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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**UN Commission of Inquiry on Burundi:**

**Behind a façade of normalization, grave human rights violations continue**

**GENEVA (16 September 2021)**– The UN Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (COIB) will hold a press conference at the United Nations in Geneva on 16 September 2021 to brief the media about their fifth and latest report on Burundi.

Despite the initial promises of Burundi’s President Évariste Ndayishimiye to improve the human situation and to restore the rule of law in the country ridden by years of violent repression, structural measures to bring long-lasting change are yet to be seen. The democratic space remains tightly closed and serious human rights violations continued to be committed since he took office in June 2020.

“Even if the country appears to be on the road to normalization, there is ample reason to remain very concerned about the dire human rights situation in Burundi”, said Doudou Diène, Chairperson of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Burundi.

The virtual press conference on Thursday will take place at 11:00 a.m in the presence of the Commissioners [Doudou Diène](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/CoIBurundi/Pages/Commissioners.aspx#diene)  and Françoise Hampson.

The briefing can be viewed live online at: <https://media.un.org/en/webtv/>

The official report will be released the same day with a press kit including seven infographics in English, French and Kirundi.

The Commission of Inquiry on Burundi is scheduled to present its final report during an interactive dialogue with the UN Human Rights Council on 23 September 2021.

***For more information and media requests, please contact:***

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