



Oral Statement by the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute

59th Session of the Human Rights Council

ID on oral update of SR on Burundi

26 June 2025

New Challenges For Burundi

The IBA's Human Rights Institute (the IBAHRI) welcomes this opportunity to engage in this interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Burundi.

The IBAHRI is concerned that serious human rights violations persist in Burundi and the Government has failed to hold per-petrators to account. These ongoing serious human rights violations include hostility towards independent civil society and media, the targeting of real and perceived opposition members with extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, and torture, among others. The IBAHRI is also concerned about reports surrounding the elections, which indicate that independent observers and media were now allowed.

The IBAHRI welcomes the assistance provided by Burundi to refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) following the spike in violence in the east of the country, as driven by M23. This violence forced thousands to flee, including to Burundi, in the pursuit of safety. Burundi is said to have received more than 70,000 Congolese refugees since January 2025, while still hosting thousands from previous conflicts. However, funding for humanitarian assistance is running low, as it is affected by cuts in foreign aid from several countries.

The IBAHRI calls upon this Council to:

- Support independent investigations of human rights violations in Burundi.
- Continue the ongoing monitoring of, and public reporting on, the human rights situation in Burundi and step up efforts to support the implementation of all recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, in particular on justice and accountability.
- Ensure that Burundi is provided with assistance to be able to support refugees from the DRC, as driven by the atrocities of M23 and others.

Thank you.

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