



Office of the
Advocate General
for Scotland

The Right Honourable
Lord Stewart of Dirlerton KC

Advocate General for
Scotland

Baroness Whitaker

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

04 March 2024

Dear Baroness Whitaker,

**SAFETY OF RWANDA (ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION) BILL: HOUSE OF LORDS
COMMITTEE STAGE**

I am writing to follow up on the debate in the Lords on day three of Committee (Official Report, 19 February 2024, column 406) regarding the detention of the Journalist Dieudonné Niyonsenga.

You asked if the Government are aware of the general safety within the justice system of Rwanda, and whether we have made representations about the renewed detention and alleged torture of this journalist.

We are aware of the detention of Dieudonné Niyonsenga and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are monitoring the situation. The UK remains committed to working with Rwanda to support the development of its civil and political rights, and to address any concerns around the limited space for political opposition and critical voices. Where we have concerns about restrictions on political opposition, civil society and media freedom, the Home Office works with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to raise these with the Rwandan government, both directly and via our High Commission.

I am copying this letter to Baroness Chakrabarti, Baroness Hale of Richmond, The Lord Bishop of Chichester, Baroness Lister of Burtersett, Lord Deben, Lord Coaker, Lord Purvis of Tweed, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, Baroness Wheatcroft, Baroness Lister of Burtersett, Lord Hannay of Chiswick, Lord Kerr of Kinlochard, Lord Scriven, Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede.

I will also place a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON LORD STEWART OF DIRLETON KC