

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

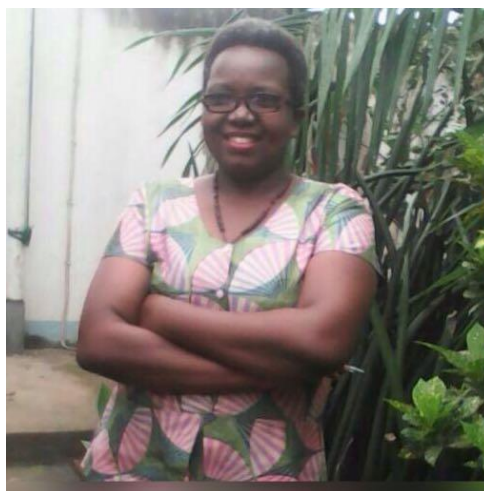
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### **Monthly report « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"**

**December 2017**



**In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 31 December 2017, Iteka has documented at least 475 cases of enforced disappearances.**

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**AU** : *African Union*

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

**EAC** : *East African Community*

**EU** : *European Union*

**ICC** : *International Criminal Court*

**FIDA** : *International Fund for Agricultural Development*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

**MSD** : *Movement for Solidarity*

**PRODEFI** : *Commodities Development Programme*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**UPRONA** : *Union for National Progress*

**GBV** : *Gender Based Violence*

## 0. INTRODUCTION

This monthly report for December 2017 is a summary of the weekly bulletins number 88, 89, 90 and 91.

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 followed by enforced disappearances, cases of arbitrary arrests and detentions, allegations of violations and violations of economic, social and cultural rights, 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 30 people were killed, including 16 corpses, 11 reported missing, 12 tortured, 119 arbitrarily arrested and GBV 2 victims.

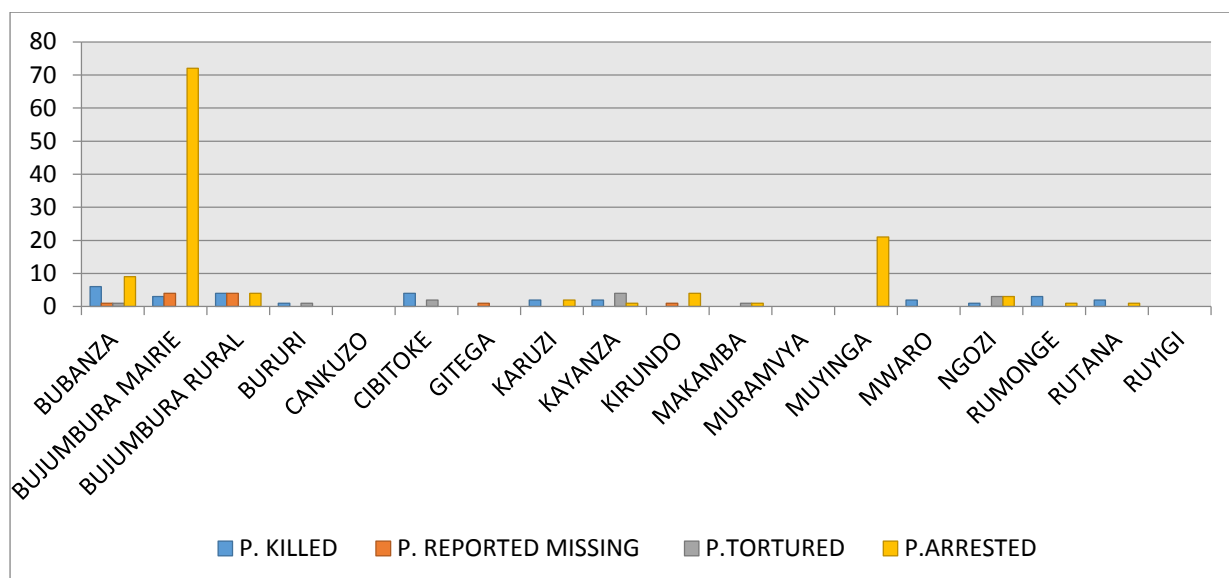
The phenomenon of corpses is still recorded in several parts of the country and no investigation is carried out, which is very worrying.

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

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 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 December 2017**



In this December 2017 report, the main violations reported by Ligue Iteka include cases of killings, abductions, torture and arbitrary arrests. Bujumbura city tops the list with 72 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 Bubanza with 6 cases followed by the provinces of Cibitoke and Bujumbura rural with 4 cases each.

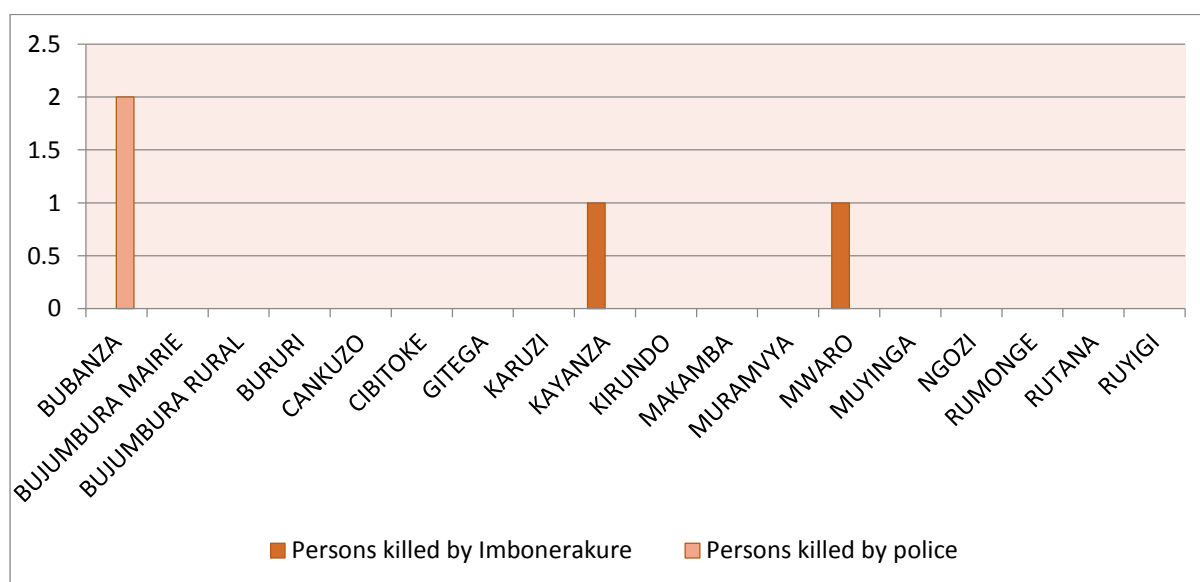
## ***I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS***

### ***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 Bubanza province with 2 cases. In this province, the alleged perpetrators are police officers. In Kayanza and Mwaro provinces, 1 case in each of the two provinces was registered, the alleged perpetrators being members of the Imbonerakure militia. The chart below illustrates it:

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



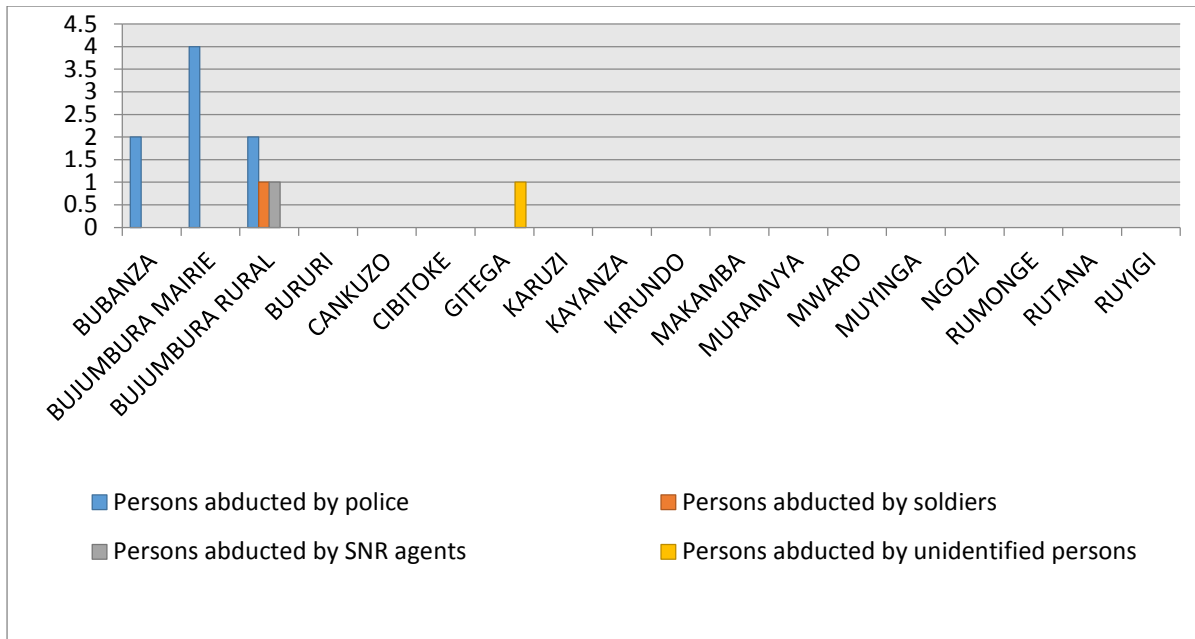
#### ***I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING***

The Iteka League recorded 10 cases of abductees and/or reported missing persons. During this month of December 2017, the most affected provinces are those of Bujumbura city and Bujumbura rural with 4 cases each.

According to this report, the most targeted victims by these abductions are members of the opposition political parties, in this case those of FNL party of Agathon Rwasa's wing as well as those of MSD.

As per the chart below, on the total of 11 abducted and/or reported missing persons, 7 were taken by police.

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

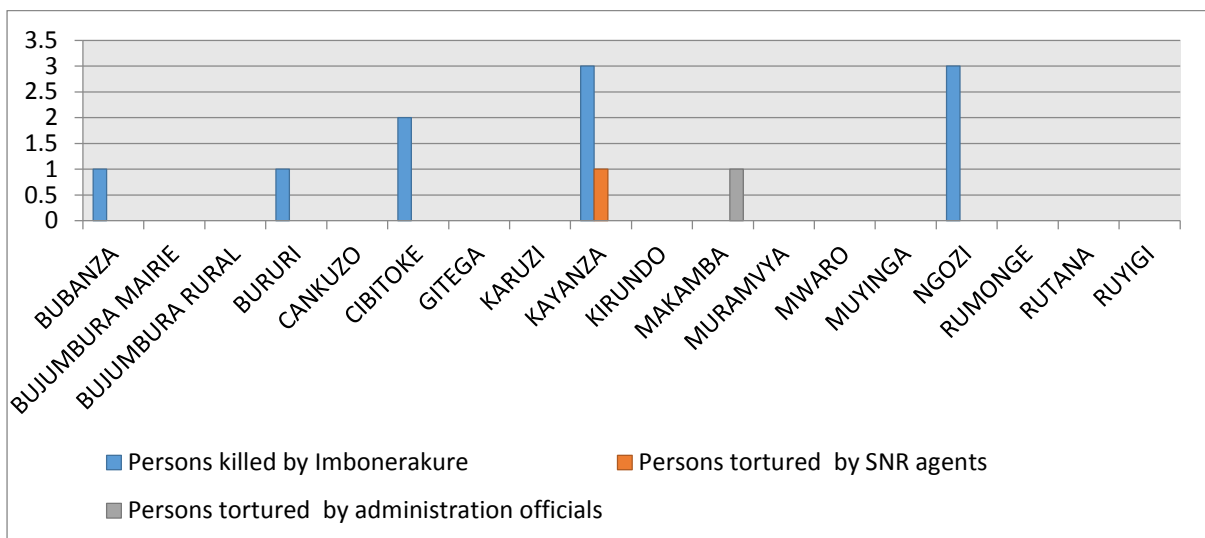


**1.3. PERSONS TORTURED**

During this month of December 2017, twelve cases of torture were recorded by Iteka League. The provinces of Ngozi and Kayanza top the list respectively with 3 cases and 4 cases.

The most targeted victims are FNL members of Agathon Rwasa’s wing and the most prominent 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 two cases of gender-based violence in Bubanza and Karusi provinces with one case each.

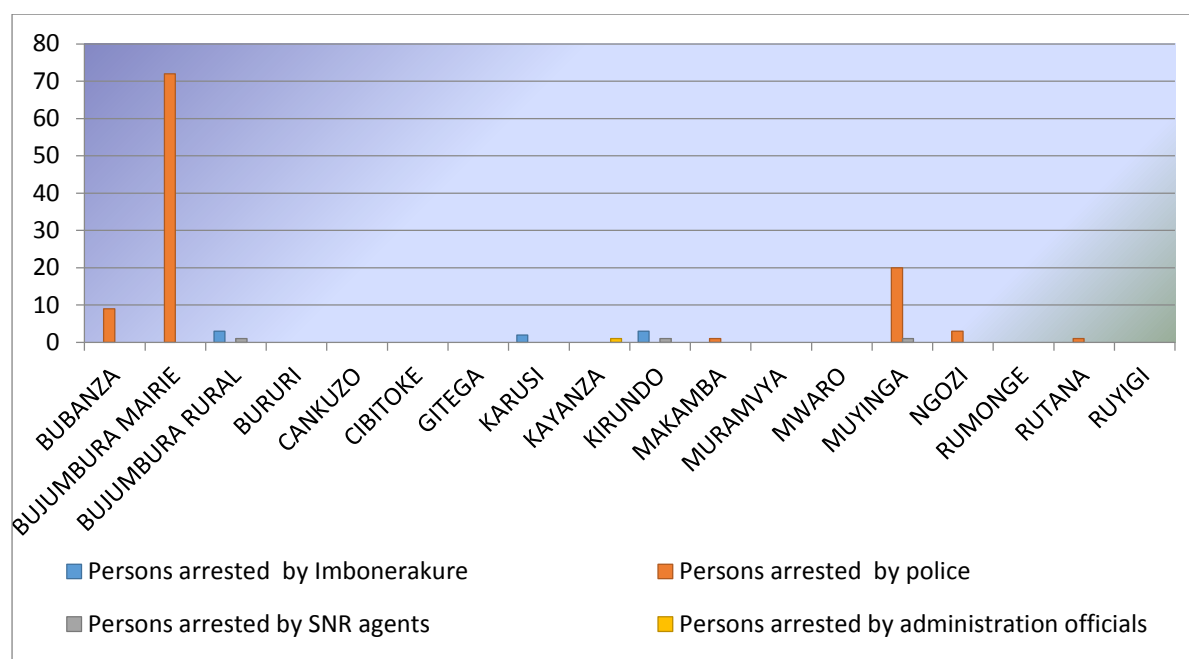
#### ***1.5. PEOPLE ARBITRARILY ARRESTED***

During this month of December 2017, Iteka League recorded 115 cases of arbitrary arrests in different parts of the country. The perpetrators of most of these arrests are police officers with 104 cases.

Bujumbura city recorded most of cases of these arrests followed by Muyinga.

Iteka League noted that in Bujumbura City, President Pierre Nkuruziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term protesting quarters, especially Cibitoke urban zone 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.

***Fig V: Chart of arrested persons***



## ***II. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS***

This report also noted the violation of economic rights. Cows were killed and mutilated in Gashikanwa and Ngozi communes in Ngozi province. On-site sources indicated that the alleged perpetrators are Imbonerakure and the cows killed are those given to non-CNDD-FDD members. These cows were donated by IFAD's PRODEFI program.

Two police officers from Maramvya stole the property of two men, including Nicodeme, from Ruhuma hill, Rugwiza zone, Nyabikere commune, Karusi province, accusing them of

belonging to armed groups. According to sources on site, these two men came from Tanzania.

### **III. SECURITY FACTS**

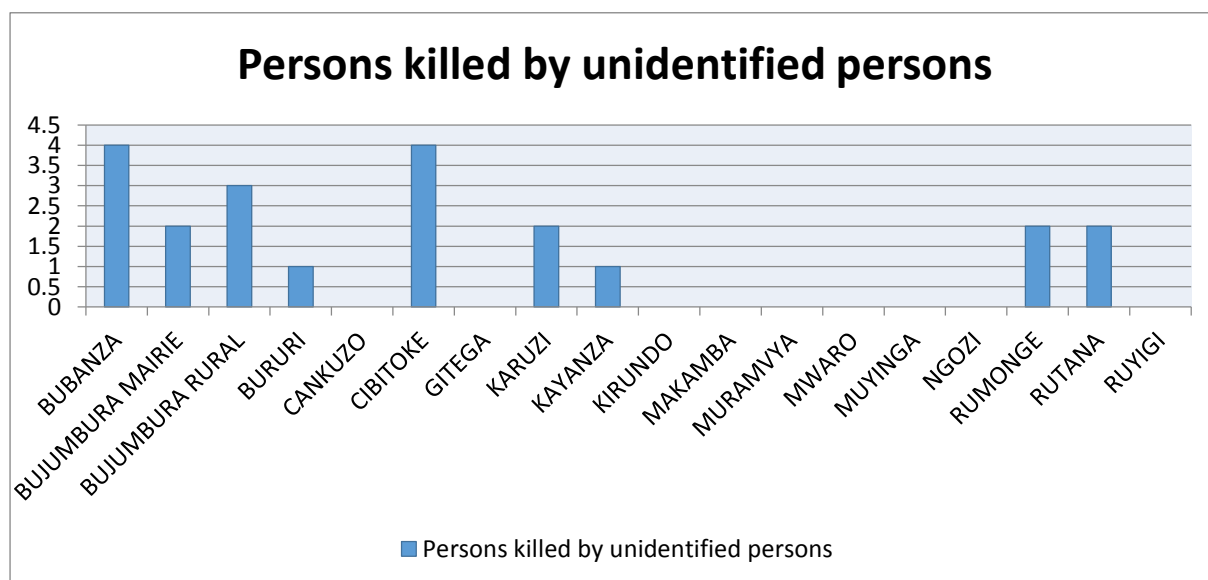
In this report, cases of people killed by unidentified people, killed as a result of the people's justice, settling of scores and other reported facts including grenade throwing, intimidation and hate speech are recorded.

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

During this month of December 2017, twenty-one cases of killings by unidentified people were reported. Among those killed were 16 corpses found in the bush, in the rivers or in other places, showing signs that the victims were killed.

The most affected provinces are Cibitoke and Bubanza with 4 cases each followed by Bujumbura Rural with 3 cases.

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



#### **III.2. PEOPLE KILLED FOLLOWING MOB JUSTICE**

Three mob justice cases were recorded in this report in Bujumbura city, Ngozi and Rumonge provinces. On December 13, 2017, in Nkenga-Busoro quarter, Kanyosha zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city, a person named Etienne alias Mipanga was killed by people at night patrol, accused of theft.

One person was killed in Busiga commune, Ngozi province, on the night of December 27, 2017, on Mparamirundi hill. Gaudencienne Nizigiyimana, a police officer assigned to Busiga commune, was stabbed to death at her home.

On December 2, 2017, on Mugendo hill, Gitaza zone, Muhuta commune, Rumonge province, a person named Salvator Nyandwi was killed, accused of sorcery.



### **III.3. PERSONS KILLED FOLLOWING SETTLEMENT OF SCORES**

Cases of settlement of scores were reported in Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza, Ngozi and Mwaro provinces with one case for each province.

### **III.4. OTHER FACTS REPORTED**

In this December 2017 report, Ligue Iteka found that small arms and light weapons are proliferating among the population.

For example, grenades were launched in different parts of the country: a grenade was launched in Gitega commune and province on December 22, 2017; grenades were launched in Bujumbura city in Bwiza urban zone, Mukaza commune on 4 December 2017; at the bus park near Musaga urban zone office and in a plot located at the 18<sup>th</sup> avenue of Buyenzi urban zone, dated 12 December 2017; at the bar called "ku Micopo" located at the 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue number 43, in Bwiza zone, Mukaza commune on December 10, 2017.

Also, unexploded grenades were found on December 13, 2017 in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province and in Kayanza commune and province on December 10, 2017 at Passos hotel.

Two Kalashnikov rifles were found in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, on December 11, 2017, by the police in the household of an Imbonerakure named Jonas Ndayisenga.

Intimidation and hate speech were reported in this report. As examples, President Pierre Nkurunziza's speech on December 12, 2017, in Bugendana in Gitega province while launching the national campaign on the referendum for the change of the Constitution of the Republic: *"uwozokwitambika imbere y' umugambi wacu azibonerako"* (whoever dares opposing the revision of the constitution will suffer the consequences).

In Mpanda commune office, Bubanza province, on December 14, 2017, Sylvestre Ndayizeye, CNDD-FDD party leagues coordinator held a meeting for CNDD-FDD members to encourage and order the Imbonerakure to hunt down all those who could hinder the change of the constitution, or refuse to contribute for the 2020 elections, that even if it were security forces, they will have to be eliminated.

Similarly, two government ministers, Aimée Laurentine Kanyana, Minister of Justice and Janvière Ndirahisha, Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research, respectively, have intimidated and warned the people of Kirundo and Karusi provinces that anyone who will dare voting "NO" in the referendum for the change of the constitution will suffer the consequences.

Forced contributions are requested from the population of certain provinces of the country, particularly in Musongati commune, Rutana province and Mabanda commune, Makamba province for the construction of CNDD-FDD party offices and monuments.

## ***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.

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 and UPRONA of Charles Nditije's wing as well as civil society members are also reported.

The phenomenon of corpses found in rivers and in the bush continues to be reported in various parts of the country.

Grenade launching, the discovery of unexploded grenades and guns are also reported.

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

This report also notes a worrying phenomenon of school-based political activities.

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.