**Call for inputs**

**Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi**

**Report on the situation of human rights in Burundi**

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi, Fortuné Gaetan Zongo, is preparing a report on the human rights situation in the country, in accordance with resolution 51/23 of the United Nations Human Rights Council. To this end, he invites interested individuals, groups, and organizations to submit information and/or documentation on human rights violations and abuses committed/impacting Burundi since April 2015 by responding to the questionnaire below.

Your responses will be useful to the Special Rapporteur's analysis and contribute to his report, which will be presented to the Human Rights Council during its 54th session and at the 78th session of the General Assembly.

**Questionnaire**

The Special Rapporteur invites you to provide information on the following:

**1) Burundi's efforts to protect human rights**

**2) The political context, including:**

* Progress and challenges in the implementation of the Arusha Agreement of August 28, 2000;

**3) The security situation, including the borders with neighbouring countries and the impact on the civilian population**

**4) The human rights situation**

**i) Civil and political rights, including:**

* Notable advances in the protection and promotion of civil and political rights;
* Violations committed by state actors (particularly by defence and security forces);
* Violations by non-state actors (including militias, vigilante groups, and violent extremist groups);
* The impact of security incidents in the subregion on civil and political rights;
* The impact of COVID 19 on civil and political rights;
* Measures taken by the competent authorities to prevent or respond to violations or infringements of civil and political rights and the impact of these measures.

**ii) Situation of women and girls, including:**

* Notable advances in the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls;
* The involvement of women and girls in the peace and national reconciliation process and in all decision-making structures;
* Violations and abuses of women and girls’ rights, in particular sexual and gender-based violence, whether committed by state or non-state actors, as well as violence within the family and the community;
* Other forms of discrimination against women;
* Access to justice for women and girls, including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence;
* The impact of COVID 19 on the rights of women and girls;
* Measures taken by the relevant authorities to prevent or respond to violations and abuses of women and girls’ rights and the impact of these measures.

**iii) Situation of children, including:**

* Violations and abuses of children's rights including:
	+ - The killing or maiming of children;
		- Recruitment or use of children by armed forces or groups;
		- Sexual violence committed against children;
		- Attacks on schools or hospitals;
		- Denial of humanitarian access to children;
		- Abduction of children.
* The impact of COVID 19 on children's rights;
* Measures taken by the relevant authorities to prevent or respond to violations and abuses of children's rights and the impact of these measures.

**iv) The humanitarian situation, including:**

* Refugees and internally displaced persons;
* Humanitarian access

**v) Economic, social and cultural rights, including:**

* Notable advances on economic, social and cultural rights
* Access of women and girls to economic, social and cultural rights;
* The impact of COVID 19 on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights;
* Measures taken by the competent authorities to prevent or respond to violations of economic, social and cultural rights and the impact of these measures.

**vi) The fight against impunity, including:**

* Notable advances in the fight against impunity;
* Violations of civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights and infringements of these rights;
* Violations and abuses of women's rights, particularly sexual and gender-based violence;
* Violations and abuses of the rights of the child;
* The issue of transitional justice, specifically the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;
* Access to justice and reparations for victims;
* The issue of redeployment of the judicial administration, etc.

**5) The Independent National Commission on Human Rights, including:**

* Efforts/Achievements

**6) The National Independent Human Rights Commission, including:**

* The efforts/achievements of the National Human Rights Commission in the exercise of its mandate;
* The free examination of all matters within its competence;
* Consultation with other bodies, jurisdictional or not, in charge of the protection and promotion of human rights;
* The examination of complaints and requests concerning individual cases;
* The functioning and the available means of the National Human Right Commission in exercising its mandate;
* The self-referral of complaints or petitions and the transmission to any other competent authority within the limits set by the law.

**7) Civil Society Organizations, including:**

* Notable advances in the protection of human rights defenders;
* The nature of the risks and threats faced by defenders operating in Burundi, including those in exile;
* The legal norms applicable to human rights defenders and in the framework of international humanitarian law;
* The advances and positive practices in the protection of defenders at the local, national, regional and international levels;
* What possible areas of improvement do you identify? What reforms or initiatives could strengthen the protection of defenders?

**Submitting information**

Send your answers to the questionnaire in Word format by email to hrc-sr-burundi-zongo@un.org. You can also send your answers by post to the following address:

**Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi:**

**Special Procedures**

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Palais des Nations**

**CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland**

We invite you to be concise and to limit your contribution to a maximum of 5 pages (or 2,000 words). If necessary, include links to online documents.

Due to limited translation capacity, we ask that you send your contributions in contributions in English, French or Kirundi.

To be considered, all submissions must include the name(s) and contact information of the author(s). Submitting entities/individuals must specify whether their submissions, or portions thereof, are to be treated as confidential. The Special Rapporteur guarantees the highest level of confidentiality to its sources.

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