

Burundi

Burundi is a Member State of the African Union (AU) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: African System



Burundi has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which reviews the State's reports concerning its human rights situation and decides complaints of alleged violations. Additionally, Burundi has accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to hear complaints presented by the Commission, African intergovernmental organizations, and States parties to the African Charter.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Burundi to the [African human rights system](#). For example, the ACHPR determined the State violated the right to access legal

counsel in the case of a man who was sentenced to death after he was denied legal counsel and was forced to provide his own legal defense. See ACommHPR, *Avocats Sans Frontières (on behalf of Gaëtan Bwampamye) v. Burundi*, Communication No. 231/99, 28th Ordinary Session, 6 November 2000, paras. 1–10. Additionally, the ACHPR has issued [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Burundi.

Burundi has submitted two [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted several missions to Burundi including promotion missions in [2000](#) and [2004](#), a research and information visit regarding indigenous persons and communities in [2005](#), and a fact-finding mission on ongoing human rights violations in [2015](#).

Burundi has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Burundi is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Burundi's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of two treaty bodies. The Human Rights Council established the [Commission of Inquiry](#) on Burundi in September 2016, to investigate human rights violations in the country.

Burundi has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Burundi has also ratified the Optional Protocol to CAT and the optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Burundi has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Burundi has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis and describe the steps Burundi has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Burundi has ratified [optional protocols](#) or made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the CAT and CRPD. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Burundi has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT and CRPD.

On June 6, 2013, Burundi extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Burundi. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence visited Burundi in [2015](#) and published a [report](#) on that visit in August 2015.

For more information on Burundi's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/BIIndex.aspx>.

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