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ORAL STATEMENT  
ITEM 4: Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Burundi

**BURUNDI: END INTIMIDATION OF MEDIA AS 2025 ELECTIONS APPROACH**  
UN Human Rights Council  
Fifty-sixth session  
18 June – 12 July 2024

Mr President,

Amnesty International thanks the Special Rapporteur for his oral update.

When President Evariste Ndayishimiye took office four years ago, he called on Burundians to exercise their freedom of expression “without fear or constraint” and, a few months later, promised to normalize relations with the media. Indeed, six human rights defenders and journalists in prison at the start of his presidency were freed during his first year in office.

It is deeply disappointing, then, to witness the continued crackdown on independent civil society and media since then. Journalist Floriane Irangabiye, for example, is currently serving a ten-year prison sentence on account of comments she made in an online radio show. The Supreme Court rejected her second appeal in February. Amnesty International is calling for her immediate and unconditional release.

Burundian journalists continue to face harassment and restrictions on their activities. Just last week, on the night of 25 June, unknown people threw stones for several hours at the offices of Iwacu newspaper, one of the last remaining independent media houses in the country.

With elections approaching in 2025, what measures does the Special Rapporteur propose to protect the rights of freedom of expression and access to information for all in Burundi?

Thank you, Mr President.