

Aline Sandra Muhoza
Ngozi Central Prison
Ngozi
Burundi

16 December 2025

Dear Sandra,

We write to you as your fellow African women journalists, to express our solidarity amid your ongoing unjust imprisonment. We continue to think of you, and to call for your freedom.

We know that you were arrested in April 2024 for expressing your opinion in a journalists' WhatsApp group. We were deeply disappointed to learn of your conviction in December 2024 and the 21-month prison sentence that followed. While the Bujumbura Mairie Court of Appeal's May 30, 2025 decision — which invalidated the court proceedings that led to your conviction — was welcome, we have watched with dismay as authorities now pursue new judicial proceedings against you. Your imprisonment is profoundly unjust and robs the Burundian media community and the public of an important voice.

Some of us are mothers, and we recognize how painful it must be to be separated from your family and your young children, especially as Christmas and the New Year draw near. This is a pain no parent should ever endure. We have also learned of your ongoing illness, which makes it difficult for you to walk, and we cannot imagine the hardship of facing these health challenges while in prison. The strength with which you endure all of this is a testament to your resilience and courage.

We want to reassure you that journalists across Africa and around the world are following your case closely. Many are committed to advocating for your freedom, and we will continue to raise our voices in demanding your immediate and unconditional release. We hope this knowledge brings you some encouragement and strength during this dark and difficult time. We remain confident that good news will soon arrive, and that you will be reunited with your family and allowed to resume your work as a journalist.

Your sisters in solidarity and hope,

1. Abigail Arunga (Kenya)
2. Alide Dasnois (South Africa)
3. Amina Wako (Eastleigh Voice/Kenya)
4. Aminata Sanogo (Côte d'Ivoire)
5. Amuna Wagner (Sudan)
6. Ana Jenario (Gem/Angola)
7. Angela Daniels (Nelson Mandela Bay Bureau Editor, Daily Maverick/South Africa)

8. Angela Quintal (Africa Director, Committee to Protect Journalists/South Africa)
9. Anne Anjao (Kenya)
10. Anso Thom (Deputy Editor, Daily Maverick/South Africa)
11. Bibi Ayesha Mall (South Africa)
12. Bolanle Olabimran (Nigeria)
13. Bunmi Yekini (Publisher, Heapnews.ng /Nigeria)
14. Caryn Dolley, (Senior Journalist, Daily Maverick/South Africa)
15. Chiara Carter (South Africa)
16. Codou Loum (Senegal)
17. Comfort Musa (Journalist/Cameroon)
18. De Laure Nesmon (Lemediacitoyen.com/Côte d'Ivoire)
19. Dinesh Balliah (Wits University/South Africa)
20. Dieynaba Thiombane (Senegal)
21. Dorcas Wangira (Kenya)
22. Dorica Mtenje (Malawi)
23. Dorothy Kweyu (Kenya)
24. Elza Sandrine Sawadogo (Burkina Faso)
25. Emelda Libinga Musonda (Managing Editor & Deputy Managing Director, Zambia Daily Mail)
26. Emsie Ferreira (South Africa)
27. Evelyn Okakwu (Nigeria)
28. Faith Zaba (Editor, Zimbabwe Independent)
29. Fatma Mbacké (Senegal)
30. Fatu Camara (Founder & CEO, The Fatu Network/The Gambia)
31. Ferial Haffajee (Associate Editor, Daily Maverick/South Africa)
32. Flore Monteau (Togo)
33. Gaëlle Borgia (Freelance journalist/Madagascar)
34. Genevieve Quintal (South Africa)
35. Geralda Embaló (Executive Director, Nova Gazeta/Angola)
36. Glenda Daniels (Wits University/South Africa)
37. Halima Athumani (Uganda)
38. Hayatte Abdou (Comoros)
39. Heather Robertson (Editor, DM168/South Africa)
40. Indira Baldé (SINJOTECS/Guinea Bissau)
41. Irene Ayaa (South Sudan)
42. Isatou Keita (The Gambia Press Union)
43. Jamila Mohamed (Managing Editor, Citizen TV/ Kenya)
44. Janet Heard (South Africa)
45. Jemima Beukes (Founder & Editor-in-Chief, The Whistle/ Namibia)
46. Jillian Green (Editor-In-Chief, Daily Maverick/South Africa)

47. Joan Chirwa (Founder, Free Press Initiative/ Zambia)
48. Joke Kujenya (Nigeria)
49. Joyce Shebe (Chief Editor, Clouds Media Group & Former Chairperson of Tanzania Media Women's Association/Tanzania).
50. Judith Basutama (Burundi)
51. Judy Sandison (South Africa)
52. Juliana Francis (Freelancer, securitynewsalert.com /Nigeria)
53. Kate Skinner (Association of Independent Publishers /South Africa)
54. Kath Magrobi (Quote This Woman+/South Africa)
55. Kathambi Ruchiami (Kenya)
56. Khadija Patel (South Africa)
57. Lady Ejiro Umukoro (Publisher/CVO, LightRay! Media/Nigeria)
58. Linda Ngari (Kenya)
59. Lucia Poorter (Editor/South Africa)
60. Lydia Felly Akullu (Uganda)
61. Lydia Namubiru (Editor-in-Chief, The Continent/South Africa & Uganda)
62. Maimouna Lo (Mauritanie)
63. Margaret Vuchiri (Uganda)
64. Marianne Thamm (Associate Editor, Daily Maverick/South Africa)
65. Marion Edmunds (Freelance Journalist & Documentary Maker/South Africa)
66. Mary Mwendwa(Editor, Talkafrica/Kenya)
67. Maya Misikir (Ethiopia)
68. Melini Moses (Express Yourself/South Africa)
69. Mia Malan (South Africa)
70. Mimi Mefo Newuh (Editor-in-Chief, MMI News/Cameroon)
71. Miriam Mbithe (Kenya)
72. Moipone Malefane (South Africa)
73. Mukosha Funga (Zambia)
74. Muthoki Mumo (Africa Program Coordinator, Committee to Protect Journalists/Kenya)
75. Muzinga Julienne (Burundi)
76. Mwape Barbara Kumwenda (Managing Director, Crown TV/Zambia)
77. Mzuri Issa Ali (Tanzania)
78. Nadia Neophytou (South Africa & USA)
79. Naipanoi Lepapa (Kenya)
80. Nancy Booker (Aga Khan University/Kenya)
81. Nandudu Diana Flavia Okia (Human Rights Network for Journalists-Uganda)
82. Ndeye Fatou Diery Diagne (Senegal)
83. Ndiémé Faye (Senegal)
84. Nechama Brodie (Wits University/South Africa)

85. Neo Ntsoma (Independent Photo Editor/South Africa)
86. Ngina Kirori (Investigative Journalist/Kenya)
87. Njeri Mwangi (Kenya)
88. Njeri Rugene (Executive Director, The Woman's Newsroom Foundation & AMWIK member/Kenya)
89. Nompilo Simanje (International Press Institute/Zimbabwe)
90. Nyawira Gichangi (Kenya)
91. Olufunke Fayemi (Assistant Director, English: Voice of Nigeria/ Nigeria)
92. Pamella Makotsi Sittoni (Kenya)
93. Patience Zirima (Zimbabwe)
94. Paula Fray (fraymedia Foundation/South Africa)
95. Paula Silva Melo (President, Women in Media Association (AMPROCS)/ Guinea-Bissau)
96. Pauline Traoré (Consultante/formatrice en intégrité de l'information - EMI/Ivory Coast)
97. Penda Thiam (Senegal)
98. Phathiswa Magopeni (Executive Director, Press Council SA/South Africa)
99. Queenter Mbori (ED, Association of Media Women in Kenya)
100. R Joyclyn Wea (Senior Correspondent, New Narratives/ Liberia)
101. Rachael Akidi (Founder & Lead Editor, Reebo/Uganda)
102. Rachel Mugarura-Mutana (African Centre for Media Excellence/Uganda)
103. Rachel Ombaka (Kenya)
104. Rael Ombuor (Kenya)
105. Rebeca Mutiso (Kenya)
106. Robi Koki Ochieng (Chairperson, Association of Media Women in Kenya)
107. Rosie Pioth (Republic of the Congo)
108. Rossana Almeida (TCV/ Cape Verde)
109. Ruvimbo Muchenje (Zimbabwe)
110. Ruvimbo Nyikadzino (Zimbabwe)
111. Samira Sabou (Niger)
112. Silaide Muthema (Media Institute of Southern Africa,Mozambique)
113. Simegnish Mengesha (Ethiopia)
114. Slindile Khanyile (CEO and Editor, Likhanyile Group/South Africa)
115. Suelly de Melo (Radio Essencial/Angola)
116. Susan Makore (Vice chairperson, Africa Media Convention/Zimbabwe)
117. Sylvie Ouedraogo (Togo)
118. Taryn De Vega (Rhodes University/South Africa)
119. Thandeka Gqubule-Mbeki (South Africa)
120. Thierryve Ndayishimiye (Correspondent VOA/Rwanda & Burundi)
121. Toepista Nabusoba (Kenya)

122. Tsedale Lemma (CEO, JAKENN Publishing PLC/ Ethiopia)
123. Tsion Tadesse (Editor, VOA Amharic Service/Ethiopia)
124. Verashni Pillay (Founder & Editor, explain.co.za/South Africa)
125. Victoria Rubadiri (Kenya)
126. Winnie Kamau (Association of Freelance Journalists/Kenya)
127. Zubeida Jaffer (Journalist, author & activist/South Africa)