



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the Office of the United Nations and  
to the other International Organizations  
Geneva

**36<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Geneva, 18th September 2017**

**Item 4 - Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry  
on Republic of Burundi**

**German Statement**

Mr President,

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

We would like to thank the CoI for its report. We deeply regret that the Government of Burundi, a member of this Council, refuses to cooperate with this CoI and the OHCHR office in Bujumbura. We are alarmed by reports that gunmen forcibly entered the OHCHR office in Bujumbura on 13 September. We call on Burundi to respect its duty to protect diplomatic staff and premises.

Germany is deeply concerned about the dire human rights situation in Burundi taking into account the persistence of severe human rights violations, the atmosphere of impunity and the considerable reduction of democratic space. We are deeply concerned that the CoI has reasonable grounds to believe that crimes against humanity have been committed and continue to be committed in Burundi since April 2015.

We call upon the Government of Burundi to assume its obligations and to do everything possible to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. We urge the Burundian authorities to immediately end impunity by investigating and prosecuting all perpetrators.

Germany calls upon the government to urgently engage in a constructive and inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue with all relevant actors. In this regard, Germany welcomes and supports the efforts of the EAC.

Germany would like to commend its African partners for their work and support offered to the CoI and encourages them to continue with their effort to end violence in Burundi.

Germany would like to ask the CoI: What can the international community do to support your work and how can the cooperation between the government of Burundi and your mandate be encouraged?

Thank you.