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## Press Release

The Burundian Journalists' Union strongly condemns the continued detention of La Nova online media Journalist Sandra Muhoza, a decision made in violation of all principles of law.

Sandra Muhoza's appearance before Mukaza council chamber on May 6th had sparked hope but on Monday, May 13th, those hopes were dashed as the judges decided to keep her in the cells of Mpimba.

*"This decision once again proves that politics interfere with the work of judges because the judgment rendered has no legal basis,"* regrets Alexandre Niyungeko, president of UBJ, while once again condemning the interference of power in judicial affairs.

Sandra Muhoza was incarcerated at the Mpimba prison in the economic capital Bujumbura on April 18, 2024, after a week of detention in the cells of the National Intelligence Service. For a comment she made in a WhatsApp group, Sandra Muhoza is being prosecuted for endangering state security and ethnic aversion. She is the second female journalist to be jailed for her work since she joined in prison Floriane Irangabiye was sentenced to ten years for the same crime of endangering the internal security of the state.

UBJ once again appeals to the Burundian justice system to introspect and restore its image so that finally judges can uphold the law because the place of Sandra Muhoza and Floriane Irangabiye is not in prison.

A few days ago, the national assembly adopted a bill partially decriminalizing press offenses, but for many media professionals, as long as the judge remains the sole authority to qualify a press offense, especially with the opacity surrounding the offense of endangering the internal security of the state, optimism is no longer appropriate.