

URGENT ACTION

JAILED DOCTOR NEEDS URGENT MEDICAL CARE

Dr. Christophe Sahabo, a Burundian doctor, was arrested on April 1, 2022 over a dispute regarding the management of Kira hospital and has remained in detention ever since. On September 10, he vomited and collapsed during a trial hearing. He was admitted to the hospital, but transferred back to Ruyigi Prison on September 12, while still undergoing treatment. His medical condition is serious and potentially life-threatening if he does not receive urgent medical attention. Family members were refused access to visit him in prison on September 14 and were not allowed to bring him medicines. The authorities must immediately allow him unfettered access to all necessary medical care.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 82.24**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Mme Domine Banyankimbona
Ministre de la Justice
BP 1880
Bujumbura, Burundi
Emails: minjustice.burundi@gmail.com
infos@burundi.justice.gov.bi
Twitter/X: [@MiniJustice_BDI](https://twitter.com/MiniJustice_BDI)

CC: Burundi Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Jean Bosco Barege
2233 Wisconsin Avenue, NW,
Washington DC 20007
Email: burundiembusadc@gmail.com
Phone: (202) 342-2574

Dear Minister,

I am alarmed by the poor state of health of **Dr. Christophe Sahabo**, who has been detained since April 1, 2022. He needs urgent medical attention.

On September 10, 2024, Dr. Christophe Sahabo attended a trial hearing at Muha High Court in Bujumbura. The hearing was suspended after he vomited and collapsed in court. He was admitted to hospital where he underwent tests and began treatment. Despite a recommendation to maintain him under medical observation for several days, Dr. Christophe Sahabo was transferred back to Ruyigi Prison on the evening of September 12 – a journey of approximately 160 km. His family members were refused access to visit him in prison on September 14 and were not allowed to hand over medication they had brought for him.

At Amnesty International's request, two independent doctors reviewed Dr. Christophe Sahabo's medical notes and test results. They confirmed that his condition was potentially life-threatening and that he requires urgent medical attention.

In light of the above, I urge you to ensure that Dr. Christophe Sahabo immediately receives appropriate medical attention and has unfettered access to his family and lawyers.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dr. Christophe Sahabo, managing director of Kira Hospital in Bujumbura, was arrested in April 2022, alongside JeanDavid Pillot, chair of the hospital's board of directors. The latter was released after one night in detention, but Christophe Sahabo remained in detention for several days without access to his family or lawyers of his choosing. He was detained in a National Intelligence Service (SNR) cell where he spent more than 30 days before being presented to a magistrate and transferred to Mpimba prison. On September 29, 2022, he was transferred to Ruyigi prison, approximately 160km from Bujumbura, where his case is being heard. His family and lawyers alleged that he was put under pressure and forced to resign from his role at Kira Hospital over unsubstantiated claims of fraud, money laundering, and forging documents. One of his lawyers said that a recent financial audit, commissioned by Kira Hospital interim officials, found no wrongdoing on Christophe Sahabo's account. On September 27, 2022, his brother and lawyer were arrested and accused by the prosecutor general of forging the minutes of the Kira Hospital's general assembly meeting that reinstated Christophe Sahabo as director. His lawyer was released on October 7, 2022, after recusing herself from the case. His brother was also released the same day.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: French or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: March 16, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Christophe Sahabo (he/him)