

Minister of Justice
Aimee Laurentine Kanyana
Ministry of Justice
BP 1305
BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, January 2019

Dear Minister,

I am writing to urge you to overturn human rights defender Germain Rukuki's conviction and immediately and unconditionally release him. Rukuki is the president of the community-based organization Njubutsa Tujane, an employee of the Burundian Catholic Lawyers Association, and worked with ACAT-Burundi when it was legally registered in Burundi. He was sentenced to 32 years in prison on 26 April 2018 solely for his human rights work.

Please ensure that, while in custody, he receives adequate medical treatment as required by his state of health.

Lastly, I urge you to end intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders.

I thank you for your attention and await your reply.

Yours sincerely,