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Mme Domine Banyankimbona  
Ministre de la Justice  
BP 1880  
Bujumbura  
Burundi

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Dear Minister,

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

On 10 September, 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 12 September – a journey of approximately 160 km. His family members were refused access to visit him in prison on 14 September 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 re-quires urgent medical attention.

The deliberate denial of medical care to prisoners has potentially fatal consequences and may constitute a violation to the right to life. The authorities’ deliberate denial of health care, causing severe pain and suffering, amounts to torture and other ill-treatment under international law. Under Burundian law (Article 33 of the 2017 law on the penitentiary system), detainees who are unwell have the right to be transferred to a medical institution for specialized care that is not available at the prison on the recommendation of the prison doctor.

**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,

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**Copie**

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