



Embassy of the United States of America  
Bujumbura, Burundi



**PRESS RELEASE**

21 January 2014

**Special Envoy Feingold's Meeting with President Nkurunziza**

Special Envoy Russell Feingold's visit to the region for the recent International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Heads of State summit included a stop in Burundi to meet with Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza on Saturday, January 18.

SE Feingold conveyed to President Nkurunziza the United States' strong support of an extension of the United Nations Mission to Burundi's (BNUB) mandate through 2015, to help Burundi to address the many challenges and potential tensions in the lead-up to the 2015 electoral process.

S.E. Feingold expressed deep concern about Burundi's opposition to the extension and noted that while Burundi has made progress since the end of the war, tensions remained a threat to the stability of the country.

The United State strongly supports BNUB, which played a vital role in supporting Burundi's continue progress in consolidating peace and establishing a strong democracy. The United States believes BNUB's presence provides confidence in Burundi's continued stability to international donors and other partners who are investing in Burundi's future.

SE Feingold also expressed gratitude for Burundi's troop contributions to the peacekeeping missions in Somalia and the Central African Republic.