



AI Index Number: AFR 47/4370/2021
8 July 2021

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ORAL STATEMENT
Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports: Rwanda

UN Human Rights Council
47th session
21 June – 15 July 2021

Madame President,

Serious human rights violations continue to be reported in Rwanda, including enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, torture, arbitrary detention, excessive use of force, and unfair trials, and many previous cases remain unresolved. Therefore, while we welcome Rwanda's support for 160 recommendations, we are concerned that some of the most pertinent recommendations to tackle these violations were rejected. These include carrying out independent investigations into such allegations, reengaging with the Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Torture, and reinstating Rwanda's declaration allowing NGOs and individuals to bring cases directly to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.¹

Madame President,

While we welcome Rwanda's commitment to "take all necessary measures to combat impunity for the crime of enforced disappearance,"² we are deeply disappointed that Rwanda rejected recommendations to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.³

In previous cycles, Rwanda supported recommendations to ratify the Convention, although noting at the adoption of the working group's report in 2016 that "the ratification of international instruments can only take place after the consultation and approval of the Parliament of Rwanda".⁴ Regretfully, while the government states that it shares the goals of the Convention, Rwanda has ended its support

¹ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Rwanda: Addendum, A/HRC/47/14/Add.1, 20 May 2021, paras 7, 8 and 10.

² Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Rwanda, 25 March 2021, para 134.28 (Lithuania)

³ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Rwanda: Addendum, A/HRC/47/14/Add.1, 20 May 2021, para 4

⁴ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Rwanda: Addendum, A/HRC/31/8/Add.1, 10 March 2016, para 10

for its ratification citing the evolution of geopolitics in the region and the need to ascertain whether all constitutional requirements are in place. We urge the Government of Rwanda to reconsider its position and to ensure the ratification of the Convention.

Thank you.