



FORUM POUR LE RENFORCEMENT DE LA SOCIETE CIVILE



NEWS RELEASE

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Burundi will have to give explanations to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights over several cases of extrajudicial killings.

Bujumbura - Geneva, 19 June 2014 - **Civil society seeks justice for the first time before the African Commission for cases of extrajudicial killings that remained unpunished before the national judicial authorities. NGOs have submitted four complaints to [the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights](#). These include several cases of extrajudicial killings committed between 2010 and 2012.**

Several extrajudicial killings mainly targeting political opponents have been committed in Burundi between 2010 and 2012. Such violations of the right to life which occurred outside the scope of any legal proceedings and involved State agents (referring here to the internationally accepted definition of extrajudicial killings) still remain largely unpunished. In this context, a group of NGOs composed of [ACAT-Burundi](#), [APRODH](#), [FOCODE](#), [FORSC](#) and [TRIAL](#) and supported by [Human Rights Watch](#) submitted [four complaints to the African Commission](#) regarding the extrajudicial killings perpetrated against:

→ **Mr. Jackson Ndikuriyo**, found dead on August 27, 2010, near the Police station of Musigati, in the province of Bubanza, after being arrested by the police. He had been the subject of death threats emanating from State agents which intensified in the months leading up to his execution.

→ **Mr. Audace Vianney Habonarugira**, found dead on July 15, 2011 on the hill of Gasamanzuki in the town of Isare, province of Bujumbura rural, after being the target of an attempted assassination in March 2011 and receiving death threats orchestrated by state agents during several months.

→ **Mr. Médard Ndayishimiye** found dead on October 7, 2011 in the province of Rutana after being kidnapped and severely beaten in Gitega. His body showed signs of torture. He had been intensively harassed

by police officers and had received death threats from State agents during the months prior to his execution.

→ **Mr. Jean-Claude Ndimumahoro**, found beheaded on July 3, 2012 in the town of Bugarama, province of Muramvya, after being detained for several days by the intelligence services in Gitega. He had been the subject of intense persecution and death threats by State agents in the months before his execution.

On behalf of the victims, the civil society seeks justice for the first time before the African Commission for cases of extrajudicial killings that remained unpunished before the national judicial authorities.

In light of the commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the assassination of the anti-corruption activist Ernest Manirumva on April 9, it is all the more necessary to continue the fight against impunity for such human rights violations in order to prevent crimes of this gravity to be committed again and preserve the hard-won peace in Burundi.

These NGOs have formally requested the African Commission to adopt provisional measures to protect the families of victims, witnesses and their supporters. The NGOs also urge the Burundian authorities to duly assume their responsibilities in protecting these people and respect their rights.

Since November 2011, fourteen cases revealing serious human rights violations in Burundi have been submitted to UN treaty-bodies protecting human rights, namely to the Committee against Torture and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, due to the passivity of the national judicial authorities to examine the victims' allegations. While eleven cases are still pending before the Committee against Torture, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has already held in 2012 that the detention of Mr. François Nyamoya was arbitrary, thereby requiring that he be afforded a compensation and that other restrictions to his freedom of movement be lifted.

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