



Embassy of the United States of America  
Bujumbura, Burundi



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**January 24, 2014**

**Burundi and U.S. Government Sign Status of Forces Agreement**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Laurent Kavakure, received the United States Ambassador, Dawn Liberi on Friday, January 24th. The Minister and the Ambassador signed a status of Forces Agreement, marking a first in Burundi's bilateral relationship with the United States. The Ambassador congratulated the Minister adding that "establishing a SOFA is a significant step forward in the bilateral relationship between the US and one of its partners. The designation of Burundi both by the Department of State and the Department of Defense as a priority country for the establishment of a SOFA did not happen by chance. It is because Burundi has demonstrated an extraordinary willingness and a rising ability to respond to neighbors in distress." Since 2007, in support of Burundi's participation in regional peacekeeping missions including AMISOM and CAR, the USG has contributed bilateral security assistance in the amount of \$200 Million USD. This year alone, we are projecting an investment of \$63.5 million, including 3.5 million in direct support for the US Airlift of Burundi to CAR. Other assistance includes specialized training of Burundian forces in combat engineering, communications, combat casualty care, vehicle maintenance, logistics and military intelligence. The U.S. supported the Burundian position to take Command of the AU Mission in Somalia; This agreement will enable the United States to continue to provide training and equipment to the Burundi National Defense Forces to improve their capacity to promote peace and security in the region.