

Mme Domine Banyankimbona
Minister of Justice
PO Box: 1880
Bujumbura
Burundi

Emmen, maart 2023

Dear Minister,

I am appalled by the conviction and arbitrary detention of journalist Floriane Irangabiye who on 2 January 2023 was sentenced to 10 years in prison and a one million Burundian francs fine by the High Court of Mukaza in Bujumbura for "undermining the integrity of the national territory". Her lawyers appealed this decision on 23 January 2023.

Floriane Irangabiye was arrested on 30 August 2022. She was held without being formally charged until October 2022. Among other 'evidence', the prosecution presented comments made during the broadcasting of Radio Igicaniro, where she and her guests criticized the government of Burundi.

Floriane Irangabiye's unfair prosecution is motivated by continuous efforts by Burundian authorities to clamp down on peaceful dissent, despite multiple promises by President Evariste Ndayishimiye to improve the country's human rights situation.

I urge you to instruct the Prosecutor General of the Republic to ensure that Floriane Irangabiye is immediately and unconditionally released.

Yours sincerely,