

## BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

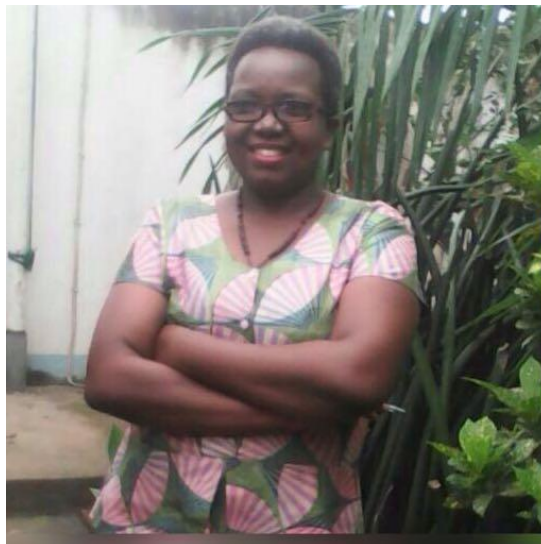
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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°312 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 3 – 10 April 2022**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 10 April 2022, Iteka has documented at least 644 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS**

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

**CNIDH** : *National Human Right Commission*

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

**ECOFO** : *Fundamental School*

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

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

**OPJ** : *Judicial Police Officer*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**SGBV** : *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 2 corpses, 2 GBV victims, 2 persons abducted and 7 persons arbitrarily arrested.

Among these victims is 8 minors killed and 1 woman arbitrarily arrested.

Imbonerakure militiamen, police, SNR agents, soldiers 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, justice and governance 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 UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **One person killed in Songa commune, Bururi province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 6, 2022 indicates that on April 3, 2022, on Ndago hill, Songa commune, Bururi province, a man named Macumi was killed, beheaded in an ambush by unidentified people.

##### **A body of a CNDD-FDD party member found in Songa commune, Bururi province**

On April 4, 2022, around 8:00 a.m., on Rutundwe hill, Songa commune, Bururi province, the body of Gilbert Nishimwe, 38 years old, unemployed and member of CNDD-FDD party, was found 300 meters away from his house. According to sources on site, the corpse showed traces on the face and a lot of blood in the mouth and nose.

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

On April 8, 2022, on Murambi hill, Buruhukiro zone, Rumonge commune and province, the body of Ferdinand Kabura, 32 years old, from Gasanda zone, Bururi commune and province, was found strangled. According to sources on site, next to the victim's body there were remains of his clothes and his phone showing that they had been burned. According to the same sources, this man had been reported missing on April 5, 2022.

#### ***I.1.2. KILLINGS OF CHILDREN***

##### **Eight newborn babies died in Kirundo commune and province**

On April 7 and 8, 2022, at Kirundo hospital, in Kirundo province, eight premature newborns died following a lack of fuel for a generator. According to sources on site, as of April 7, 2022, two newborns died and as of April 8, 2022, six other newborns died overnight. According to the same sources, the hospital has a generator but Kirundo province had just spent 15 days without being supplied with diesel while this generator only uses the latter.

Ligue Iteka observes that these children died due to the negligence of the hospital authorities and asks for in-depth investigations to be carried out in order to punish those responsible and restore the rights of families who have lost theirs.

#### ***I.1.3. PEOPLE KILLED FOLLOWING SECURITY FACTS***

##### **One person killed in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province**

On April 4, 2022, around 7:00 a.m., on the 8<sup>th</sup> street, Musenyi hill, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, a body of an unidentified man was found. According to sources on site, three thieves broke through the wall of a house and when the first entered the house to steal, the head of the family defended himself and seriously injured one of these thieves with a machete in the head and the other two took off. According to the same sources, the one who was injured went out but he

died next to this house shortly afterwards. According to the same sources, the victim had no identity document.

## ***I.2. THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY***

### ***I.2.1. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE***

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 9, 2022, indicates that on March 22, 2022, around 2:00 p.m., on Nyabitwe sub-hill and hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, F.N., aged 9, schoolgirl in 3<sup>rd</sup> form at ECOFO Kabuye, was raped by Egide, aged 16, a 6<sup>th</sup> form student at the same school. According to sources on site, the perpetrator of the rape met the victim in the marshes of the Nyabitwe sub-hill looking for fodder grass. According to the same sources, the victim was evacuated to Musema hospital for medical expertise and benefit from medical care while the alleged perpetrator of the rape was arrested and taken to the Rango police station cell for investigation reasons.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 9, 2022 indicates that on March 15, 2022, around 3:00 a.m., on Gitwenge hill, Gatara commune, Kayanza province, 32-year-old Diane Nizigiyimana was beaten by her husband Emmanuel Hakizimana, shopkeeper, 42 years old and fractured her left arm. According to sources on site, the husband has a cohabitation relationship with another woman from this locality. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrator was not worried despite the physical violence he inflicted on his wife.

## ***I.3. THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM***

### ***I.3.1. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING***

#### **A CNDD-FDD party member abducted in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 6, 2022 indicates that on September 6, 2021, at Calvados bar, Rohero zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie, Christian Ndizeye, nicknamed BALEZ, trader member of CNDD-FDD party, native of Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province, was abducted by men in military uniform and taken to an unknown location. According to sources on site, the victim was bidding for public contracts. The family looked for him everywhere but in vain.

#### **A member of CNL party abducted in Muyinga commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 7, 2022 indicates that on November 14, 2021, in the capital of Muyinga commune and province, Philbert Ndinduruvugo, leader of CNL party in Masaka zone, Giteranyi commune, Muyinga province was abducted by SNR agents. According to sources on site, he was responding to a call from Romuald Ndayikengurutse, SNR agent in this locality. According to the same sources, he did not return and the family searched in all the cells but in vain.

### **Five people abducted in Cankuzo province<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>2</sup>**

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.

### **A person abducted in Bisoro commune, Mwaro province<sup>3</sup>**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 18, 2021 indicates that on November 2, 2021, on Mashunzi hill, Bisoro commune, Mwaro province, Félicien Ruhara, agronomist working at PROTHEM tea factory, was arrested by SNR agents at his home. According to sources on site, he was accused of having participated in an armed robbery which took place in Mugamba commune where a vehicle had been burned. According to sources on site, his family looked for him everywhere but in vain.

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

#### **A person arrested in Songa commune, Bururi province**

On April 7, 2022, in Songa commune, Bururi province, Samson Vyuzura, disciplinary prefect at Ruvumvu communal high school was arrested by the police and then taken to the police cell of this same commune. According to sources on site, the victim is suspected of complicity in the theft of student education score monitoring book. According to the same sources, following the theft of this book, the proclamation of the results of the second term at the same Lycée scheduled for April 8,

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<sup>1</sup> This case was reported in weekly bulletin no. 311. Among the five people abducted, four were found in the SNR cell in Cankuzo province and were released on April 4, 2022, but Anatole Hakizimana is not found yet.

<sup>2</sup> The case was reported in Bulletin No. 311 as an abducted person. On April 2, 2022, Marc Niyonahabonye was found in one of the SNR cells near Regina Mundi Cathedral.

<sup>3</sup> This case was reported in bulletin no. 292. His name is Jean Claude Ruharamagara instead of Ruhara Félicien. He was found jailed in the SNR cell in Bujumbura Mairie.

2022 did not take place. According to the same sources, a bad climate reigns between Rénovat Ndayizeye, director of this school and part of his staff including Samson Vyuzura for having denounced the coinage of scores at this Communal High School of Ruvumvu.

### **Six people arrested in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On April 9, 2022, on Mbizi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province, six people, including a head of household and his wife with a baby less than a year old, were arrested by the provincial commissioner accompanied by the head of SNR in Makamba province and policemen. According to sources on site, they were jailed in the communal police station cell in Makamba. According to the same sources, they were accused of participating in armed movements.

## ***I.4. JUSTICE***

### **An OPJ arrested in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 4, 2022 indicates that since March 24, 2022, OPJ Clément NDIKUMANA, an agent of the judicial service of the Nyanza Lac police station has been arrested by police officers on the order of Makamba Prosecutor. According to sources on site, he was accused of having collected 1,500,000 Bif from 10 faithful of the EUSEBU Church. According to the same sources, these faithful had been arrested by the police and SNR agents on March 13, 2022 and jailed in cell from March 13 to 22, 2022.

## ***II. GOVERNANCE***

### **A meeting of CNIDH and the administration in Karuzi province**

On April 7, 2022, in the province room, a meeting was organized by CNIDH in Karuzi province in collaboration with the provincial administration with the aim of returning the internal displaced persons from the 1993 crisis from the displaced persons camps of Buhiga and Kigoma of Karuzi. According to sources on site, during this meeting, some representatives of the displaced persons from these two camps were invited where they were urged to go and convince the other displaced persons to return to their hills of origin. According to the same sources, in his speech, the governor of Karuzi province, Calinie Mbarushimana insulted and scolded the representatives of the displaced and told them that they had been intoxicated by the Tutsi government that they would not return home to live with the Hutus. The meeting ended with recommendations, namely raising awareness among the displaced to convince them to return to their hills and free state properties. But for their part, the representatives of these displaced people refused, arguing that the camps have become neighborhoods of peace because all ethnic groups live there without distinction.

### **Food and service price rising in Burundi**

From January 2022 to April 10, 2022, the prices of food and services have been steadily increasing in all provinces of the country. By way of illustration, in Ruyigi province, a pile of sweet potato and cassava which cost 1000 Bif in February 2022 costs 2000 Bif in April, i.e. an increase of 100%. The price of a kilogram of meat, which was 9,000 Bif at the slaughterhouse, varies between 10,000 Bif and 11,000 Bif in this same province.



In Rutana province, a kilogram of rice that was bought at 2500 Bif is bought at 3200 Bif. In terms of transport, the cost of a Rutana-Gitega ticket, which was 6,000 Bif, rose to 10,000 Bif.

In Karuzi province, transport prices have also been revised upwards by transporters. Thus, the Karuzi-Gitega transport price which was at 7,000 Bif is 10,000 Bif for the same trip while the Karuzi-Muyinga transport price which was at 3,000 Bif rose to 5,000 Bif. In addition, Karuzi province, which had a single gas station in Buhiga, has just spent 2 months without fuel when it was supplied with 7,000 liters over a two-week period.

In Cibitoke province, transport and food prices have been doubled or even more. Thus, in terms of transport, the price of a Bujumbura-Rugombo ticket went from 4,000 Bif to 10,000 Bif. The same situation can also be observed for trips within the communes of this province. For example, the Rugombo-Mabayi transport price went from 4000 Bif to 7000 Bif; Rugombo-Mugina, from 1500 Bif to 3000 Bif while that of Rugombo-Bukinanyana which was 7000 Bif rose to 14000 Bif. In terms of foodstuffs, prices have risen significantly by up to 40%. For example, the price of first quality and second quality beans from Ngozi and Kirundo which was respectively 1500 Bif and 2000 Bif rose to 1900 Bif and 2500 Bif respectively. The price per kg of rice has gone from 1800 Bif to 2600 Bif while the same quantity of cassava flour is currently bought at 1500 Bif when the kg was sold at 1000 Bif.

This situation is mainly due to the fuel price rise, despite the fact that at the beginning of this year 2022, the Ministry of Trade had revised upwards the prices of the product to deal with the consequences of the fuel shortage whose transport prices were exorbitant.

### **Setting prices for the exploitation of marshlands in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 5, 2022 indicates that as of April 1, 2022, the right to use the marshlands by their owners has now been payable from April 4 to 23, 2022. This decision was announced by Frédéric Nzoyisaba, Communal Administrator of Mishiha, in Cankuzo province who released a press release calling on the farmers of the marshlands in his commune to pay money according to size of each cultivable part and per person. According to this press release, the operator of an area of cultivable marshland having 30 meters by 20 meters will pay 2,000 Bif if it is well maintained in a model way, while the owner of a plot of marshland of the same size will pay 1,000 fbu if this plot is not well maintained.

### **Owners of plots ordered to provide documents to the authority in Rumonge province**

On April 6, 2022, the Governor of Rumonge province, Consolateur Nitunga indicated that all plots located near the province office under construction in Rumonge must be modernized within 6 months. He threatened that the province office cannot be surrounded by bushes and abandoned houses and that the law will be enforced after this time expires. This decision also concerns all the non-modernized houses in the city of Rumonge, starting with those in Swahili quarter in order to make Rumonge a modern city. Thus, the owners of these plots, including those around the commercial port of Rumonge, were asked to provide the Governor's office with documents attesting that they are the real owners.

This decision fell after that announced by the administrator of Muha commune, in Bujumbura Mairie, that gave a three-day ultimatum to the owners of plots in his commune.

## **Expropriation of stands at Makamba market**

Traders at the market of Makamba commune are protesting an expropriation decision taken by Makamba communal council in this market. At a meeting on April 1, 2022, this communal council decided to withdraw the contract from the first buyers to distribute them to traders who currently operate there, as indicated by Léonard Nishimwe, councilor in charge of development of Makamba commune. This decision, which had been taken on March 25, 2022, was contested by the traders who participated in this meeting. They explained that some traders paid for more than 3 stands on the order of the commune when they did not have the fees required to start construction activities. They accused the communal councilors present in the room that each time a new communal council is elected, its members try to allocate stands in this market. Some traders say they have abandoned their projects in order to pay for 4 stands and this at the request of the administration of the same commune. These traders denounce the decision of the said council which wants to drive them out of the stands after they have paid their money. Léonard Nishimwe specified that this decision must be implemented immediately. This decision was taken on April 1, 2022 after the traders of the said market had stopped their activities to contest the payment of the annual taxes set by the administration of Makamba commune at the beginning of March 2022.

### ***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 justice, governance and 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.