Policeman shoots journalist
by eNews Channel Africa
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Bujumbura - A journalist in Burundi has sustained serious injuries and is recovering in hospital after being shot by a police officer.

According to witness accounts of the incident on Saturday, the police officer opened fire on Patrick Niyonkurur after he saw him allegedly extorting money from men carrying fruit to market.

Niyonkuru, a local reporter, surprised the police officer in the capital before dawn on Saturday.

The officer allegedly beat up Niyonkuru and then shot him in the arm.

The policeman, identified as Pierre Havyarimana, was indicted for attempted homicide and tried in a fast-track procedure.

He received a 15-year prison term on Saturday evening.

"The policeman was to blame for what happened, and as you've seen he was immediately kicked out of the police and brought before the courts," said police spokesman Elie Bizindanvyi.

The attack comes one day after a journalist employed by a private TV station was attacked and wounded in his home by assailants armed with guns and machetes who made off with his computer and several recordings.

-Additional reporting Sapa