



**United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General**

Inspection of Embassy Bujumbura, Burundi



Exterior of Embassy Bujumbura

The need to relocate the deteriorated and unsafe chancery and general services compound to a new embassy compound (NEC) is urgent. The embassy has for some time been seeking unencumbered land meeting its size and security requirements, but challenges and obstacles remain. Because a NEC will not be ready for some years, improvements in the existing buildings are essential.

Embassy Bujumbura is utilizing its limited financial and human resources effectively to advance the key U.S. policy goals of promoting regional security, democratic practices, and economic growth.

Embassy Bujumbura's Ambassador and deputy chief of mission have achieved a major leadership and management success by rebuilding the embassy staff and maintaining high morale to meet the demands of the post-conflict expansion of U.S. government activity in Burundi.

The post's American and locally employed staff are working productively to improve the extremely difficult working environment, which includes inadequate local infrastructure, unsafe working conditions, and a lack of adequate medical care.

The Ambassador maintains a high-priority, well-planned and well-executed representational and public diplomacy program that puts her and the embassy staff in frequent contact with a full range of Burundian government, civil society, and international figures. This effort provides strong, active support for Burundi's democratic and economic progress.

OIG Report ISP-I-07-31A, Inspection of Embassy Bujumbura, Burundi

The fieldwork for this report was conducted by the Office of Inspections in Bujumbura, Burundi, between March 11 and March 22, 2007. This is an unclassified summary of a full report, which receives limited official distribution. Both the report summary and the full report reflect the conditions reviewed during the fieldwork.

Background: Burundi



Burundi is one of the world's poorest, most densely populated countries, with a per capita gross domestic product of \$95. Ninety percent of its 7.2 million people are dependent upon subsistence agriculture. Land disputes are frequent, due to the return of hundreds of thousands of Burundians displaced by the war. Disease, drought, and floods recently have seriously cut agricultural output. Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome is a serious problem.

Burundi is entering a period of relative peace after 13 years of internal conflict and regional instability. Following what were largely conflict-free and fair elections in 2005, former National Council for

Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy rebel leader Pierre Nkurunziza became president of a multiparty coalition government.

Office of Inspector General

The Office of Inspector General conducts independent audits, inspections, and investigations to promote effective management, accountability, and positive change in the Department of State, the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and the foreign affairs community.

OIG's Office of Inspections provides systematic and independent evaluations of the operations of the Department of State, its posts abroad, and related activities. Inspections cover policy implementation, resource management, and management controls. As part of the inspection, particular attention is given to consular, security, and information technology operations.

August 10, 2007