

## BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

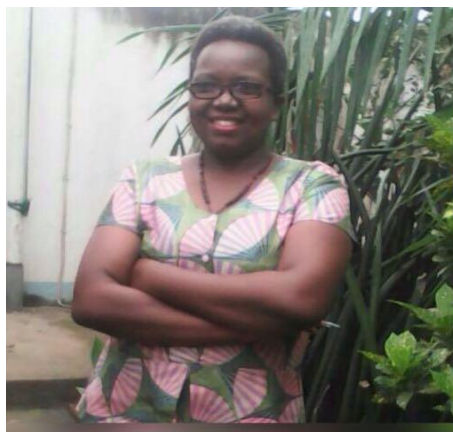
*Approved by Ministerial Order n ° 530/0273 of 10 November 1994 revising Order No. 550 /029 of 6 February 1991*



"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"*

**January 2022**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Ligue Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 31 January 2022, Iteka has documented at least 636 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS**

**CDS** : *Health Center*

**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*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**TGI** : *High Court*

**SGBV** : *Sexual and Gender-Based Violence*

## 0. INTRODUCTION

This monthly report for January 2022 includes weekly bulletins "Iteka n'Ijambo" from 299 to 302.

Therefore, the main trends observed were cases of alleged violations and violations of the right to life, physical integrity, freedom, and other facts recorded.

Over the reporting period, allegations of violations, violations, and abuses of civil and political rights were recorded as follows: at least 37 people were killed, including 20 corpses found, 14 victims of SGBV, 6 abducted and/or reported missing, 4 tortured, and 15 arbitrarily arrested.

Among the victims were 3 women and 6 minors killed, 1 woman abducted, and 1 woman and 1 minor tortured.

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

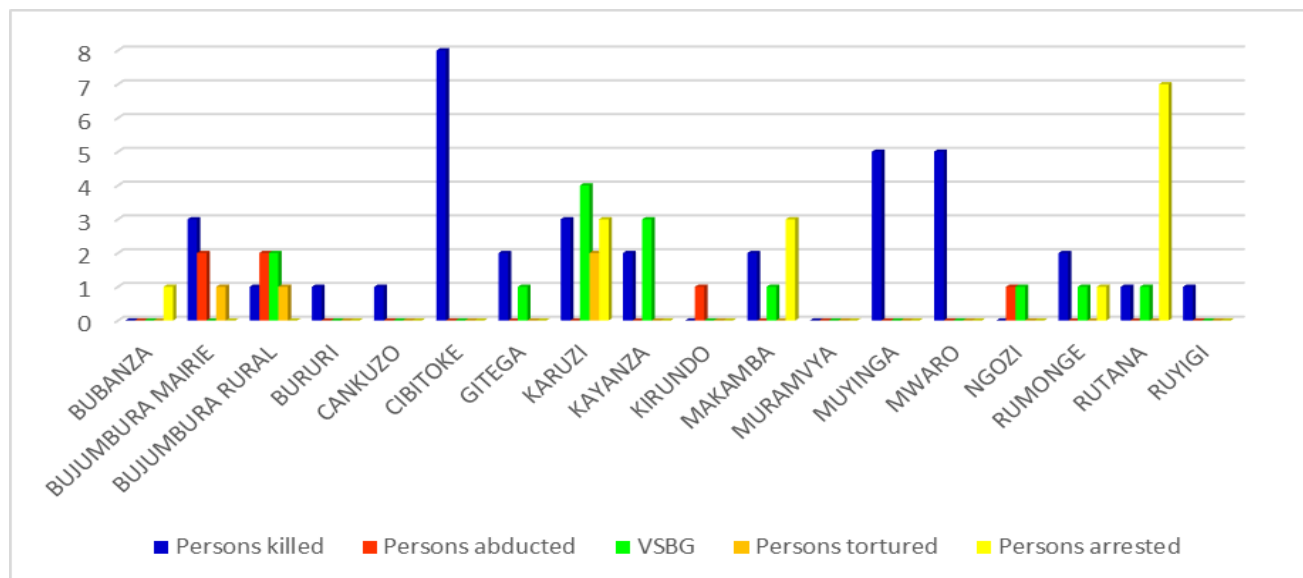
The phenomenon of dead bodies continued to be observed across the country, and most cases have not been investigated, which is very worrying.

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

Members of the Imbonerakure militia, police officers, 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 in January 2022**



As shown in the graph above, during the month of January 2022, the number of people killed is 37, including 3 women and 6 minors. Thus, the province of Kayanza leads with 8 cases, followed by Muyinga and Mwaro with 5 cases each, Bujumbura mairie and Karuzi with 3 cases each, Gitega, Kayanza, Makamba and Rumonge with 2 cases each.

During this period, Ligue Iteka recorded six cases of abducted and/or reported missing persons, including one woman, in the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie and Bujumbura Rural with two cases each, and Kirundo and Ngozi with one case each.

Out of a total of 14 SGBV victims recorded during this period, Karuzi province leads with 4 cases, followed by Kayanza with 3 cases, Bujumbura rural with 2 cases, Gitega, Makama, Ngozi, Rumonge and Rutana with 1 case each.

In this report, Ligue Iteka also recorded four cases of torture in the provinces of Karuzi with two cases, and Bujumbura Mairie and Bujumbura Rural with one case each.

Out of a total of 15 cases of arbitrary arrests recorded during this period, the province of Rutana leads with 7 cases, followed by Karuzi and Makamba with 3 cases each, Bubanza and Rumonge with 1 case each.

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

## ***I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND ABUSES OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS***

### ***1.1. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE***

#### ***1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY STATE AGENTS***

During the month of January 2022, Ligue Iteka recorded five cases of people killed by state agents, including two by Imbonerakure in the provinces of Bujumbura Rural and Cibitoke, two by soldiers in Bujumbura mairie and in the province of Mwaro, and one by police in Muyinga province.

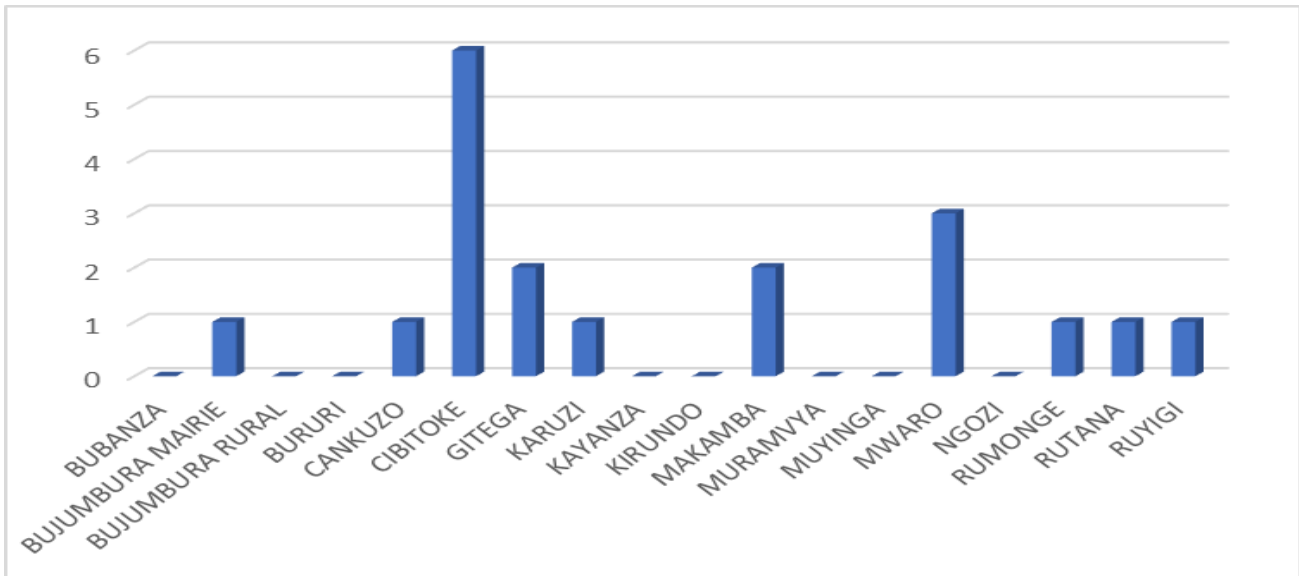
***Figure 2: Graph of people killed by state agents***



### 1.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

During the month of January 2022, Ligue Iteka recorded 19 cases of people killed by unidentified persons. As the graph below illustrates, the province of Cibitoke leads with 6 cases, followed by Mwaro province with 3 cases, and Gitega and Makamba with 2 cases each.

Figure 3: Graph of persons killed by unidentified people

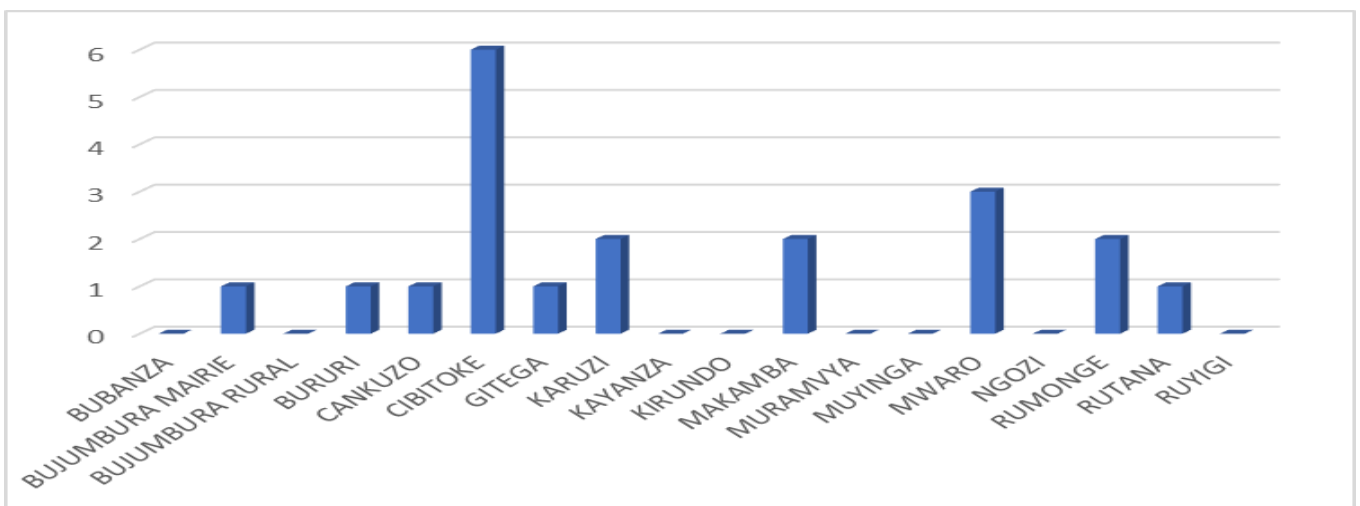


### 1.1.3. FOUND CORPSES

During the month of January 2022, Ligue Iteka recorded 20 cases of corpses found. As the graph below shows, Cibitoke province leads with 6 cases, followed by Mwaro with 3 cases, Karuzi, Makamba and Rumonge 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 of cases and the fact that investigations are not conducted to determine the identity of the victims, the perpetrators and the reasons for these killings.

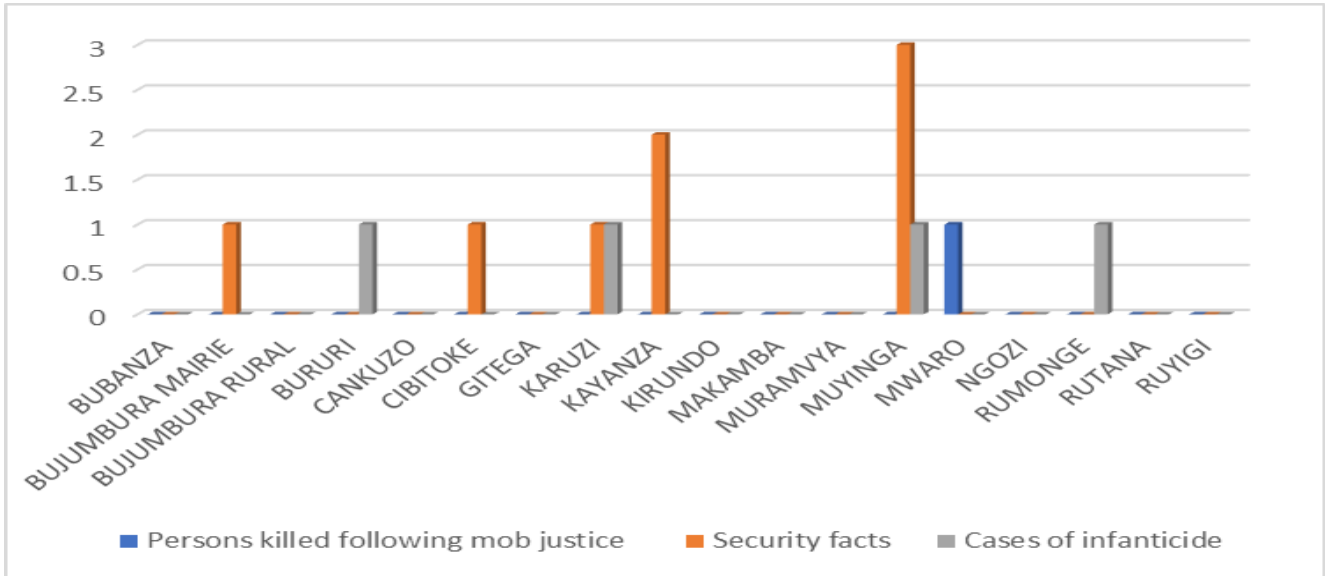
Figure 4: Graph of corpses found



**1.1.4. PEOPLE KILLED FOLLOWING SECURITY FACTS, MOB JUSTICE AND INFANTICIDE**

During the month of January 2022, as shown in the graph below, 13 people were killed, 8 of them following security facts, 4 due to infanticide and 1 following mob justice.

**Figure 5: Graph of people killed following security facts, mob justice and infanticide**



**1.2. THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY**

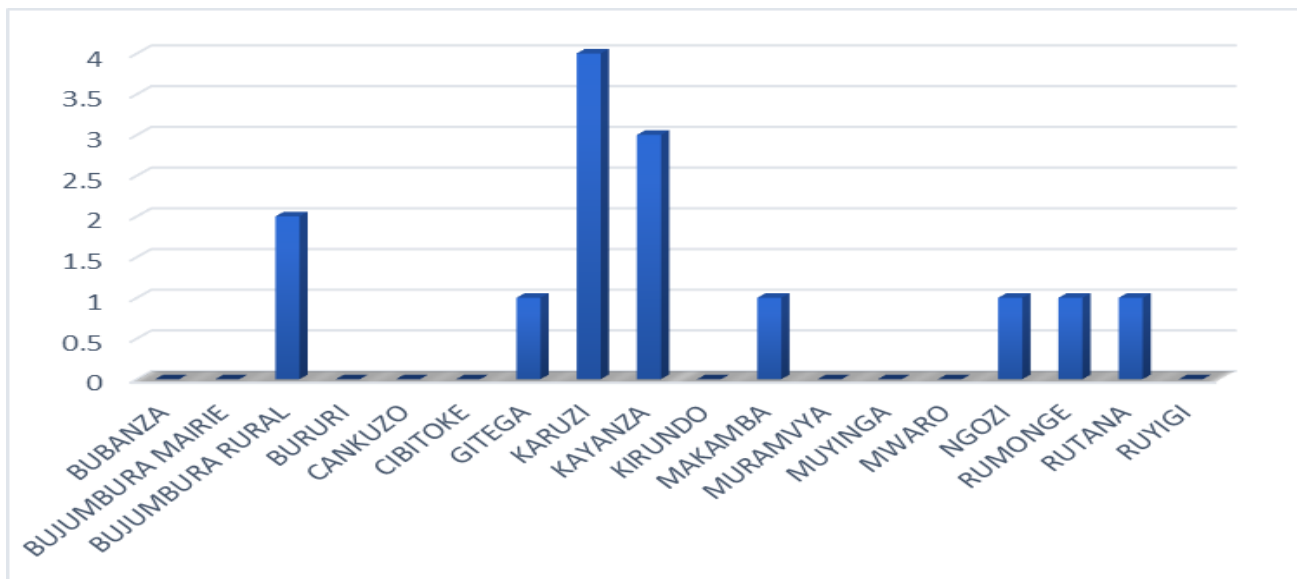
**1.2.1. PERSONS TORTURED**

During the month of January 2022, Ligue Iteka recorded four cases of torture, including one woman, one minor, one member of CNL party and one member of CNDD-FDD party. The alleged perpetrators of these acts are members of Imbonerakure militia with three cases and police with one case. The province of Karuzi leads with two cases, followed by Bujumbura Rural and Bujumbura Mairie with one case each.

**1.2.2. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

During this period, Ligue Iteka recorded 14 cases of SGBV. As shown in the graph below, Karuzi province leads with 4 cases, followed by Kayanza with 3 cases and Bujumbura rural with 2 cases.

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



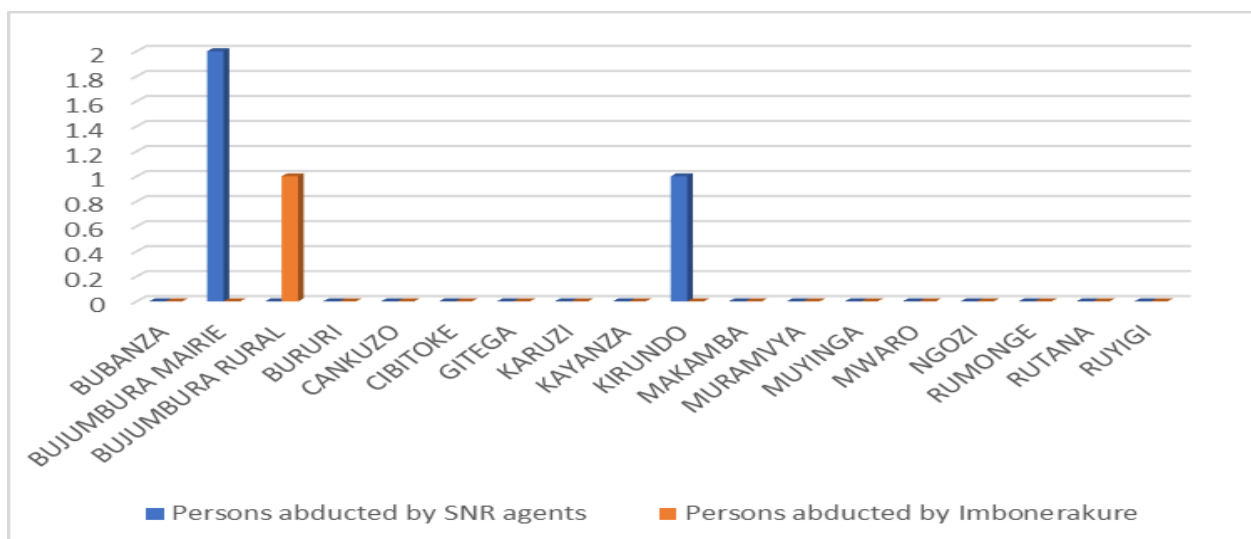
**1.3. THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM**

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

Over the reporting period, six people, including three CNL party members and one woman, were abducted and/or reported missing in Bujumbura Mairie and Bujumbura Rural, with two cases each, and in Kirundo and Ngozi with one case each.

As the graph below illustrates, the alleged perpetrators of these abductions were SNR agents with three cases, police officers with two cases, and members of the Imbonerakure militia with one case.

**Figure 7: Graph of abducted and/or reported missing persons**



**1.3.2. PERSONS ARBITRARILY ARRESTED**

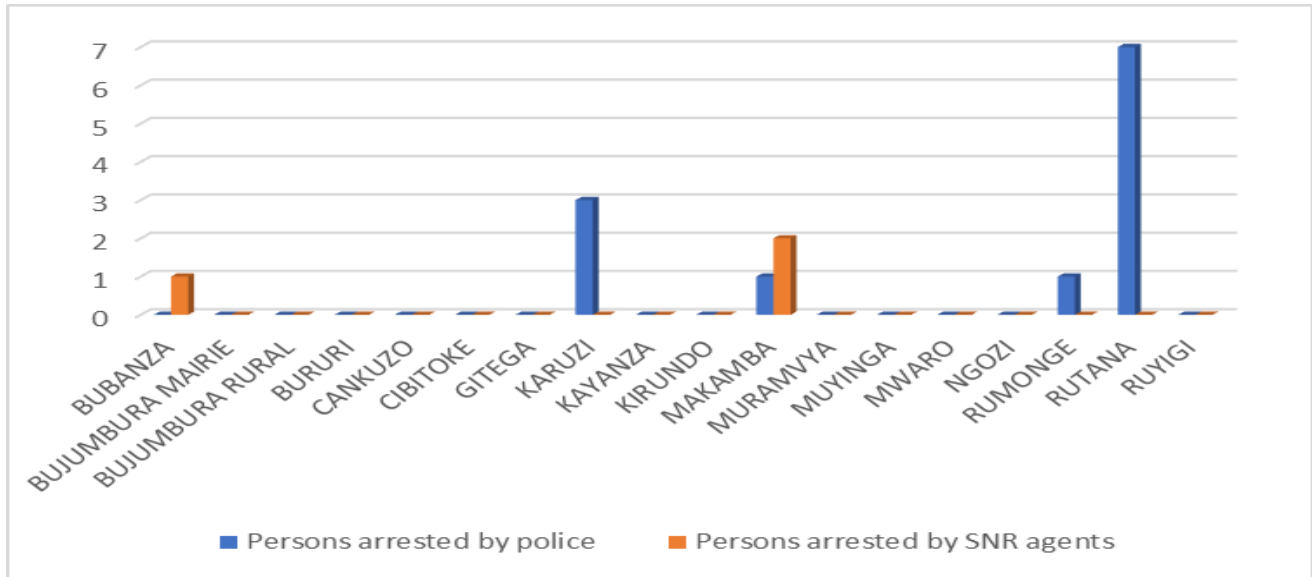
During the month of January 2022, Ligue Iteka recorded 15 cases of arbitrary arrest, including three members of CNL party and two members of CNDD-FDD party.



As the graph below shows, Rutana province leads with 7 cases, followed by Karuzi and Makamba with 3 cases each.

The alleged perpetrators of these arbitrary arrests are police with 12 cases and SNR agents with 3 cases.

**Figure 8: Graph of persons arbitrarily arrested**



**II. JUSTICE**

During the reporting period, Ligue Iteka reported issues linked to justice. One case involved the arrest of the manager of CDS Nyamure by the communal police station in Rutana on charges of embezzlement.

**III. GOVERNANCE**

As far as governance is concerned, during this period, there were cases of forced contributions in Muramvya province for construction work on the provincial headquarters of CNDD-FDD party, an unhealthy environment between the staff of Makamba hospital and the administrative officials at that hospital, and the refusal of the administrator of Isare commune, Bujumbura rural province, to open a CNL party headquarters.

**IV. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

In terms of economic, social and cultural rights, Ligue Iteka noted cases of food price rising such as corn and services, shortages of sugar and fuel in Cibitoke province, lack of access to health care in Makamba province due to government arrears, and challenges related to the agricultural and humanitarian sectors in Cankuzo province.

**V. OTHER SECURITY FACTS**

During the month of January 2022, in terms of other security facts, Ligue Iteka recorded cases of theft, armed robbery, attempted assassination, and abuse in commando training centers.

## ***VI. CONCLUSION ET RECOMMENDATIONS***

Since the implementation of the country's new institutions following the May 2020 elections, violations, abuses, and allegations of violations of civil and political rights continue 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 in various parts of the country.

The majority of people have been killed by unidentified persons and investigations are not being carried out, which is very disturbing.

Issues of justice, governance, ESC rights, and other security concerns have been 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 human rights violations observed.

Considering the continuing situation of 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 disarm the civilian population in order to guarantee security for all.

### **To the technical and financial partners:**

- to use their influence to force the Burundian government 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.