

Reference: C.N.148.2019.TREATIES-IV.4 (Depositary Notification)

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
NEW YORK, 16 DECEMBER 1966

BURKINA FASO: NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 4 (3)

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicates the following:

The above action was effected on 18 April 2019.

(Translation) (Original: French)

MIPER/BF No. 19.139/DCY/ac

New York, 17 April 2019

The Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, and, in reference to article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, has the honour to bring to its attention the following information:

By Decree No. 2018-1200/PRES of 31 December 2018, the Government of Burkina Faso declared a state of emergency in 14 provinces in the country, with effect from 1 January 2019, pursuant to Organic Act No. 14/59/AL of 31 August 1959 on states of emergency.

This measure was extended for a period of six months, from 13 January to 12 July 2019, pursuant to Act No. 001-2019/AN of 11 January 2019 on the extension of the state of emergency.

The texts of the above-mentioned Acts and Decree are enclosed herewith.¹

The measures provided for under these instruments may entail a derogation from the obligations set forth in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular its articles 9, 12, 17, 19 and 21.

However, it should be noted that, under these measures, no derogation may be made from the provisions of the Covenant relating to the right to life; the prohibitions against torture, slavery and servitude, imprisoning a person on the ground of inability to fulfil a contractual obligation, and holding a person guilty of a criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence at the time when it was committed; and the right to the freedom of thought, conscience and religion.


¹ The texts of Decree No. 2018-1200/PRES of 31 December 2018, Organic Act No. 14/59/AL of 31 August 1959 and Act No. 001-2019/AN of 11 January 2019 are on file with the Secretary-General and are available for consultation.

The Government has taken these measures in order to combat terrorism quickly and effectively and to restore calm among the people.

Indeed, Burkina Faso, which has been faced with the phenomenon of terrorism since 2015, is the target of numerous attacks by terrorist groups, resulting in serious violations of human rights, including civil and political rights and fundamental freedoms. These terrorist attacks have caused an enormous loss of human life, severe injuries to many people, and significant material damage. In addition, they threaten peace and social cohesion, and may eventually destabilize Burkina Faso and spread to neighbouring countries.

The Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the United Nations Secretariat, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

29 April 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'A. L.' followed by a period.