

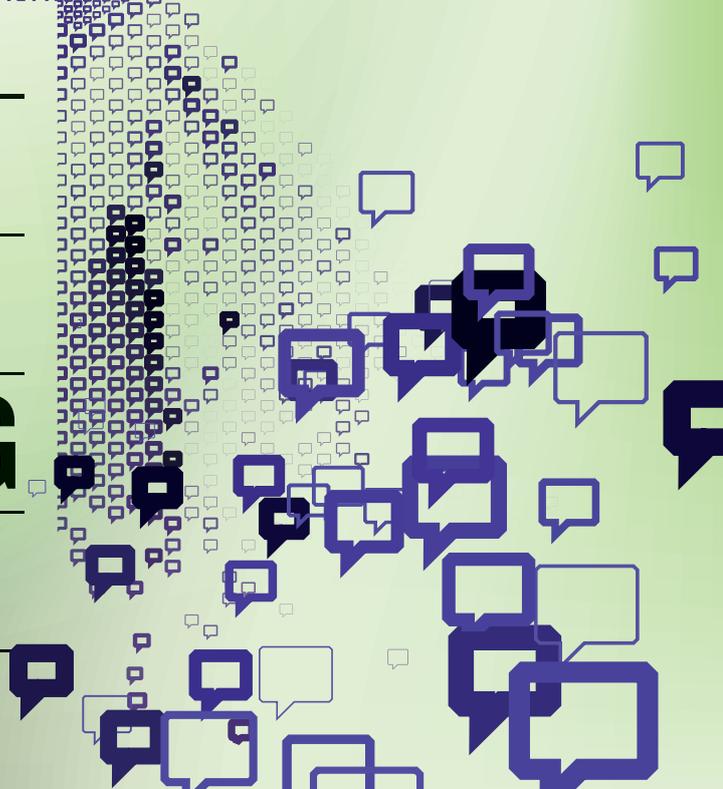
**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



GERMAIN RUKUKI, BURUNDI

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



GERMAIN RUKUKI, BURUNDI

In better times, Germain Rukuki liked nothing more than playing with his sons, now aged six and seven. He also loved music, Bob Marley's "Redemption Song" being a favourite – an apt choice, as it would later turn out.

It was early one morning in July 2017 when Germain and his wife, Emelyne Mupfasoni, were woken by heavy footfall 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 NGO workers, in their home. They arrested Germain, later transferring him to Ngozi prison, northern Burundi, where he remains to this day.



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

Germain was sentenced to 32 years in prison. He and his three-year-old son have never laid eyes on each other. "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 of the Republic

Ntare Rushatsi House
Bujumbura
Burundi

Email: presidence@burundi.gov.bi
[@GeneralNeva](#) – Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

Salutation: Dear Mr President

HELP KEEP GERMAIN'S SPIRIT STRONG

Send your messages of support to Germain or his wife Emelyne, including the Kirundi words: Komera Turikumwe! ("Stay strong, we are together!").

Amnesty International

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