

In the following address to the Nation, President Blaise Compaoré exhorts the Burkinabè People to remain cautious and united, in order to safeguard democracy in Burkina.

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Resignation speech by His Excellency Blaise Compaoré:

BURKINABÈ PEOPLE

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE FASO

FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO

I accepted to step down from the presidency of Burkina Faso.

I have decided to resign from Power in the face of the tragedy awaiting my country.

I refused to see my compatriots suffer; I refused to witness the blood of Burkina Faso's sons and daughters being spilled.

Although a democratically elected, legal, and legitimate President under Burkina Faso's constitutional law, I stepped down from power in order to safeguard our democratic evolution and socio-economic progress.

I resigned from power for the best interests of Burkina Faso are my priority – before my own.

I have steadfastly committed myself to the stability of the West-African sub-region, to Africa, and to international peace.

In these solemn times for the future of our country, I would first like to pay tribute to every victim of this sordid crisis.

I wish to thank the CDP militants, my collaborators, and all the Burkinabè, who in great number and in the face of adversity never ceased to trust me and show precious sobriety.

I wish to salute the courage of my relatives, my close friends, and my partisans who were humiliated and whose belongings were ransacked and burned.

I admire the humility of every Burkinabè who remained committed to peace.

May they all remain in prayer for our country; may all the hearts remain united, to safeguard future generations from this crisis.

In the name of our traditional values of integrity and mercy, I beseech the sons and daughters of Burkina Faso to unite as one to recover our country's higher interests, namely peace and democracy.

I ask the sons and daughters of Burkina Faso to unite in the safeguarding of what is essential – and even against me if necessary.

I accept, if necessary, to be the sacrificial lamb for national unity.

Save the country; safeguard it. I beg you.

I am deeply grateful to the foreign powers, and in particular the USA and France.

I wish to thank the African Union and the CEDEAO.

Now more than ever, our West-African sub-region needs the support of the international community to ensure its integrity and peace.

Burkinabè of all ages, pray unite; let us unite for our country, so our words shame our actions.

Lastly, I forgive all and everyone, even those who failed and betrayed me. I call on the forgiveness of all.

I am ready to endure any vexation you may deem necessary. But pray remain united.

HAIL TO THE BURKINABÈ PEOPLE.

GOD BLESS BURKINA FASO.