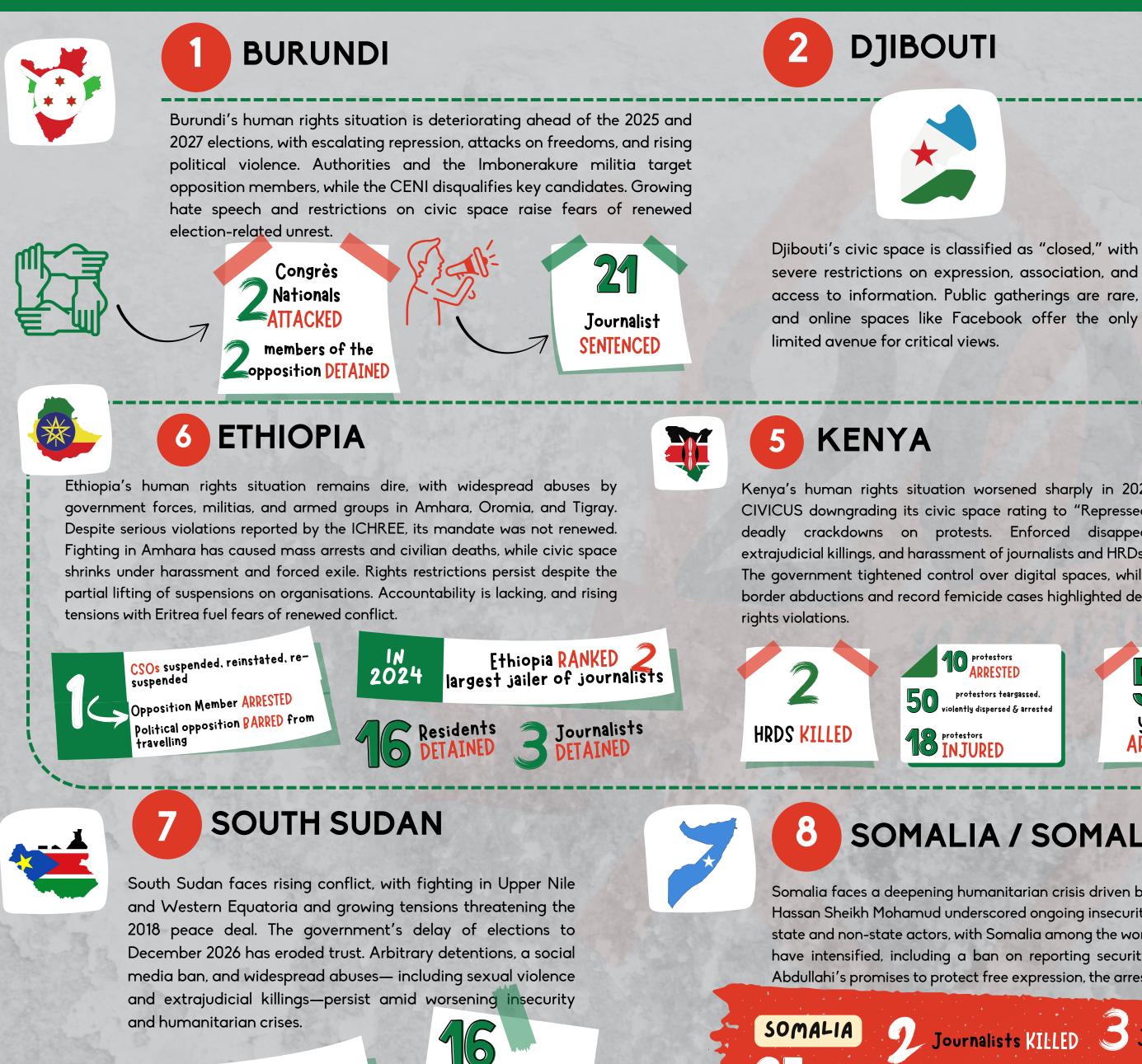
## **BI-ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT** OCTOBER 2024 - MAY 2025







Political detainees RELEASED

South Sudanese nationals KILLED



#### 3 ERITREA

Eritrea remains under authoritarian rule with one of the world's most restricted civic spaces. The government suppresses freedoms and remains the largest jailer of journalists in sub-Saharan Africa. Amid regional tensions, authorities intensified military mobilisation and exit restrictions. Eritrea ended its UN Human Rights Council term in 2024 without improving its rights record or cooperating with UN mechanisms.

### Eritrea RANKED the largest jailer of journalists

IN 2024

Kenya's human rights situation worsened sharply in 2024, with CIVICUS downgrading its civic space rating to "Repressed" after deadly crackdowns on protests. Enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and harassment of journalists and HRDs surged. The government tightened control over digital spaces, while crossborder abductions and record femicide cases highlighted deepening

> protestors RRESTED protestors teargassed, iolently dispersed & arrested



### RWANDA

Rwanda's human rights record remains troubling amid continued suppression of dissent and civic space. Escalating tensions with the DRC have worsened the security crisis, prompting international condemnation, sanctions, and suspended cooperation. The fallout with Belgium threatens NGO funding, deepening pressure on civil society and human rights defenders.





### SOMALIA / SOMALILAND

50

Youths

ARRESTED

Somalia faces a deepening humanitarian crisis driven by drought, conflict, and political instability. A March 2025 bomb attack targeting President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud underscored ongoing insecurity and threats from Al-Shabaab. Freedom of expression remains severely restricted by both state and non-state actors, with Somalia among the world's most dangerous countries for journalists. Arbitrary arrests, intimidation, and censorship have intensified, including a ban on reporting security incidents in Mogadishu. In Somaliland, despite new President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi's promises to protect free expression, the arrest of journalist Shafi'i Abdi Mohamed in early 2025 raises serious concerns.





Journalists <mark>KILLED</mark>

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Two years into the SAF-RSF conflict, Sudan faces a dire human rights and humanitarian crisis. Civilians endure attacks on homes, hospitals, schools, and IDP camps, alongside reports of sexual violence, disappearances, and ethnic killings. Civic space has collapsed, with at least 12 journalists killed and many detained. The conflict has caused the world's largest displacement crisis, with 30.4 million people needing aid, including 16 million children. Famine conditions, blocked aid, and destroyed infrastructure have deepened suffering, as SAF regains Khartoum and RSF consolidates in Darfur, raising fears of prolonged violence.

Humanitarian workers



Ahead of the 2025 elections, Tanzania's political space has sharply narrowed. Opposition figures face arrests, disappearances, and killings, while CHADEMA was disqualified over procedural issues after boycotting a flawed process. The treason case against its leader Tundu Lissu deepens concerns over electoral integrity. Freedom of expression remains restricted, with censorship, arrests under the Cybercrimes Act, and increased surveillance of social media.

TANZANIA

#### **Political opposition** member CHARGED with TREASON

30-day suspension order on online publication

Journalist ABDUCTED

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Urge all states parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to protect HRDs, by strictly adhering to the provisions of the Charter and other international and regional instruments to which they are parties, as well as the United Nations Declaration on HRDs.
- Call on governments to end the excessive use of force, including tear gas, bullets, and arrests, during peaceful protests and ensure law enforcement officers adhere to international standards on the use of force and firearms, to ensure the safety and rights of demonstrators.
- Urge all countries to strengthen monitoring and accountability mechanisms to address human rights violations, foster a culture where perpetrators are held accountable for their actions especially in election processes.
- Urge all governments to cease the intimidation and harassment of opposition figures, allow them to freely express their views and participate in political processes without fear of reprisal. • Call on the governments of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda to immediately end abductions, torture, and extrajudicial killings by security and intelligence agencies, and to ensure independent
- investigations, prosecution of perpetrators, and access to justice and reparations for victims and their families.
- Call on the Ethiopian government to end all restrictions on civil society organisations, including surveillance, harassment and to ensure these organisations can operate freely.
- Urge all countries to protect freedom of expression, end the arrests and intimidation of journalists and HRDs, enact laws that guarantee their rights to report and advocate freely to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Call on the government of Somalia to uphold press freedom by allowing journalists to report freely and safely on issues of insecurity, conflict, and governance, and to end the harassment, arbitrary arrests, and censorship of media professionals in line with regional and international human rights standards.
- Call on the government of Tanzania to respect the rights of indigenous populations in Ngorongoro, end the forced relocation of Maasai communities and restore their access to essential services and cultural sites.
- Call on all parties to the conflict in Sudan to end the long-standing conflict.
- Urge all parties to the conflict in Sudan to grant immediate and unhindered access to humanitarian aid across the country, especially in conflict-affected areas, to address the urgent needs of millions facing hunger and impending famine.
- Call on the Joint Fact-Finding Mission into the human rights situation in Sudan established as per ACHPR Resolution 590 to ensure the complementarity of its efforts with those of other actors, in particular the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Fact-Finding Mission established by the UN Human Rights Council, and other appropriate regional and international entities.
- Call on the government of Eritrea and Djibouti to ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society to flourish and protect the rights of all individuals to freely express their opinions.
- Call on the governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea to exercise restraint, prioritize dialogue, and resolve disputes through peaceful and diplomatic means, in order to prevent the escalation of tensions into armed conflict and to safeguard regional peace, security, and the rights of affected populations.
- Call on the government of Rwanda to engage in constructive dialogue with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and regional actors to find a peaceful resolution to ongoing conflict.



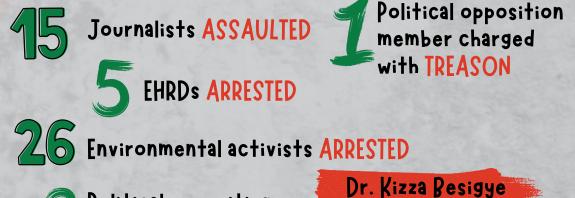


Main opposition party, DISQUALIFIED from 2025 Elections

Uganda saw escalating rights violations, with security forces targeting journalists, environmental HRDs, and opposition figures. Media professionals covering elections faced beatings, arrests, and equipment destruction, undermining press freedom. Opposition supporters endured abductions and surveillance, while activists opposing the EACOP project faced intimidation and arrests, further shrinking civic space.

ABDUCTED

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Political opposition members **ABDUCTED**