

## BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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*Monthly report « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

January 2017



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to January 2017, Iteka has documented at least 387 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS**

*ADB: African Development Bank*

*BRARUDI: Brasserie et Limonaderie du Burundi/Brewer and soft beverage company*

*BSPI: Special Brigade for the Protection of Institutions*

*CDS: Health Center*

*ICGLR: International Conference on the Great Lakes Region*

*CNDD FDD: National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy*

*CNI: National Identity Card*

*ICC: International Criminal Court*

*CCP: Code of Criminal Procedure*

*COMIFAC: Central African Forests Commission*

*HRD: Human Rights Defense*

*DPE: Provincial Direction of Education*

*EAC: East African Community*

*EALA: East African Legislative Assembly*

*ECOFO: Fundamental School/Ecole Fondamentale*

*FAB: Burundi Armed Forces*

*FDN: National Defence Force*

*FIDH: International Federation for Human Rights*

*FNL: National Liberation Forces*

*HCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

*HRW: Human Rights Watch*

*ISABU: Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi*

*MINUSCA: United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic*

*MP: Prosecution*

*NELCOM: Nile Basin Equatorial Lakes Countries*

*HRO : Human Rights Observateur*

*NGO : Non Gouvernemental Organisation*

*OPJ: Judicial Police Officer*

*PAFE: Air, Border and Foreigners Police*

*PBA: Participation to Armed Groups*

*DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo*

*SNR: National Intelligence Service*

*SOSUMO: Moso Sugar Company*

*TGI: High Court*

*UA: African Union*

*UPRONA: Union for National Progress*

*VOA: Voice of America*

## **0. INTRODUCTION**

In the first month of the New Year 2017, the human rights situation in Burundi remains a matter of concern. President Pierre Nkurunziza began with a speech announcing the apocalypse and what he said is slowly but surely being implemented. Despite the deregistration of Iteka League on 22 December 2016, we do not lose sight of the situation of human rights in our country. Thus, for this only month of January 2017, at least 26 people were killed, 20 tortured, 9 reported missing and 322 persons arrested arbitrarily. Police officers, SNR agents and soldiers together with Imbonerakure youth affiliated to CNDD-FDD ruling party are blamed for most of these human rights violations.

The phenomenon of corpses thrown here and there in nature, in rivers and in Lake Tanganyika is constantly being noted in our various reports. At least 22 corpses were recorded by Iteka League during this reporting period. The corpses discovered are quickly evacuated by the local administration which rushes to bury them without any form of investigation.

A mass grave was discovered in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province, where some sources say that this mass grave contains remnants of the bodies of young people opposed to President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term, while others believe that they are people killed in 1972.

The victims of arbitrary arrests, torture and enforced disappearances are alleged young people and opponents to CNDD-FDD, opposition political parties members, ex-FAB soldiers of Tutsi social origin still on duty or retired, and journalists.

This period was marked by an "armed attack" against the military camp of Mukoni in Muyinga province, which observers all agree to call a setup to justify a new wave of killings, torture and arrests against the Ex-FAB soldiers. At least 12 former ex-FAB soldiers of the Tutsi social component were arrested during this controversial attack invented by President Pierre Nkurunziza's security services.

He denounces a two-standard justice that considers political opponents to CNDD-FDD as criminals for this only reason not to join the ideology of this party.

The justice exploited by CNDD-FDD is called to hit hard against them while it turns its back on those close to this party.

The report addresses the right to food security, which is aggravated by measures of taxes rise in all sectors of life and all essentials for the purpose of bridging the general operating budget of the institutions to the detriment of the food survival of the Burundian population already precarious. The consequence is the famine that takes human lives in Burundi without any humanitarian assistance.

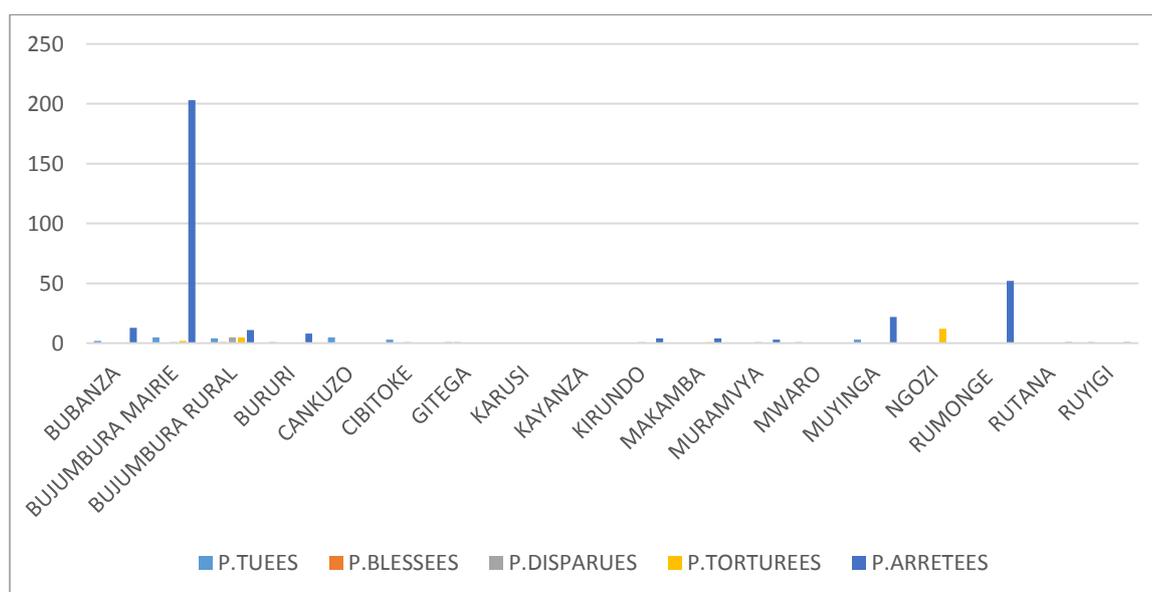
Burundians continue fleeing the country following terrorism imposed by Imbonerakure and famine for neighboring countries, but Tanzania is becoming increasingly hostile given the daily numbers of refugees. At least 25 households of Giharo commune, Rutana province have fled famine and Imbonerakure to the aforementioned country while famine victims are recorded in different parts of the country.

The security context is marked by intimidation marches, searches, arbitrary and illegal arrests, assassinations, the continuation of acts of terrorism organized by Imbonerakure youth against alleged opponents to the regime.

The report recommends various partners who can influence on the change in the precarious human rights situation in the country.

*Figure I: TABLE AND CHART SHOWING THE MAIN ALLEGATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTED IN BURUNDI IN JANUARY 2017*

| PROVINCES              | P.KILLED | P.WOUNDED | P. DISAPPEARED | P.TORTURED | P.ARRESTED |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------|------------|------------|
| BUBANZA                | 2        | 0         | 0              | 0          | 13         |
| BUJUMBURA<br>MAYORSHIP | 5        | 0         | 1              | 2          | 203        |
| BUJUMBURA<br>RURAL     | 4        | 1         | 5              | 5          | 11         |
| BURURI                 | 1        | 0         | 0              | 0          | 8          |
| CANKUZO                | 5        | 0         | 0              | 0          | 0          |
| CIBITOKE               | 3        | 0         | 1              | 0          | 0          |
| GITEGA                 | 1        | 1         | 0              | 0          | 0          |
| KARUSI                 | 0        | 0         | 0              | 0          | 0          |
| KAYANZA                | 0        | 0         | 0              | 0          | 0          |
| KIRUNDO                | 0        | 0         | 1              | 1          | 4          |
| MAKAMBA                | 0        | 0         | 0              | 0          | 4          |
| MURAMVYA               | 0        | 0         | 1              | 0          | 3          |
| MWARO                  | 1        | 0         | 0              | 0          | 0          |
| MUYINGA                | 3        | 0         | 0              | 12         | 22         |
| NGOZI                  | 0        | 0         | 0              | 0          | 0          |
| RUMONGE                | 0        | 0         | 0              | 0          | 52         |
| RUTANA                 | 0        | 0         | 0              | 0          | 1          |
| RUYIGI                 | 1        | 0         | 0              | 0          | 1          |
| TOTAL                  | 26       | 2         | 9              | 20         | 322        |



*The high numbers of people killed are successively in Bujumbura Mayorship and Cankuzo provinces with 5 cases each, Bujumbura rural, with 4 cases, Cibitoke and Muyinga with 3 cases each.*

*In Bujumbura Marie, the persons killed were first abducted and then found shot dead.*

*In Cankuzo province, cases of summary execution have increased following an order given by the local administration to kill any person who will be caught accused of theft.*

*For the province of Bujumbura rural, the persons killed were victims of armed attacks. In Cibitoke province, the victims were accused of sorcery. As far as Muyinga province is concerned, the three people were killed after the controversial armed attack on Mukoni military camp.*

*The province of Bujumbura Rural recorded the largest number of persons reported missing. Young people from exile in Rwanda and the DRC were accused of rebellion.*

*Muyinga province leads the table with 12 cases of torture recorded during this reporting period. All these victims are ex-FAB soldiers tortured after the controversial attack on Mukoni military camp.*

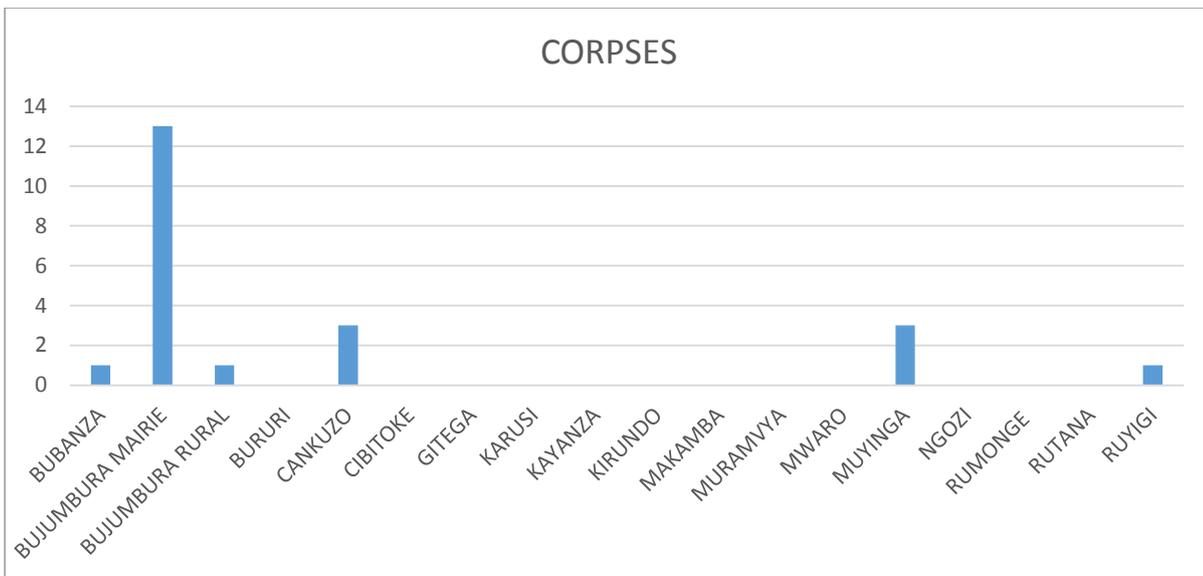
*For the province of Bujumbura rural, the victims were tortured by soldiers.*

*Bujumbura Marie and Rumonge province recorded many people arrested following police raids that targeted respectively the protesting quarters and the hotels.*

*For the same already mentioned reason in Muyinga, the province has recorded many cases of arrest.*

**Figure II: TABLE AND CHART SHOWING THE PHENOMENON OF CORPSES IN JANUARY 2017**

| PROVINCE             | The phenom en of corpses |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| BUBANZA              | 1                        |
| BUJUUMBURA MAYORSHIP | 13                       |
| BUJUMBURA RURAL      | 1                        |
| BURURI               | 0                        |
| CANKUZO              | 3                        |
| CIBITOKÉ             | 0                        |
| GITEGA               | 0                        |
| KARUSI               | 0                        |
| KAYANZA              | 0                        |
| KIRUNDO              | 0                        |
| MAKAMBA              | 0                        |
| MURAMVYA             | 0                        |
| MWARO                | 0                        |
| MUYINGA              | 3                        |
| NGOZI                | 0                        |
| RUMONGE              | 0                        |
| RUTANA               | 0                        |
| RUYIGI               | 1                        |
| TOTAL                | 22                       |



*The table and the chart show a very high number of corpses in Bujumbura Mayorship. Corpses were found in Ruziba in Kanyosha urban zone, other pulled from Lake Tanganyika and others in the bush. Some had signs of execution. Then come Muyinga and Cankuzo provinces with 3 corpses each.*

## ***I. ALLEGATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS***

### ***I.1 ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE***

#### **A soldier killed at Mutukura military camp in Cankuzo province**

On January 26, 2017, Major Dieudonné Karashira S3 of Mutukura military camp in charge of operations and instructions was killed by corporal Ntahomvukiye. It was an accident according to the FDN spokesman, Colonel Gaspard Baratuza. According to the same source, Major Dieudonné Karashira was for a walk in the camp and soldiers on patrol were mistaken and shot at him by mistake. According to other sources on the spot, the corporal shot Major Dieudonné Karashira when the latter attempted to arrest him in the case related to attack of 24 January 2017 on Mukoni military camp in Muyinga province. The major was known as being very active in the repression of ex-FAB soldiers, he had just arrested warrant officer Nimubona the day before. He was walking around 6 p.m at Cankuzo market on January 26, 2017 with a lot of handcuffs in his hands.

#### **Three persons including one soldier killed in Muyinga commune and province**

On the night of 23-24 January 2017, around 2 a.m, heavy gunfire was heard around Mukoni military camp in Muyinga commune and province. According to the FDN spokesman, Colonel Gaspard Baratuza, it was a group of robbers who attempted to steal in the households of the area. Other sources on the spot said that it is a sprawling plot affecting many military camps in order to arrest ex-FAB soldiers from Mukoni military camp and other camps suspected of being against President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term. The next day, three dead bodies were found 2 km from Mukoni military camp on Rusengo hill, commune and Muyinga province. Among these corpses was that of Warrant Officer François Nkurunziza, administrator of Mukoni military camp who had been arrested on 24 January 2017 in the afternoon and handed over to the police. His body was riddled with bullets and was with two other unidentified corpses that would also be of soldiers, according to the same

sources. The administration ordered their burying in haste without any investigations to identify the victims.

The family of the late warrant officer François Nkurunziza living in Bururi urban center lives in fear for having demanded from the administrative and military authorities the burial in dignity of their loved.

### **One person killed in Mutambu commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On the night of January 25, 2017, Paul Nkundwanabake was killed on Gomvyi hill and zone, Mutambu commune, Bujumbura rural province by a soldier named Bigirimana of Kinonko military position of the same area. According to sources on the spot, this soldier accused him of having lit a torch on him. The same sources indicate that this soldier was not called to account.

### **A person killed in Ruyigi commune and province**

On January 16, 2017, a man named Ernest, aged between 35 and 40, from Matongo commune, Kayanza province was killed in Ruyigi province. His body was found by cows' shepherds on Ngarama hill in a bush located 3 km from Ruyigi province city. The day before, witnesses testified that they saw this person in the hands of the police who said they wanted to bring him in a probox vehicle to the police station in Ruyigi province. The injuries showed that the victim had been stabbed before being strangled. Believing to hide the identity of the victim and the circumstances of the young man's death, the local administration rushed to bury the body before investigations were carried out. The attitude of the Burundian public administration to bury hurriedly the dead has been widespread in the last two years of crisis related to Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term.

### **A case of abduction followed by assassination in Cankuzo province**

On 17 January 2017, in Nyabibuye village, Muganza zone in the United Republic of Tanzania, a Burundian from Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province was found dead, sources said. The same sources indicate that this person was abducted from Burundi side by Imbonerakure who took him to Tanzania to be killed there. The population heard him crying for help but no one could rescue him, according to the same sources.

As of January 18, 2017, Cankuzo PAFE Commissioner Jothan Nikora went to the Tanzanian border to ask for assistance in the search for the body of the person killed on their territory.

### **Two persons killed in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province**

On January 9, 2017, two people were stabbed to death in Musenyi zone of Mpanda commune of Bubanza province. These two men were taken by the vehicle of the provincial commissioner of Bubanza full of policemen and they were from another locality. They could not be identified by the witnesses who saw them. They were brought at around three a.m. and the people of the surroundings were alerted by their agonizing screams. They were stabbed to death, according to the same source. This happened in Musenyi 30 meters from the Adventist Church in a property of the late Banduta. The vehicle left with these two bodies to an unknown destination. The population of the area is gripped by panic and fear.

## **Two persons killed in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province**

Two persons, one nicknamed Wakera, from Kaniha hill and another nicknamed Mandela from Mukaza hill, were arrested, savagely executed and buried on Makangara hill, Mishiha commune, Cankuzo Province on January 11, 2017. According to sources on the spot, this double crime was ordered by the communal administrator of Mishiha, Anaclét Bizimana and the OPJ Bucumi. The victims were respectively one at home and the other at the pub. They were taken to Makangara hill by Imbonerakure Privat alias Kaboko, Ndongeye and the Head of zone Lambert Karenzo where their arms, legs and heads were amputated and then buried directly in Mugishungu cemetery by those executioners, without the presence of their families. The latter were forbidden to cry their dead and not to sue at the risk of meeting the same fate.

On January 12, 2017, the head of the Imbonerakure in Mishiha commune, Rénovat, went out in the field to congratulate the Imbonerakure who did this work. The administrator, the OPJ and the head of the zone are all of the Hutu social component and CNDD-FDD members, the victims are also of the same component. The governor of Cankuzo province, Désiré Njiji and the provincial head of SNR, Nicaise spent the night of January 14, 2017 in Mishiha commune to distort all information on this case, according to the same sources. The names of the persons killed are Rémy Bigirimana and Léonidas Nahimana.

## **Two persons killed Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province**

As of January 10, 2017, two persons Felix Ntukamazina and Onesphore Marondereye were killed on Mageyo Hill in Butahana zone of Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province. According to sources on the spot, the victims were accused of sorcery, they were lynched under the command of Imbonerakure youth who have security control of this area. According to these sources, this incident followed the death of a woman, Jeannette Nihorimbere from the area that the Imbonerakure youth attributed to the victims. Two other persons who had to suffer the same fate were saved in extremis by the police who had to fire in the air to disperse the angry crowd. While the facts occurred in public, the administrator of Mabayi commune, Basabarwuzuye did not hesitate to declare that the perpetrators of the double crime were not known.

## **One person killed and one wounded in Ryansoro commune, Gitega province**

As of January 4, 2017, a young pupil Valentin Aboyitungiye was killed and another, Ndayihimbaze was wounded by a policeman in Mahwa zone, Ryansoro commune, Gitega province. According to information collected on the spot, the director of ISABU Mahwa, accompanied by two of his employees, seized three cows grazing on ISABU pastures. The same sources add that they met with two boys who had just transported a patient to the health center close to the area. These young pupils wanted to know the reason for the seizure of their cows. The director of ISABU Mahwa went to fetch policemen and ordered them to shoot the two boys. Valentin Aboyitungiye was killed on the spot. He was hit by 6 bullets in the heart, on the legs and on the head. His comrade, Ndayihimbaze, was wounded on the hand. They are all from Gahanda hill, Kiryama zone, Songa commune, Bururi province. The population of the area call for justice but the two policemen was not worried.

## **A minister murdered in Rohero urban zone, Bujumbura Mayorship**

As of 1 January 2017, around 1:00 a.m., Emmanuel Niyonkuru, aged 54, Burundi minister of water, environment, land use plan and urbanism, from the government of President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup>

term, was murdered in Rohero urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship. According to police sources, this high authority from CNND-FDD was assassinated with a pistol. Senator of the electoral district of Muramvya for the 2015-2020 term, he was also current chairman of NELCOM ministerial conference and current chairman of COMIFAC ministerial conference. This assassination follows that of Honorable Hafsa Mossi of the EALA as well as the attempt to assassinate the president's adviser in charge of communication Willy Nyamitwe.

## ***I.2. CASES OF ABDUCTION AND ARREST FOLLOWED BY ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES***

### **A soldier arrested and reported missing at Bujumbura International Airport, Bujumbura Mayorship**

On January 21, 2017, an ex-FAB soldier ranked Major, Elysée Nduwumukama was arrested at Bujumbura International Airport and taken to an unknown destination. According to witnesses, SNR agents arrested him when he returned from his peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic. Sources from MINUSCA colleagues indicate that the soldier had been imprisoned in the Central African Republic following an setup by Captain Ndayisaba who accused him of leaking papers containing the amounts that the Government of Burundi is withdrawing from the allowances granted to each Burundian soldier in MINUSCA.

### **Two young students arrested and reported missing in Bujumbura rural province**

Jean Claude and Félix, both high school pupils of Cibitoke province, were reported missing since January 14, 2017. According to witnesses, they were arrested at the Burundi-Congolese border, near Gatumba zone in Bujumbura rural province. According to a witness, these young people are suspected of belonging to armed gangs operating from eastern DRC. Victims' relatives say that the two pupils attended the secondary school of health located in Rusizi plain in Uvira zone in South Kivu in DRC. Taking advantage of the leave days, they went home to greet the members of their respective families. Their families said they had no news since their arrest by SNR agents.

### **Two persons arrested and then reported missing in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province**

As of 12 January 2017, around 5 a.m., a girl named Francine and a boy named Guy Rukundo, all finalists of the Secondary School of General Humanities were abducted by policemen from Mayuyu's position accompanied by soldiers from Mujejuru camp on Nyarumanga hill, Mayuyu zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province. They were embarked in a military vehicle of Mujejuru camp and then taken to an unknown destination. According to sources on the spot, a week ago they had come from exile in Rwanda and were accused of having participated in the anti-President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term demonstrations. This is paradoxical as long as Bujumbura regime does one thing and its opposite. It makes a vibrant appeal to the return of refugees and plans for repression at the same time.

### **One person arrested and reported missing in Mubimbi commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On 13 January 2017, a woman named Suzanne Ncamugwanko, Surwavuba's wife, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing was arrested on Gitwe hill, Mageyo zone, Mubimbi commune, Bujumbura rural province. According to witnesses on the spot, an Imbonerakure nicknamed Musumari accompanied by two policemen have arrested her while she was in a pub and took her to an unknown destination.

### **One person arrested and reported missing at Cibitoke province city**

As of January 5, 2017, a person named Claude Nsabimana was arrested by the head of Police on Rusiga hill, Rugombo Commune, Cibitoke Province, less than 2 kilometers from Cibitoke Province city. From sources on the spot, he was taken to an unknown place. Claude was accused of hosting rebels, but no one was found at his home according to the same sources.

### **One person arrested and reported missing in Kirundo province**

As of 3 January 2016, around 4 p.m., a young man named Libere Nduwayezu, aged 28 from Buhinyuza, son of the late Gabriel Mbonihankuye, was arrested by SNR agents at the Rwandan-Burundian border, as he was returning to Burundi from Rwanda. According to sources on the spot, he was arrested because he did not have a national identity card. He was arrested and was taken to an unknown destination.

### **A prisoner abducted and reported missing in Muramvya province**

A prisoner at Muramvya Central Prison named Emmanuel Kimeneke was reported missing since January 2, 2017. According to witnesses on the spot, he was released from prison after a police search commissioned by the SNR head, the Provincial Police Commissioner and the Director of Muramvya Prison. Handcuffed, he was taken by the prosecutor of the republic in Muramvya province aboard a police Hilux-type vehicle to an unknown destination. A mobile phone he used was seized. The same information reveals that this prisoner had spent several days under intimidation without knowing the reasons.

## ***1.3. CASES OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT***

### **At least 12 soldiers arrested and tortured in several military camps after Mukoni incident in Muyinga province**

At least 12 former FAB soldiers, all members of the Tutsi social component from different military camps were arrested and tortured after the incident on the night of 23-24 January 2017 around Mukoni military camp in Muyinga province. According to sources on the spot, SNR agents with Imbonerakure tortured them before handing them to the prosecution and then judged by the TGI on spot.

These soldiers are:

Major José Runyange, Lieutenant Moise Nimubona arrested and tortured on 26 January 2017 at Mukoni Camp. The former was recently transferred from Nyanza-Lac camp. Both were in the camp on the night of Mukoni incident, testify other soldiers.

The Warrant Officer Nzojyobiri, Warrant Officer Harerimana, Corporal Fulgence Ndayikengurutse, former driver of the BSPI Presidential Guard before being transferred to Mukoni camp were all arrested and tortured on January 24, 2017. Corporal had his arm broken as a result of torture, he was deprived of food for two days. Master Corporal Eric Ndagijimana, arrested on 24 January 2017 and tortured at the 221st Gitega Commando Battalion, was transferred to Muyinga where he was horribly tortured until he could no longer stand. Master Corporal Richard Nkurunziza of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Armored Gitega Battalion was arrested on 24 January 2017 on a military position in Nyanzari and then transferred to Muyinga where he was horribly tortured with three teeth broken.

Corporal Emmanuel Bizimana was arrested and tortured on 25 January 2017 by police and Imbonerakure at his home in Rumonge province while on leave. Corporal Amedee Niyukuri of the 312<sup>th</sup> Ngozi Commando Battalion was arrested on 25 January 2017 and was tortured with a hot iron sheet.

Another ex-FAB soldier, Jean Marie Hatungimana, a former driver of Major Marius Gahomera, was arrested on 26 January 2017 at Mutukura camp and transferred to Muyinga province. Warrant officer Ildefonse Nimubona was arrested and tortured on 25 January 2017 at the Mutukura in Cankuzo province, Corporal Ntahomvukiye was arrested and tortured on 26 January 2017 at Mutukura military camp in Cankuzo province and transferred to Muyinga. The corporal had shot to death on Major Dieudonné Karashira, who had come to arrest him before surrendering.

Information received by Iteka League on 29 January 2017 indicates that these arrested soldiers are being scattered in different places.

### **Two persons tortured in Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On the night of 26 January 2017, around midnight, 2 persons Kevin Kwizera, aged 25 from Buhonga-Masarara hill and Eric Mpawenimana, aged 23 from Mwico hill were tortured by Major Kamenge, head of military post located at Buhonga High School in Ruyaga zone, Kanyosha commune. According to witnesses, the former had his right arm and ankle broken. The victims were accused of stealing money from a cassava tradesman named Samuel living on Buhonga hill. The same source said that this head of post had received money from Samuel to torture these two people until they accepted the accusation. The victims Kevin Kwizera and Eric Mpawenimana are receiving care at CDS Ruyaga, according to information collected on the spot.

### **Two people tortured in Musaga urban zone, Bujumbura Mayorship**

On 23 January 2017, a man named Amani was tortured by policemen on 1<sup>st</sup> avenue in Musaga urban zone of , Bujumbura Mayorship. Her sister was also beaten by the same policemen as she shouted that people help her brother.

### **One person arrested and tortured in Mubimbi commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On 22 January 2017, around 6 a.m. on Gitwe hill, Mageyo zone, Mubimbi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Nzitunga was arrested and beaten by Imbonerakure from the area. According to our sources, the victim was accused of being an opponent to President Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term. Nzitunga was led to the police station of the area.

### **A priest tortured in Nyabiraba commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On 15 January 2017, around 5 p.m., Deo Ndayishimiye, a priest at Matana parish was tortured in Nyabiraba commune, Bujumbura rural province. According to witnesses, the commander of Mujejuru camp named Marius Gahomera alias Gakoryo has beaten up the priest who was in a pub of the area accusing him of denouncing in his homily all those who harm others. The same commander has ordered his bodyguards to shoot any priest who will dare entering this pub.

### **One person tortured in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On 13 January 2017, around 9 p.m., Anne Ngendahayo, a native of Jenda hill, Jenda zone, Mugongo-Manga commune, member of UPRONA party of Charles Nditije's wing, was tortured by the administrator of Mugongo commune -Manga named Diomede Ndabahinyuye when she was in a pub located in Jenda. According to witnesses, the victim was accused of burning Diomede Ndabahinyuye's house during demonstrations against President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term. The incident took place in the presence of the victim's husband named Sylvain Ngendakuriyo who watched helplessly.

### **One person tortured in Kirundo province city**

On 10 January 2017, a driver named Miburo was tortured in Kirundo province city. According to witnesses, a policeman named Nkoroka tried to suck 5,000 Bif from him and punished him because he refused to give the money. People who were at the scene intervened to dissuade the policeman. Given mob anger, the latter was forced to leave the place.

## ***1.4. CASES OF ARBITRARY ARRESTS***

### **Two people arrested in Kanyosha urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship**

On January 21, 2017, a female police officer Manera Ntakirutimana was arrested with her husband in Musaga zone of Bujumbura Mayorship after a search in a household on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue of Musaga zone. According to sources on the spot, used police uniforms were found in this house where this family lived before moving Kanyosha urban zone . Police accused them of collaborating with rebel groups. These same sources indicate that this female police officer is detained in the municipal police station cell while her husband was taken to Musaga urban zone cell.

### **Three persons arrested in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On January 24, 2017, three persons, Eddy Ndikubwayo, Kwirikiye and Calixte were arrested by policemen of Mayuyu police station on Ndayi hill, Bikanka zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province. According to sources on the spot, police accused them of holding a grenade while nothing compromising was found during the search. The victims were taken to the public prosecutor's cell in Kabezi commune.

### **One person arrested in commune and province Rutana**

On January 24, 2017, around 10 a.m., a gas station attendant named Samuel was arrested on ENGEN gas station located in Birongozi in Rutana province city. According to source on site, provincial head of SNR, Jovin Cishahayo, took him to a secret cell located in his residence accusing him of selling oil in cans. He was released around 4 p.m. on the same day with a prohibition of selling oil in cans anymore.

### **Two persons arrested in Bukeye commune, Muramvya province**

On 9 January 2017, Cyrille Nshimirimana, a native of Rweteto area, Bukeye commune, Muramvya province was the victim of arbitrary arrest. The victim was charged with cohabitation and subtraction of legal obligations and was detained in Bukeye commune police station. He was

released on 27 January 2017 by the prosecutor's office, which found that the detainee had been the victim of injustice.

Another citizen named Laidi Ndayizeye was also the victim of arbitrary arrests on 6 January 2017 and detained in Bukeye commune police station, accused of attempted assassination and incest. According to source on site, the victim appeared at the public prosecutor's office on 27 January 2017.

The two cases violate Article 111 para. 3 of the Burundian CCP, which provides that: “The appearance before a judge must take place at the latest within 15 days of the issuance of the arrest warrant ...»

### **At least 100 people arrested in Musaga urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship**

As of January 25, 2017, after the gunfire of January 24, 2017 evening in Gitaramuka quarter, Musaga urban zone, Bujumbura Mayorship, security forces have surrounded the quarter. According to sources on the spot, more than 100 persons were retained and released after checking the household records. The persons arrested were gathered at the zone office and were all registered in the household records and had their ID cards, according to the same sources.

### **Two people arrested in Gihosha Commune, Bujumbura Marie**

On the morning of January 21, 2017, John Ndikumwami, an ADB agent and his wife, Philothee, were arrested at their home in Mutanga north quarter of Gihosha urban zone, Bujumbura Mayorship. According to sources on the spot, the couple was directly taken to the SNR cell in Bujumbura Mayorship. The victim would be accused of not supporting CNDD-FDD regime and of not advocating for its cause to the bank authorities. Information received by Iteka League on 23 January 2017 indicates that John Ndikumwami was released but his wife was taken to Mpimba Central Prison.

### **Ex-FAB soldier arrested in Muramvya commune and province**

On January 19, 2017, a retired soldier named Deo Nsengiyumva was arrested on Biganda hill, commune and Muramvya province. According to police sources, this former soldier is accused of attempting to murder his wife with bayonets. According to information collected from his family, the police invented an offense to justify the arrest of this former soldier it rather accused of PBA. After a search at home, the police said to seize a grenade, a military uniform and military boots. The soldier is detained at the provincial police station in Muramvya province. This arrest fits into the logic of the repression organized by CNDD-FDD regime against ex-FAB soldiers, according to sources on the spot.

### **Four foreigners of French origin arrested in Kirundo province**

On January 19, 2017, four French nationals were arrested on Rukiramigabo and Ceru hills, Kirundo commune and province. SNR agents placed them in custody at the police station in Kirundo province, suspecting them of disrupting the security of the country. The ambassador of France to Burundi said that these arrests were due to a misunderstanding. These French were released afterwards.

### **An official of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing arrested in Ruyigi province**

On 17 January 2017, Déodette Nakagoma, leader of FNL party women's league, Agathon Rwasa's wing, Ruyigi, Cankuzo and Rutana provinces was arrested in Ruyigi province. According to information collected on the spot, the activist was arrested by the provincial commissioner on the order of the prosecutor's office without the prosecutor is aware of it. This explains that policemen have pre-signed arrest warrants that are completed in case of targeted arrests. She is accused of facilitating the entry of arms from outside the country. Police source reports that weapons were seized in Ngarama, Gisuru and Nyabitsinda areas and that persons caught in the act with these weapons accuse the woman of having distributed them in the 2015 elections. The FNL chairman and an MP elected in Ruyigi, Pascal Ngirumuremyi denounces a set-up by the brother-in-law of the communal administrator Leonidas Ndayisaba and Leopold who received cash for this despicable act. All observers confirm the set-up and denounce a purely political arrest. The MP denounces the imprisonment of his party members so that the ruling party stand alone in the 2020 elections. Deodette Nakagoma was released from the central prison of Ruyigi a month ago.

### **An ex-FAB soldier arrested in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On the morning of January 16, 2017, Thérance Ntirabampa, a retired ex-FAB soldier was arrested in Kibago commune, Makamba province. According to sources on the spot, the victim was arrested after a search by police at his home located on Mbizi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province. The police discovered a pair of boots and out-of-use handcuffs. They took him to the police station in Kibago commune where he was detained. The family of this retiree as well as his neighbors deplores a well-organized repression that targets ex-FAB soldiers though innocent.

### **Six persons arrested in Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura rural province**

As of January 15, 2017, six persons Thierry Nkurunziza, Diomède Masarabag, Gerard Nsengiyumva, Christian Habonimana, Jean Yves Ngarukiyintwari and Hermenegilde Bigirimana alias Kigoma, all FNL party members Agathon Rwasa wing were arrested on Kavumu hill, Muyira zone, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura rural province by the police commissioner named Leonidas nicknamed Facebook, SNR agent. They would be prosecuted for the assassination of Serges Mpawenimana, Vincent and an unidentified child on January 14, 2017.

### **Sixty persons arrested in Musaga urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship**

As of January 14, 2017, sixty persons were arrested by police in Kinanira I quarter, Musaga urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura Mayorship, during a search. According to sources, they were grouped at the handicraft center of Musaga where some were forced to pay ransoms and others forced to buy badges to be released.

### **Thirteen persons arrested in commune and province Bubanza**

Thirteen persons, including 11 of Muramba zone and 2 of Mitakataka zone in commune and Bubanza province were arrested and imprisoned in Bubanza province police station cell. Some were arrested on January 6, 2017 and others on 9 January 2017. According to our sources, the victims were from the church "Iriba ry'amahoro" and are accused of organizing unauthorized prayer meetings.

### **An ex-FAB soldier re-arrested in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province**

As of January 12, 2017, a retired ex-FAB, Savin Nsavyimana was re-arrested in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province. According to his family sources, the victim was accused of collaborating with rebel groups. This same source is much concerned on the manhunt targeting any retired ex-FAB soldier in this area.

The victim is detained in Nyanza-Lac commune police station cell on the order of the public prosecutor in Makamba Fidèle Nyabenda. He had already been arrested on 25 December 2016 at home after a search that targeted six houses in Gitunda quarter, Nyanza-Lac commune. The prosecutor had released him after a few days because his detention was deemed illegal. This judge was then sanctioned after this release of Savin Nsavyimana considered as a criminal by the prosecutor. It is in this context that this retiree is again arrested.

### **An ex-FAB soldier arrested in Kanyosha urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship**

On January 12, 2017, an ex-FAB soldier ranked Major named Elie Niyonkuru was arrested at his home in Kanyosha urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship. According to witnesses, SNR agents took him to the SNR cell, close to Regina Mundi Cathedral, in Bujumbura Mayorship. Surprisingly for the family and neighbors, the officer was accused of possessing several military uniforms, which surprised many. An army officer cannot have a single work uniform, wonders our source. SNR sources rather denounce an intimidation system. The officer is a cousin of Warrant Officer Eddy Claude Nyongera who was assassinated in the SNR office in November 2016. He had just interrupted his mission in Somalia to attend the burial of his mother and sister, SNR had misinterpreted this intention. He was afterwards released the next day after his arrest. This family relationship with the late Eddy Claude Nyongera would be the reason for the harassment.

### **Fifteen persons arrested in Bwiza urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship**

As of 9 January 2017, around 6 a.m., 15 persons were arrested after checking the household records in Jabe II quarter, Bwiza urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mayorship. They were taken to a police position at the Bwiza Municipal High School. Some were released after paying ransoms.

### **A quarter head arrested in Nyakabiga urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship**

Huguette Kamugisha, Kigwati III quarter head of Nyakabiga urban zone , CNDD-FDD member and official of Bujumbura Mayorship, was arrested on 5 January 2017 at Kigwati III quarter, Nyakabiga urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mayorship. SNR agents who arrested her did not reveal the reason for her arrest. She was later transferred to Mpimba Central Prison.

### **A member of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing arrested in Kanyosha urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship**

Japhet Ntwari, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing was arrested on 7 January 2017 in Kanyosha urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura Mayorship. Sources on the spot indicate that an Imbonerakure named Damien is the author of this arrest and that the latter immediately handed him over to the SNR officer named Onésime in Muha commune.

### **An ex-FAB officer arrested in Ngagara urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship**

An ex-FAB officer ranked Colonel Pierre Claver Nduwayo living in quarter V of Ngagara urban zone was arrested on 6 January 2017. Sources from his family indicated that the victim was immediately taken to Mpimba Central Prison. Policemen who arrested him did not reveal the reason for his arrest. According to the same sources, this arrest comes within the context of the manhunt against ex-FAB soldiers.

### **At least 15 young people arrested in Musaga urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship**

As of January 6, 2017, at least 15 young people were arrested in Kinanira quarter, in Musaga urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship. According to witnesses, these young people were arrested after a military search carried out in Kinanira quarter, Musaga urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura Mayorship. During the search, these soldiers had checked the household records and the ID cards. Some of these young people were released after paying a ransom of 5000 Bif each.

### **One person arrested in Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On 5 January 2017, Egide Ntunzwenimana was arrested on Mirama hill, Muyira zone, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura rural province. According to sources on the spot, Imbonerakure young people forced the victim to remarry with the first woman named Evelyne Bayisabe he legally divorced. He was taken to Kanyosha commune police cell. Egide has documents justifying the divorce obtained in accordance with the law. He remarried with a second wife and 3 children are from this remarriage. The couple is currently living in Kamenge urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship, according to the same sources.

### **Two persons arrested in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province**

As of January 4, 2017, Bernard Bandiko, head of Buheka hill since 2015 and member of UPRONA party not recognized by the Ministry of Home Affairs and a nicknamed Innocent were arrested on the order of the SNR officer in Makamba province. They were all detained at Makamba province police station. The hill head is accused of having suspicious messages in his cell phones.

### **A couple arrested in Musaga urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship**

Faustin Ntahuga alias Mustafa and his wife were arrested on 3 January 2017 at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Musaga zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura Mayorship. The couple was taken by an SNR agent known as Joe Dassin in a Starlet car with tinted windows. Burundian police spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye said on the same day that Faustin Ntahuga is held in the SNR cell and is being prosecuted for organizing demonstrations against President Pierre Nkurunziza's third term. His wife was later released, according to sources on the spot.

### **Three persons arrested in Bujumbura Mayorship**

On January 2, 2017, Benoît Ndoricimpa, manager of the restaurant "Chez André" and his two employees Nadège Nkunzimana and Juvenal Amissi were arrested in the case of the assassination of the Minister of Water, Environment and land planning and taken to the SNR. Both employees were arrested after their boss was arrested. The restaurant owner's wife Verena Stam denounces this triple

arbitrary and unjust arrest because the minister was murdered at home and not in the pub. Benoit Ndoricimpa and his two employees were released afterwards.

### **Fifty-two persons arrested in commune and province Rumonge**

As of January 3, 2017, fifty-two persons were arrested in Rumonge town of during a police raid in hotels in Rumonge province. Very early in the morning, the police in the company of administrative officers carried out a raid in the hotels of Rumonge city. Among those arrested were 30 men and 22 women. Some people did not have ID cards. Among them were 19 women who were then sent back to their home provinces. They were from the provinces of Ngozi, Kayanza, Gitega, Karusi, Ruyigi, Bujumbura rural, Makamba and Rumonge. They were transported by truck to their provinces escorted by policemen. They complained that according to the constitution, every citizen has the right to settle where he wants on Burundian territory and they have not had time to gather their packages. These women ask the human rights associations to plead for their cause. As for the men who have been imprisoned, those who have paid ransoms have been released. According to the senior advisor to the governor of Rumonge province, this raid was carried out for the purpose of uprooting prostitution.

### **Eight persons arrested in Mugamba commune, Bururi province**

Eight persons including the head of Muhabo hill, Therence Tunanyi were arrested on 1 January 2017 on Muhabo and Nyakimonyi hills, Mugamba commune, Bururi province. Witnesses say they were arrested by the police and the army while they were in a pub.

## ***1.5. FAIR JUSTICE IN BURUNDI***

### **A fast law suit of ex-FAB soldiers in Muyinga province**

On January 26, 2017, at Muyinga TGI, 18 people including 7 soldiers, a policeman and 10 civilians arrested in the case of "organized gang in gun crime ", perpetrated by, according to the SNR, near Mukoni military camp, have appeared in public hearing. In this case surrounded by several dark clouds that observers and witnesses refer to as a set-up of security services to arrest alleged opponents to President Pierre Nkurunziza's third term, there were those who were in critical condition due to torture by policemen and Imbonerakure. Corporal Fulgence Ndayikengurutse had been deprived of food since his arrest and his arm had been broken. He was screaming all the time during the hearing. Corporal Eric Ndagijimana could not stand and answered questions from the judges lying on the ground as a result of torture he had suffered. Corporal Richard Nkurunziza answered the judges' questions with difficulty, with three teeth broken. Corporal Amedee Niyukuri had a wound after a hot iron sheet had been laid on his body.

Analysts of daily reports denounced the fact that the case was considered as flagrant though the persons arrested had not been arrested in flagrante delicto and were arrested in different places. In addition, the tribunal has acted under pressure from the regime and accepted to interrogate persons visibly under torture and in the absence of their lawyers. Normally, and in accordance with the law, the judge orders that the wounded be treated first. Furthermore, Article 210 of the CCP gives the defendant the right to choose a lawyer, which is a formality of public order. Article 214 of the same Code specifies that if the case cannot be judged, the judge orders the case to be referred to the next hearing. This raised a lot of concern on the fate of these defendants. Seven soldiers and one policeman were sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment and fined 5 million Burundian francs each. Two waiters of a pub located in the premises of the Red Cross in Muyinga province were sentenced to pay a fine of 100,000 Bif for hosting a meeting to prepare the coup and the pub was closed for a

three-month period. This confirmed the assumption that this conspiracy targeted the ex-FAB soldiers suspected to be against the President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term.

The regime of the protested third term uses the judicial bodies to repress any alleged opponent to this President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime. Many victims including ex-FAB soldiers and policemen are recorded in the country following the aborted attempt of the military coup of 13 May 2015 and the protest movement in April and May 2015 against the third term which violated the Constitution and the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi. Burundi is increasingly becoming a country where impunity has taken precedence over the values of justice, honor and respect for life.

Our newsletter has continued to raise cases of injustice against alleged political opponents and impunity for crimes committed by those close to CNDD-FDD regime. For this period, we denounce the case of two SOSUMO employees Bigirimana Philippe and Nicaise Nahimana victims of injustice while they have committed no crime. We should still and always denounce the imprisonment of the two employees arrested since December 12, 2016, accused by the prosecutor of Rutana province for "insulting the head of state and attempted murder." They were acquitted by the High Court of Rutana and the decision dated January 2, 2017 but is still in prison following an appeal from the prosecution to the Appeal Court of Bururi. As of January 26, 2017, this court roamed in Rutana Province and listened to them but the decision is not yet known.

Similar cases are commonplace in our country where the public prosecutor's offices under the weight of political pressure from CNDD-FDD ruling party are instruments of repression against alleged political opponents.

#### ***1.6. VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS***

The right to freedom of the press continues to be violated in Burundi. After the destruction of the private media and the exile of several Burundian journalists, the government repeatedly prevented journalists from doing their job.

The Iteka League denounced in its various publications several cases of journalists victims of harassment. In January 2017, the governor of Karusi province, Carinie Mbarushimana, summoned on 24 January 2017 VOA reporters, Raissa Liliane Inamahoro and Elsa Kagwiza intern in the same radio to leave the province. They were there to report on the famine and the impact of torrential rains in several areas in this province.

#### ***1.7. THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION***

As a result of the political crisis that has led to the economic destabilization of Burundian households, the phenomenon of school dropout is increasing and is problematic in the country.

By way of illustration, Bururi province recorded more than 300 school dropouts in the second quarter of the school start in early January 2017, according to information collected from the DPE.

The main reason for these school dropouts is related to famine but also to the behavior of some policemen and Imbonerakure who threaten to arrest some students accusing them of participating in demonstrations against President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term. The DPE also mentions the lack of motivation of some students faced with unemployment experienced by their elders.

## ***1.8. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE***

Gender-based violence is a sad reality in Burundi where girls and women are often the main victims. Our monitoring of the situation is not exhaustive; we note here some illustrative cases.

- At least 16 schoolgirls were raped at "la Bergeronnette" primary school located in Gitega province town. According to sources on the spot, a teacher of 4<sup>th</sup> form of the primary school, named Corneille, aged 59, is pointed at the perpetrator of these rapes. Denounced by a girl who had told his mother what had happened to her, the rapist was arrested by the police on 19 January 2017. The school principal, Dominique Nininahazwe confirmed the facts after his personal investigation. The victims are being treated at Humura center in the same province;
- As of January 3, 2017, a 16-year-old daughter D.J was raped on Gahaga hill in Bukeye commune, Muramvya province. According to sources on the spot, a young man Célestin Habyarimana, aged 22, is the perpetrator of the rape. He was arrested and taken to the police station in Bukeye commune;
- Another information received by Iteka League on 10 January 2017 indicates that as of 26 December 2016 another 13-year-old girl named GN was raped on Ruhombo hill in Shombo zone Muramvya. Commune. The perpetrator named Salvator Sinarinzi, aged 82, was also arrested.

It should be noted that the perpetrators of rape crimes are generally prosecuted when they are mere civilians, but when the perpetrators are closer to the CNDD-FDD ruling party, they are protected. We have reported cases of impunity in our various reports.

## ***1.9. FOOD SECURITY IN BURUNDI***

The Burundian government has tried to hide that Burundians are dying of hunger in some parts of the country. Today, it is more and more breaking its silence to acknowledge that food situation of Burundian households is serious and should be assisted. Thus, one person died of hunger on the morning of January 26, 2017 on Binyange hill, Rugombo commune and other victims were reported in Bubanza province. The ministry in charge of solidarity tries to assist vulnerable households on hills of the Rugombo commune but is exceeded by the number of households in need of fast assistance in food. The provisions it gives to households are insufficient and are not a solution to the problem, according to analysts. Meanwhile, the Imbonerakure in a situation of hunger impose contributions to households that prefer to exile to the DRC and Tanzania.

For the HRDs who observe the situation, the CNDD-FDD regime should rather take more sustainable measures of good governance and respect for human rights to merit the trust of the financial partners who have always intervened in situations of economic crises and of hunger.

Famine caused the death of 12 people in communes Gihanga and Bubanza in Bubanza province. According to information from that province, famine has already affected nearly a thousand families of peace villages of Muyange I and II, in the communes of Gihanga and Bubanza in Bubanza province and caused the death of at least 12 people. The victims died after spending days in a very weak physical condition for lack of food.

People are buried every day in different parts of the country after going by curative care centers where the consumption of medicines can in no way replace food, according to different sources of information collected from these medical care facilities.

The year 2017 began with complaints of Burundian citizens in connection with the high cost of living due to the rise in essentials. The Burundian regime in trouble to run its institutions following the economic and financial sanctions against it, decided to do everything possible to have funds. To fund its operating budget, taxes were raised almost everywhere on major consumer products such as sugar, beer, water and electricity, telephone call charges, fuel, etc.

As of January 7, 2017, fuel prices were raised with all the consequences. Fuel, oil and gasoline prices rise lead to higher prices for transport and all other prices. Fuel oil and gasoline cost now 2100 Bif, oil is 1800 Bif while they cost respectively 2000 Bif and 1700 Bif. Daniel Mpitabakana of the Ministry of Commerce who announced the new prices specifies that this is a response to the measure decided by the Burundian government to raise taxes to fill the gap in the national budget of the fiscal year 2017. Following pump price rise, transport prices have kept pace with all other prices for essentials. BRARUDI was quick to raise the prices of its products.

Observers of the socio-political and economic context in Burundi denounce the political irresponsibility of CNDD-FDD regime which has constantly paid attention to the interests of the party to the detriment of the collective interests of Burundian society. Instead of trying to improve the political context, the political choice adopted is to continue strangling the Burundian people in difficulty of food survival since President Pierre Nkurunziza 3<sup>rd</sup> term crisis.

The situation of economic crisis and famine following President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term explains the departure of Burundian households to neighboring countries in search of survival.

By way of illustration, in Rutana province, 18 households on Murembera hill, Gakungu zone and 7 other households on Nkurye hill, in Giharo zone and commune have left their hills and commune of origin fleeing famine. According to local sources, they have all left for Tanzania to look for food in refugee camps set up on the spot. The same source testifies that hunger is widespread in Giharo commune. Unfortunately, the authorities of the United Republic of Tanzania have refused to welcome refugees in recent days.

## ***II. SECURITY FACTS***

### ***II.1. THE PHENOMENON OF CORPSES***

#### **A dead body found in Ngagara urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship**

As of January 30, 2017, a body of Dieudonné Nsengiyumva, 25-year-old from Gishubi commune, Gitega province and residing in Kamenge urban zone, Bujumbura Mayorship, was found in quarter IX of Ngagara urban zone near Ngagara military camp. According to our sources, the strangled victim was the head of the luggage carriers of Kinama market in Bujumbura Mayorship.

### **Three dead bodies found in Bujumbura Mayorship**

As of January 29, 2017, a dead body of Leonidas Nkeshimana, residing in Gatunguru, Rubirizi quarter, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province found in quarter X of Ngagara urban zone, Bujumbura Mayorship. According to sources on the spot, the victim was abducted by a probox vehicle identified as belonging to the SNR. The upper part of his body was undressed and was shot in the head. He was evacuated by the civil protection police.

Two other dead bodies were pulled from Lake Tanganyika in Kibenga quarter, precisely in the waters of the beach commonly known as "La Costa Beach" and "Saga Vodo", located in Kinindo urban zone, Bujumbura Mayorship. The administration rushed to confirm that they were the bodies of the fishermen of Gatumba without having made inquiries.

These bodies are found in a context where the country is recording more and more people who are victims of enforced disappearances. The public administration hastened to bury these bodies in order to conceal the crime which has become a public secret.

### **A dead body found in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province**

On January 21, 2017, a dead body of an unidentified person was found decaying on Makangara hill, Mishiha Commune, Cankuzo Province, near the place where two people, Remy Bigirimana and Léonidas Nahimana were killed savagely and buried on January 11, 2017 on the order of administrator Anaclet Bizimana and OPJ Bucumi. According to our sources, the victim was killed too savagely and the head cut off. The corpse was hurriedly buried on the order of the communal administrator of Mishiha, Anaclet Bizimana.

### **A dead body found in Kabezi commune, Bujumbura rural province**

As of January 16, 2017, a dead body of an unidentified man was found on hill and zone Ramba commune Kabezi, Bujumbura rural province. According to sources on the spot, the corpse was lying on the road next to a small bridge on this hill.

### **One person slaughtered in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province**

On 10 January 2017, an old woman named Kameteri was found slaughtered in her house on Makangara sub-hill, Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province. Sources on the spot say that it is a settlement of account following land conflicts with her neighbors but no one was arrested for investigation.

### **A dead body found in commune and province Cankuzo**

Information received by Iteka League on 14 January 2017 indicates that as of 31 December 2016 a dead body of an unidentified person was found in a stream on Kabeza hill, commune and Cankuzo province. According to sources on the spot, the cause of this assassination remains unknown and the authors as well.

### **A dead body found in commune and province Bubanza**

On 14 January 2017, around 6 a.m., a dead body of a 14-year-old young boy known as Joseph Vyizigiro alias Kizemba, son of Diomede Sindarubaza, residing on Ruvumvu hill, Bubanza zone and commune was found in Bubanza, zone, commune and province. A person named Nsabimana was

arrested by the police and taken to the Bubanza provincial police station cell for investigation reasons, according to our sources.

### **At least 6 bodies found in Ruziba, Kanyosha urban zone, Bujumbura Mayorship**

On January 8, 2017, several corpses, some of them decaying, were found in Ruziba, commune Muha, Bujumbura Mayorship. Administrative sources give a number of 6 corpses while sources on the spot reveal a worrying number of several corpses. Administrative authorities ordered to bury the bodies without their identification.

### **A corpse found in Musaga urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship**

On 8 January 2017, a corpse of a man known as Cyrille Habonimana, a 55-year-old carpenter from Nyaruhongoka hill, Gitaza zone, Muhuta commune, Rumonge province was found hanged in a house abandoned located on the 1<sup>st</sup> avenue, near the small market in Musaga urban zone, commune Muha, Bujumbura Mayorship. According to sources on the spot, his body had forearms cut, which proved that the victim had been killed. This place was guarded by police and Imbonerakure, youth affiliated to CNDD-FDD ruling party before the evacuation of the body of the victim, according to the same source.

### **A corpse found in Kamenge urban zone, Bujumbura Mayorship**

On 7 January 2017, a corpse of an unidentified man was found in a place called "kuwinterekwa" near the pub "Iwabo w'abantu" in Kamenge urban zone , Ntawangwa commune, Bujumbura Mayorship. According to sources on the spot, this corpse shows that the person was thrown there after being tortured because he had many injuries in the head.

### **A dead body found on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in Bujumbura Mayorship**

On 4 January 2017, a decaying body of a 40-year-old man named Donatien Ndereyimana, from Mbuye commune, Muramvya province, and residing in Mutanga Nord quarter, Bujumbura Mayorship was found on the shores of Lake Tanganyika close to BRARUDI. His family said the victim was beaten up before being killed and thrown into Lake Tanganyika. The victim had gone for a drink with his friends on December 31, 2016 but had not returned home, according to his family sources.

## ***II.2. ARMED ATTACKS***

### **Three persons killed in Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On 14 January 2017, around 8 p.m. Serges Mpawenimana, a finalist at ETS Kamenge and Vincent, government officials, all Imbonerakure from CNDD-FDD party were shot dead by gunmen in police uniforms on Kavumu hill, Muyira zone, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura rural province. The third victim is a child who came from a shop in the area and succumbed to his injuries after being hit by shots. The victims had left CNDD-FDD party to reintegrate FNL wing of Agathon Rwaso, according to sources on the spot.

### **One person injured in Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On the night of January 9, 2017, around midnight, Mission Bamparuhaye, was wounded during a machete attack on Gikangaga hill, Ruyaga zone, Kanyosha commune. His attackers also stole money from him before disappearing. The victim was taken to CDS Ruyaga where he was receiving health care.

### **One person killed in Matana commune, Bururi province**

On 8 January 2017, around 9 p.m., Charles Ndizeye, a merchant was shot by unidentified armed men in his shop on Bihanga hill, zone and commune Matana in Bururi province. According to sources, the victim succumbed to his injuries.

### **One person killed in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province**

On 27 January 2017 in the evening, Bonaventure Ntakabanyura was wounded by a grenade and then stabbed on Gihinga hill, Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province. According to sources on the spot, an unidentified group of armed men rushed into his enclosure using a big stone. They entered his room, took his wife out and tied him up. They threw a grenade into his room and finished him with knives.

## ***II.3. MOB JUSTICE***

### **Call for mob justice in Cankuzo Province**

As of January 28, 2017, Béatrice Nibitanga, administrator of Cendajuru commune, province Cankuzo called for mob justice against thieves caught red-handed in her commune. According to our source, she declared it at a meeting she held for community leaders, heads of hills and other officials. She publicly urged people to kill any thief who will be caught red-handed. The people attending this meeting were stunned by these statements by whispering in the room that such speeches should not come out of the mouth of any administrator or authority whatsoever. For some, administrative authorities are involved in the complicity of people who are killed by their neighbors or by the Imbonerakure, supposedly they are bandits, rainmakers or sorcerers or they are simply political opponents. This speech is troubling in a political context where political opponents are accused of "armed robbers", according to HRDs.

### **A person beaten in Muramvya province**

A young Imbonerakure nicknamed Yuyu was severely beaten by the population on Muramvya hill, Ndago commune, Muramvya province on 15 January 2017. According to sources on the spot, the victim was caught in act of stealing sheep from an old lady named Mayugi, around 11:00 p.m. while he was among a group of young Imbonerakure who was doing a night patrol in this area. The police had refused to arrest the alleged perpetrator of the theft in critical situation and had demanded that he be first treated at the hospital.

## ***II.4. OTHER FACTS REPORTED***

### **At least 124 people have returned from DRC**

As of 31 January 2017, at least one hundred and twenty-four Burundians have returned to Burundi from South Kivu region of the DRC. According to sources on the spot, these Burundians were arrested in DRC and were in different cells. At the Burundi-Congolese border in Gatumba, they were

escorted by the Governor of South Kivu, MONUSCO, UNHCR and ICGLR. Burundian minister of justice Aimee Laurentine Kanyana who has received them said that these Burundians will be questioned to find out what they have been doing in this country and that will be taken to reeducation centers.

According to our sources, among those Burundians who were imprisoned in the DRC, 49 did not return, 12 of whom had their refugee status, 1 was an unaccompanied minor, 2 were hospitalized and 34 others refused to return because they were considered as rebels because they went through Rwanda before arriving in the DRC.

### **Demonstrations organized in several parts of the country**

The CNDD-FDD regime organized Saturday 28 January 2017 public demonstrations in different parts of the country. The purpose of the demonstrations was to denounce reports on human rights produced by national and international NGOs, especially the recent European Parliament resolution recommending that the UN Security Council and the ICC carry out deep investigations on human rights situation in Burundi. Our reporters on the spot denounced insults and slogans inciting hatred and revolt against opposition parties and human rights organizations, namely Iteka League, FIDH and HRW.

Public demonstrations were held in Bujumbura Mayorship, in Makamba province where the speaker of the senate himself was, in the streets of the Cankuzo province city, in Matana commune, Bururi province as well as in Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province.

### **Paramilitary training sessions in Rutana commune, Rutana province**

After paramilitary training operations reported in Giharo commune in Rutana province, information collected on the spot indicates that training sessions for Imbonerakure youth affiliated to the ruling party were also observed on January 21, 2017, around 10 a.m. on the football field located in Gitaba zone, Rutana commune, Rutana province near Muyovozi River. Paramilitary training sessions have been denounced in many parts of our country by human rights organizations.

### **Threats and intimidation at the site of displaced persons in Mutaho, Gitega province.**

The day after the Mukoni incident in Muyinga province which was followed by a wave of arrests of several soldiers, the police and the Imbonerakure circulated rumors that those who attacked Muyinga came from the site of the displaced persons of Mutaho. On the morning of January 25, 2017, the inhabitants of this site were surrounded by the police of Gitega police station arguing to be in search of rebels. These 1993 war-displaced persons with a majority of the Tutsi social component denounce intimidation of which they are victims and prevent a possible plan of extermination under preparation. It should be noted that several sites of war-displaced persons in the country are undergoing threats of extermination by the Imbonerakure and the policemen.

### **Search in Cibitoke urban zone, Bujumbura Mayorship**

On January 24, 2017, Mutakura quarter of Bujumbura Mayorship was surrounded by policemen who afterwards carried out household records verification. The population of this quarter denounces the fact that these notebooks are demanded only to the inhabitants of the quarters known as President Pierre Nkurunziza's the 3<sup>rd</sup> term protesters. It is tired of these kinds of operations that have become a form of police intimidation, which causes great fear to victims who believe that a summary execution plan would be in preparation.

## **Search at Cankuzo Urban Center**

As of January 20, 2017, very early in the morning, a police search took place in Kigwati IV quarter of Cankuzo province urban center. On the police order, no one had the right to leave his home. Children who went to school were forced to return home, sources said. The traffic had to resume shortly after 8 o'clock. Throughout the country, the Burundian police suspect fighters are getting prepared for attacks.

## **NGOs and religious denominations ordered to be registered at the Bujumbura Mayorship**

In an announcement dated 19 January 2017 and signed by the principal advisor to the Mayor of Bujumbura Ramadhan Nkurikiye, all NGOs, both national and international, non-profit associations and religious denominations working in Bujumbura are obliged to withdraw the forms to register to the municipal services by 31 January 2017. This announcement surprised those organizations which are however known and registered in the books of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Patriotic Training.

The concerned hardly understand the purpose of the measure and denounce the camouflaged intentions of Bujumbura Mayorship which go in the way of finding ways and means of collecting money on behalf of the ruling party. Bujumbura Mayorship officials including the zealous city mayor often take measures to merit the trust of their party, which demands huge contributions to its functioning, according to information collected from the staff members of Bujumbura Mayorship.

It is not the first time that the Mayor of Bujumbura city adopts controversial measures. Recently, in collaboration with the Bicycle Taxi Association, he introduced a measure for bicycle taxis and private bicycles, a measure that was afterwards canceled by the ministry in charge of transport.

## **Schools and a hundred houses destroyed in some provinces of the country**

As of January 18, 2017, four schools and more than 80 houses were destroyed following torrential rains in Muyinga commune, Muyinga Province. Torrential rains mixed with hail have also been reported in Buhiga commune, Karusi province where about 20 houses were destroyed and several hectares of plantations damaged. According to the communal administrator of Buhiga, Euphrasie Ntakarutimana, 6 hills were affected by these destruction. These destructions occur in a context of famine that currently affects many households. These torrential rains have also been reported in other provinces of the country.

## **One person beheaded in Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province**

On 18 January 2017 at around 6:00 p.m., Joseph Maniragaba alias Kajisho, aged 49, was assassinated at his home on Rumvya hill, Buhoro zone, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province. According to our sources, the victim was tied up before being decapitated. Widower and father of 6 children, this man from Ruseseka hill, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province was decapitated by two unidentified men dressed in long coats. He would be accused of sorcery. Within two weeks, three people were killed in similar circumstances of sorcery accusations.

## **One person killed in commune and province Muramvya**

As of January 9, 2017, a sixth-year form student at ECOFO Gishubi, aged 14, named Norbert Nduwimana, was killed by grenade on Gishubi hill, commune and Muramvya province. According to sources, the grenade exploded when the child was manipulating it. The same source indicates that

the grenade was in the house and that the victim's father is a former peacekeeper who had not get rid of his device.

### **Intimidation in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province**

As of 11 January 2017, in a meeting between the administration staff and the population of Mukungu, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province, the police were ordered by Mukungu hill head to shoot whoever will be caught cutting a tree in the forest estate of the government. This caused fear among the population who believe that the police may abuse and settle their accounts on the basis of this decision. The hill head says those who are unhappy with this decision should pack up and join the refugees in Nyarugusu in the United Republic of Tanzania. The population denounces an outlaw measure because the death penalty has been abolished in our country.

### **A mass grave discovered in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province**

A mass grave was discovered on January 10, 2017 on Makamba hill, Rusaka commune, Mwaro province. On-site sources indicate that six skulls and other human bones were in a mass grave on a site where the province was preparing to build a crafts center. According to Jean-Marie Nyakarerwa, the governor of Mwaro province, no one is in a position to clarify this discovery for the time being. However, some sources say that the mass grave was known and contains remains of the bodies of the young opponents to President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term, arrested, abducted and killed before being buried while others say that they are people killed in 1972. The phenomenon of the discovery of human bones in building sites is not new, it is increasing in recent times and reveals the existence of several other mass graves in the country. Various information says that these mass graves are discovered accidentally, it is rather the perpetrators of these massacres who seek to remove the traces and manipulate the information.

These human bones were buried in haste without any form of investigation. The public authorities do not allow time for medical expertise to make the truth known, clarifies our source.

### **A young man abducted and tortured in Rohero urban zone , Bujumbura Mayorship**

On January 7, 2017, witnesses reported seeing a young man tied up in police feet in a police double cabin Hilux vehicle registered A263PN on Muyinga Avenue. The same sources say that the victim who was not identified was in critical condition after suffering serious torture. He was taken to an unknown destination.

### **A prisoner released illegally from the prison in Bujumbura Mayorship**

A detainee of Mpimba Central Prison named Aaron Arakaza alias "commando" was released from prison in mid-day on 3 January 2017. According to witnesses, the victim was taken to the SNR cell. He had received many calls intimidating him the morning of the same day. These calls told him about weapons seized in Kiyenzi zone in Kanyosha commune and accused him of knowing the origin. He was returned to Mpimba Central Prison on the same day.

### ***III. RECURRING PHENOMENA***

In this report, the following recurring phenomena are observed:

1) Identity of victims:

Four categories of victims are often mentioned: Young people allegedly opposed to President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term, ex-FAB soldiers, members of the opposition parties and independent journalists.

2) The means used:

Allegations and violations of human rights reported were committed with firearms in a number of cases. The phenomenon of corpses found in nature and in Lake Tanganyika is worrying. These corpses are buried without any investigation to identify them.

3) Locations:

Most allegations and violations of human rights particularly affect quarters and communes protesting President Pierre Nkurunziza 3<sup>rd</sup> term mainly the urban quarters of Bujumbura Mayorship namely Musaga, Cibitoke as well as the provinces Rumonge, Muyinga, Bujumbura rurale and Cankuzo.

4) The alleged perpetrators:

In most cases, they are SNR agents, policemen, soldiers, administration officials and CNDD-FDD ruling party youth the "Imbonerakure".

### ***IV. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS***

Burundi has several commitments on the protection of human rights and the country being monistic, all ratified texts are part of the Burundian constitution under Article 19. Burundi has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which protects the right to life in Article 6 and the liberty and security of person by prohibiting arbitrary arrest and detention, in Article 9. It also ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights also protecting the right to life in Article 4.

Finally, the Burundian Constitution also protects the right to life in article 24 that protects the right to liberty of person, the right to physical and psychological integrity, freedom of movement and prohibits cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in article 25.

It should be emphasized that abductions followed by enforced disappearances are increasing while the country is delaying to ratify the Convention on enforced disappearances.

## **V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Allegations and violations of human rights following the deterioration of political context since the beginning of President Pierre Nkurunziza's protested 3<sup>rd</sup> term continue to be recorded in various parts of the country.

The obsession of an imminent rebellion fighting President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime is the source of many cases of murder, torture, abduction, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment. Cases of enforced disappearances, torture and arrests are the daily lot of Burundians allegedly against President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime.

The report singles out the cases of arrest, torture and murder of ex-FAB soldiers following the incident of the so-called attack on Mukoni military camp in Muyinga province.

The Iteka League deplors the behavior of the Imbonerakure youth affiliated to CNDD-FDD party, which spread terror in the country but remain unpunished while alleged opponents to the ruling party are subjected to merciless punishments.

It is concerned by the economic destabilization of Burundian households following the disproportionate increase in taxes and prices of essentials in order to feed the operating budget of the institutions to the detriment of the food and economic survival of the Burundian people. These measures, which follow a failure of Burundian households, have led to famine in the country where some citizens prefer leave for exile while others get sick and die due to lack of food.

The provision of humanitarian assistance to households is insufficient and does not provide a solution to the famine problem. Instead, it is challenged to take more sustainable measures of good governance and respect for human rights to merit the confidence of the financial partners who have always intervened in situations of economic crisis and famine.

Thus, given the continuing serious human rights situation in Burundi, Iteka League recommends:

### **A) To the Government of Burundi**

- To put immediately an end to state violence and human rights violations by ensuring the security and protection of the population without discrimination;
- To dismantle and disarm the militia of the Imbonerakure youth league which spread terror in the country and which has replaced the administration and security corps, instead of seeking to legalize it;
- To ensure compliance with the CCP for cases of arrests currently being committed and/or dealt with by persons who are not competent to do so;
- To put an end to the injustice and politics of terror, the source of all the evils experienced by the Burundian people since its independence;
- To punish the perpetrators of human rights violations that have become almost daily in the country;
- To put an end to excessive measures of rising taxes that aggravate the already precarious economic situation of Burundian households;

- To choose the way to peace and the search for a lasting peace at the risk of setting fire on the country, which endangers all the Burundian people including some members of the ruling party who believe they are safe from evil;
- Implement a reassuring policy of good governance and respect for human rights to merit the trust of the financial partners who have always intervened in situations of economic crises and famine, instead of constantly seeking a suicidal struggle.

#### **B) To the AU**

- Implement its decision to send a military force to protect the Burundian population in distress.

#### **C) To the United Nations Security Council**

- Take all resolutions likely to restore peace in the country and guarantee the protection of human rights;
- Implement the decision to send a protection force for Burundians.

#### **D) To the Mediation**

- Not to minimize the damage caused by the violation of the Constitution and the Arusha Accords, including the thousands of people killed, exiled, arbitrarily imprisoned and hundreds of tortured and missing persons;
- Knowing that political conflict requires a political solution.

#### **E) To the EAC**

- Bring President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime to a negotiation table for an inclusive, sincere dialogue in order to find a lasting political solution to the crisis;
- Take sanctions if the Burundian government continues to decline the offer of the Mediation.

#### **E) To the population**

- To stay united and not yield to the demands and divisive teachings or any demand to violence;
- To denounce any act likely to spread or maintain insecurity

#### **F) To the ICC**

- To speed up the procedures for the analysis of the cases submitted and to carry out necessary indictments.