

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF BURUNDI

Pre-session for Burundi
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On behalf of : Burundian Coalition of Human Rights
Defenders (CBDDH)



COALITION
BURUNDAISE
DES DÉFENSEURS
DES DROITS DE
L'HOMME
CBDDH

PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANISATION

- Our programs :
 - ❖ Protection;
 - ❖ Capacity Building;
 - ❖ Advocacy



Governance

- **3rd UPR cycle:** Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review-Burundi A/HRC/38/10, 19 April 2018, 22 recommendations on technical assistance and cooperation;
- **Current situation:**
 - ❖ The country is beginning to open up to the world;
 - ❖ The cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on Burundi is, until today, to be encouraged;
 - ❖ The OHCHR office in Burundi is still closed.
- **Recommandation:**
 - ❖ Collaborate with the mechanism of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burundi;
 - ❖ Re-open the OHCHR office

Rule of law

- **3rd UPR cycle:** Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review-Burundi A/HRC/38/10, April 19, 2018, 21 recommendations on freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of the press;
- **Current situation:**
 - ❖ Adoption of laws that limit the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms: the law on the organic framework of nonprofit associations on January 27, 2017, the law on the press on September 14, 2018, and the law regulating demonstrations on public roads in 2013;
 - ❖ Instrumentalization of the judiciary by the executive power;
 - ❖ 12 HRDs sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment;
 - ❖ 7 organizations deregistered : ACAT, APRODH, FOCODE, FORSC, Ligue Iteka, Maison shalom et RCP
 - ❖ 4 organizations suspended : AMINA, CB-CPI ,SOS-TORTURE et UBJ

Rule of law

- **Recommandation:**

- ❖ To amend the law on the legal framework for ASBLs, to comply with the constitution and international human rights instruments and to ensure the free exercise of freedom of association;
- ❖ To amend the law on the press, to ensure the free exercise of freedom of expression; Amend the law regulating public demonstrations, particularly Article 10, which gives broad powers to administrative authorities;
- ❖ Rescind the ordinances deregistering and illegally suspending independent civil society organizations and return the property of the organizations and/or their representatives;
- ❖ Release the 6 imprisoned human rights defenders and 1 journalist and overturn the life sentence against the 12 human rights defenders.

Impunity

- **3rd UPR cycle:** Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review-Burundi A/HRC/38/10, April 19, 2018, 4 recommendations on conducting impartial investigations onto all crimes against HRDs;
- **Current situation :**
 - ❖ Crimes committed against HRDs remain unpunished up to day;
 - ❖ 3 cases of assassinations: Ernest Manirumva on April 09, 2009, Christoph Nkezabahizi and his entire family on October 13, 2015, Charlotte Umugwaneza on October 16, 2015;
 - ❖ 3 cases of enforced disappearance: Marie Claudette Kwizera on December 10, 2015, Jean Bigirimana on July 22, 2016 and Arcade Butoyi on April 28, 2020;
 - ❖ 1 case of attempted assassination: of Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, President of APRODH, on August 3, 2015.



Impunity

- *Recommandation:*
 - ❖ Conduct independent investigations into all crimes committed against human rights defenders and journalists;
 - ❖ Prosecute and punish in accordance with the law the perpetrators of crimes committed against HRDs..



Human rights defenders

- **Current situation :**
 - ❖ Very high risk working environment for HRDs;
 - ❖ No law to protect HRDs at the national level.
- **Recommandation:**
 - ❖ Adopt a law on the protection of human rights defenders in accordance with international instruments for the protection of HRDs and as prescribed by the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.



END

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION



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