

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

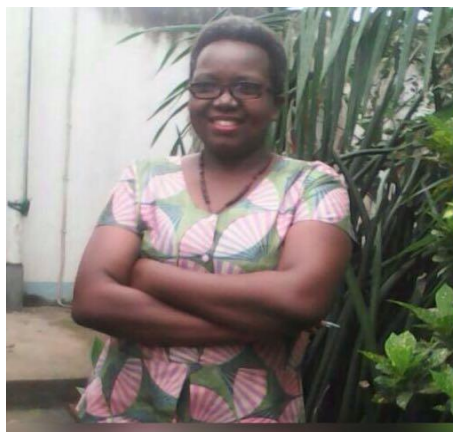
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"Is a member of the Inter-African Union of Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), has observer status to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and has special consultative status to the ECOSOC. It is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections".

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

February 2022



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Ligue Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 28 February 2022, Iteka has documented at least 641 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS

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

CNL: National Council for Liberty

ICC: International Criminal Court

ESCR: Economic and Socio-Cultural Rights

EAC: East African Community

ECOFO: Fundamental School

FOMI : Organic-Mineral Fertilizers Industries

DRC : Democratic Republic of Congo

SNR : National Intelligence Service

EU : European Union

SGBV: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

0. INTRODUCTION

This monthly report for February 2022 includes weekly "Iteka n'Ijambo" bulletins from number 303 to 306.

The main trends observed were namely cases of alleged violations and violations of the right to life, physical integrity, liberty and other facts noted.

Over the reporting period, allegations of violations, violations, and abuses of civil and political rights were recorded as follows: at least 72 people were killed, including 42 corpses found, 10 victims of SGBV, 6 abducted and/or reported missing, 5 tortured, and 24 arbitrarily arrested.

Among the victims recorded were 13 women and 9 minors killed, 3 minors tortured, and 2 women arbitrarily arrested.

Members of political parties were also targeted, including one member of CNDD-FDD party who was killed, six members of CNDD-FDD party who were abducted, and three members of CNL party who were arbitrarily arrested.

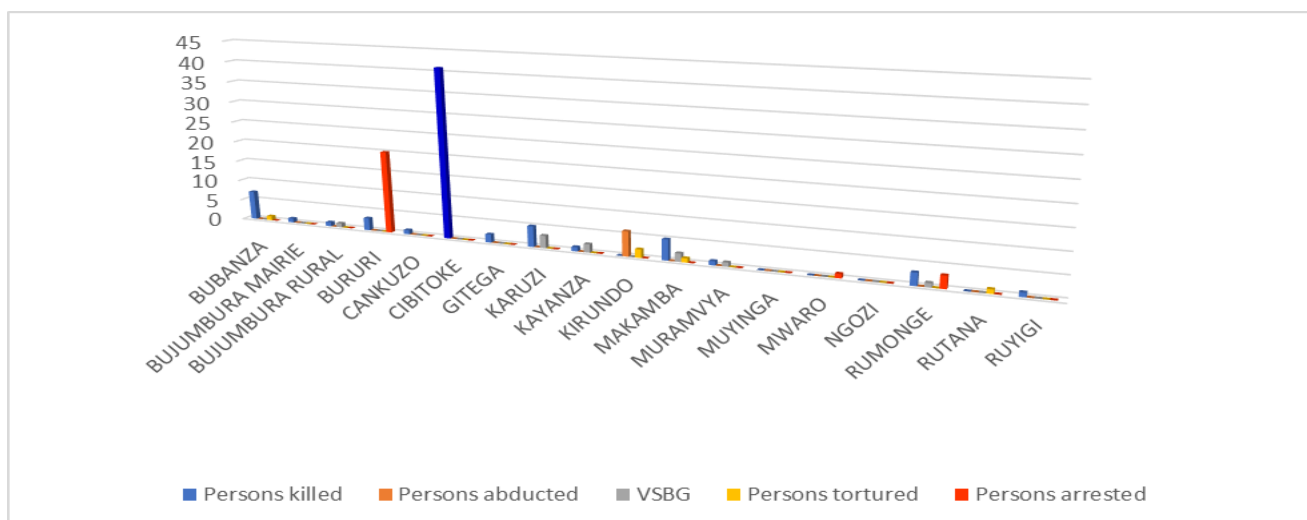
The phenomenon of dead bodies continued to occur across the country, and in most cases, investigations have not been carried out, which is very worrying.

Issues related to justice, ESC rights, governance, and security were reported during this period.

Members of the Imbonerakure militia, police, SNR agents, soldiers, and administration officials are singled out as alleged perpetrators of most of these observed human rights violations.

This report makes recommendations to anyone who can influence change in the country's precarious human rights situation.

Figure 1: Graph illustrating the main allegations of violations, abuses and violations of civil and political rights committed in Burundi as of February 2022



As the graph above shows, during the month of February 2022, the number of persons killed was 72, including 13 women and 9 minors. The province of Cibitoke leads with 41 cases, followed by Bubanza with 7 cases, Karuzi and Makamba with 5 cases each, Bururi and Rumonge with 3 cases each, and Gitega with 2 cases.

During this period, Ligue Iteka documented six members of the Imbonerakure militia who were abducted and/or reported missing in Kirundo province by SNR agents.

Out of a total of 10 victims of SGBV recorded during this period, the province of Karuzi leads with 3 cases, followed by Kayanza and Makamba with 2 cases each, Bujumbura rural, Muramvya and Rumonge with 1 case each.

In this report, Ligue Iteka also recorded five cases of people tortured in the provinces of Kirundo with two cases, Bubanza, Makamba and Rutana with one case each.

Out of a total of 24 cases of arbitrary arrests recorded during this period, Bururi province leads with 20 cases, followed by Rumonge with 3 cases and Mwaro with 1 case.

Among the victims of violations recorded were one CNDD-FDD party member killed, six CNDD-FDD party members abducted, and three CNL party members arbitrarily arrested.

1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

1.1.ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS

During the month of February 2022, Ligue Iteka documented four cases of people killed by state agents, including Imbonerakure, SNR agents, administration officials, and police, with one case each. As illustrated in the graph below, these cases were recorded in the provinces of Bubanza, Bujumbura rural, Bururi and Gitega.

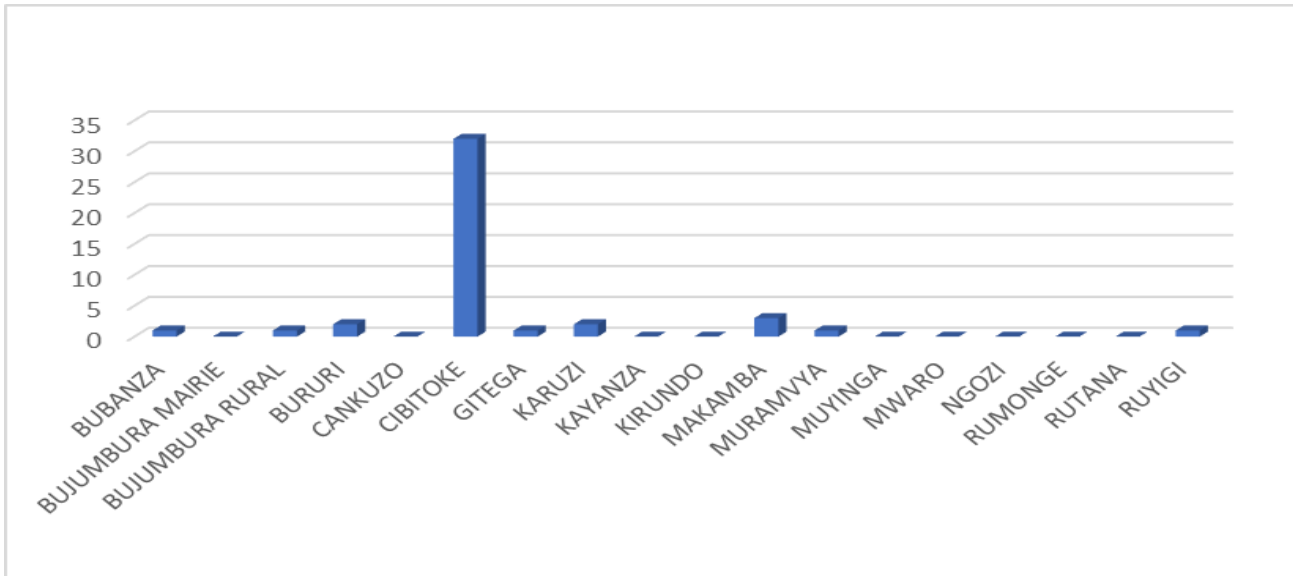
Figure 2: Graph of persons killed by state agents



1.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

During the month of February 2022, Ligue Iteka recorded 44 cases of people killed by unidentified persons. As the graph below illustrates, Cibitoke province leads with 32 cases, followed by Makamba province with 3 cases, Bururi and Karuzi with 2 cases each.

Figure 3: Graph of people killed by unidentified people



1.1.3. CORPSES FOUND

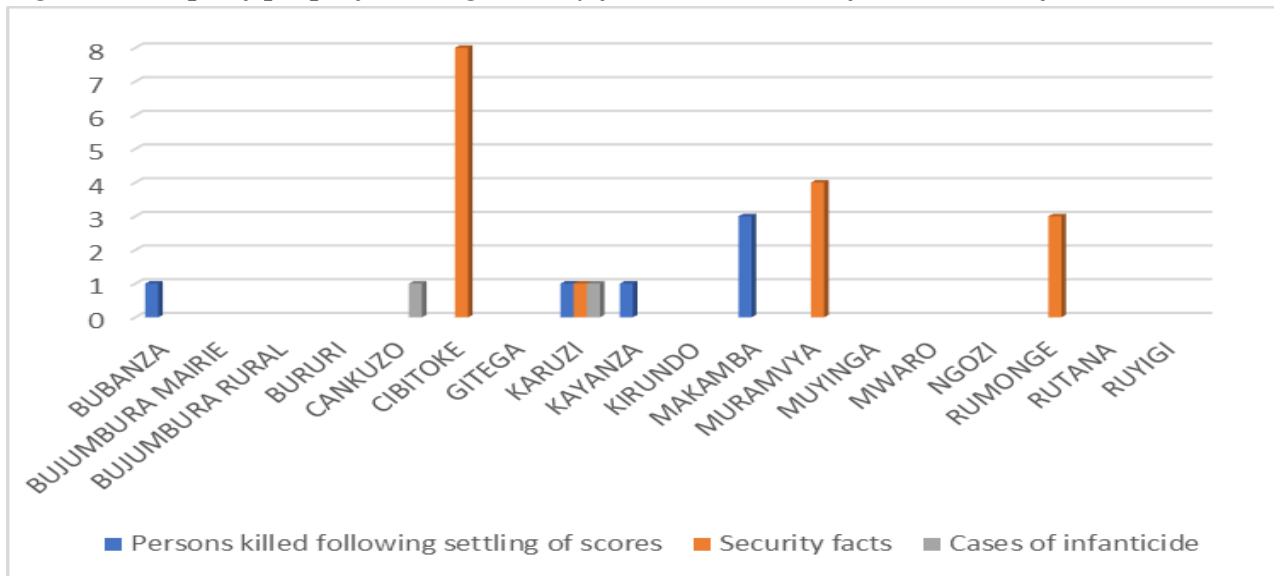
During the month of February 2022, Ligue Iteka recorded 42 cases of corpses found. Cibitoke province leads with 31 cases, followed by Makamba with 3 cases, Bururi and Karuzi with 2 cases each. Most of these victims were found with signs of violence.

This phenomenon of corpses found here and there is worrying given the high number and the fact that investigations are not being conducted to determine the identity of the victims, the perpetrators and the reasons for these killings.

1.1.4. PEOPLE KILLED FOLLOWING SECURITY FACTS, SETTLING OF SCORES AND INFANTICIDE

During the month of February 2022, as shown in the graph below, 24 people were killed, including 16 killed following security facts, 6 following settling of scores, and 2 due to infanticide.

Figure 4: Graph of people following security facts, settlements of scores and infanticide

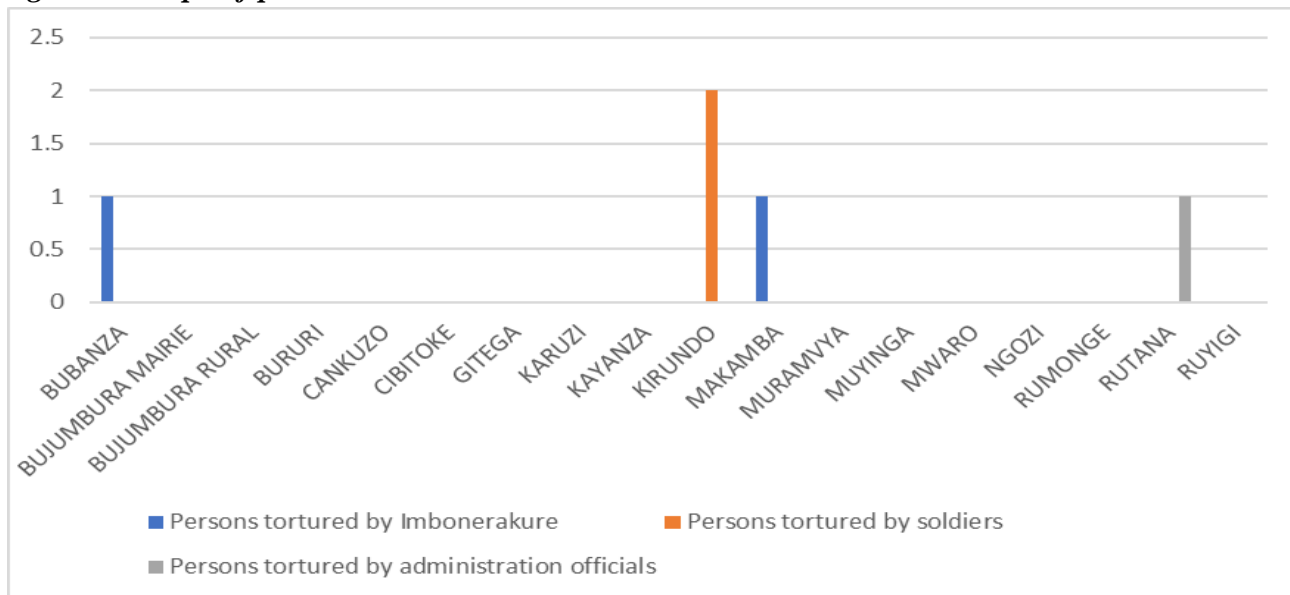


1.2. THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

1.2.1. PERSONS TORTURED

During the month of February 2022, Iteka League recorded five cases of torture, including three minors. The alleged perpetrators were members of the Imbonerakure militia and soldiers, with two cases each, and administration officials, with one case. The acts were recorded in Kirundo province with 2 cases, in Bubanza, Makamba and Rutana with 1 case each.

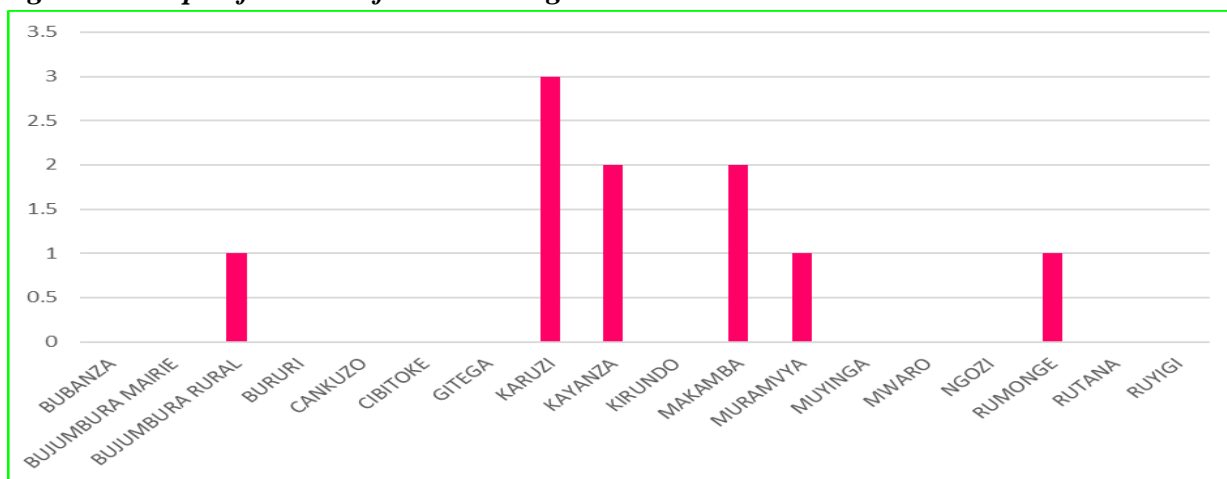
Figure 5: Graph of persons tortured



1.2.2. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

During this period, Ligue Iteka documented 10 cases of SGBV. As shown in the graph below, Karuzi province leads with 3 cases, followed by Kayanza and Makamba with 2 cases each, Bujumbura rural, Muramvya and Rumonge with 1 case each.

Figure 6: Graph of victims of sexual and gender-based violence

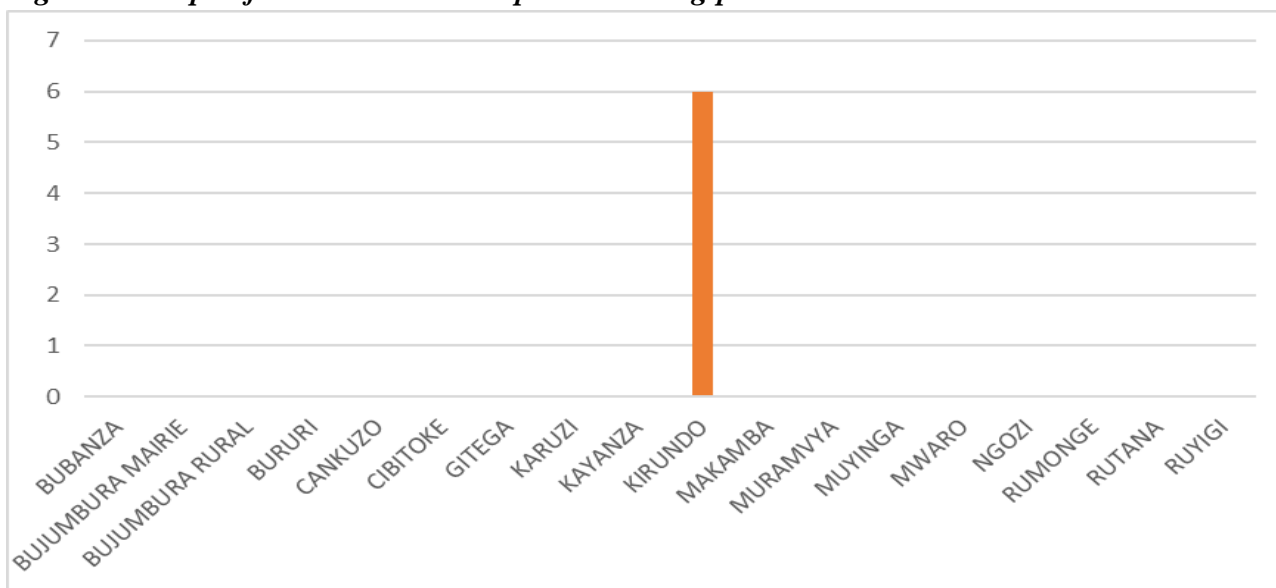


1.3. THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM

1.3.1. ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING PERSONS

During the reporting period, six members of the Imbonerakure militia were abducted and/or reported missing in Kirundo province by SNR agents, accusing them of refusing to participate in paramilitary training in order to go and fight the armed groups in the DRC.

Figure 8: Graph of abducted and/or reported missing persons

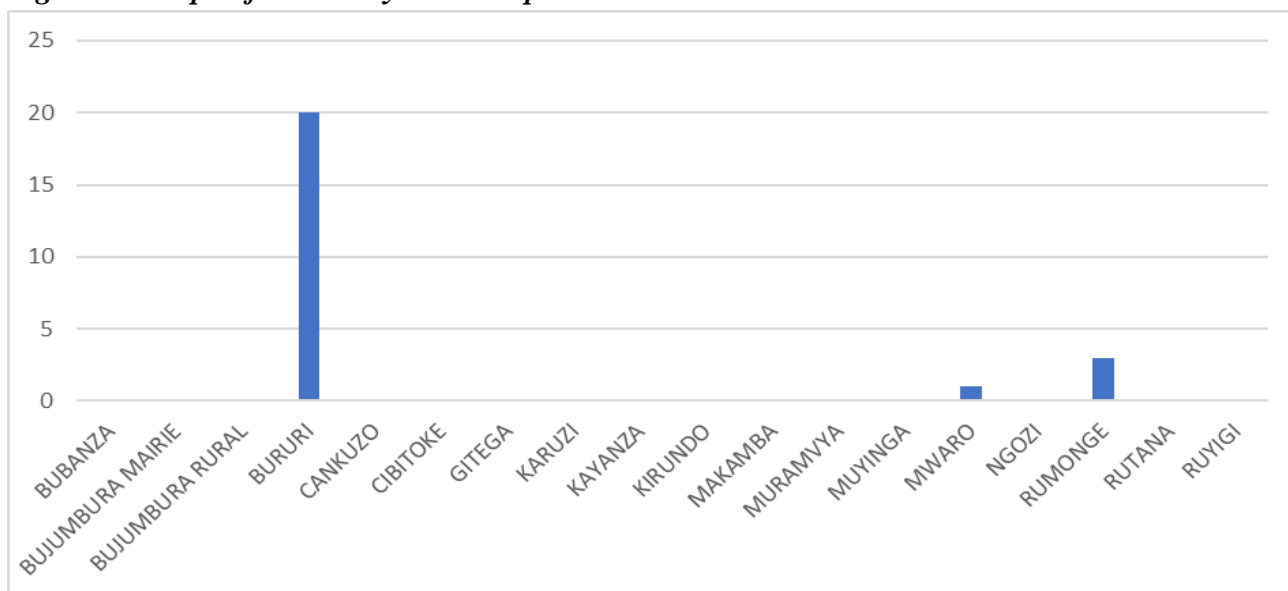


1.3.2. PEOPLE ARBITRARILY ARRESTED

During the month of February 2022, Ligue Iteka documented 24 cases of arbitrary arrests, including three members of CNL party.

As the graph below indicates, Bururi province leads with 20 cases, followed by Rumonge with 3 cases and Mwaro with 1 case. The alleged perpetrators of these arbitrary arrests are police officers.

Figure 9: Graph of arbitrarily arrested persons



II. JUSTICE ISSUES

Over the reporting period, Ligue Iteka recorded issues related to justice. These included the arrest of two CNDD-FDD party members on charges of embezzlement and the conviction of a member of the Imbonerakure militia and a police officer.

III. GOVERNANCE

In terms of governance, during this period, cases of embezzlement of public funds, seizure of bags of sugar, cement and chemical fertilizer, and the dismissal of the administrator of Vugizo commune were reported. In addition, cases of marches in support to the EU's decision to lift economic sanctions on Burundi, irregularities observed during the elections of the National Youth Council, an ultimatum given to FOMI company to produce fertilizer, a ban on the use of bicycles, motorcycles and tricycles in Bujumbura city, and an evaluation meeting of the final classes in Makamba province of have been reported.

IV. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

In terms of economic, social and cultural rights, Ligue Iteka recorded troubling cases of school dropouts in Muramvya and Rumonge provinces, the beating of an ECOFO director by a parent in Bujumbura mairie, and crop fields damaged by rain in Cankuzo province.

V. OTHER SECURITY FACTS

During the month of February 2022, in terms of other security facts, Ligue Iteka recorded cases of three people injured, particularly during armed attacks in some localities of the country, and a fire set in a store in Bujumbura mairie.

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Since the implementation of the country's new institutions following the May 2020 elections, violations and allegations of violations of civil and political rights have continued to be recorded across the country.

Cases of killings, abductions, SGBV, torture, and arbitrary arrests have been reported. The phenomenon of dead bodies continues to be reported across the country and investigations are not being carried out, which is very worrying.

Issues of justice, governance, ESC rights, and other security facts were raised during this period.

CNDD-FDD-affiliated Imbonerakure, police, SNR agents, soldiers, and administration officials are singled out as alleged perpetrators of most of these observed human rights violations.

Considering the ongoing human rights violations in Burundi, Ligue Iteka recommends the following

To the Government of Burundi:

- To fully play its role of guaranteeing fundamental rights and freedoms and protecting the population;
- to preserve peace and security for all;
- to fight against impunity by bringing to justice all perpetrators of crimes;

To the technical and financial partners:

- to use their influence to force the government of Burundi to restore the rule of law.

To the EAC, the African Union and the UN

- to be fully involved in restoring the rule of law in Burundi.

To the ICC:

- speed up the investigations on Burundi and make the necessary indictments.

To the population:

- to stand together and not give in to divisionism solicitations and teachings or any other solicitation to violence;
- to denounce any act likely to sow or maintain insecurity.