



Statement of Ireland

48th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi

23 September 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Commission of Inquiry and its members for their work throughout the duration of its important mandate.

Ireland is alarmed by the increase in arbitrary arrests of political opponents and reports of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture. Such violations and abuses of human rights undermine initial progress made by the Government of Burundi following the 2020 elections.

Ireland condemns the practice of impunity for human rights violations and abuses and calls upon the Government of Burundi to hold all perpetrators, regardless of their affiliation, accountable for their actions, and to ensure that victims can seek justice and legal redress through an impartial and independent judicial system.

Ireland once again strongly urges the Government of Burundi to resume cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms, including constructive engagement with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Commissioner, noting the ongoing challenges in relation to justice and accountability, can you elaborate on the priority reforms required to ensure all Burundians can avail of an impartial and independent judicial system?

Thank you.