**Universal Periodic Review 29 – The Republic of Burundi**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

(speaking time 1:15)

Thank you.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks the Republic of Burundi for its report.

We remain seriously concerned about the general lack of progress on human rights in Burundi, especially since the political crisis of 2015, and despite some improvement in the security situation since then.

1. Firstly, we recommend immediate independent investigations into allegations of extrajudicial executions, excessive use of force by security forces, forced disappearance, and arbitrary detention, and where there is sufficient admissible evidence, to prosecute those responsible.
2. Secondly, we recommend to end all acts of reprisal, intimidation and harassment against journalists and media in- and outside Burundi, and to avoid new legal restrictions on media independence.

Mr President,

The Netherlands recognizes the positive step in allowing journalists to keep sources confidential, and to report on national security and the national currency. However, we remain concerned about the continuing shrinking space for media in Burundi and notice rising hostility towards, and intimidation of, journalists.

Thank you.