

## BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

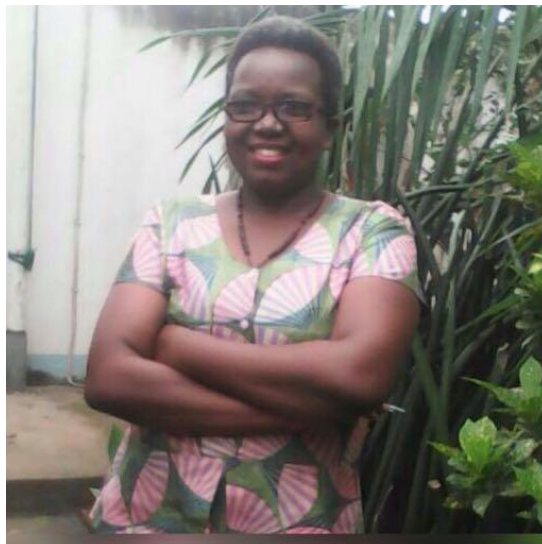
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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°311 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 28 March – 3 April 2022**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 27 March 2022, Iteka has documented at least 648 cases of enforced disappearances.*

| <b>CONTENTS</b>   | <b>PAGES</b> |
|---|--------------|
| <i>ACRONYMS</i> .....   | 3            |
| <i>0. INTRODUCTION</i> .....  | 4            |
| <i>I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS, VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS</i> .... | 5            |
| <i>I.1. THE RIGHT TO LIFE</i> .....   | 5            |
| <i>I.1.1 PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS</i> .....                                   | 5            |
| <i>I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE</i> .....                           | 5            |
| <i>I.1.3. CASES OF INFANTICIDES AND OTHER VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN</i> .....       | 6            |
| <i>I.1.4. PEOPLE KILLED FOLLOWING SETTLEMENT OF SCORES</i> .....                    | 6            |
| <i>I.1.5. PEOPLE KILLED FOLLOWING SECURITY FACTS</i> .....                          | 7            |
| <i>I.2. THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY</i> .....                                   | 7            |
| <i>I.2.1. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE</i> .....                                | 7            |
| <i>I.3. THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM</i> .....  | 8            |
| <i>I.3.1. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING</i> .....                        | 8            |
| <i>I.3.2. PERSONS ARBITRARILY ARRESTED</i> .....                                    | 9            |
| <i>II. OTHER SAFETY FACTS</i> .....   | 10           |
| <i>III. CONCLUSION</i> .....  | 11           |

## **ACRONYMS**

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

**CNL** : *National Congress for Liberty*

**DRC** : *Democratic Republic of Congo*

**ECOFO** : *Fundamental School*

**EUSEBU** : *United Church of the Holy Spirit of Burundi*

**DCE** : *Communal Education Director*

**NGO** : *Non-Governmental Organization*

**OPJ** : *Judicial Police Officer*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**GBV** : *Gender Based Violence*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Over the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded as follows: at least 12 persons killed including 5 corpses, 6 GBV victims, 6 persons abducted and 14 persons arbitrarily arrested.

Among these victims is 1 minor killed and 1 woman arbitrarily arrested.

Imbonerakure militiamen, police, SNR agents and administration officials are singled out as alleged perpetrators of most of these human rights violations.

This bulletin also notes cases of violations of the right to life, physical integrity and liberty.

Cases of security facts have been noted in various localities of the country.

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

### ***I.1. THE RIGHT TO LIFE***

#### ***I.1.1 PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS***

##### **Two people killed in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

On April 2, 2022, around 8:00 p.m., at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Ruziba quarter, Kanyosha zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie, Reverend Pastor Gordien Niyungeko, EUSEBU representative in Burundi, was shot dead. According to sources on site, the victim was returning home when he was shot in front of the gate of his house by an unidentified man in military uniform. According to the same sources, Salvator Nzambimana, representative of this same Church in the State of Missouri in the United States of America who was with Gordien in a car was injured and evacuated to Kamenge Military Hospital where he died on April 3, 2022 while the body of Gordien Niyungeko was taken to the mortuary of this same hospital. Remember that this church has just experienced leadership conflicts at the national level.

##### **A detainee killed in Kabezi commune, Bujumbura rural province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 28, 2022 indicates that on February 10, 2022, around midnight, Janvier Ndayizeye, driver, residing on Kinyinya I hill, Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province died in Kabezi cell, following torture inflicted by police officers. According to sources on site, his body was evacuated to an unknown destination by police officers guarding Kabezi cell. Recall that Janvier Ndayizeye was arrested without a warrant on September 29, 2020, in the morning, in Kajaga quarter, Rukaramu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province. During his arrest, Janvier Ndayizeye was beaten up by police officers from Gatumba brigade police station, in civilian clothes and taken to the police station cell of this brigade. Since October 8, 2020, Janvier Ndayizeye, had been nowhere to be found after being transferred to Bujumbura rural prosecution cell, in Kabezi, on October 7, 2020<sup>1</sup>.

#### ***I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **A body found in Cankuzo commune and province**

On March 27, 2022, around 8:00 p.m., in a bush, on Nyakinyovu hill, Cankuzo zone, commune and province, a body of 29-year-old Jean Claude Ndayahande was found. According to sources on site, the victim's body had injuries to the head. According to Christophe Nyamiye, head of Cankuzo zone, three people, including two girls and one man who had shared a drink with the victim the day before, were arrested and taken to the provincial police station cell in Cankuzo.

##### **One person killed in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province**

On the night of April 1 to 2, 2022, on Kibati hill, Masango zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, Egide Nzeyimana, aged 26, was killed by unidentified people armed with

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<sup>1</sup> Cfr Weekly bulletin "ITEKA N'IJAMBO" n°257 of the Burundian Human Rights League "ITEKA", for the week from March 15 to 21, 2021

machetes. According to Thaddée Muhitira, head of Masango zone, five people were arrested by the police for investigation reasons.

### **Two bodies found in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province**

On April 3, 2022, around 7:00 a.m., on the 4<sup>th</sup> street, Ndava-village hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, two bodies of unidentified men tied up were found by farmers who were going to their fields. According to sources on site, these bodies were one kilometer from Rusizi river border with DRC. The two bodies were buried by the population on the order of Pamphile Hakizimana, Buganda commune administrator.

### **A body found in Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province**

On March 29, 2022, on Rumpungwe river, Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province, a body of Léonidas Mudende, residing on Nyabigozi hill, teacher at Nyabigozi Communal Lycée, communal secretary of FNL party in Gisuru, was found. According to sources on site, on March 28, 2022, around 6:00 p.m., he had gone to relax at Nyabigozi center, being not far from his home after spending his day correcting exam papers at home and he did not come back.

## ***1.1.3. CASES OF INFANTICIDES AND OTHER VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN***

### **A body of a child found in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On March 31, 2022, on Rwingoma hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, the body of a 7-year-old child was found with his throat slaughtered. According to sources on site, on March 30, 2022, around 9:00 p.m., on Rwingoma hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Abdoul alias Duri, CNDD-FDD party member, aged 27, driver of car taxis, slaughtered his 7-year-old son. According to the same sources, this child lived with his 23-year-old mother Nibitanga in Kirundo province and took him to his father on March 28, 2022 before returning to her home in Kirundo. Abdoul slaughtered the child's before hiding the corpse under the bed and he went to Buhiga police where he was jailed. A woman living with Abdoul was also arrested and taken to the police cell.

## ***1.1.4. PEOPLE KILLED FOLLOWING SETTLEMENT OF SCORES***

### **One person killed in Cankuzo commune and province**

Information received by Iteka League on March 29, 2022 indicates that on March 27, 2022, around 7:00 p.m., on Nyakivumu hill, Cankuzo zone and commune, Claude Sibomana, aged 29, from Muterero hill of the same zone, was killed with a Primus bottle to the head, by Jérémié Manirakiza, from Nyarututi hill, Minyare zone, Cankuzo commune and province. According to sources on site, during the day, the victim was sharing beer with two daughters of his relatives residing on Nyakivumu hill in a bar in Cankuzo urban center and sometime later, Jérémié Manirakiza joined them there. According to the same sources, Claude Sibomana accompanied the 2 girls to their home holding a bottle of beer in his hand and Jérémié Manirakiza followed them little by little. Arrived on Nyakivumu hill, Jérémié Manirakiza tried by force to divert one of the 2 girls but Claude Sibomana who accompanied them intervened; Jérémié Manirakiza snatched the bottle from him, hit him on the head and Claude died on the spot. The alleged perpetrator fled but

was arrested around 3:00 a.m. by members of the joint security committee who took him to Cankuzo provincial police station cell.

### ***1.1.5. PEOPLE KILLED FOLLOWING SECURITY FACTS***

#### **One person killed in Bururi commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 28, 2022 indicates that on March 24, 2022, on Gahago hill, Munini zone, Bururi commune and province, Simon Nkuzimana was stoned to death by his brother, Stanislas Niyokwizigira, mentally handicapped. According to sources on site, the victim died on the spot while the alleged perpetrator was taken to Mvukiye in Buta for psychiatric treatment.

#### **One person died by suicide in Kayanza commune and province.**

On the night of April 1 to 2, 2022, in Rwesero quarter, on Musave hill, in Kayanza commune and province, 28-year-old Josué Muhoza committed suicide using a rope. According to sources on site, the victim was a student at Ecole Normale Supérieure and suffered from myopia. According to the same sources, this young man was requesting financial assistance to go abroad for treatment and the communal administrator had promised it to him. It should be noted that the data provided by the police in Kayanza province show that from the beginning of 2021 to February 2022, there were 22 cases of suicide, including 18 men and 4 women.

### ***1.2. THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY***

#### ***1.2.1. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE***

#### **A young girl raped in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 2, 2022 indicates that on March 20, 2022, around 4:00 p.m., on Rugoma hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, A.B., aged 10, was raped by her uncle, aged 20, living on the same hill. According to sources on site, this little girl had gone to her grandmothers' to visit her and the alleged perpetrator took advantage of her parents' absence to rape her. According to the same sources, his mother evacuated the victim to Musema Hospital for medical treatment. The alleged perpetrator was arrested by police officers and taken to the police station cell for investigation.

#### **A woman beaten in Gatara commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 2, 2022 indicates that on March 19, 2022, on Gihororo hill, Gatara zone and commune, Kayanza province, Judith Miburo, shopkeeper, aged 43, was beaten by her 42-year-old husband Vital Ndayizeye. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrator threatened to kill this woman if she did not give him money from the sale of banana drinks.

#### **A young girl raped in Gatara commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 2, 2022 indicates that on March 24, 2022, around 3:00 p.m., on Kigume sub-hill and hill, Gatara commune, Kayanza province, CA, aged 10, was raped in a gutter near the road by Léonard Ntahomvuka, aged 35, father of two children.

According to sources on site, the victim was with her friends and was going to look for cattle grass when the alleged perpetrator took her by force and took her into a gutter. According to the same sources, other children cried for help and people intervened. This victim was evacuated to Musema hospital for medical care while the alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to the communal police station cell before being transferred on March 23, 2022 to the provincial police station cell in Kayanza.

#### **A girl raped in Muruta commune, Kayanza province**

On March 29, 2022, around 6:00 p.m., on Muciro hill, Muruta commune, Kayanza province, E. I., 16 years old, fatherless, was raped by her neighbor, Audace Nyabenda, aged 49 years old. According to sources on site, the victim was returning from drawing water when the alleged perpetrator followed until her home in the house. He took her forcibly and brought her into a bedroom where he raped her. According to the same sources, her mother came to rescue her after hearing screams and Audace Nyabenda fled through the window. The next day, this victim was evacuated to Kayanza Hospital while this alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to Muruta communal police cell.

#### **A girl raped in Kayanza commune and province**

On April 3, 2022, around 7:00 p.m., on Muciro hill, Nyabihogo zone, Kayanza commune and province, O.N., a 25-year-old farmer was raped by Alexis Ntirandekura, 30 years old. According to sources on site, the victim was from the market when the alleged perpetrator caught her, took her by force into a cornfield, near a road where he raped her. According to the same sources, after shouting for help, the victim was rescued by neighbors who intervened and the alleged perpetrator took off.

#### **A girl raped in Rumonge commune and province**

On March 31, 2022, around 1:00 a.m., on Mugomere hill, Rumonge commune and province, DH, waitress at the bar, was raped by Alexis Nshimumukiza alias Fagason, hill head of the Imbonerakure of Mugomere, Adolphe Manirakiza and Anaclet Toyi, all Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure were arrested by police and taken to Rumonge police station cell.

### ***1.3. THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM***

#### ***1.3.1. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING***

##### **Five people abducted in Cankuzo province**

From March 31 to April 1, 2022, in Cankuzo commune and province, Anatole Hakizimana, Norbert Hatungimana, Shadrack Sibomana, Norbert Gasugumwa and Jean Claude were arrested by Venant Ndayishimiye, SNR provincial head who took them to his home before driving them to an unknown destination. According to sources on site, Anatole Hakizimana, City Security team leader, assigned to the NGO World Vision in Cankuzo, residing in Ndava quarter, Cankuzo urban center, native of Ramba hill, Gisagara commune of the same province, was arrested at his work on March 31, 2022. Three others were arrested at their home, in Ndava quarter, the next day, on April 1, 2022, including Norbert Hatungimana and Norbert Gasugumwa. A fifth was arrested



when he brought clothes to Anatole who was jailed in the cell wearing the service uniform. They were then taken to an unknown destination and accused of belonging to an illegal political party which was not specified.

### **A member of CNL party abducted in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

On March 30, 2022, around 4:00 p.m., on Rugajo hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, Marc Niyonahabonye was abducted by SNR agents onboard a vehicle owned by Ahmed Nabil Sindayigaya, provincial SNR head in Cibitoke. According to sources on site, this vehicle was parked in this commune and after ten minutes, the population saw members of Imbonerakure militiamen who were bringing Marc and loaded him into this vehicle which immediately left at high speed. According to the same sources, Marc Niyonahabonye was accused of spying, and he had left CNL party three months ago to join CNDD-FDD party. His family looked for him in all the cells of Cibitoke province but in vain.

### ***1.3.2. PERSONS ARBITRARILY ARRESTED***

#### **Two people arrested in Makamba commune and province**

On March 27, 2022, around 4:00 p.m., on Gitaba hill and zone, Makamba commune and province, Emmanuel, responsible for the distribution of fertilizers in this zone and a storekeeper were arrested by an OPJ. According to sources on site, these people were accused of misappropriation of about half a ton of fertilizers. According to the same sources, they were taken to the communal police station cell in Makamba.

#### **Two pastors arrested in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province**

On the night of April 2, 2022, in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province, Joël Gihimbare, second pastor of EUSEBU church and Ezéchiél Bujeri, pastor of the same church, both from Nyanza-lac mission, were arrested by police officers accompanied by SNR agents in Nyanza-lac and taken to Nyanza-lac police station cell. According to sources on site, they were arrested after the assassination in the locality of Ruziba, Kanyosha zone, Bujumbura Mairie, of Jean Gordien Niyungeko, legal representative of the same church and of Salvator Nzambimana, pastor of the same church in the United States. According to a source from this same church, Jean Gordien Niyungeko supported sided to the first pastor Laban Barankunda in opposition to Joël Gihimbare and Ezéchiél Bujeri. Police have surrounded the homes of these pastors since the night before arresting them. After this arrest, in Kazirabageni zone, the faithful of this Church moved chairs to prevent Laban Barankunda's supporters from celebrating mass; in Buheka the faithful came with banners with messages against the first pastor of Nyanza-lac mission, Laban Barankunda, but the doors of the church were closed and no pastor showed up. In Kabonga zone of this same commune, Sunday activities did not take place either. The faithful hostile to Laban's side had prepared to prevent the celebration of the mass. we should recall that since November 2021, the leadership crisis within this church has erupted in Nyanza-lac mission. Four pastors of this church including Joël Gihimbare and Ezéchiél Bujeri had been arrested since last January before releasing them.

### **A CNL party member arrested in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province**

On March 30, 2022, in Kigina center, Ngara hill, Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province, a man named Eric, trader, member of CNL party, was arrested by Eliphase, the SNR provincial head in Mwaro. According to sources on site, he was accused of having impregnated a 24-year-old girl. According to the same sources, this girl considered a victim, however, denied the facts, indicating to the SNR head that she could lodge a complaint if she had been raped. Eric was a victim of having refused to join CNDD-FDD party.

### **Eight people arrested in Buyengero commune, Rumonge province**

On March 29, 2022, around 3:00 p.m., on Karambi hill, Buyengero commune, Rumonge province, Juvenal Barinzigo, Jean Nyabenda, Jean Nahimana, Sylvestre Nyabenda, Kabura, Minani, Matthieu and Rénovat were arrested by the police and were taken to Buyengero police cell. According to sources on site, the victims are among the inhabitants of this hill who were demanding the payment of compensation for their fields and their houses damaged following the construction of a road leading to the sites of the hydropower plant project Jiji-Murembwe, since September 2021. According to the same sources, they were released the next day.

### **A woman arrested on behalf of her husband, a member of CNL party in Rutana commune and province**

As of March 30, 2022, around 6:00 a.m., at Karindo II sub-hill, Rutana hill, commune and province, Suavis Ndayisenga, pregnant of 8 months, teacher at ECOFO Nyarubere, DCE Rutana, CNL party member, was arrested and taken to the provincial police station cell by Pépin Habimana, SNR provincial head in Rutana, accompanied by the communal secretary of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, she was arrested on behalf of her husband, Gilbert Sinamenye, a teacher at ECOFO Mwayi, a member of CNL party. He was accused of being a rebel and he had already left the house very early in the morning, at 5 o'clock. We should recall that 22 other members of CNL party had been arrested on March 23, 2022, in this same province, accusing them of being rebels. The health of this woman deteriorated, and she was taken out of the cell to be bedridden at Rutana hospital.

## ***II. OTHER SAFETY FACTS***

### **A woman beaten in Kayanza commune and province**

On March 28, 2022, around 11:00 p.m., on Gisoro II sub-hill, Musave hill, Kayanza commune and province, Odette Ndayishimiye, aged 34, was injured in the forehead by an empty beer bottle by her sister-in-law, Aline Kubwimana. According to sources on site, the victim's brother had sold the family home that their 62-year-old father Emmanuel Ndoreraho had lent him. Odette had opposed it, hence the disagreements between her and her sister-in-law. According to the same sources, the neighbors evacuated Odette Ndayishimiye to Kayanza hospital and when they returned, they found Emmanuel Ndoreraho already dead. Aline Kubwimana was arrested the following morning and taken to the police station cell in Kayanza for investigation reasons.

### **Bad weather in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province**

On April 1, 2022, towards the evening, on Buhayira hill and zone, Murwi commune, Cibitoke province, 80 houses and 2 classrooms were destroyed by torrential rains. According to the communal administrator of Murwi, Melchiade Nzokizwanayo, several hectares of fields of beans, corn and banana plantations were swept away by the violent wind mixed with hail. According to this official, these rains also damaged 10 houses and about twenty hectares of crop fields in the neighboring zone of Ngoma.

### **A tomb destroyed in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province**

On the night of March 29 to 30, 2022, in Musenyi cemetery, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, unidentified people destroyed a tomb that had just been built the same day. According to sources on site, all the tiles were removed and hidden in a bush not far from the same cemetery. According to the same sources, on the morning of March 30, 2022, the family of the deceased forced the gravedigger to redo the grave and put back these tiles. The local administration and the police have indicated that it was a simple theft and that investigations were to begin.

### ***III. CONCLUSION***

Over the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations and political and civil rights violations, continue to be recorded across the country.

This bulletin reports on cases of violations of the right to life, physical integrity and liberty.

This bulletin also lists issues related to security facts in some localities the country.

Ligue Iteka protests against the impunity of crimes observed and calls on the Government to prosecute the perpetrators without bias.