



**BURUNDI**  
**Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review**

**Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights,**  
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

for the 29th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
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Founded in 1983, **The Advocates for Human Rights** (“The Advocates”) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States. A growing number of victims fleeing politically-based violence in Burundi have requested legal assistance from The Advocates in applying for asylum in the United States. Information from asylum seekers about the human rights violations that they experienced in Burundi has been used in this submission with their permission.

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Since April 2015, serious human rights violations have increased in Burundi. The State's police, security forces, and intelligence services—often in collaboration with members of the ruling party's youth league, known as *Imbonerakure*<sup>1</sup>— are reportedly responsible for numerous extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, abductions, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture and ill-treatment, and sexual violence. Further, the State is failing to meet its obligations to investigate and prosecute human rights violations. In addition, journalists and human rights defenders face violence and increasing restrictions on their rights to freedom of expression and association. Recently adopted legislation further limits the ability of non-governmental organizations to operate and for civil society to participate in public life.<sup>2</sup>
2. The Advocates has received direct information about the human rights violations detailed in this stakeholder report from survivors who have fled Burundi to seek asylum in the United States. This stakeholder report addresses Burundi's failure to comply with its international, human rights obligations and makes recommendations to address and improve the human rights situation in Burundi.

## II. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

### A. 2013 Universal Periodic Review of Burundi

3. During Burundi's second Universal Periodic Review, the State noted 38 and accepted 136 recommendations.<sup>3</sup> Significantly, Burundi did not support 13 recommendations related to extrajudicial executions.<sup>4</sup> Further, Burundi rejected 15 recommendations related to freedom of expression and association, as well as protections for human rights defenders.<sup>5</sup>

#### 1. *Ratification of international conventions and protocols*

#### **Status of Implementation: Partially Implemented**

4. Burundi has ratified a range of human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)<sup>6</sup>, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)<sup>7</sup>, the Convention Against Torture (CAT)<sup>8</sup>, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.<sup>9</sup> During the 2013 UPR, Burundi accepted 18 recommendations related to ratification of additional international treaties and protocols, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (CPED) and the Optional Protocols to the ICCPR and CAT.<sup>10</sup> Since the last UPR, Burundi has ratified the Optional Protocol to the CAT,<sup>11</sup> but has failed to ratify the CPED or the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.<sup>12</sup> In addition, the Government has failed to implement a national preventative mechanism as required under CAT.<sup>13</sup>

## *2. Measures to improve human rights situation*

### **Status of Implementation: Not Implemented Yet**

5. Burundi accepted numerous recommendations related to improving its human rights situation<sup>14</sup> and strengthening its domestic legal framework to enhance the rule of law.<sup>15</sup> The State also accepted recommendations related to integrating a human rights approach to its policies,<sup>16</sup> as well as creating a training program for police officers and others to prevent torture.<sup>17</sup>
6. Further, Burundi accepted several recommendations related to detention conditions, including the commitment to take steps to ensure that conditions of detention centers and prisons meet international standards.<sup>18</sup> Burundi also agreed to implement measures to reduce prolonged pretrial detention.<sup>19</sup>

## *3. Combatting impunity*

### **Status of Implementation: Not Implemented Yet**

7. The State accepted recommendations to continue efforts toward combatting impunity and carrying out independent and impartial investigations.<sup>20</sup> Burundi committed to promoting the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission<sup>21</sup> and to ensuring its independence.<sup>22</sup> Furthermore, Burundi committed to establishing a special court with an independent prosecutor once the Truth and Reconciliation Commission fulfilled its mandate.<sup>23</sup>
8. While the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established on March 4, 2016, serious concerns exist about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's ability to fulfill its mandate and begin the transitional justice process.<sup>24</sup> Additionally, there are concerns regarding the expanded use of temporary immunities, which have de facto become "a permanent amnesty scheme".<sup>25</sup>
9. Finally, although Burundi accepted recommendations and ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,<sup>26</sup> Burundi has since informed of its intent to withdraw.<sup>27</sup>

## *4. Cooperation with United Nations special procedures*

### **Status of Implementation: Not Implemented Yet**

10. Burundi also accepted six recommendations to extend invitations and provide access to U.N. special procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers and the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.<sup>28</sup>
11. The United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB), created in January 2016, includes the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,

the Special Rapporteur on refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, on internally displaced persons in Africa, and the Special Rapporteur promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.<sup>29</sup> Of four proposed country visits along with the deployment of observers on the ground, only two of the visits have been allowed by the State.<sup>30</sup> “While initial access of UNIIB to government officials was relatively good, this deteriorated over time,”<sup>31</sup> with UNIIB facing multiple challenges in conducting investigations and some victims and witness fearing reprisals.

12. In spite of comments by some public officials regarding the Government’s commitment to pursuing accountability,<sup>32</sup> the Burundian Government has reacted negatively to statements and initiatives by the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, international institutions, other governments, foreign journalists and human rights organizations.<sup>33</sup> In October 2016, the Burundian Government, suspended all cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Burundi and declared three U.N. independent experts *persona non grata*.<sup>34</sup>

## **B. Domestic Legal Framework**

13. The 2005 Constitution of Burundi establishes the terms by which ethnic majority Hutus and minority Tutsis share power and recognizes fundamental human rights for all Burundians.<sup>35</sup> The Constitution sets forth legal provisions upholding fundamental human rights including; the principle of equality before the law (Art. 22), the right to life (Art. 24), the right to be free from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of punishment (Art. 25), the freedom of expression (Art. 31), the freedom of assembly and of association (Art. 32), and the right to due process (Art. 38–40). Additionally, the Constitution guarantees the independence of the courts (Art. 209).<sup>36</sup>

## **III. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS**

### **A. Human rights developments in Burundi**

14. April 2015 marked the start of a political and human rights crisis in Burundi that has claimed hundreds of lives.<sup>37</sup> Violence flared following President Pierre Nkurunziza’s decision to seek a controversial third term and subsequent protests. Police and security forces exercised excessive force and shot demonstrators indiscriminately.<sup>38</sup> After a failed *coup d’état* by military officers in May 2015, the Government intensified its repression of political dissent by suspending most of the country’s independent radio stations. By mid-2015, most of Burundi’s opposition party leaders, independent journalists and civil society activists had fled the country after receiving repeated threats.<sup>39</sup>
15. The human rights crisis that gripped Burundi in 2015 deepened in 2016 as government forces targeted perceived political opponents with increased brutality. The Burundian National Defense Forces (BNDF) and the Burundian National Intelligence Service (SNR)—often in collaboration with members of the ruling party’s youth league, known as *Imbonerakure*<sup>40</sup>—committed numerous killings, disappearances, abductions, torture, rape, and arbitrary arrests. Armed opposition groups also carried out attacks, killing

members of the ruling party.<sup>41</sup> An average of more than one thousand people fled to nearby Tanzania per day in 2016 to join the 250,000 already spread across Eastern Africa.<sup>42</sup>

16. The Advocates has received direct information about suppression of political opinion in Burundi from survivors fleeing human rights abuses in Burundi to seek asylum in the United States.<sup>43</sup> Our clients from Burundi share stories of being accused, often arbitrarily, of supporting anti-government protests. They report police and *Imbonerakure* members searching their homes, looting their businesses, and arresting, beating and interrogating them and their family members. While each client's case is different, their experiences confirm that the legal system and policies in Burundi fail to provide individuals with adequate protection from politically-based violence.

## **B. Right to Life, Liberty and Security of Person**

### *1. Enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions*

17. State-sponsored violence appears to have increased since the last UPR.<sup>44</sup> The UNIIB details abundant evidence of gross human rights violations including hundreds of cases of summary executions, targeted assassinations, arbitrary detention, torture and sexual violence committed by the Burundian Government and those associated with the ruling party.
18. UNIIB noted persistent allegations of violations of the right to life and physical integrity and reported an increase in enforced disappearances and arrests of individuals suspected of participating in opposition groups.<sup>45</sup> Local NGO, Ligue Iteka documented alleged 331 enforced disappearances between December 2015 and November 2016.<sup>46</sup> Additional reports describe the discovery of unidentified bodies.<sup>47</sup> Further, the UNIIB found that agents connected with the SNR, police, and the military were responsible for many of these disappearances.<sup>48</sup> The OHCHR reports that 96 percent of enforced disappearances are perpetrated by police, the SNR, BNDF, or the *Imbonerakure*.<sup>49</sup>
19. For example, a client of The Advocates was targeted by the *Imbonerakure* based on her membership in an opposition party. Following the 2015 attempted coup, two colleagues who had worked with her in the same opposition party were killed. Three days later, a group of armed men, identified by our client as *Imbonerakure*, attempted to enter her family compound, killing her watchman in the process. The client relocated but the individuals who stayed in her house were later kidnapped by the same men, who discovered that they had the wrong people. In addition, our client's husband was later kidnapped and mistreated by the same group of *Imbonerakure*.<sup>50</sup>

### *2. Arbitrary detention*

20. The State is responsible for arbitrary arrests and detention conducted by the police, the SNR, and the *Imbonerakure*. The SNR reports directly to the president and holds the power to arrest and detain. Members of the *Imbonerakure* sometimes operate in

cooperation with police, but often act independently without any identifiable oversight; *Imbonerakure* members arrest persons with impunity despite having no legal authority to arrest or detain.<sup>51</sup> As of October 5, 2016, the OHCHR Office in Burundi documented some 5,209 arrests it deemed arbitrary in that individuals involved were arrested without charge or arrest warrants for investigative purposes. Of these arrests, 2,467 eventually resulted in release for lack of evidence.<sup>52</sup>

21. One client of The Advocates reported being arbitrarily detained by the Burundian Government after speaking out publicly against government corruption. Our client was falsely accused of importing weapons for the opposition. She was questioned by a Burundian Embassy official in another country, who threatened her and told her to stop her business activities. She was subsequently arrested and taken to the National Intelligence Service where she was interrogated, assaulted, and raped.<sup>53</sup>
22. Conditions of detention in Burundi do not meet the standards established by the U.N. *Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners*.<sup>54</sup> The UNIIB reported prison overcrowding at a rate of 300 percent occupancy in some prisons.<sup>55</sup> Moreover, Burundian prison conditions remain harsh and sometimes life threatening with reports of physical abuse, lack of adequate medical treatment, and prolonged solitary confinement.<sup>56</sup> Prisoners did not have adequate sanitation systems, drinking water, ventilation, or lighting.<sup>57</sup>

### 3. *Torture and ill-treatment*

23. As of October 5, 2016, the OHCHR had documented 558 cases of State-sponsored torture and mistreatment of individuals accused of participating in the 2015 attempted coup and subsequent events opposing the Government.<sup>58</sup> Based on victim interviews, the UNIIB has affirmed that the SNR, *Imbonerakure*, and to a lesser extent the BNDF were “consistently identified as the perpetrators.”<sup>59</sup> Security and intelligence services members have reportedly “hit people repeatedly and slammed gun butts into detainees’ faces or limbs, in some cases breaking their bones or smashing their jaws until teeth fell out. SNR agents beat detainees with steel construction bars, drove sharpened steel rods into their legs, tied cords to detainees’ genitals and pulled, used electric shock, and poured liquid on detainees, which burned them.”<sup>60</sup>
24. The use of torture against political opposition members to extract information or as punishment has been a common practice of the Burundian Government.<sup>61</sup> For example, one client, who opposed the unconstitutionality of the President’s third term, faced persecution after joining an opposition party. An informant gave the Government a list of members from that party branch, including our client. Shortly thereafter, Government agents detained, beat, and tortured him for four days.<sup>62</sup>
25. Similarly, another client of The Advocates reported that undercover police officers entered his home in the middle of the night and arrested him. He was then beaten, forced to stand under cold water for twelve hours, had needles injected in his testicles, and was interrogated about his involvement with an opposition party.<sup>63</sup>

### **C. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law**

26. Burundi is blatantly failing to meet its obligations to promptly, thoroughly, and impartially investigate and prosecute human rights violations.<sup>64</sup> The slow and reluctant response of police and the judiciary to investigate and prosecute human rights abuses has led to the widespread perception of impunity for government agents and party officials.<sup>65</sup> Since 2015, the executive branch's threats to and dominance over the judiciary has deterred individuals from filing complaints about human rights violations.<sup>66</sup>
27. The Government of Burundi also fails to protect witnesses to criminal activity or acts of violence perpetrated on behalf of the Government. One client witnessed a brutal government attack in which police cars surrounded a house and opened fire on civilians. She then became the target of an investigation and it soon became apparent that the police wanted to know how much she had seen. The police arrested and detained her. While in detention, she was tortured and raped.<sup>67</sup>

### **D. Freedom of expression and association**

28. Since 2015, journalists and human rights activists have been among the primary targets of politically-based violence.<sup>68</sup> The Burundian Government continues to perpetrate acts of violence and intimidation against members of the media. One of The Advocates' clients is a journalist who criticized government corruption and the government's failure to ensure freedom of the press and freedom of speech. Men dressed in civilian clothes came to the journalist's home and brought him to a secret prison where he was threatened and tortured.<sup>69</sup> In addition, the Government places restrictions on the media. Many private radio stations were suspended after the attempted coup and have not been authorized to operate, while only one of the thirty-seven newspapers available in Burundi is perceived as being independent of Government influence.<sup>70</sup>
29. The Government systematically targets human rights organizations and human rights defenders to suppress dissenting voices in the country.<sup>71</sup> The Special Rapporteur reported that freedom of expression and the space for civil society in Burundi remained under sustained and often violent pressure. The Government has further limited freedom of expression and association through the adoption of legislation restricting the operations of NGOs.<sup>72</sup> Two clients of The Advocates who are daughters of an NGO director were arrested and detained by police. While in detention, they were raped, beaten, and tortured with cold water. After their release, they learned that police were targeting their father because of his involvement with his NGO.<sup>73</sup>
30. Many members of civil society, journalists, and opposition parties who were forced to flee in 2015 remain in exile.<sup>74</sup> The Government has targeted family members of those who, like our clients, have been forced to flee Burundi. Intimidation and violence against family members remains a common strategy that the Government uses to silence dissent in Burundi. For example, the brother of a client who had left Burundi for the United States was attacked when armed men came to his home on several occasions looking for his brother. He was able to survive by fighting for his life and screaming for help.<sup>75</sup>

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS

31. This stakeholder report suggests the following recommendations for the Government of Burundi:

- Combat impunity by systematically and promptly carrying out investigations of criminal activity committed by government affiliates and ensure appropriate compensation for victims of such crimes.
- Establish an independent mechanism for investigating complaints of torture or ill-treatment at the hands of members of police or security forces ensuring that law enforcement officials continue to receive investigative training in accordance with the Istanbul Protocol.
- Protect, in law and in practice, the victims and witnesses of attacks and violations of human rights and freedoms.
- Ensure that confessions obtained under torture are systematically rejected by the courts.
- Take all necessary steps to create a dialogue between the government and opposition forces regarding the future of the Arusha Accord.
- Take the necessary steps to ensure that legal systems and policies are in full compliance with Burundi's international obligations with respect to freedom of expression and ensure that journalists and human rights defenders are free to carry out their work independently and without fear of persecution or intimidation.
- Guarantee the right to freedom of assembly, association, and expression in conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Take the necessary steps to train judges, lawyers and prosecutors on international standards.

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<sup>1</sup> The youth wing of the ruling party, the *Imbonerakure* grew out of the same disbanded militia as the ruling party. Critics of the party claim that the *Imbonerakure* never fully lost the mentality of war, despite the government's insistence that they are just a political group. Emma Graham-Harrison, *The World Looks Away as Blood Flows in Burundi*, *The Guardian* (Apr. 10, 2016). Also available online at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/10/burundi-ethnic-violence-refugees>.

<sup>2</sup> Andrew Gilmour (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights), *Burundi Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission*, (Mar. 13, 2017). Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21364&LangID=E#sthash.btxaKW3M.dpuf>.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/23/9. Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.53 Take concrete measures in order to combat impunity and to prevent extrajudicial killings and torture (Romania); ¶ 126.54 Manifest publicly and energetic to its security forces and intelligence services that extrajudicial executions would not be tolerated and that also make the necessary efforts to eradicate this practice, including the prosecution of those responsible (Costa Rica); ¶ 126.56 Adopt further measures to fight impunity of persons responsible for torture and extrajudicial killings and to conduct prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations into allegations of these crimes (Czech Republic); ¶ 126.57 Intensify measures against acts of sexual violence against women and girls, and careful and effect treatment of alleged occurrence of extrajudicial executions (Cape Verde); ¶ 126.58 Reinforce human rights training to the law enforcement personnel and to members of



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security forces and to hold duly accountable all those responsible for extrajudicial killings and other excessive use of force (Slovakia); ¶ 126.85 Renew efforts to ratify OP-CAT; to establish a national preventative mechanism regrading torture; and ensure investigation and prosecution in cases of extra-judicial killing and torture, notably those implicating state agents (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); ¶ 126.106 Ensure the establishment, within the National Independent Human Rights Commission, of a mechanism to follow up on the extra-judicial executions noted (France); ¶ 126.107 Put an end to extra-judicial executions and prosecute the perpetrators of such acts by means of a fair trial (Germany); ¶ 126.108 Promptly and fully investigated, by judicial authorities, all extra-judicial executions and torture committed by security services and that those responsible are prosecuted, and that the government ensure publication of the reports of all national commissions of inquiry set up to investigate arbitrary executions (Hungary); ¶ 126.109 Conduct prompt and full investigation into extrajudicial executions and political killings and ensure that those responsible are prosecuted and afforded a fair trial free of political interference (Australia); ¶ 126.110 Investigate all cases of extrajudicial executions, torture, and other cruel, inhuman and degrading ill-treatments committed by security forces and prosecute those responsible, with special attention to those crimes committed against human rights defenders (Spain); ¶ 126.111 Conduct investigations and initiate prosecutions against alleged perpetrators of extrajudicial executions (Austria); ¶ 126.124 Step up its efforts to quickly complete the process to implement transitional justice mechanisms and to put an end to impunity of perpetrators of extrajudicial executions or political executions (Tunisia). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>5</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.32 Modify the legislation which restrains freedom of expression and peaceful assembly (Mexico); ¶ 126.33 Modify articles 6 and 9 of the bill repealing the Decree No. 100/187/91 on the regulation of public manifestations and public meetings, which would allow especially authorities to “delegate on or more official(s) mandated to attend to any public meeting and ensure the conformity with its obligations regarding human rights” (Canada); ¶ 126.110 Investigate all cases of extrajudicial executions, torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading ill-treatments committed by security forces and prosecute those responsible, with special attention to those crimes committed against human rights defenders (Spain); ¶ 126.112 Investigate, prosecute and, if convicted, punish perpetrators of human rights abuses, including those committed against civil society groups, members of the media and LGBT individuals (United States of America); ¶ 126.137 Guarantee fully the right to freedoms of assembly, association and expression, in conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (France); ¶ 126.138 Ensure the protection of freedom of opinion and ensure that the press has margin for manoeuvre, as does civil society (Germany); ¶ 126.140 Take the necessary measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders that are at risk (France); ¶ 126.141 Broaden the initiatives in favour of the independence of the State power, the freedom of expression and association (Holy See); ¶ 126.142 Take the necessary steps to ensure that its legal system and policies are in full compliance with its international obligations in respect of freedom of expression and that journalists and human rights defenders are guaranteed the freedom to carry out their work independently and without fear of prosecution or intimidation (Ireland); ¶ 126.143 Ensure the safety and well-being of human rights defenders so that they are able to carry out freely their legitimate duties (Slovakia); ¶ 126.144 Strengthen the protection of journalists and human rights defenders in order to exercise the important work of monitoring the human rights situation (Colombia); ¶ 126.145 Guarantee freedom of the press and therefore to refrain from implementing more restrictive legal measures and policies (Netherlands); ¶ 126.146 Strengthen and improve press freedom and freedom of speech, including in its consideration of draft laws currently before the National Assembly, notably the revised press law and the law on public gatherings (Australia); ¶ 126.147 Envisage legislative reforms and namely the adoption of the press law in Burundi aiming to comply with human rights international standards (Belgium); ¶ 126.148 Ensure the safety of journalists against violence and harassment (Austria). Also available online at [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=28&Lang=EN](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=28&Lang=EN).

<sup>6</sup> Burundi ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on May 9, 1990. U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Ratification Status for Burundi*. Also available online at [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=28&Lang=EN](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=28&Lang=EN).

<sup>7</sup> Burundi ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on May 9, 1990. U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Ratification Status for Burundi*. Also available online at [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=28&Lang=EN](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=28&Lang=EN).

<sup>8</sup> Burundi ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on February 18, 1993. U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Ratification Status for Burundi*. Also available online at

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=28&Lang=EN](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=28&Lang=EN).

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<sup>9</sup> Burundi ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on July 28, 1989. African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, *Ratification Table: African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights*. Also available online at <http://www.achpr.org/instruments/achpr/ratification/>.

<sup>10</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.1 Consolidate commitment against the death penalty by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP2) (France); ¶ 126.2 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium); ¶ 126.3 Accede to ICCPR-OP2 with the view to abolish the death penalty (Switzerland); ¶ 126.4 Consider ratifying the OP-CEDAW (Brazil); ¶ 126.5 Speed up the ratification of the Conventions and Protocols recommended during its 2008 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and already under way, including Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), its Optional Protocol and Optional Protocol to the convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (OP-CEDAW) (Rwanda); ¶ 126.6 Complete the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (OP-CEDAW) (Republic of Moldova); ¶ 126.7 Sign and ratify CRPD and OP-CEDAW (Turkey); ¶ 126.8 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT), as well as the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED) (France); ¶ 126.9 Ratify CRPD, CPED and OP-CAT (Tunisia); ¶ 126.10 Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) (Philippines); ¶ 126.10 Ratify OP-CAT and incorporate it into domestic legislation (Turkey); ¶ 126.11 Enhance the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Cyprus); ¶ 126.12 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Austria); ¶ 126.13 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to establish the national preventative mechanism accordingly (Czech Republic); ¶ 126.14 Consider ratification of OP-CRC-IC (Slovakia); ¶ 126.16 Continue the efforts embarked to ratify International convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED) (Argentina); ¶ 126.17 Ratify Conventions to which it is not yet party (Chad); ¶ 126.71 Implement the recommendations of the Committee against Torture in its 2006 Concluding Observations for Burundi, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Australia). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Treaty Collection, *International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance*. Also available online at [https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg\\_no=IV-16&chapter=4&lang=en](https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-16&chapter=4&lang=en).

<sup>12</sup> U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Ratification Status for Burundi*. Also available online at [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=28&Lang=EN](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=28&Lang=EN).

<sup>13</sup> *Report of the United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) Established Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-24/1*, (Sept. 20, 2016), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/33/37 ¶ 55. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/UNIIB/Pages/UNIIB.aspx>.

<sup>14</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.47 Take further steps toward the improvement of its human rights situation (Japan). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>15</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.18 Continue to strengthen its domestic legal framework to enhance the rule of law and increase the capacity of its law enforcement agencies (Singapore). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>16</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.50 Continue to integrate human rights approaches into its policies and education at various levels (Uganda); ¶ 126.51 continue the efforts made to achieve the integration of the human rights approach in public policies and in different education levels (Argentina). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>17</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.52 Conclude and put in place a training programme for police officers and others in order to prevent torture (Holy See). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

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<sup>18</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.86 Continue ensuring that living conditions in prisons are adequate for the development of the child and try to seek alternative measure to institutional confinement for pregnant women and others with young children (State of Palestine); ¶ 126.88 Take steps to enhance the treatment of children born in prison, as well as pregnant women prisoners (Thailand). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>19</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.87 Take further steps to ensure the conditions in detention centres and prisons meet domestic and international standards, and implement measures to reduce prolonged pretrial detention (Australia). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>20</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.35 Adopt and implement appropriate and efficient measures to address the high incidence of sexual violence against women and girls, including addressing the reported widespread impunity of perpetrators (Slovakia); ¶ 126.55 Make every effort to fully implement recommendations already made to Burundi during the first cycle of the UPR, related to combating impunity of persons responsible for acts of torture and to the carrying out of thorough independent and impartial investigation into all allegations of such crimes (Cyprus); ¶ 126.85 Renew efforts to ratify OP-CAT; to establish a national preventive mechanism regarding torture; and ensure investigation and prosecution in cases of extra-judicial killings and torture, notably those implicating state agents (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); ¶ 126.94 Continue to strengthen the abilities of the law enforcement agents to address the impunity of the perpetrators of sexual and sexist violence and to ensure the protection of the victims of trafficking (Republic of Moldova); ¶ 126.96 Create mechanisms for the protection of children against all forms of exploitation, to fight impunity of perpetrators and bring them to justice and to set up programmes for psychological treatment to children subject to violations (Libya); ¶ 126.99 Ensure the independence of judges from the executive in Burundi, by applying objective admission criteria within an impartial selection process and ensuring adequate funding for the judicial system (Germany); ¶ 126.100 Continue with its commitment to improve the judicial system and the prisons (Holy See); ¶ 126.101 Put in place a concrete national strategy containing effective measures aimed at strengthening the independent functioning of the judiciary (Kenya); ¶ 126.102 Consolidate the rule of law and social cohesion as preconditions to promote and protect human rights (Viet Nam); ¶ 126.103 Continue the on-going efforts to strengthen the independence of the judiciary (Senegal); ¶ 126.104 Continue reforming the judiciary system (Togo); ¶ 126.105 More actively take steps to break the cycle of impunity (Norway); ¶ 126.113 Continue efforts to eliminate impunity and to ensure the exercise of the right to truth (Armenia); ¶ 126.128 Establish a special court with an independent prosecutor once the Truth Reconciliation Commission has ended its mandate (Uruguay); ¶ 126.139 Protect, in law and in practice, the victims and witnesses of attacks and infringements of human rights and freedoms (France). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>21</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.114 Promote the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, in conformity with the Arusha Agreement and United Nations Security Council resolutions 1606 and 2027, guaranteeing the fight against impunity for crimes for which there is no statute of limitation (France); ¶ 126.115 Proceed with the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in full transparency and establish an independent special tribunal to examine war crimes, as recommended during the first UPR (Germany); ¶ 126.116 Accelerate work to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and to establish a Special Tribunal tasked with holding those responsible for war crimes to account, with both institutions conforming to international standards and drawing on national consultations (Ireland); ¶ 126.118 Accelerate efforts for establishment of Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Pakistan); ¶ 126.119 Positively consider the effective creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, credible and independent, to shed light upon the violations of human rights of the past (Republic of Korea); ¶ 126.120 Speed up the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Romania); ¶ 126.121 Review the law establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission so as it is in line with international standards and do not establish an amnesty for crimes under international law (Spain); ¶ 126.122 Continue its efforts in the area of dealing with the past through the establishment of a Special Court and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in line with international standards (Switzerland); ¶ 126.123 Continue the process aimed at establishing a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Togo); ¶ 126.126 Create a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in order to address the root causes of politically motivated violence (United States of America); ¶ 126.130 Finalize and enact anti-trafficking legislation and, in the interim, enforce existing trafficking provision of the 2009 Criminal Code (United

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States of America). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>22</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.117 Ensure the independence and credibility of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, by consulting with affected groups (Norway); ¶ 126.127 Adopt a law on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which is in line with international human rights norms and which establishes the impossibility of applying an amnesty for serious human rights violations and international crimes (Uruguay). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>23</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.128 Establish a special court with an independent prosecutor once the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has ended its mandate (Uruguay). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>24</sup> *Report of the United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) Established Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-24/1*, (Sept. 20, 2016), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/33/37 ¶ 106. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/UNIIB/Pages/UNIIB.aspx>.

<sup>25</sup> Pablo de Greiff (Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-recurrence), *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-recurrence*, (Aug. 10, 2015), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/30/42/Add.1 ¶ 42. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BIIndex.aspx>.

<sup>26</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.19 Conclude the alignment of its domestic legislation with the Rome Statute provisions (Tunisia); ¶ 126.27 Incorporate into its legislation measures of prompt and effective cooperation with the International Criminal Court, as well as, obligations to investigate and prosecute in its territory crimes established in the Rome Statute (Costa Rica). Also available online at [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=28&Lang=EN](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=28&Lang=EN).

<sup>27</sup> Burundi ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on September 21, 2004, but informed its intent to withdraw on October 27, 2016. UN News Centre, *Withdrawal from International Criminal Court could send 'wrong message'—UN Chief*. Also available online at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55427#.WUqfDjOZNAa>.

<sup>28</sup> *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burundi*, (March 25, 2013), U.N. Doc A/HRC/23/9. ¶ 126.72 Continuing cooperating with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, and extend an open invitation to the special procedures mechanisms (Guatemala); ¶ 126.73 Extend a standing invitation to all mandate holders (Hungary); ¶ 126.74 Step up its cooperation with special procedures mandate holders and eventually consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia); ¶ 126.75 Extend invitations and provide access to UN special procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in order to help Burundi identify and address human rights challenges (Australia); ¶ 126.77 Invite the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers to visit Burundi (Belgium); ¶ 126.78 Issue a standing invitation to the special procedures of the United Nations, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (Chile). Also available online at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/125/65/PDF/G1312565.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>29</sup> *Report of the United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) Established Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-24/1*, (Sept. 20, 2016), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/33/37 ¶ 3. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/UNIIB/Pages/UNIIB.aspx>.

<sup>30</sup> *Report of the United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) Established Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-24/1*, (Sept. 20, 2016), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/33/37 ¶ 4. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/UNIIB/Pages/UNIIB.aspx>.

<sup>31</sup> *Report of the United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) Established Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-24/1*, (Sept. 20, 2016), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/33/37 ¶ 8. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/UNIIB/Pages/UNIIB.aspx>.

<sup>32</sup> U.N. *The Human Rights Council Holds Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Burundi*, (Mar. 22, 2016). Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=18514#sthash.Y0f4ZV4T.dpuf>.

<sup>33</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Burundi: Events of 2016*. Also available online at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/burundi>.

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- <sup>34</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Burundi: Events of 2016*. Also available online at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/burundi>.
- <sup>35</sup> U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *OHCHR in Burundi (2010-2011)*. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/BISummary20102011.aspx>.
- <sup>36</sup> Constitute Project, *Burundi's Constitution of 2005*, (2012). Also available online at [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Burundi\\_2005.pdf](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Burundi_2005.pdf).
- <sup>37</sup> Data collection by political activists in the area suggest that the fatality count reached 1,155 between April 24, 2015 and April 25, 2016. Armed Conflict Location & Event Dataset, *Country Report: Burundi Crisis Year One*, (May 2016). Also available online at <http://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/ACLED-Country-Report-Burundi-May-2016.pdf>.
- <sup>38</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Burundi's Human Rights Crisis*, (Apr. 2015–July 2016). Also available online at [www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/supporting\\_resources/burundi\\_compendium\\_2016\\_web\\_version\\_4.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/supporting_resources/burundi_compendium_2016_web_version_4.pdf).
- <sup>39</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Burundi's Human Rights Crisis*, (Apr. 2015–July 2016). Also available at [www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/supporting\\_resources/burundi\\_compendium\\_2016\\_web\\_version\\_4.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/supporting_resources/burundi_compendium_2016_web_version_4.pdf).
- <sup>40</sup> The youth wing of the ruling party, the *Imbonerakure* grew out of the same disbanded militia as the ruling party. Critics of the party claim that the *Imbonerakure* never fully lost the mentality of war, despite the government's insistence that they are just a political group. Emma Graham-Harrison, *The World Looks Away as Blood Flows in Burundi*, *The Guardian* (Apr. 10, 2016). Also available online at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/10/burundi-ethnic-violence-refugees>.
- <sup>41</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Burundi: Events of 2016*. Also available online at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/burundi>.
- <sup>42</sup> Emma Graham-Harrison, *The World Looks Away as Blood Flows in Burundi*, *The Guardian* (Apr. 10, 2016). Also available online at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/10/burundi-ethnic-violence-refugees>.
- <sup>43</sup> The case information presented in this submission is compiled from intake and other interviews conducted by The Advocates for Human Rights with asylum seekers from Burundi between (2006–2016) (hereinafter referred to as “Interviews conducted by The Advocates (20062016)”). Some details have been removed to maintain confidentiality and to protect the identities of clients and their families.
- <sup>44</sup> As of October 5, 2016, the OHCHR documented more than 150 killings, many of them extrajudicial killings committed by police, the SNR, or military personnel. By comparison, the OHCHR documented more than 400 cases of arbitrary or unlawful killings in 2015. United States Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016: Burundi*, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (2016). Also available online at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265442.pdf>.
- <sup>45</sup> U.N. Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, *Burundi: Commission of Inquiry Presents Initial Activities and Observations*, (Mar. 13, 2017). Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21361&LangID=E#sthash.yy8qs8jB.dpuf>.
- <sup>46</sup> United States Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016: Burundi*, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (2016). Also available online at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265442.pdf>.
- <sup>47</sup> Andrew Gilmour (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights), *Burundi Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission*, (Mar. 13, 2017). Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21364&LangID=E#sthash.btxaKW3M.dpuf>.
- <sup>48</sup> *Report of the United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) Established Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-24/1*, (Sept. 20, 2016), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/33/37 ¶ 54. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/UNIIB/Pages/UNIIB.aspx>.
- <sup>49</sup> U.N. Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, *Burundi: UN Investigation Urges Strong Action in Light of Gross, Widespread, and Systemic Human Rights Violations*, (Sept. 2, 2016). Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20534>.
- <sup>50</sup> Interviews conducted by The Advocates (2006–2016).
- <sup>51</sup> United States Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016: Burundi*, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (2016). Also available online at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265442.pdf>.

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- <sup>52</sup> United States Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016: Burundi*, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (2016). Also available online at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265442.pdf>.
- <sup>53</sup> Interviews conducted by The Advocates (2006–2016).
- <sup>54</sup> United States Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016: Burundi*, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (2016). Also available online at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265442.pdf>.
- <sup>55</sup> For example, the prison occupancy in Mpimba prison in Bujumbura was built to house 800 prisoners, but instead holds 3,800 detainees. *Report of the United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) Established Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-24/1*, (Sept. 20, 2016), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/33/37 ¶ 69. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/UNIIB/Pages/UNIIB.aspx>.
- <sup>56</sup> United States Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016: Burundi*, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (2016). Also available online at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265442.pdf>.
- <sup>57</sup> United States Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016: Burundi*, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (2016). Also available online at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265442.pdf>.
- <sup>58</sup> United States Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016: Burundi*, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (2016). Also available online at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265442.pdf>.
- <sup>59</sup> *Report of the United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) Established Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-24/1*, (Sept. 20, 2016), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/33/37 ¶ 40. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/UNIIB/Pages/UNIIB.aspx>.
- <sup>60</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Burundi: Events of 2016*. Also available online at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/burundi>.
- <sup>61</sup> *Report of the United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) Established Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-24/1*, (Sept. 20, 2016), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/33/37 ¶ 53. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/UNIIB/Pages/UNIIB.aspx>.
- <sup>62</sup> Interviews conducted by The Advocates (2006–2016).
- <sup>63</sup> Interviews conducted by The Advocates (2006–2016).
- <sup>64</sup> *Report of the United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) Established Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-24/1*, (Sept. 20, 2016), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/33/37 ¶ 101. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/UNIIB/Pages/UNIIB.aspx>.
- <sup>65</sup> United States Department of State, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016: Burundi*, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (2016). Also available online at <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/265442.pdf>.
- <sup>66</sup> *Report of the United Nations Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIIB) Established Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-24/1*, (Sept. 20, 2016), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/33/37 ¶ 103. Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/UNIIB/Pages/UNIIB.aspx>.
- <sup>67</sup> Interviews conducted by The Advocates (2006–2016).
- <sup>68</sup> Nick Cumming-Bruce, *Burundi Killings Could Ignite Wider African Crisis*, *U.N. Report Warns*, *The New York Times* (Sept. 20, 2016). Also available online at [https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/21/world/africa/burundi-summary-killings-united-nations-report.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/21/world/africa/burundi-summary-killings-united-nations-report.html?_r=0).
- <sup>69</sup> Interviews conducted by The Advocates (2006–2016).
- <sup>70</sup> U.N. Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, *The Human Rights Council Holds Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Burundi*, (Mar. 22, 2016). Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=18514#sthash.Y0f4ZV4T.dpuf>.
- <sup>71</sup> In December 2016, the Burundi Government adopted legislation aimed at controlling the actions of NGOs compelling them to obtain authorization from the Ministry of the Interior for any activity and to transfer foreign funds through the central bank. Overall, the work of NGOs in Burundi must conform to the agenda of the ruling party. U.N. Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, *Burundi: UN Experts Raise Alarm at Growing Repression of NGOs and Human Rights Defenders*, (Feb. 6, 2017). Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21145>.
- <sup>72</sup> A total of 10 civil society organizations had been ordered to suspend their activities until the completion of a judicial inquiry process. U.N. Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, *The Human Rights Council Holds*

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*Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Burundi*, (Mar. 22, 2016). Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=18514#sthash.Y0f4ZV4T.dpuf>.

<sup>73</sup> Interviews conducted by The Advocates (2006–2016).

<sup>74</sup> U.N. Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, *Burundi: Commission of Inquiry Presents Initial Activities and Observations*, (Mar. 13, 2017). Also available online at <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21361&LangID=E#sthash.yy8qs8jB.dpuf>

<sup>75</sup> Interviews conducted by The Advocates (2006–2016).