



BI-ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT OCTOBER 2024 - MAY 2025



1 BURUNDI

Burundi's human rights situation is deteriorating ahead of the 2025 and 2027 elections, with escalating repression, attacks on freedoms, and rising political violence. Authorities and the Imbonerakure militia target opposition members, while the CENI disqualifies key candidates. Growing hate speech and restrictions on civic space raise fears of renewed election-related unrest.



2 Congrès Nationaux **ATTACKED**
2 members of the opposition **DETAINED**



21 Journalist **SENTENCED**

2 DJIBOUTI



Djibouti's civic space is classified as "closed," with severe restrictions on expression, association, and access to information. Public gatherings are rare, and online spaces like Facebook offer the only limited avenue for critical views.

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**

6 ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia's human rights situation remains dire, with widespread abuses by government forces, militias, and armed groups in Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray. Despite serious violations reported by the ICHREE, its mandate was not renewed. Fighting in Amhara has caused mass arrests and civilian deaths, while civic space shrinks under harassment and forced exile. Rights restrictions persist despite the partial lifting of suspensions on organisations. Accountability is lacking, and rising tensions with Eritrea fuel fears of renewed conflict.

1 CSOs suspended, reinstated, re-suspended
Opposition Member **ARRESTED**
Political opposition **BARRED** from travelling

IN 2024 Ethiopia **RANKED 2** largest jailer of **journalists**

16 Residents **DETAINED** **3** Journalists **DETAINED**

5 KENYA



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 cross-border abductions and record femicide cases highlighted deepening rights violations.

2 HRDS **KILLED**

10 protesters **ARRESTED**
50 protesters teargassed, violently dispersed & arrested
18 protesters **INJURED**

50 Youths **ARRESTED**

4 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.

7 YEARS
YouTuber and government critic **SENTENCED**

7 SOUTH SUDAN



South Sudan faces rising conflict, with fighting in Upper Nile and Western Equatoria and growing tensions threatening the 2018 peace deal. The government's delay of elections to December 2026 has eroded trust. Arbitrary detentions, a social media ban, and widespread abuses—including sexual violence and extrajudicial killings—persist amid worsening insecurity and humanitarian crises.

16 Political detainees **RELEASED**

16 South Sudanese nationals **KILLED**

8 SOMALIA / SOMALILAND



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.

SOMALIA **2** Journalists **KILLED** **3** Journalists **ASSAULTED**
35 Journalists **DETAINED & RELEASED** **2** Journalists **ABDUCTED**
1 TV STATION **RAIDED**

SOMALILAND **1** Journalist **ARRESTED**
1 TV Station **CLOSED**

9 SUDAN



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.

12 Journalists **KILLED**

6 Humanitarian workers **DEAD**

10 TANZANIA



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.

1 Political opposition member **CHARGED** with **TREASON**

30-day suspension order on online publication

1 Journalist **ABDUCTED**

Main opposition party, **DISQUALIFIED** from 2025 Elections

11 UGANDA



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.

15 Journalists **ASSAULTED**

5 EHRDs **ARRESTED**

26 Environmental activists **ARRESTED**

2 Political opposition members **ABDUCTED**

1 Political opposition member charged with **TREASON**

Dr. Kizza Besigye **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, 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.