



LBDH/115/2019

Kampala, 16th September 2019

LIGUE ITEKA DECLARATION ON POLITICAL INTOLERANCE IN BURUNDI ON THE EVE OF THE 2020 ELECTIONS

Since April 25, 2015, Burundi has been in an unprecedented crisis triggered by the decision of President Pierre Nkurunziza to seek a third term in violation of the Arusha Agreement and the constitution stemmed from it.

Throughout this period, a brutal and cruel repression has been observed to date. This repression of the regime has resulted in serious crimes against international law such as extrajudicial executions, targeted killings, abductions and/or enforced disappearances, torture and sexual violence.

This crisis in Burundi has no respite and continues prejudicing to human rights. Therefore, from April 25, 2015 to September 16, 2019, Ligue Iteka has already documented 1912 people killed including 448 corpses found, 576 abducted and/or reported missing, including 41 reappeared, 651 tortured and 223 victims of GBV, 80% being sexual violence.

Despite the international investigations facing Burundi, regional initiatives and the cries of its various partners, there is a growing rise in political intolerance on the eve of the 2020 elections in Burundi. Members of political parties are killed or wounded, abducted and/or reported missing, tortured or arbitrarily arrested, bloody clashes between members of these political parties are reported across the country. Offices of political parties are attacked, destroyed, desecrated or burned.

By way of illustration, since the approval of the CNL party in February 2019 until 16 September 2019, Ligue Iteka has documented cases of human rights violations resulting from this political intolerance.

Thus, out of a total of 240 cases of persons killed including 115 corpses, 18 members of CNL party, 9 of the CNDD-FDD party were documented; 11 members of CNL party and 3 of MSD were abducted and/or reported missing from a total of 17 reported missing cases; out of a total of 184 recorded cases



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)

of torture, 108 members of CNL party, 10 of CNDD-FDD party, 2 of FRODEBU party and 1 of CNDD party were victims; out of a total of 571 arrested persons, 243 members of CNL party, 7 of UPRONA party, 5 of FRODEBU party, 4 of MSD party and 2 of CNDD-FDD party were documented. Ligue Iteka also reported 23 CNL party offices destroyed, desecrated, burned, or vandalized, and one CNDD-FDD party office attacked.

During the same period, women and minors were not spared. Ligue Iteka has recorded 33 women killed and 21 minors killed including 1 albino, 9 women and 5 minors tortured as well as 14 women and 38 minors arbitrarily arrested.

Ligue Iteka is concerned with signs of a bloody period marked by clashes between CNDD-FDD and CNL youths who have already been reported across the country and which have caused cases of people killed or injured.

Ligue Iteka regrets the bias displayed by security forces and administration officers who arbitrarily arrest tortured CNL party members in lieu of the perpetrators.

Faced with this particularly alarming situation, Ligue Iteka recommends:

To the Government of Burundi:

- ❖ to regain its composure and guarantee public rights and freedoms for all;
- ❖ to preserve peace and security for all before, during and after the 2020 elections;
- ❖ investigate on all human rights violations in the country and bring the perpetrators to justice.

To political parties:

- ❖ to favour dialogue for the benefit of the population and to stop propagandist teachings that incite hatred;
- ❖ to work for peaceful cohabitation of young people affiliated to political parties.

To the technical and financial partners:

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- ❖ to be fully involved in this critical phase of preparation and conduct of the 2020 elections for the monitoring and holding of inclusive, credible and fair elections.

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, 16th September 2019

Anschaire NIKOYAGIZE

President of Ligue Iteka

