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Human rights should not be sacrificed on the altar of political or geopolitical interests.

The mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burundi should be extended



The United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

The extension of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi during its 60th session (8 September – 8 October 2025) is not only a necessity, but also a moral imperative to preserve the voices of the many victims of human rights violations in Burundi.

Human rights violations in Burundi remain a key concern for victims and their families, prompting civil society to continue alerting national and international opinion. As part of this advocacy effort, on August 20, 2025, 46 Burundian and international civil society organizations sent a letter to the Human Rights Council requesting the extension of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burundi, on the occasion of its 60th session (8 September – 8 October 2025).

This initiative aims to draw international attention to the seriousness of the human rights situation in the country, citing numerous cases of "extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detentions, acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, sexual and gender-based violence, severe restrictions on the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly, and association, as well as serious violations of economic, social, and cultural rights."¹

Some illustrative facts about these violations were highlighted on the International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances, celebrated each year on August 30. Three Burundian civil society organizations, namely OMCT², SOS-TORTURE Burundi³ and MFFPS⁴ published a press release on August 30, 2025, reporting an "increase in cases of enforced disappearances and a continuing deterioration in the human rights situation in Burundi from January to August 2025"⁵.

For its part, FOCODE⁶ organized a hybrid conference-debate on August 30, 2025, in Liège, Belgium, during which testimonies from victims of enforced disappearances were collected. Participants included the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burundi, FIACAT⁷ representative to the United Nations, as well as the Amnesty International representative⁸.

This advocacy comes at a time when the international community's attention is focused on the military escalation in eastern DRC, particularly in South Kivu, where violent fighting is taking place in Ruzizi plain and the Minembwe highlands between the FARDC and their allies (Wazalendo, FDLR, FDNB of Burundi) and the AFC/M23⁹.

Meanwhile, CNDD-FDD is consolidating its unchallenged power in Burundi, following the legislative, communal, senatorial, and local elections held in June, July, and August 2025, which were marred by many irregularities and violations of electoral rights, against international criticism. Indeed, having become a de facto single party like the former post-colonial military regimes in Africa, CNDD-FDD now totally controls the executive, the Parliament, the territorial administration, the army, and police, supported by its Imbonerakure militia.

¹ OSC, 20 Août 2025, Burundi : **Face à la multiplication des facteurs de risque, il est impératif de proroger le mandat du Rapporteur spécial**, Link : <https://www.acatburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/HRC60-Civil-society-letter-on-BURUNDI-French.pdf>

² World Organization Against Torture: <https://www.omct.org/fr>

³ <https://sostortureburundi.org>

⁴ <https://burundimffps.org/>

⁵ OMCT, SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI, MFFPS, Burundi : **la société civile s'inquiète face aux nombreux cas de disparitions forcées en 2025**, Link : https://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Declaration_Disparitions_Forcees_Burundi_2025_VF.pdf

⁶ *Forum for Conscience and Development*

⁷ International Federation of ACATs " Christian Actions for the Abolition of Torture"

⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=646191051874477&rdid=alwVPA9K0BJrIOML>

⁹ Burundidairly, August 31, 2025, **Uvira surrounded, Ndayishimiye sends military reinforcements to try to prevent defeat**, Link: <https://www.burundidaily.net/post/uvira-cernee-ndayishimiye-y-depeche-un-renfort-militaire-pour-tenter-deviter-sa-deroute>

The first consequences of this democratic downgrading are already evident in the deplorable decision taken by the National Communication Council (CNC) on August 14, 2025, to illegally censor a special edition produced jointly by six media on the "**consequences of the fuel shortage on the transport of people and goods**"¹⁰ In addition, since August 19, 2025, the media have been banned from covering parliamentary activities, including plenary sessions. "No official confirmation has been given, but several indications tend to a tightening of access to parliamentary information."¹¹

Civil society is also the government's target. The new Prime Minister, Nestor Ntahontuye, known for his close ties to President Ndayishimiye¹², openly mocked representatives of PARCEM¹³ and OLUCOME¹⁴, accusing them of failing to set an example. This occurred during a conference-debate on "economic reforms for macroeconomic stability" on Thursday, August 14, 2025¹⁵. According to him, they only criticize without creating businesses or cultivating hectares of coffee with their funding¹⁶.

Such humiliating remarks, made publicly by a high-ranking official such as the head of the executive branch toward civil society leaders, just two weeks after his inauguration on August 5, 2025, raise concerns about the future of civil rights and freedoms in Burundi¹⁷.

The renewal of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burundi is therefore crucial to ensure that the Burundian crisis is not overshadowed by other geopolitical issues. Such a biased approach would be tragic for the many victims of human rights violations who are deprived of access to independent national protection mechanisms such as the judiciary, national human rights institutions (CNIDH, Ombudsman) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CVR) for transitional justice.

The new edition of the Justice Newsletter addresses these worrying developments by highlighting, in the first part, the scale of human rights violations reported by several organizations, including extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances. Despite the concerns raised, no significant reforms have been implemented to improve the human rights situation in the country.

The second part highlights the difficulty for civil society to carry out its advocacy in a context where the international community is focusing its attention on regional security challenges, to the detriment of human rights concerns in Burundi. This results in contradictory and subjective assessments that obscure the reality of the violations, hence the risk that the crisis in Burundi will be forgotten.

Finally, the third part emphasizes the importance of renewing the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights in Burundi to provide essential support in addressing the challenges mentioned in the first two sections situation.

¹⁰ IWACU, 08/18/2025, CNC: Une censure inquiétante, Lien : <https://www.iwacu-burundi.org/cnc-une-censure-inquietante/>

¹¹ SOS-Médias Burundi : **Parlement burundais:médias privés interdits**, Link : <https://www.sosmediasburundi.org/2025/08/23/parlement-burundais-medias-privés-interdits/?tztc=1>

¹² Jeune Afrique, 6 August 2025, **Au Burundi, le nouveau Premier ministre prête serment**, Link: <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/1712039/politique/au-burundi-le-nouveau-premier-ministre-prete-serment/>

¹³ PARCEM: Words and Actions for the Awakening of Consciousness and the Evolution of Mentalities: <https://parcem.org/>

¹⁴ Organization for the Fight Against Corruption and Economic Malpractice: <https://olucome.bi/>

¹⁵ Le Renouveau du Burundi, 17-08-25 BRB-MFBEN: **Conference-debate on macroeconomic stability, a matter for everyone**, Link: <https://lerenouveau.bi/brb-mfben-conference-debat-sur-la-stabilite-macroeconomique-une-affaire-de-tout-un-chacun/>

¹⁶ <https://x.com/pnininahazwe/status/1958046604579033269>

¹⁷ Le Renouveau du Burundi, 17-08-25 BRB-MFBEN: **Conference-debate on macroeconomic stability, a matter for everyone**, Link: <https://lerenouveau.bi/brb-mfben-conference-debat-sur-la-stabilite-macroeconomique-une-affaire-de-tout-un-chacun/>

A decade of persistent human rights violations: civil society alerts the United Nations

In a letter to the Human Rights Council on August 20, 2025, 46 Burundian and international civil society organizations called for the extension of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burundi during its 60th session (8 September - 8 October 2025).

These organizations point out that the 60th session of the Council will mark the tenth anniversary of its first significant response to the crisis, Resolution 30/27¹⁸ and that ten years later, the human rights situation in Burundi remains very worrying: **"No structural reforms have been implemented to address long-standing concerns regarding human rights, governance, justice, and the rule of law,"** they insist.

They point out that there are still numerous cases of "extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detentions, acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, sexual and gender-based violence, severe restrictions on the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly, and association, as well as serious violations of economic, social, and cultural rights."

In its July 2025 report, Ligue Iteka counted a total of 2,776 people killed, including 1,514 bodies found and buried, without any investigation being opened, under Evariste Ndayishimiye's regime between June 2020 and June 2025. Under the regime of his predecessor, the late Pierre Nkurunziza, the organization documented 2,245 victims of violations of the right to life, including 1312 killed by unidentified individuals¹⁹.

With regard to enforced disappearances, three organizations, OMCT²⁰, SOS-TORTURE Burundi²¹, and MFFPS²², issued a statement on August 30, 2025, on the *International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances*, in which they deplored the fact that **"between January and August 2025, 26 cases of enforced disappearances were recorded, most of which occurred in the context of the legislative elections of May-June 2025 and were part of a strategy of repression aimed at silencing any dissenting voices. These acts mainly target members of the National Council for Liberty (CNL), the main opposition political party in Burundi."**²³

Regarding the scale of abductions and enforced disappearances since the outbreak of the crisis in 2015, the aforementioned report by Ligue Iteka notes 597 cases recorded between 2015 and 2020 under Pierre Nkurunziza's regime and 231 cases under Evariste Ndayishimiye's regime (from 2020 to June 2025). Security forces agents are mostly involved in these abductions.²⁴

¹⁸ https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/812280/files/A_HRC_RES_30_27-FR.pdf

¹⁹ Ligue Iteka: Human Rights in Burundi, JUNE 2020-JUNE 2025, A TURBULENT FIVE-YEAR TERM UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL NDAYISHIMIYE EVARISTE, <https://ligue-iteka.bi/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/RAPPORT-BILAN-5-ANS-DE-GOUVERNANCE-DU-PRESIDENT-EVARISTE-NDAYISHIMIYE.pdf>

²⁰ World Organization Against Torture: <https://www.omct.org/fr>

²¹ <https://sostortureburundi.org>

²² Women and Girls for Peace and Security Movement: <https://burundimffps.org/>

²³ OMCT, SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI, MFFPS, Op.cit.

²⁴ Ligue Iteka, Op.cit.

A crisis in Burundi that risks being forgotten

International community's attention focused more on regional challenges than on Burundi

community's attention is largely focused on the armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The advocacy of Burundian civil society and international NGOs for the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burundi comes at a time when the international

Indeed, tensions amplified in the Democratic Republic of Congo in August 2025, following the resumption of violent fighting on several fronts in South Kivu, in the highlands of Uvira, Fizi, and Mwenga, but also in North Kivu, particularly in Walikale territory.²⁵

Militarily engaged with the FARDC under a defense agreement signed in Kinshasa on August 26, 2023, Burundi reportedly deployed an additional contingent of 700 soldiers to Uvira on August 21, 2025, to reinforce more than 24 battalions of Burundian soldiers already deployed in eastern DRC to counter the advance of the M23.²⁶

As a reminder, clashes between belligerents in North Kivu have intensified since early 2025, with the capture of Goma in January 2025 followed by that of Bukavu in February 2025.

The shift of the battlefield towards Burundi's border with the Democratic Republic of Congo prompted President Evariste Ndayishimiye to warn the diplomatic and consular corps accredited to Burundi on January 31, 2025, that the war risked "*spreading across the region, including not only Burundi but also Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.*"²⁷

regime is gradually succeeding in diverting the international community's attention away from urgent human rights concerns in Burundi.

This reality is well illustrated by the words of Maxime Prévot, Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, who, during his visit to Burundi on April 26, 2025, stated that: "*even if it is less often discussed, with the spotlight falling on Rwanda and the DRC, both Uganda and Burundi have troops in eastern Congo. They also play a crucial role in the conflict.*"²⁸

²⁵ RFI, 02/09/2025, **RDC: face à des négociations qui piétinent, les combats se durcissent entre Kinshasa et l'AFC/M23** Link: <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20250901-rdc-face-%C3%A0-des-n%C3%A9gociations-qui-pi%C3%A9tinent-les-combats-se-durcissent-entre-kinshasa-et-l-afc-m23>

²⁶ Burundidaily, August 31, 2025, **Uvira surrounded, Ndayishimiye dispatches military reinforcements to try to prevent its defeat**, Link: <https://www.burundidaily.net/post/uvira-cernece-ndayishimiye-y-depeche-un-renfort-militaire-pour-tenter-deviter-sa-deroute>

²⁷ Justice Newsletter, January 2025, **Total violation of the legal framework for military intervention in the DRC, a threat to security and peace in Burundi and the Great Lakes region**. Link: https://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Bulletin_Justice_Num_77_Decembre2024_Janvier2025.pdf

²⁸ RTBF, April 27, 2025, **Le ministre Prévot quitte le Burundi, direction Kinshasa en République démocratique du Congo**- RTBF News, Link: <https://www.rtb.be/article/le-ministre-prevot-quitte-le-burundi-direction-kinshasa-11539049>

Then, in the same spirit, the Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on Human Rights Defenders, Mr. Rémy Ngoy Lumbu, "*congratulated Burundi for its care of refugees, particularly Congolese refugees, and for its efforts to promote peace*" at the end of his visit to Burundi from March 18 to 21, 2025.²⁹

A few months later, on July 17, 2025, the African Union appointed President Evariste Ndayishimiye as Special Envoy for Sahel to strengthen the AU's capacity to respond to the most urgent human rights challenges in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, "*despite Burundi's very worrying human rights record,*" deplores Human Rights Watch.³⁰

Contradictory and subjective assessments of human rights respect in Burundi

In May 2023, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burundi, Fortuné Gaëtan Zongo, expressed concern that "*Burundi, over the years, is becoming a forgotten crisis*"³¹

This apprehension seems to be taking shape in light of the disparities that characterize the assessment of human rights standards in

Burundi among key actors in the international community.



Three emblematic cases illustrate this symptomatic situation, in which representatives of mechanisms based on the same human rights principles and standards make differing assessments that obscure the reality of the human rights situation in Burundi.

The first case is that of Fortuné Gaëtan Zongo, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burundi (photo opposite), who stated in a press release in May 2023 that it is illusive to claim that there will be lasting peace in Burundi as long as "*the judiciary lacks independence and impartiality, if thousands of Burundians continue to live in exile, if the civic space does not allow civil society organizations, the media, and political parties to work independently, and if journalists are imprisoned for doing their job.*"³² This view remains relevant in his statements because in October 2024, at the 22nd meeting of the 57th session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), he denounced "*the persistence of impunity in Burundi, perpetuated by the judiciary, and the tendency toward the militarization of young people by the ruling party, which is causing serious concern in this pre-election period.*"³³



However, Rémy Ngoy Lumbu, Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on Human Rights Defenders, stated at the end of his visit in Burundi from March 18 to 21, 2025

²⁹ congratulated for its progress in human rights

³⁰ Sahel: African Union Appoints Special Envoy, Link: <https://www.africau.edu/en/press/2025/07/25/sahel-lunion-africaine-nomme-un-envoye-special>

³¹ United Nations, May 24, 2023, Burundi: UN expert calls for national reconciliation, Link: <https://www.ungeneva.org/fr/news-media/news/2023/05/81359/burundi-un-expert-de-lonu-appelle-la-reconciliation-nationale>

³² United Nations, May 24, 2023, Op.Cit.

³³ IWACU, September 30, 2024, **Burundi: Seven months before the elections, the UN warns of the risk of deterioration in human rights.** Link: <https://www.iwacu-burundi.org/burundi-a-sept-mois-des-elections-lonu-alerte-sur-le-risque-de-deterioration-des-droits-humains/>

"Contrary to rumors circulating, we have seen that significant progress is being made in the country. In particular, we have observed personal commitment of the President of the Republic to the issue of human rights. He has promoted and initiated many actions through the structures of the Republic, which are to be presented to the AU and the African Commission as models."³⁴

Remy Ngoy Lumbu holding a press conference on March 21, 2025, at the Ministry of Human Rights to present the human rights situation in Burundi.

These laudatory remarks contradict the analyses of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burundi and contrast with many of the reports by Burundian and international organizations on the human rights in Burundi situation.

The second symptomatic case concerns the decision taken on March 25, 2025, by the accreditation subcommittee of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) to maintain the accreditation of the Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi (CNIDH) at A status, in accordance with the Paris Principles. At the same time, however, the CNIDH was the subject of strong criticism from many human rights organizations, including the United Nations Rapporteur, for its lack of independence from the government.³⁵

The then president of CNIDH, Sixte Vigny Nimuraba, welcomed the GANHRI's decision as ***"tangible proof of the efforts made to guarantee respect for fundamental rights"*** at a press conference held on March 26, 2025.³⁶ Ironically, however, he exiled with his family the following month, on April 18, 2025, after a search at his home,³⁷ thus joining more than 257,000 Burundian refugees who have remained abroad since the 2015 crisis.³⁸

Finally, the third typical case is that of the African Union observers, who, in their preliminary report on the parliamentary and communal elections of June 5, 2025, praised the ***"climate of freedom and transparency and media coverage,"*** while all independent observers, including those from the Catholic Church, noted severe restrictions on freedom of expression and political space. The African Union report states that ***"the elections took place in a generally stable socio-political environment, a peaceful security climate, and strong mobilization of candidates, political parties, coalitions, and voters. This allowed for orderly electoral and citizen participation, helping to strengthen the people's legitimacy of the electoral process, which is basic to any democratic consolidation in the country."***³⁹ However, this report does not mention the actual pre-election context, in which, since June 2023, CNDD-FDD party had launched a steamroller campaign to crush the opposition, targeting in particular the main opposition party, the CNL. An electoral commission composed exclusively of members or supporters of the ruling CNDD-FDD party was set up in December 2023.

³⁴ Radio Télévision de la Jeunesse Africaine, **Rapport de visite de la commission africaine des droits de l'homme au Burundi**, Lien : https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=SUG_TLAgiI4

³⁵ SOS Médias Burundi, March 27, 2025, Burundi: CNIDH maintains its A status, Link: <https://www.sosmediasburundi.org/2025/03/27/burundi-la-cnidh-maintient-son-statut-a/>

³⁶ SOS Médias Burundi, March 27, 2025, Burundi: CNIDH maintains its A status, Link: <https://www.sosmediasburundi.org/2025/03/27/burundi-la-cnidh-maintient-son-statut-a/>

³⁷ IWACU, April 25, 2025, Des exils révélateurs, Link : <https://www.iwacu-burundi.org/des-exils-revelateurs/>

³⁸ The letter from the 46 organizations to the Security Council states that "more than half of the Burundians who left the country after April 2015, or more than 257,000 people, are still abroad as refugees."

³⁹ African Union, **African Union Election Observation Mission for the legislative and communal elections of June 5, 2025, in the Republic of Burundi, Preliminary Report**: Link: <https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/declaration-preliminaire-burundi-7-juin-2025.pdf>

The electoral law was enacted in June 2024 without taking into account the recommendations of political party representatives. The high deposits imposed by this law were perceived as discrimination in favor of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD.⁴⁰

According to Human Rights Watch, the assessment of African Union observers "*contrasts sharply with the AU's own normative framework on democracy, elections, and human rights, which promotes credible, inclusive, and transparent electoral processes*"⁴¹

In short, it was predictable that, at the end of a flawed and unfair electoral process marked by the closure of democratic space and multiple human rights violations, CNDD-FDD would win 96.5 percent of the vote in the legislative and communal elections, as well as all the seats in the National Assembly, effectively positioning itself as the only political party.

And if, in such a context, the international community continues to procrastinate on the human rights situation in Burundi, the unresolved crisis that erupted in 2015 risks being forgotten, as the Special Rapporteur Fortuné Gaëtan Zongo pointed out in 2023.

⁴⁰ SOS-Torture Burundi, **Annual Report on the Human Rights Situation, 2024 Edition**, Link:

https://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Sos_Torture_Burundi_Rapport-Annuel_2024.pdf

⁴¹ Human Rights Watch, **June 13, 2025, Burundi: Elections without opposition. Legislative and communal elections were dominated by repression and censorship**, Link: <https://www.hrw.org/fr/news/2025/06/12/burundi-des-elections-sans-opposition>

Extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to address human rights challenges and democratic values in Burundi

Burundi has undeniably sunk into an oligarchic system dominated by CNDD-FDD party leaders who totally control the executive, parliament, territorial administration, army, and police, supported by the Imbonerakure militia, following the legislative, communal, senatorial, and local elections in June, July, and August 2025.

The first consequences of this democratic downgrading are already evident, notably in the deplorable decision taken by the National Communication Council (CNC) on August 14, 2025, to illegally censor a special edition produced in synergy by six media on the *"consequences of the fuel shortage on the transport of people and goods"*⁴²

In addition, the media have been de facto banned from covering parliamentary activities, including plenary sessions, since August 19, 2025, although *"no official confirmation has been given, but several indications tend to a tightening of access to parliamentary information."*⁴³

Civil society has not been spared either, as evidenced by the statement of the new Prime Minister, Nestor Ntahontuye, known for his close ties to President Évariste Ndayishimiye⁴⁴. During a conference-debate on "economic reforms for macroeconomic stability" held on Thursday, August 14, 2025⁴⁵ he openly mocked representatives of the organizations PARCEM⁴⁶ and OLUCOME⁴⁷ accusing them of failing to set an example.

According to him, these civil society actors only criticize public policies without "creating businesses" or "cultivating hectares of coffee" with the funding they receive. Such surprising and humiliating remarks about civil society leaders, made publicly by a high-ranking official such as the head of the executive branch, who is moreover unaware that civil society organizations *"differ from businesses and, more generally, from economic actors, in the non-commercial nature of their activities and in the public interest objectives they pursue"*⁴⁸ raises concerns about the future of public rights and freedoms in Burundi.

In this regard, United Nations experts have expressed their deep concern about the resurgence of human rights violations, particularly against civil society and political opponents in a context of electoral violence. They *"regret that the Burundian government has not responded to the concerns raised with it, and that it continues to refuse to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the human*

⁴² IWACU, 18/08/2025, CNC : Une censure inquiétante, Lien : <https://www.iwacu-burundi.org/cnc-une-censure-inquietante/>

⁴³ SOS-Médias Burundi, **Burundi Parlement : private private prohibited**, Link: <https://www.sosmediasburundi.org/2025/08/23/parlement-burundais-medias-privées-interdits/?tztc=1>

⁴⁴ Jeune Afrique, 6 août 2025, Au Burundi, le nouveau Premier ministre prête serment, Lien :

<https://www.jeuneafrique.com/1712039/politique/au-burundi-le-nouveau-premier-ministre-prete-serment/>

⁴⁵ Le Renouveau du Burundi, 17-08-25, BRB-MFBEN : Conférence-débat sur la stabilité macroéconomique, une affaire de tout un chacun, Lien : <https://lerenouveau.bi/brb-mfben-conference-debat-sur-la-stabilite-macroeconomique-une-affaire-de-tout-un-chacun/>

⁴⁶ PARCEM: Words and Actions for the Awakening of Consciousness and the Evolution of Mentalities: <https://parcem.org/>

⁴⁷ Organization for the Fight Against Corruption and Economic Malpractice: <https://olucome.bi/>

⁴⁸ Benoît FRYDMAN, (Professor at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Director of the Center for Philosophy of Law), VERS UN STATUT DE LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE DANS L'ORDRE INTERNATIONAL, Link: https://www.crdh.fr/wp-content/uploads/statut_societe_civile_ordre_international.pdf

rights situation in Burundi, and that the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the country remains closed.⁴⁹

Clearly, the Burundian government does not seem willing to cooperate with these mechanisms, as evidenced by the openly hostile speech to the United Nations by President Evariste Ndayishimiye on the occasion of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, which was celebrated in Buganda, in Bukinanyana commune in Bujumbura province on August 8, 2025. He called on the UN to "***compensate Burundi for the damage caused by colonization. He accuses the former League of Nations, the predecessor of the UN, of having entrusted the administration of the country to Belgium, which he holds responsible for the destruction of several sectors in Burundi.***"⁵⁰

Four years earlier, during a public broadcast on December 29, 2021, at the Intwari Stadium in Bujumbura, Evariste Ndayishimiye stated that "***the Government of Burundi was never involved in the establishment of the Rapporteur and the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi that preceded it, and that the Government cannot join a process that it did not initiate.***"⁵¹

It follows from the above that the extension of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burundi is essential to ensure that the reality of the Burundian crisis is not overshadowed by geopolitical interests. Without this objective and impartial international follow up, the victims of violations will remain abandoned, deprived of access to independent national protection mechanisms such as the judiciary, the CNIDH, the Ombudsman, or the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CVR).

⁴⁹ United Nations, September 1, 2025, Burundi: UN experts concerned about increase in serious human rights violations during election period, Link: <https://www.ohchr.org/fr/press-releases/2025/09/burundi-un-experts-alarmed-increase-serious-human-rights-violations-during>

⁵⁰ RPA, August 11, 2025, **Ndayishimiye accuse l'ONU de complicité dans la destruction du Burundi et réclame réparation**, <https://www.rpa.bi/index.php/actualites/politique/ndayishimiye-accuse-l-onu-de-complicite-dans-la-destruction-du-burundi-et-reclame-reparation>

⁵¹ Justice Newsletter No. 48 of July 20, 2022, **Refusal to cooperate with the UN Special Rapporteur on Burundi, Burundi must honor its human rights commitments!**
https://sostortureburundi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Bulletin_de_Justice_20_07_22.pdf

Conclusion

The human rights situation in Burundi requires increased vigilance and a resolute commitment from international community. It is therefore imperative that the international community be fully aware of the persistent human rights violations in Burundi, which are often overlooked in favor of regional issues that tend to overshadow the country's internal realities.

International and regional human rights protection mechanisms are called upon to act proactively and consistently in assessing compliance with fundamental human rights standards and principles, in order to restore an environment conducive to combating impunity and promoting good governance.

It is therefore strongly recommended that the Human Rights Council extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burundi to ensure regular monitoring of respect for human rights, particularly in a new political landscape where all representative, administrative, and judicial institutions are now controlled by a single ruling political party

The Burundian government must fully assume its responsibilities and respect its international human rights obligations, in particular by cooperating without delay with monitoring mechanisms such as the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burundi.

Burundian civil society and international organizations must strengthen and intensify their advocacy to ensure that human rights are not sacrificed on the altar of political or geopolitical interests. The protection of victims and the fight against impunity in Burundi depend on it.