

## **UM 9**

### **URGENT MOTION**

#### **IN SOLIDARITY WITH BURUNDI JOURNALISTS**

The IFJ Congress, taking place in Angers, France, 7 to 10 June, 2016

Noting with great concern the campaign of repression against the Burundi media and the terrible violations of journalists rights and freedom of expression including freedom of the press and of association

Condemning with all our energy the shameful assassination of Cameraman Christhope Nkezabahizi and his family on 13 October 2015:

Deploring the destruction of the independent media and the denial of information to the public

Deploring the continued arrest of Egide Mwemero, radio technicien of Radio Publique Africaine (RPA) on the Congolese territory since 13 October 2015

Deploring the harassment of journalists by the Bujumbura power, having forced a hundred journalists into exile since May 2015 including the leadership of our Burundi affiliate, the UBJ ;

#### **The IFJ Congress**

- Invites the Burundi authorities to end the massive repression of the media and to arrest those who assassinated Christophe Nkezabahizi and his family to bring them to justice
- Invites the Congolese authorities to free Egide Mwemero currently incarcerated, or at least to bring him before a judge if there are any charges against him;
- Reaffirms solidarity of the IFJ's global family with the Burundi journalists and its Burundi affiliate, the UBJ
- Calls for the opening of a new chapter in the relations between the media and the government free of all threats of repression and in which the government rebuilds a climate of confidence and democratic debate.
- Calls for the identity of those responsible for the destruction of the media to be established, for their opening and their reconstruction while guaranteeing more than ever the security conditions of journalists to restore the public's right to information.
- Demands that the new IFJ Executive Committee continues to support the UBJ and the Burundi journalists and to put in place a programme of urgent assistance to help journalists in exile to survive and to help the UBJ overcome its current challenges.

