

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



GERMAIN RUKUKI, BURUNDI

**JAILED FOR
32 YEARS
FOR DEFENDING
HUMAN RIGHTS**



GERMAIN RUKUKI, BURUNDI

Before his arrest, Germain Rukuki liked nothing more than playing with his sons, now aged six and seven. He also loved music. Bob Marley's "Redemption Song" is a favourite – an apt choice, as it turns out.

Early one July morning in 2017, Germain and his wife, Emelyne Mupfasoni, were woken by heavy footsteps and banging on their door. Dozens of members of the security forces had piled into their compound. Emelyne was just weeks away from giving birth to their third child.

Officers interrogated the couple, both workers with NGOs. They arrested Germain and transferred him to Ngozi prison in northern Burundi where he is today.



On April 26th 2018, Germain was found guilty of many fake charges, including "rebellion" and "threatening State security". His previous association with the NGO ACAT-Burundi (Action by Christians for Abolition of Torture) was used against him. ACAT-Burundi had been shut down in 2016 for allegedly "tarnishing the image of the country." But the prosecution's "evidence" during the trial was an email Germain had written to them when they were still legal.

Germain was sentenced to 32 years in prison. He has never seen his three-year-old son. "For how long must my husband suffer this injustice?" asks Emelyne.

Tell Burundi to free Germain now.

WRITE TO THE PRESIDENT OF BURUNDI

Ask him to release Germain immediately and unconditionally.

President Évariste Ndayishimiye

c/o Embassy of Burundi
350 Albert St, Suite 410
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 1A4

Email: presidence@burundi.gov.bi / ambabottawa@yahoo.ca

Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram:
[@GeneralNeva](https://www.instagram.com/GeneralNeva)

Salutation: Dear Mr President

HELP KEEP GERMAIN'S SPIRIT STRONG

Send your message of support to Germain or his wife Emelyne. You may include the Kirundi words: *Komera Turikumwe!* ("Stay strong, we are together!").

Amnesty International

c/o Burundi Team
Regional Office for East Africa, the Horn and Great Lakes
Riverside Studios, Riverside Lane,
Off Riverside Drive
P.O Box 1527-00606
Nairobi, Kenya

Email: burunditeam@amnesty.org

December 2020

Index: AFR 16/2573/2020 English

Cover photograph: ©Private

Script development: ©David Hunter

Back page image: © CC