



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Burundi

Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)



Norbert Ndiwokubwayo, © IPU, March 2013

BDI-01 - Sylvestre Mfayokurera
BDI-02 - Norbert Ndiwokubwayo
BDI-05 - Innocent Ndikumana
BDI-06 - Gérard Gahungu
BDI-07 - Liliane Ntamutumba (Ms.)
BDI-29 - Paul Sirahenda
BDI-35 - Gabriel Gisabwamana
BDI-60 - Jean Bosco Rutagengwa

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Murder
- ✓ Other acts of violence (concerning Mr. Ndiwokubwayo)
- ✓ Impunity

A. Summary of the case

This case concerns, on the one hand, the murders of Mr. Sylvestre Mfayokurera (September 1994), Mr. Innocent Ndikumana (January 1996), Mr. Gérard Gahungu (July 1996), Mr. Paul Sirahenda (September 1997), Mr. Gabriel Gisabwamana (January 2000), Ms. Liliane Ntamutumba (July 1996) and Senator Jean Bosco Rutagengwa in 2002 and, on the other hand, two assassination attempts (September 1994 and December

Case BDI-COLL-01

Burundi: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victims: Eight members (seven men and one woman) of the majority

Qualified complainant: Section I.(1)(b), (c) and (d) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

Submission of complaints: August 1994, January and November 1996, February 1997

Recent IPU decision: February 2022

IPU Mission: [June 2013](#)

Recent Committee hearing: Hearing with the delegation of Burundi to the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025)

Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the Speaker of the National Assembly (March 2022)
- Communication from the complainant: July 2022
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of the National Assembly (September 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: February 2024

1995) targeting Mr. Norbert Ndiwokubwayo. These parliamentarians were members of the National Assembly of Burundi elected in 1993. Almost all of them belonged to the Burundi Front for Democracy (FRODEBU), which had won a majority in those elections. The assassinated parliamentarians were reportedly targeted because of their membership of that political party.

According to the complainant, these murders have never been examined in court in Burundi. The national authorities have systematically contended that the investigations into these cases fall not under the jurisdiction of the Burundian courts but of a transitional justice mechanism. A National Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established in Burundi in 2014.

In late 2018, the jurisdiction of the TRC was extended to cover all violations committed since 1885. In 2024, its jurisdiction was once again extended to include the processing of cases previously handled by the National Commission on Land and Other Assets. According to the complainant, the issue of the murdered parliamentarians has still not been put on the TRC's agenda, nor have the authorities taken any action to see that justice is served in these cases. In February 2021, the parliamentary authorities said that, given the complexity of their mission, the TRC members had not yet started working on the period under consideration involving the murdered parliamentarians but that the Commission might be working on these cases in the coming years.

The TRC submitted several progress reports to parliament in joint session. In 2023, in a solemn declaration, parliament encouraged the TRC to continue investigating the events that occurred during 1988 and 1991, and from 1993 to 2008.

During its hearing at the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025), the Burundian delegation confirmed that the TRC was continuing its work and making every effort to establish the truth and thus contribute to justice and reparation. The delegation also reaffirmed parliament's willingness to cooperate with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians in seeking a satisfactory solution to the cases before it, which are part of a broader context than the case of the eight parliamentarians currently under examination by the Committee. Lastly, the delegation invited the Committee to visit Burundi to learn more about the truth and reconciliation mechanisms currently in place and to continue cooperation efforts.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the delegation from the Burundi participating in the 151st IPU Assembly for the information provided and for the constructive spirit and openness to dialogue it demonstrated during its hearing with the Committee, as well as for the invitation to visit Burundi extended to the Committee; and *expresses the wish* to receive further information on dates convenient for the parliamentary authorities, so that this visit can take place as soon as possible;
2. *Emphasizes* the importance and complexity of the task entrusted to the TRC, given the mandate conferred on it by law and the wide historical period it has to examine; and *expresses the firm hope*, once more, that in carrying out its work it will pay particular attention to the political violence committed during the 1990s and 2000s, including the cases of the eight parliamentarians mentioned in the present case, as well as those of other parliamentarians murdered during that period;
3. *Calls on* the National Assembly and the Senate of Burundi, within the framework of their respective mandates and in full compliance with the legal mandate of the TRC, to make full use of their institutional prerogatives to facilitate and support the work of the TRC, so that it is able to conduct the necessary investigations into the present case as soon as possible; and *requests* them to keep it informed of the progress of the Commission's work, especially regarding the cases in question;
4. *Remains convinced* that the search for and establishment of the truth are prerequisites for enabling all segments of the Burundian population, without distinction, to move towards reconciliation; *also remains convinced* that, beyond the establishment of the truth, justice and reparation are also essential towards reconciliation; and *continues to hope* that a judicial mechanism will also be put in place in the future to punish the perpetrators of the serious human rights violations committed in the past and thus enable the victims to obtain justice and reparation in accordance with the international obligations of the Burundian State in this regard;

5. *Solemnly recalls* that impunity, by shielding those responsible from justice and accountability, is a decisive factor in encouraging the commission of other serious human rights violations, and that attempts on the lives of parliamentarians, when they go unpunished, not only violate the fundamental rights of the parliamentarians concerned and those of their constituents, but also undermine the integrity of parliament and compromise its ability to fulfil its mission as an institution; and *requests* the parliamentary authorities to keep it informed of any new developments and any action taken by parliament that may contribute to establishing the truth and the pursuit of justice in these cases;
6. *Sincerely believes* in the importance of ongoing and constructive dialogue with the national authorities, foremost among them the parliament of the country concerned, in order to achieve a lasting and satisfactory resolution of the cases before the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians; *encourages* in this regard the Burundian Parliament to maintain close and sustained cooperation with the Committee with a view to resolving these long-standing cases; *recalls* that the IPU stands ready to provide targeted assistance to strengthen parliament's capacity in the areas of human rights and the pursuit of truth, justice and reconciliation, if so requested, including with respect to domestic legislation and procedures applicable in this case; and *requests* the parliamentary authorities to provide more information on how the IPU could best provide such assistance;
7. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the parliamentary authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to provide relevant information;
8. *Decides* to continue the examination of these cases.