



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 6 October 2026

63/23. 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 all previous resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in Burundi, including resolution 60/15 of 6 October 2025, 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, including through political pluralism,

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, and urging Burundi to be mindful of these standards,

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

¹ A/HRC/63/59.



Noting with appreciation the efforts 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 the security, social integration and rights of returnees as stated by the Special Rapporteur in his reports,²

Noting the commitments made towards improving the situation of human rights, good governance and the rule of law, as well as the release of some political prisoners,

Expressing deep concern about the persistence of human rights violations and abuses in Burundi, and strongly condemning all cases of harassment, intimidation, reprisals, arbitrary arrest, prolonged detention and judicial prosecution of lawyers, human rights defenders, journalists and civil society actors,

Expressing regret at the lack of cooperation of the Government of Burundi with the Human Rights Council and most of 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, and notes the alarming increase in extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, continuing an alarming trend in place since the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi was set up in 2016;

2. *Urges* the Government of Burundi to guarantee the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly and association, to cease imposing restrictions on civic space, citizen activism, independent media, political participation, including of political opponents, and a free and fair judiciary, 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, enabling them to carry out their work independently, without intimidation or undue interference, to amend restrictive laws governing non-governmental organizations and the media, and to immediately and unconditionally release all those who are still in detention for doing their work in defence of human rights or for exercising their human rights;

3. *Condemns* the widespread impunity for all human rights violations and abuses, and urges the Government of Burundi to conduct prompt, independent and transparent investigations into all human rights violations and abuses, 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

² A/HRC/54/56 and A/HRC/63/59.

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, and to ensure that all political actors, journalists, election observers, human rights defenders, civil society actors and citizens can participate freely throughout the electoral process, including through election monitoring and observation, in accordance with its international obligations and commitments;

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

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 presentation by Burundi of its report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination³ and also calls upon the Government to cooperate fully with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment regarding its planned country visit to Burundi, as announced in July 2026;

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, concrete steps to combat discrimination in all its forms, ensuring that all individuals within its territory enjoy full and equal human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with international human rights law, and to address the spread of hate speech and incitement to violence, by implementing comprehensive anti-discrimination policies and ensuring accountability;

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 submit a comprehensive report on the situation of human rights in Burundi to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-sixth session and to the General Assembly at its eighty-second 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;

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

14. *Encourages* the Government of Burundi to present a timeline for the reopening of the country office of the Office of the High Commissioner in Burundi, with a mandate to

³ CERD/C/BDI/11-19.

protect, promote and monitor human rights, with unhindered access, and to continue to engage with the Office of the High Commissioner so that it may provide technical assistance and capacity-building;

15. *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 of 8 October 2021;

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

*42nd meeting
6 October 2026*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 22 to 7, with 17 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Against:

Benin, Burundi, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Pakistan

Abstaining:

Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Malawi, Mauritius, Qatar, South Africa, Thailand, Viet Nam]
