016	Confirmed activity in Bururi & Bujumbura Mairie provinces
<b>UPR</b>	Opp	Victor Ndayaharanire	Y	Reports in Jan 2016 that UPR members were organising in Kibira forest in northeast of country, where clashes between military and unknown groups occurred in Jul 2015	On 11 Feb 2016, UPR published a press release announcing its intention to topple the Nkurunziza regime	Oust Nkurunziza	Announced formation on 11 Feb 2016; however, reports mention UPR combatants involved in rebel attacks in Cibitoke province as early as 2012	No confirmed conflict events; press release for formation of the rebellion announced from Karuzi, the least conflict-active province in the country
<b>UPRONA</b>	Opp	Charles Nditije	N	In 2014, formed opposition coalition Amizero y'Abarundi with FNL	Several UPRONA members have been victims of violence by UAGs in Kirundo province	Founded on ideology of Burundian nationalism; currently in opposition of CNDD-FDD & Nkurunziza's third term	Founded in 1960; helped gain Burundian Independence from Belgium in 1962; party leaders have been involved in several successful military coups against FRODEBU & other UPRONA presidents from 1976-1996	Countrywide political party, with violence against UPRONA members occurring primarily in Kirundo province