



international center for
**TRANSITIONAL
JUSTICE**

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30 November 2009

His Excellency Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza
President of the Republic of Burundi
Bujumbura
Burundi

Your Excellency,

The International Center for Transitional Justice would like to express its deep concern with the recent decision to overturn the registration of *Forum des Organizations de la Societe Civile (FORSC)* through the decree of the Minister of Interior on November 23, 2009. The decision to issue ministerial decree No. 530/1490 of 23/11/2009 is alarming as it is in breach of the law No 1/11 of 18/04/1992 governing the not-for-profit sector and also violates the Constitution of Burundi.

The decree compromises the important work begun--to secure Burundi's political space and consolidate democratic reforms that your Government has worked so hard to achieve. It is imperative that an active civil society is allowed to freely operate without fear.

We therefore urge you, as the Head of the Executive, to adjudicate the matter--and to ensure that FORSC's registration be reinstated as soon as possible.

Sincere regards,

Dr. Alex Boraine
Chairman of the Board and Acting President
International Center for Transitional Justice

cc: President of the Senate
Speaker of the National Assembly