

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is a Member State of the African Union (AU) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: African System



Burkina Faso has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which reviews the State's reports concerning its human rights situation and decides complaints of alleged violations. Additionally, Burkina Faso has accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to hear complaints presented by the Commission, African intergovernmental organizations, and States parties to the African Charter. Burkina Faso has also declared that individuals and non-governmental organizations may submit complaints to the Court.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Burkina Faso to the [African human rights system](#). For example, the ACHPR found the State to have violated the African Charter in connection with assassinations, forced disappearances, and attacks against student demonstrators between 1983 and 1991. See ACommHPR, [Mouvement burkinabé des droits de l'Homme et des peuples v. Burkina Faso](#), Communication No. 204/97, 29th Ordinary Session, 7 May 2001. Additionally, the African Court held that the State violated the Charter in the case of the assassination of journalist Norbert Zongo and his companions. See AfCHPR, [Norbert Zongo v. Burkina Faso](#), App. No. 013/11, Judgment of 21 June 2013 (French only).

Burkina Faso has fallen behind in submitting its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted two promotion missions to Burkina Faso, in [2001](#) and [2007](#).

Burkina Faso has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa

United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Burkina Faso is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Burkina Faso's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of three treaty bodies.

Burkina Faso has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)

Burkina Faso has also ratified the Optional Protocol to CAT and the optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Burkina Faso has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Burkina Faso has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis and describe the steps Burkina Faso has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Burkina Faso has ratified **optional protocols** or made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, CEDAW, and CRPD. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Burkina Faso has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CED, CEDAW, and CRPD.

Burkina Faso has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific invitations from Burkina Faso to conduct visits within the country. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism conducted a mission to Burkina Faso in April 2013 and published a [report](#) on that visit in February 2014.

For more information on Burkina Faso's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/BFIndex.aspx>.

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