



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Sixtieth session

8 September–8 October 2025

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 6 October 2025

60/15. Situation of human rights in Burundi

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 30/27 of 2 October 2015, S-24/1 of 17 December 2015, 33/24 of 30 September 2016, 36/2 of 28 September 2017, 36/19 of 29 September 2017, 39/14 of 28 September 2018, 42/26 of 27 September 2019, 45/19 of 6 October 2020, 48/16 of 8 October 2021, 51/28 of 7 October 2022, 54/20 of 12 October 2023 and 57/22 of 10 October 2024, and all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council,

Recalling also the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi, which is rooted in the principles of human rights and transitional justice and provides the foundation for lasting peace, justice, national reconciliation, security and stability in Burundi,

Reaffirming full respect for the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Burundi,

Reaffirming also that States have the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Stressing the primary responsibility of the Government of Burundi for ensuring security in its territory and protecting its population in compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as applicable,

Recalling that the States members of the Human Rights Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights and shall fully cooperate with the Council and its mechanisms,

Considering that the international community and the United Nations system, including the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, can play a critical role in strengthening the protection of human rights, preventing human rights violations and abuses and mitigating the risks of escalation of conflicts and deterioration in humanitarian situations,



Welcoming the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi submitted to the Human Rights Council at its present session,¹

Noting with appreciation the progress made with regard to regional and international participation, the fight against trafficking in persons and the repatriation of Burundian refugees, while stressing the importance of guaranteeing security and social integration to returnees as stated by the Special Rapporteur in his previous report,² and noting also the commitments made towards realizing further improvements in the areas of human rights, good governance and the rule of law,

Expressing deep concern about human rights violations and abuses in Burundi, and regretting the lack of cooperation of the Government of Burundi with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur, while also regretting its lack of constructive cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including the lack of progress in reopening its country office,

Expressing concern at the structural challenges posed to the respect, protection and fulfilment of economic, social and cultural rights in Burundi, in particular the right to adequate food, the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the right to education, including for children and persons in vulnerable situations,

Noting that the parliamentary and local elections held in 2025 were mostly without violent incidents, while expressing concern at reports that the conditions necessary for the holding of inclusive, transparent, competitive and credible elections were not met, in particular owing to the further closure of the civic and media space, the lack of political pluralism and of conditions for fair electoral competition, the growing intimidation against critical voices and a climate of fear in the country's electoral process,

1. *Strongly condemns* all human rights violations and abuses committed in Burundi, including those involving extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention, acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and sexual and gender-based violence, and calls for an immediate end to these violations and abuses and for the full respect of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Urges* the Government of Burundi to guarantee the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly and association, and deplores the reduced space for civil society, citizen activism, independent media, political participation, including of political opponents, and a free and fair judiciary, and stresses the need for the Government to provide a safe and enabling environment for civil society, human rights defenders, journalists, activists, bloggers and other media workers, in particular women working in these professions, to carry out their work independently, without intimidation or undue interference, and to release all those who are still in detention for doing their work in defence of human rights;

3. *Condemns* the widespread impunity for all human rights violations and abuses, and urges the Government of Burundi to hold all perpetrators, regardless of their affiliation or status, including members of the defence and security forces and of the ruling party's youth league, the Imbonerakure, accountable for their actions, and to ensure that victims can seek justice and legal redress, and encourages the Government to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to honour its legal obligation to cooperate fully with the Court with regard to its ongoing investigation;

4. *Calls upon* the Government of Burundi to create the conditions necessary for the holding of an inclusive, transparent and credible presidential election in 2027, in accordance with its international obligations and commitments;

5. *Also calls upon* the Government of Burundi to guarantee the full independence of the judiciary;

¹ A/HRC/60/60.

² A/HRC/54/56.

6. *Further calls upon* the Government of Burundi to provide the National Independent Human Rights Commission with all the means necessary to perform its function of promoting and protecting human rights in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and to ensure its independence;

7. *Calls upon* the Government of Burundi to implement fully the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi and the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, as well as those accepted in the context of the universal periodic review, and to cooperate fully with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and relevant treaty bodies, and in that respect welcomes the submission by Burundi of its report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination³ as a positive step;

8. *Also calls upon* the Government of Burundi to refrain from all acts of intimidation or reprisal against human rights defenders, including those who are cooperating with international human rights mechanisms and the Human Rights Council;

9. *Encourages* the Government of Burundi to engage in a genuine and inclusive spirit with all Burundian stakeholders, whether operating inside or outside the country, to effectively address the multiple, deep-rooted challenges that Burundi faces and to sustainably reintegrate returnees into Burundian society;

10. *Calls upon* the Government of Burundi to take meaningful steps to address discrimination in all its forms and to ensure for all individuals within its territory full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with international human rights law;

11. *Decides* to extend the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi for a further period of one year, and requests the Special Rapporteur to present to the Human Rights Council, at its sixty-second session, an oral update on the situation of human rights in Burundi, and also to submit a comprehensive report thereon to the Council at its sixty-third session and to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session;

12. *Urges* the Government of Burundi to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, including by permitting unhindered access to the country, by providing all the information necessary for the proper fulfilment of the mandate and facilitating constructive exchanges and synergies with the National Independent Human Rights Commission, in line with the public commitments made by the current administration to advance human rights and re-engage with the international community;

13. *Also urges* the Government of Burundi to constructively cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in particular its Regional Office for Central Africa, and to present a timeline for the reopening of the country office of the Office of the High Commissioner in Burundi, and to continue to cooperate with the United Nations country team in Burundi;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with the assistance and all resources necessary to fulfil the mandate with all its functions, as outlined by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 48/16;

15. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

42nd meeting
6 October 2025

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 23 to 9, with 15 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechia, Dominican Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Japan,

³ CERD/C/BDI/11-19.

Marshall Islands, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Switzerland

Against:

Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Morocco, Sudan

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Maldives, Qatar, South Africa, Thailand, Viet Nam]
