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## Commission on Togo election violence blames government, others

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Text of report by Radio Togo on 11 November

[Presenter] The special independent national investigation commission tasked with carrying out investigations into the violence before, during and after the 24 April 2005 presidential election released its report yesterday [10 November]. It was during a news conference held at Hotel Corinthia 2 Fevrier in Lome. Our correspondent Koffi Egnonam Zansou files the report.

[Zansou] The 73-page report revealed that 154 people died while 654 others were injured. The material loss was estimated at 3,827,833,828 CFA francs [approximately 7m dollars]. To collect the information, the commission said it criss-crossed the 34 prefecture and sub-prefecture capitals of Togo and heard over 1,800 people.

The chairman of the commission, Lawyer Joseph Koffi Koffigoh, gives us the distribution of the dead persons by region and political affiliation.

[Koffigoh] The acts of violence and vandalism which occurred in Togo before, during and after the 24 April 2005 presidential election brought about 154 dead who are distributed as follows: 88 in the Maritime Region. This is equivalent to 57.14 per cent; 64 in the Plateau Region. This is equivalent to 41.55 per cent; two in the Central Region.

On the political affiliation one notes that 88 per cent of the dead persons did not have any political affiliation, according to the statements of their relatives. Five belonged to the presidential majority; seven among the supporters of the opposition.

On the total number of deceased it is necessary to underscore the cases in the following places; Lome Commune with its 53 dead persons represents 33.41 per cent or a third of the deceased. The Ogou Prefecture had 44 dead or 28.57 per cent; The Lacs Prefecture with 11 dead or 7.14 per cent.

[Zansou] Lawyer Koffigoh makes a similar classification of the injured.

[Koffigoh] The number of injured which was presented to the commission and which the commission identified is as follows: The number of injured is 654 which is distributed in the following way according to regions: In the Maritime Region 216 or 33.2 per cent; In the Plateau region 377 or 57.49 per cent; Central region 57 or 8.71 per cent; In the Kara Region four; In the Savane Region two.

By political affiliation, 249 of the injured persons or 38 per cent belong to the presidential coalition; 77 of them or two per cent to the opposition.

Lome Commune has a total of 133 injured persons or 20.33 per cent of all the injured persons. Ogou Prefecture has 132 injured or 20.18 per cent; Tchaoudjo Prefecture 39 injured persons.

[Zansou] In the light of the report, the Maritime and Plateau regions were the most affected according to the chairman of the commission.

[Koffigoh] The Maritime and Plateau regions seem to be the main areas of the violence and vandalism during the period indicated. It is also in these two regions that the material losses were the highest that is 91.02 per cent. However, it is noted that the violence was getting on the increase before, during and after the 24 April 2005 presidential election.

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[Zinsou] The report also determined those responsible for the violence. Civil society, the government and the electoral administration were fingered. The report also blamed the opposition coalition, the RPT [Rally of the Togolese People], the law maintenance and security agencies and the media.

In the recommendation, the commission calls for the prosecution of the perpetrators of the violence. The commission also places emphasis on national reconciliation and the payment of compensation to the victims. It also called for the repatriation of refugees, the disarming of the militia and other vigilantes acting under the command of the political parties.

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