



LBDH/106/2019

Kampala, 9 July 2019

LIGUE ITEKA DECLARATION ON THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVED IN BURUNDI DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 2019

Since April 25, 2015, Burundi is going through an unprecedented crisis triggered by the decision of President Pierre Nkurunziza to seek an unconstitutional third term.

From then until today, Ligue Iteka continues to record serious human rights violations in the country such as extrajudicial executions, targeted killings, enforced disappearances, torture and sexual violence, illegal seizure of the property of political opponents and of civil society leaders, the blocking of political space and expression.

During this first half of 2019, the Government of Burundi reiterated its desire to muzzle freedom of expression by taking action against independent international radio stations. In March, the BBC radio station saw its license removed while VOA radio was suspended.

Civil society organizations have not been spared. PARCEM, the organization that has demonstrated its independence through its objective analyzes of the country's governance, has been suspended by the Home Affairs Ministry, accusing it of ruining the image of the country and its leaders in order to disturb peace and public order.

Moreover, there have been cases of political intolerance during this semester, when party offices of some political parties have been attacked, destroyed or even burnt. A party office of CNDD-FDD party was attacked while that of CNL party was burned. Members of opposition political parties have been killed, abducted, tortured or arbitrarily arrested and meetings of opposition political parties banned or disturbed.

Ligue Iteka is concerned by the recurrence of violations since April 2015. Thus, during the first half of 2019, Ligue Iteka has already documented 212 people killed including 104 bodies found, 29 reported missing, 160 tortured, 468 arrested arbitrarily and 32 victims of GBV.

Ligue Iteka notes another strategy adopted by the perpetrators of the crimes to remove the opponents to escape investigations in progress. During the first half of 2019, out of the 212 cases of people killed, 156 were killed by unidentified people and most of these victims are hurriedly buried under the administrative orders, without investigations.

Ligue Iteka is concerned about the alarming number of women and children victims of the violations committed in Burundi. At least 34 women and 16 minors were killed, 8 women and 4 minors tortured, as well as 12 women and 25 minors arrested during this period.



LIGUE BURUNDAISE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

"ITEKA" association sans but lucratif

Agréée par l'ordonnance ministérielle n°530/0273 du 10 novembre 1994 revoyant l'ordonnance 550/029 du 6 février 1991

Membre affilié de la Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (F.I.D.H)

Given the above, serious human rights violations are still a reality in Burundi and Ligue Iteka recommends:

To the Government of Burundi:

- to work for peace and to fully assume its responsibility to protect;
- investigate on all human rights violations in the country and bring the perpetrators to justice;
- to regain control and guarantee public rights and freedoms for all.

To the technical and financial partners:

- to use their influence to force the Burundi government to reopen the political and expression space in Burundi.

To the population:

- to remain in solidarity and not to yield to divisive solicitations and teachings or any solicitation to violence;
- to denounce any act likely to sow or maintain insecurity.

Done in Kampala, 9 July 2019

Anschaire NIKOYAGIZE



Ligue Iteka President