

News Release

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Communiqué

Secrétaire
d'État aux
Affaires
extérieures

No. 205

October 21, 1993

MINISTER BEATTY STRONGLY CONDEMNS COUP D'ÉTAT IN BURUNDI

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty has strongly condemned today's coup d'état in Burundi. President Melchior Ndadaye, democratically elected in June 1993, has been violently overthrown by the country's armed forces.

"Canada abhors the action of the Burundi military, which violates the popular will and has brutally interrupted the democratic course sincerely undertaken by the country," Mr. Beatty said.

The Minister deplors any loss of life that has occurred as a result of the use of violence for political ends. He said that Canada was all the more disappointed, given that, just a little over three months ago, an exemplary democratic vote took place in Burundi.

Mr. Beatty pointed out that some 100 Canadians are living in Burundi, most of them in Bujumbura, the capital. He indicated that they are alive and well and that their situation will continue to be monitored.

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