

## **BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"**

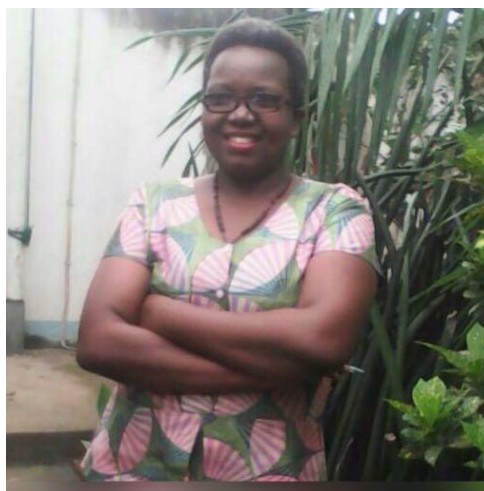
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**Monthly report « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"**

**January 2018**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 31 January 2018, Iteka has documented at least 476 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>BSR</b>	: <i>Special Bureau of Investigation</i>
<b>AU</b>	: <i>African Union</i>
<b>CNDD-FDD</b>	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
<b>EAC</b>	: <i>East African Community</i>
<b>EU</b>	: <i>European Union</i>
<b>ECOFO</b>	: <i>Fundamentals School</i>
<b>ETSK</b>	: <i>Kayanza Secondary Technical School</i>
<b>ICC</b>	: <i>International Criminal Court</i>
<b>GBV</b>	: <i>Gender Based Violence</i>
<b>FNL</b>	: <i>National Liberation Front</i>
<b>MSD</b>	: <i>Movement for Solidarity and Development</i>
<b>SNR</b>	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
<b>UPRONA</b>	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>

## 0. INTRODUCTION

This monthly report for December 2017 is a summary of the weekly bulletins number 92, 93, 94 and 95.

In this report, the major trends observed including cases of alleged violations of the right to life, cases of torture, cases of gender-based violence, cases of abduction and/or enforced disappearances, cases of arbitrary arrests and detentions, cases of settlement of scores, cases of mob justice and other facts.

Over the reporting period, allegations of violations and violations of human rights were recorded: at least 28 people were killed, including 11 corpses, 3 reported missing, 8 tortured, 257 arbitrarily arrested and GBV 9 victims.

The phenomenon of corpses is still recorded in several parts of the country and no investigation is carried out, which is very worrying.

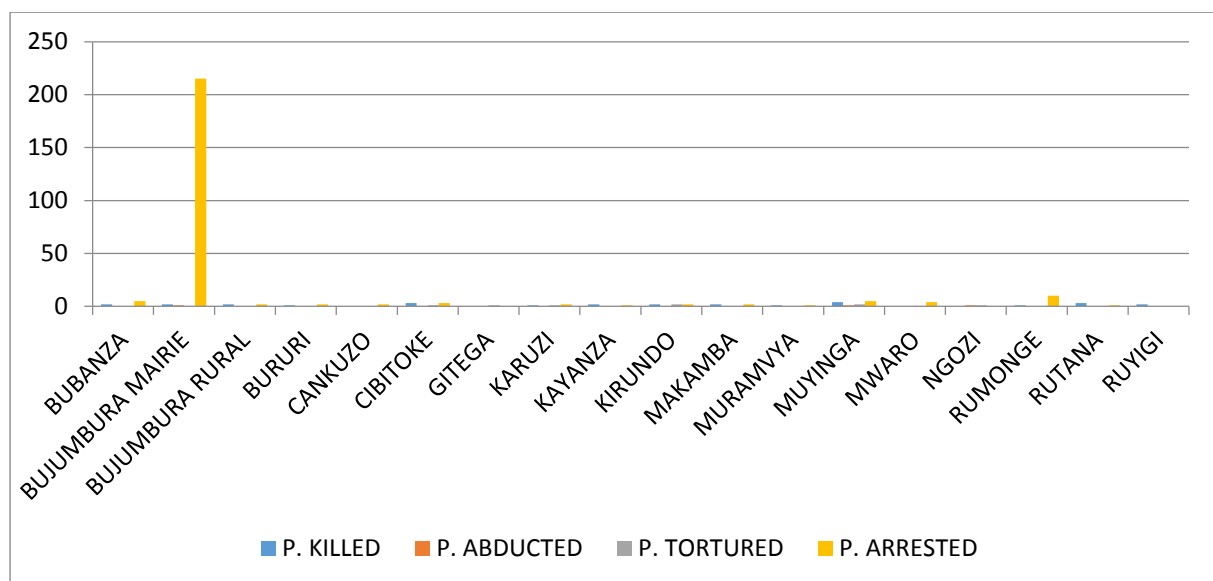
The alleged perpetrators of these allegations of human rights violations are CNDD-FDD ruling party Imbonerakure youth, SNR agents, police, and administration officials.

Acts of intimidation, hate speech, paramilitary training and forced contributions are mentioned in this report.

The most targeted people are the alleged opponents of President Pierre Nkurunziza 3<sup>rd</sup> term in general and in particular the members of the opposition political parties among others FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing, MSD, UPRONA of Charles Nditije's wing, FRODEBU, as well as civil society activists.

This report makes recommendations to all those who may influence on the change of precarious situation of human rights in the country.

**Fig 1: Chart illustrating major allegations of human rights violations and violations committed in Burundi in January 2018**



In this January 2018 report, the main violations reported by Ligue Iteka include cases of killings, abductions, torture and arbitrary arrests. Bujumbura city tops the list with 215 cases of arbitrary arrests, especially in the so-called protesting quarters of President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term, mainly on the basis of household notebook checks.

The high numbers of those killed are located in the province of Muyinga with 4 cases followed by the provinces of Cibitoke and Rutana with 3 cases each.

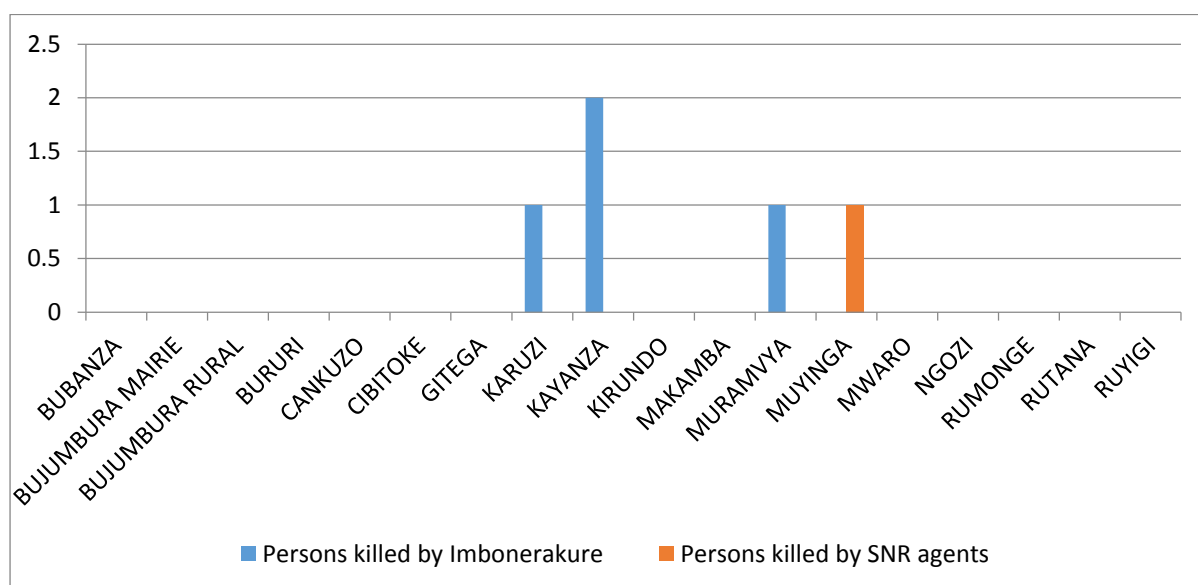
## ***I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS***

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

#### ***I.1.1 PERSONS KILLED BY POLICE AND THE IMBONERAKURE MILICIA***

In this report, people killed were located in Kayanza province with 2 cases. In this province, the alleged perpetrators are Imbonerakure. In Muramvya, Muyinga and Karusi provinces, 1 case in each of the three provinces was registered, the alleged perpetrators being members of the Imbonerakure militia and SNR agents. The chart below illustrates it:

***Fig II: Chart depicting people killed by police and Imbonerakure***



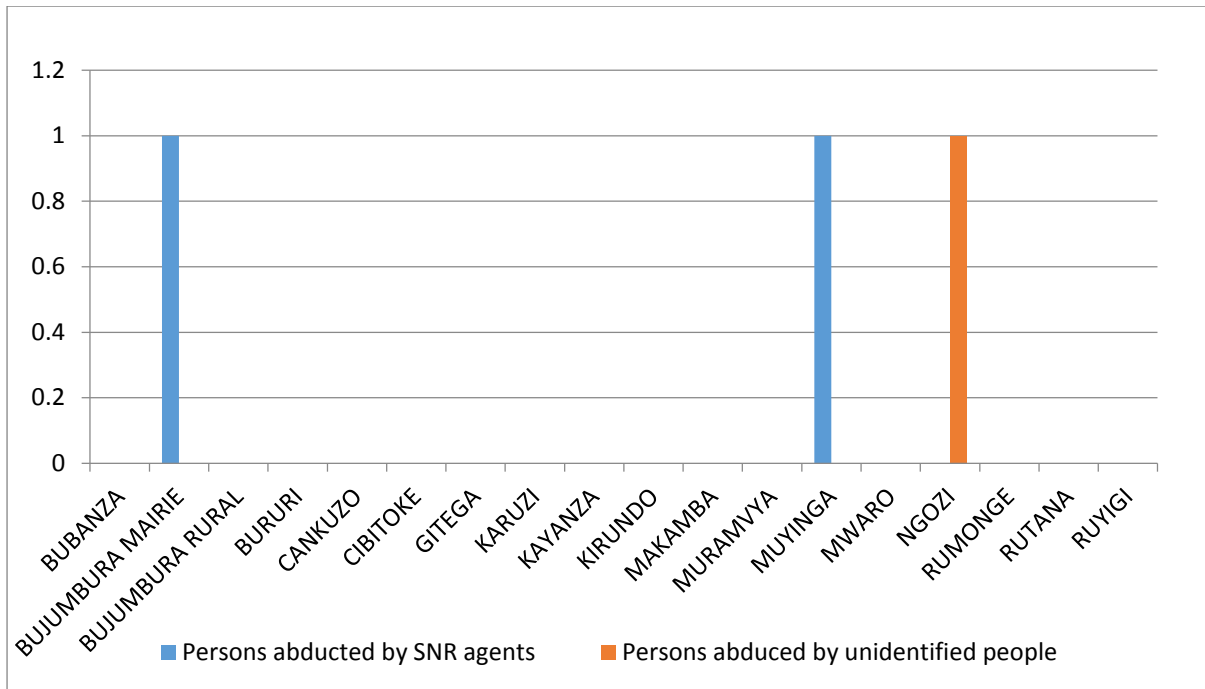
#### ***I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING***

The Iteka League recorded 3 cases of abductees and/or reported missing persons. During this month of January 2018, the most affected provinces are those of Bujumbura city, Muyinga and Ngozi with 1 case each.

According to this report, the most targeted victims by these abductions are members of the opposition political parties.

As per the chart below, on the total of 3 abducted and/or reported missing persons, 2 were taken by SNR agents.

**Fig III: Chart of abducted and/or reported missing persons**

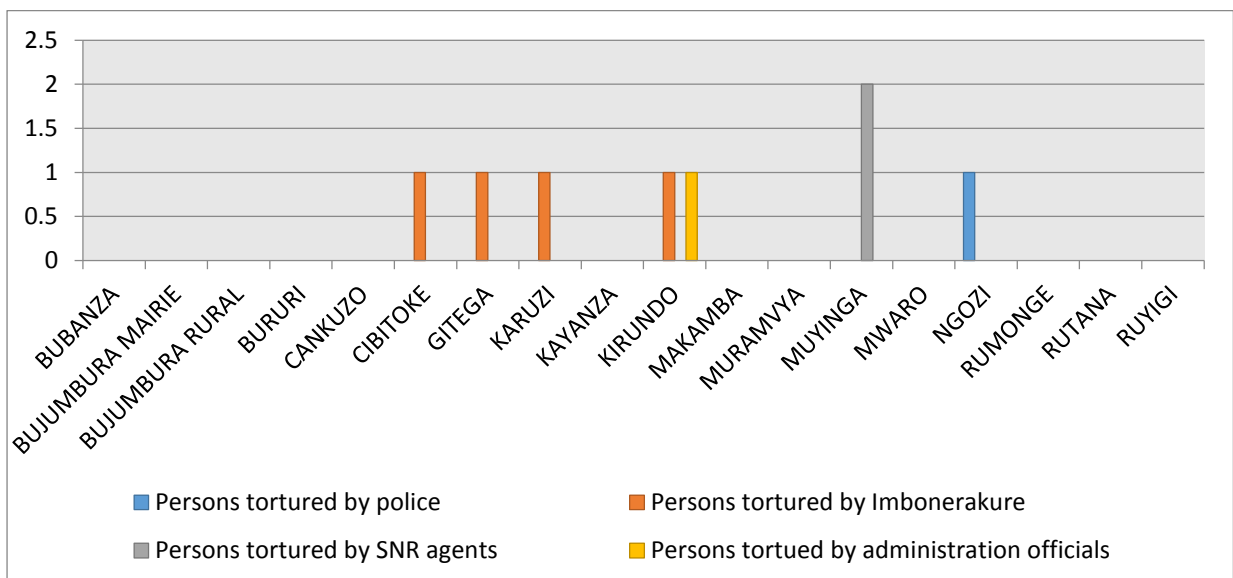


**I.3. PERSONS TORTURED**

During this month of January 2018, eight cases of torture were recorded by Iteka League. The provinces of Muyinga and Kirundo top the list with 2 cases and 4 cases.

The most targeted victims are FNL members of Agathon Rwasa’s wing and the most alleged perpetrators are members of the Imbonerakure militia, as per the following chart:

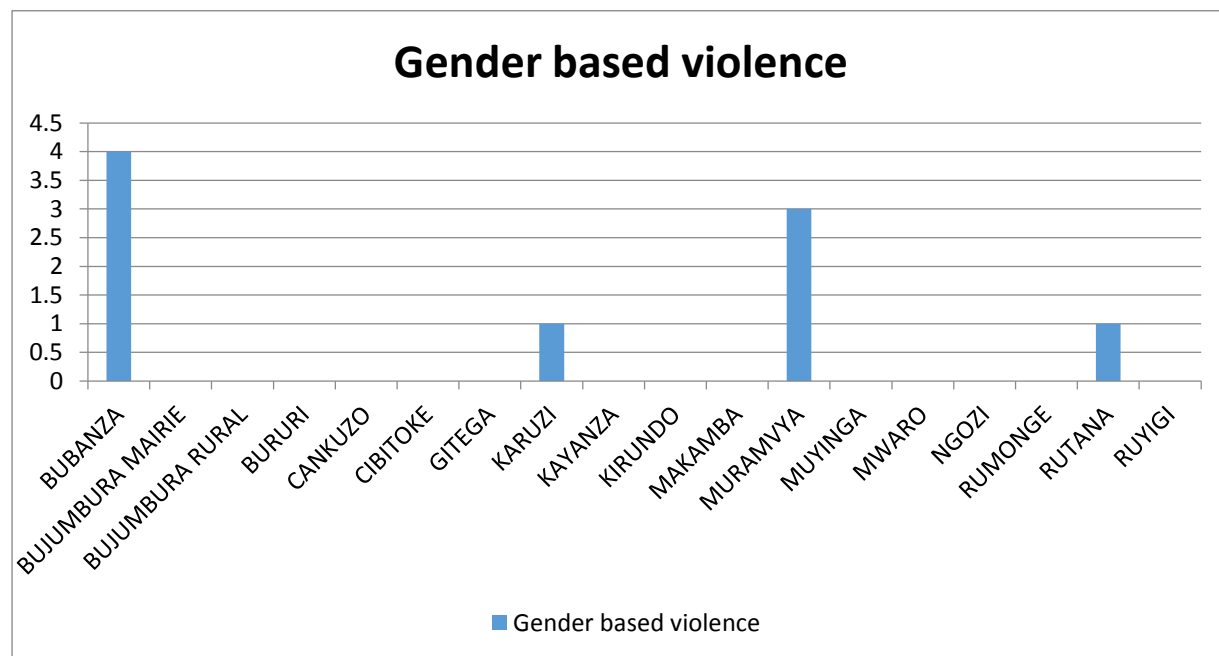
**Fig IV: Chart of persons tortured**



#### ***1.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE***

This report records 9 cases of gender-based violence. The most affected provinces are Bubanza with 4 cases and Muramvya with 3 cases each.

***Fig V: Chart of gender based violence***



#### ***1.5. PEOPLE ARRITARILY ARRESTED***

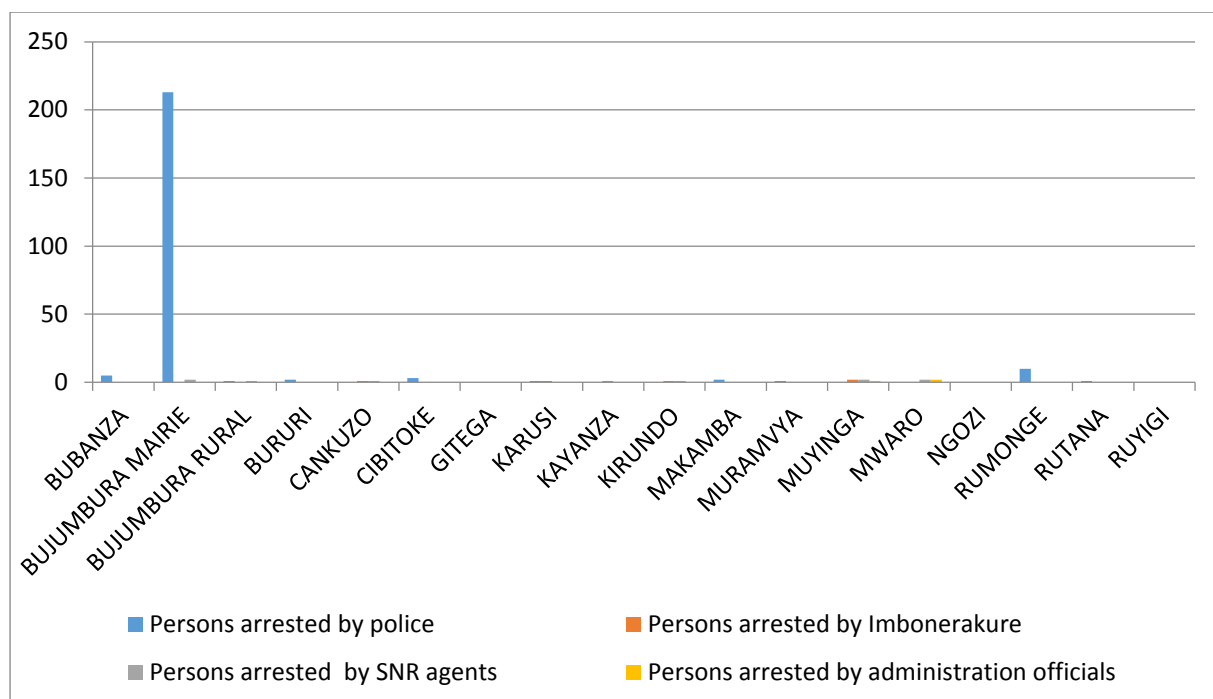
During this month of January 2018, Iteka League recorded 257 cases of arbitrary arrests in different parts of the country. The perpetrators of most of these arrests are police officers with 239 cases.

Bujumbura city recorded most of cases of these arrests with 215 cases followed by Rumonge with 10 cases.

Iteka League noted that in Bujumbura City, President Pierre Nkuruziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term protesting quarters, especially Cibitoke urban zone and Buterere were a main target of these arrests. It should be noted that a habit of ransoming the population has become commonplace in this zone. Residents are arbitrarily arrested pretexting the control of household books and are mostly released after giving ransoms.

Also, a similar habit was observed in Bujumbura city where police raids people and those arrested are taken to BSR. They are reportedly released after paying ransoms, mostly 10 000 Bif.

**Fig VI: Chart of arrested persons**



## **II. SECURITY FACTS**

In this report, cases of people killed by unidentified people, killed following mob justice, settling of scores and other reported facts including grenade found in bush, intimidation and hate speech are recorded.

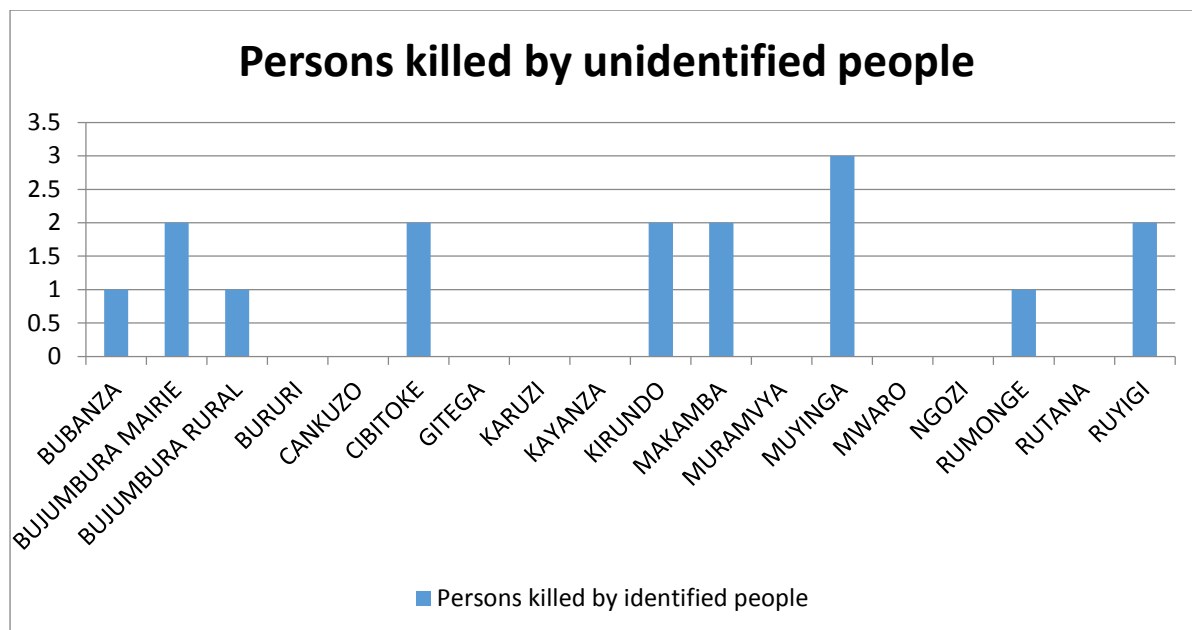
### **II.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE**

During this month of January 2018, sixteen cases of killings by unidentified people were reported. Among those killed were 11 corpses found in the bush, in the rivers or in other places, showing signs that the victims were killed.

The most affected provinces are Muyinga with 3 cases followed by Bujumbura city, Cibitoke, Kirundo, Makamba and Ruyigi with 2 cases each.



**Fig VII: Persons killed by unidentified people**



**II.2. PEOPLE KILLED FOLLOWING MOB JUSTICE OR SETTLEMENT OF SCORES**

Three cases of mob justice and settling of scores were recorded in this report in Rutana, Bujumbura Rural and Bururi.

**II.3. OTHER FACTS REPORTED**

In this January 2018 report, Iteka League found that small arms and light weapons are proliferating among the population and are causing damages among the population.

In Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, a 3-year child was killed and two others wounded by a grenade picked in bush.

Military training and the introduction of politics into schools were noted in this report. For example at ECOFO Bambo, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province, 6<sup>th</sup> form students are trained by their head teacher Jérémie Ndikumana and Imbonerakure of this hill border with Rwanda and make night patrols on Fridays and Saturdays in particular near the houses of opponents to the regime and persons exiled into Rwanda since 2015.

In Kayanza Province, in the framework of civic education, the Imbonerakure leader gathered the ETSK students at Gatwaro stadium. He told them that whoever loves his country should vote for "YES" in the referendum for the new constitution. The legal representative of this school, Jimmy Ndayizeye, was present.

In this report, acts of threats and intimidation were reported, particularly in Bururi, Makamba and Cankuzo provinces.

In Matana commune of Bururi province, threats were mainly focused to priests and Christians of the Catholic Church of Butwe.

Hate and intimidation speeches were issued by authorities, namely the governors of Cankuzo and Makamba provinces. These speeches were linked to the referendum for the change of the constitution of the Republic of Burundi.

Forced contributions are required from the population of some provinces of the country, particularly in Ruyigi and Bururi provinces. These contributions are mainly intended for the construction of permanence, monuments of CNDD-FDD party or contribution to the 2020 elections.

### ***III. 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.

Killings, abduction and/or enforced disappearances, torture, targeted arbitrary and illegal arrests to opponents in general and members of opposition parties namely FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing, MSD, FRODEBU and UPRONA of Charles Nditije's wing as well as civil society members are also reported.

The phenomenon of corpses is reported in various parts of the country.

Acts of intimidation and hate speech by senior government officials and those of CNDD-FDD party focusing on the referendum on the revision of the constitution and forced contributions were noted in this report.

Settlement of scores and mob justice is also the consequence of impunity. The population opts to handle justice instead of resorting to competent jurisdictions.

Rape cases are also reported.

Given the continuously serious situation of human rights situation in Burundi, Iteka League recommends:

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

- To dismantle and disarm the Imbonerakure militia which spread terror in the country and which has replaced security corps
- To enforce the CCP for cases of arrests currently being committed and/or dealt with by persons who are not competent to do so;
- To punish policemen, soldiers, Imbonerakure youth and administrative agents involved in human rights violations and intimidation of the population;
- Protect GBV victims and punish perpetrator in accordance with the laws
- Halt forced contributions imposed to persons arbitrarily arrested.

## **B) To the AU**

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

## **C) To the EU**

- Use its power as Burundi's first financial partner to force the Bujumbura regime return to the negotiating table through the implementation of the recently voted resolution ;

## **D) 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 in distress.

## **E) 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 reported missing person as well as hundreds of women and girls raped;
- Knowing that political conflict requires a political solution in order to restart as soon as possible negotiations between Burundian antagonists.
- Take into account the inclusivity of all the antagonistic parties in the Burundian conflict in order to guarantee a good success of the negotiations between Burundians

## **F) To the EAC**

- Take sanctions if the Burundian government continues to decline the offer of the Mediation.
- Reinforce the mediation team to ensure a successful conclusion of the negotiation process

## **G) 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

## **H) To the ICC:**

- To speed up the inquiries and carry out necessary indictments.