

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR ANNUAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2015-NOVEMBER 2016

This annual report is a summary of information received by the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA" from November 2015 to November 2016. In terms of the situation of violations and allegations of violations of human rights, the major trends identified include the following: at least 583 cases of alleged violations and violations of the right to life, 142 cases of torture and ill-treatment, 347 cases of enforced disappearances, 3407 cases arrests, 292 cases of people injured.

The alleged youth demonstrating against the President Pierre Nkurunziza's third term, ex-FAB police officers and military suspected to be against this third term, the journalists, civil society members and members of political opposition parties are mainly the target of these human rights violations.

This period is marked by the discovery of mass graves in several parts of the country. At least 13 mass graves were discovered in different parts of the country namely Bugarama in Muramvya province, Vyerwa in Ngozi province, Gatunguru in Mutimbuzi commune, Kanyunyain Mukike commune and Nyabiraba in Bujumbura Rural province, Mitakataka in Bubanza province, at the cemetery of Mpanda, Buringain Gihanga commune, Maramvyain Mutimbuzi commune, Mutakura and Kanyosha in Bujumbura Mayorship.

The report mentions cases of trafficking of young girls whose scale is still unknown but whose victims are in a state of suffering due to heavy exploitation by their traffickers, as confirmed by some victims who managed to escape. At least 118 have been victims of human trafficking.

It addresses the situation of the right to fair justice, which is a major challenge for the country. Justice turns its back when the perpetrators of crimes are close to the government and hit hard the political opponents without even having solid evidence that justifies the arrests.

The report also mentions the emblematic case of students from ECOFO 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle, temporarily deprived of the right to education following abusive arrests and detentions. These students were accused of doodling on President Pierre Nkurunziza's picture in the 8<sup>th</sup> form science textbook. They were temporarily expelled and others were ordered to pay fines and replacement fees for books whose pages containing President Pierre Nkurunziza's picture had been torn. Sixty-nine students were arrested and 621 were temporarily expelled.

The security situation is characterized by the phenomenon of corpses which remains worrying in the country where at least 154 corpses were recorded during this report period. The report mentions the phenomenon of unexplained infanticide and suicide, which marks a recurrence in some parts of the country and which suggests rather camouflaged murders. At least 8 cases of suicide and 7 cases of infanticide were registered by Iteka League.

Security facts indicate a serious situation of political intolerance orchestrated by the youth Imbonerakure under a strong protection of the services of State from CNDD-FDD ruling party. This youth organizes night patrols during which it hounds political opponents. The report mentions in this paragraph on security of the report the case of Rumonge province where at least 60 houses belonging to political opponents were the target of criminals who put black crosses on their doors, symbols of death. The inhabitants scared denounced the Imbonerakure youth

affiliated to the CNDD-FDD ruling party as the perpetrators. These same young people are pointed at various crimes reported.

The phenomenon of ranking households candidates to death in Rumonge province was made at the same time as a generalized ethnic census in the public administration was scaring the Burundian population.

The daily police searches as repression against the alleged opponents and armed attacks are noted in this report as being also the basis of the scare that is gaining the Burundian population during this report period.

The report provides an overview of the economic situation of Burundian households experiencing growing impoverishment as a result of the political crisis and the climate changes that have aggravated the situation. Almost 3 million Burundians are in need of food assistance, according to WFP data released in November 2016. The introduction of abusive taxes and forced excessive contributions imposed by CNDD-FDD in almost all provinces of the country reinforces this decrease in purchasing power of Burundians while the prices of basic necessities have risen vertiginously.

In the light of the situation, recommendations are made to different actors likely to change the problematic situation of human rights in the country.

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

- To promote the principle of equality of all citizens before the law;
- Care about the food insecurity suffered by the majority of the Burundian population;
- Immediately end the state-sponsored violence and the violations of human rights by effectively ensuring the security of the population and the protection of its rights in accordance with national, regional and international instruments of protection of human rights it has ratified.
- To dismantle the Imbonerakure militia which sows terror in the hills and communes of the country and who have replaced the defense and security forces;
- Punish policemen, soldiers, and the Imbonerakure youth league, administration officials involved in human rights violations;
- Enforce fully the law and in particular the Code of Criminal Procedure for cases of arrests that are currently carried out by persons who are not qualified;
- To avoid outbidding by avoiding highlighting state-sponsored violence and division at the expense of peace and the unity claimed by the Burundian people through the Arusha Accords for Peace and Reconciliation signed in 2000;
- Restore trust with bilateral and multilateral partners, without which the search for lasting peace is impossible.

#### **A) To the AU:**

- To send a military force to protect the population in distress;
- To pressure the actors involved in the talks between the government and the opposition.

**B) To the United Nations Security Council:**

Implement the decision to send police and observers immediately.

**D) To the Mediation**

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

**E) EAC**

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

**C) To the population:**

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

**D) To the ICC:**

- Speed up analysis procedures of the cases submitted and make necessary indictments