



**STATEMENT No. 006 CDH/VICAR 2026 ON THE FORCED REPATRIATION OF
BURUNDIAN REFUGEES IN NYARUGUSU CAMP, TANZANIA**

The Coalition for the Defense of Human Rights of People Living in Refugee Camps (CDH/VICAR) wishes to draw the attention of the international community to serious concerns regarding the ongoing screening process currently being conducted among Burundian refugees in Nyarugusu Camp, Tanzania.

Since April 2026, following the closure of Nduta Camp, Tanzanian authorities have initiated a new process of reviewing the cases of Burundian refugees residing in Nyarugusu. However, numerous testimonies collected by our organization indicate serious irregularities that may undermine the fundamental principles of international refugee protection.

According to information documented by our organization:

- interviews are conducted in an atmosphere of fear and intimidation;
- several refugees report that they were not given sufficient time to explain their fears and personal circumstances;
- interviews are mainly conducted in Swahili without adequate interpretation services;
- some refugees report psychological pressure and intimidating behavior;
- allegations of corruption have also been reported during the process.

CDH/VICAR is particularly concerned that several refugees with high-risk profiles, including political opponents, members of civil society, as well as former military personnel, are reportedly among those being considered for forced return to Burundi.

Many refugees continue to fear for their safety upon return, citing risks of persecution, arbitrary arrest, torture, enforced disappearances, or other serious human rights violations.

CDH/VICAR recalls that the principle of non-refoulement is a fundamental obligation under international law and prohibits the return of any person to a country where their life or freedom would be threatened.

In light of this concerning situation, CDH/VICAR calls on the Government of Tanzania to respect the conventions it has signed and ratified relating to refugees.

CDH/VICAR also calls upon international human rights protection mechanisms, the United Nations, humanitarian organizations, and international partners to:

- carefully examine the reported irregularities;
- support advocacy efforts in favor of the affected refugees;
- promote an independent and impartial assessment of the screening process in Nyarugusu;
- take all necessary measures to ensure effective protection for the affected Burundian refugees.

CDH/VICAR remains available to provide additional information and further testimonies regarding the situation.

Done at 21 May 2026

For CDH/VICAR

Léopold Sharangabo

