



## **Statement No. 002 CDH/VICAR 2026 on the Current Situation of Burundian Refugees in Tanzania**

The Coalition for the Defense of Human Rights Living in Refugee Camps (CDH/VICAR) expresses its deep concern over the continued deterioration of the situation of Burundian refugees in Tanzania, particularly in the Nduta and Nyarugusu camps.

For several weeks, the demolition of shelters and the pressures exerted on Burundian refugees have created a climate of insecurity depriving many families of any minimal protection. Women, men, and children are thus left without shelter, exposed to harsh weather conditions and extreme vulnerability, in a context where the conditions for a free choice regarding their future no longer appear to be met.

CDH/VICAR reminds that any measure having the effect of forcing refugees to return to their country of origin constitutes a serious violation of the principle of non-refoulement, a fundamental principle of international refugee law. Return can only be considered legitimate if it is voluntary, free, informed, and dignified, without intimidation or material or administrative pressure.

Considering this alarming situation, CDH/VICAR:

- Strongly condemns any demolition of shelters or action likely to force a non-voluntary return;
- Calls on the Government of Tanzania to immediately end any direct or indirect coercive measures against Burundian refugees and to guarantee effective protection, including access to emergency shelter, humanitarian assistance, and accessible complaint mechanisms;
- Calls on the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to fully exercise its protection mandate, prevent any form of forced return, and ensure effective access to humanitarian assistance and protection mechanisms;
- Urges international partners and protection organizations to urgently deploy independent monitoring and verification mechanisms;

- Invites the international community to act without delay to preserve the dignity, safety, and fundamental rights of the refugees concerned.

CDH/VICAR reaffirms its unwavering solidarity with Burundian refugees and reiterates its commitment to documenting, alerting, and advocating for the effective protection of their rights, in accordance with international protection standards.

**Done on 12 February 2026**

**For CDH/VICAR**

**Léopold Sharangabo**

