



Statement of Ireland

46th session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi

10 March 2021

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Commission of Inquiry for this update and for their ongoing work.

Ireland continues to be deeply concerned about reports of human rights violations and abuses, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture. Ireland again calls on the Government of Burundi to take concrete actions to end human rights violations and abuses and to ensure their full and independent investigation.

Ireland notes with concern the continued limitations placed on freedom of expression in Burundi. We call on the Burundian government to lift measures restricting freedom of expression, ensuring that journalists and media workers as well as human rights defenders can conduct their work without undue interference.

Ireland acknowledges statements by the Government of Burundi signalling positive intent to respect human rights and democratic values, uphold the rule of law, and fight impunity. Ireland urges the Government to engage with OHCHR and all UN Human Rights mechanisms in a constructive manner to achieve these goals, and to engage fully with the Commission of Inquiry, granting full access and the protections required to complete the Commission's important mandate.

Members of the Commission, what in your assessment is the likelihood that substantive reform will follow public statements by the Government of Burundi signalling intent to improve the human rights situation? How can the international community best support progress in this regard?

Thank you.