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ORAL STATEMENT
INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON BURUNDI

BURUNDI: 10 YEARS OF UNENDING IMPUNITY AND REPRESSION

UN Human Rights Council
Fifty-ninth regular session
25 June – 27 June 2025

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for his report to the Council.

This interactive dialogue is held as we mark the 10th anniversary of a crisis, sparked by the ruling party's decision to front the late President Pierre Nkurunziza for a third term in office for the 2015 presidential elections. Peaceful demonstrations that followed were violently repressed and a once vibrant and open civic space has since been silenced.

A decade on, the country remains caught in a relentless cycle of repression and impunity. Results from the 5 June elections indicate that the ruling CNDD-FDD has secured over 96% of the vote, amid widespread reports from media and civil society of voter intimidation and an electoral process that denied the opposition a fair chance to compete.

Since 2015, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, torture and other ill-treatment, and attacks on civil society and media have continued. Recent cases—including the sentencing of [Dr. Christophe Sahabo](#) in February to 20 years in prison on fraud charges, the brutal assault of journalist Willy Kwizera in April 2025 by individuals believed to be members of the Imbonerakure, and the continued targeting of LGBTIQ+ individuals by state actors – show that the climate of repression and fear endures.

Burundi's continued denial of cooperation with regional and international human rights and judicial mechanisms is an affront to its obligations to respect and uphold human rights.

In this context, the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Burundi remains essential as it provides an independent lens on ongoing violations, gives voice to victims, and helps ensure that Burundi's dire human rights record remains on the international agenda.

Special Rapporteur, how can the international community influence Burundi to:

- Restore the rule of law and judicial independence and cooperate with regional and international accountability mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court.
- Implement the recommendations of regional and international human rights mechanisms and;
- End impunity for violations of human rights and ensure access to justice and effective remedies for victims

Thank you