

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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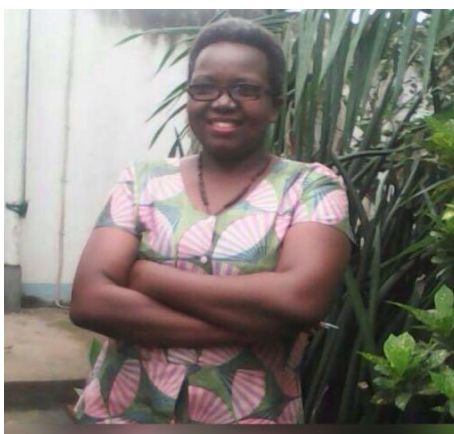
"Is a member of the Inter-African Union of Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate



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”

May 2022



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Ligue Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 31 May 2022, Iteka has documented at least 653 cases of enforced disappearances.

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SIGLES ET ABBREVIATIONS

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

CNL : *National Council for Liberty*

EAC : *East African Community*

ICC : *International Criminal Court*

MSF : *Doctors Without Borders*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

SOSUMO : *Mosso Sugar Company*

SGBV : *Sexual and Gender-Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

This monthly report for May 2022 includes weekly bulletins "Iteka n'Ijambo" from 316 to 319.

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 40 people killed, including 31 bodies found, 14 victims of SGBV, 6 abducted and/or reported missing, 3 tortured and 5 arbitrarily arrested.

Among the victims recorded were 5 women and 5 minors killed, 1 woman abducted, and 2 women tortured.

Members of political parties were also targeted by the violence, including one CNDD-FDD party member who was killed, one female CNDD-FDD party member and two CNL party members who were abducted, one CNL party member and one CNDD-FDD party member who were tortured, and four CNL party members and one CNDD-FDD party member who were arbitrarily arrested.

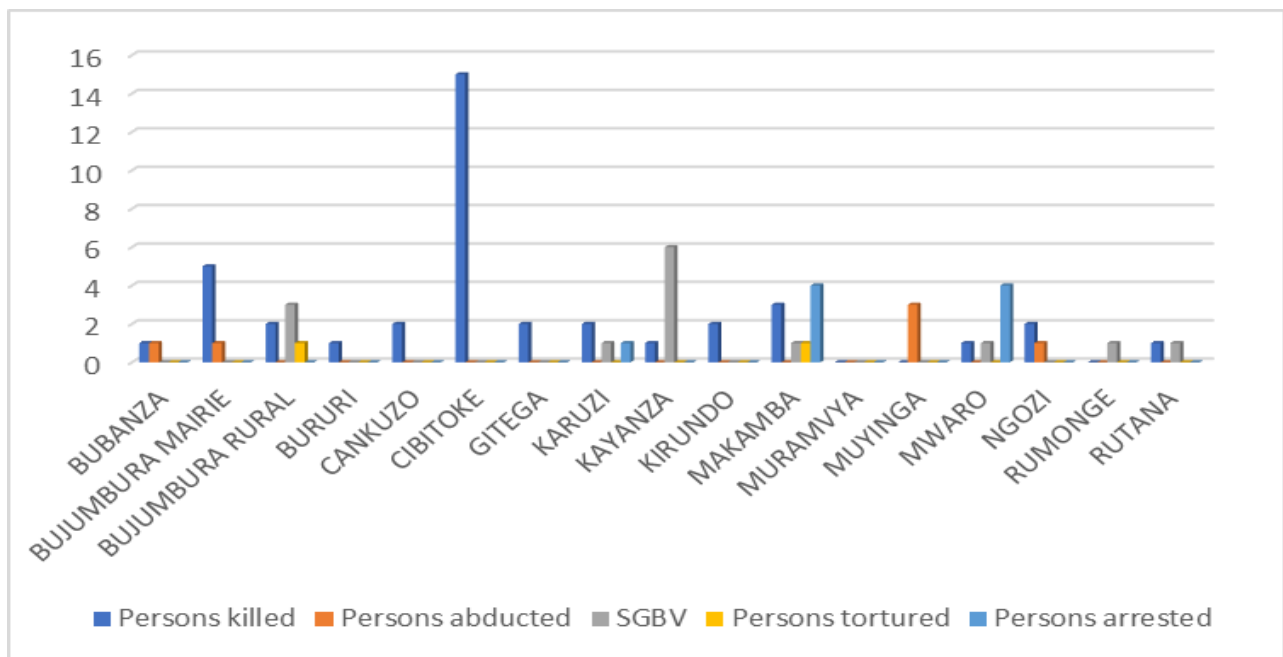
The phenomenon of bodies continued to occur across the country, and in most cases, investigations were not conducted, which is very worrying.

Issues related to justice, governance, the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 precarious human rights situation in the country.

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



As shown in the graph above, during the month of May 2022, 40 people were killed, including 5 women and 5 minors. The province of Cibitoke leads with 15 cases, followed by Bujumbura Mairie

with 5 cases and Makamba with 3 cases. These victims include 1 member of CNDD-FDD party, 5 women and 5 minors killed.

During this period, Ligue Iteka recorded six people, including one woman member of CNDD-FDD party and two members of CNL party, who were abducted and/or reported missing. Among the alleged perpetrators of these abductions were SNR agents, with five cases, and unidentified people, with one case.

Out of a total of 14 SGBV victims recorded during this period, Kayanza province leads with 6 cases, followed by Bujumbura rural with 3 cases.

In this report, Ligue Iteka recorded three cases, including one member of CNL party and one member of CNDD-FDD party who were tortured in the provinces of Bujumbura Rural, Makamba, and Ruyigi, with one case each.

Out of a total of 5 cases of arbitrary arrest during this period in the provinces of Makamba and Mwaro with 2 cases each and Karuzi with 1 case. Among These victims of arbitrary arrest include four members of CNL party and one member of CNDD-FDD party.

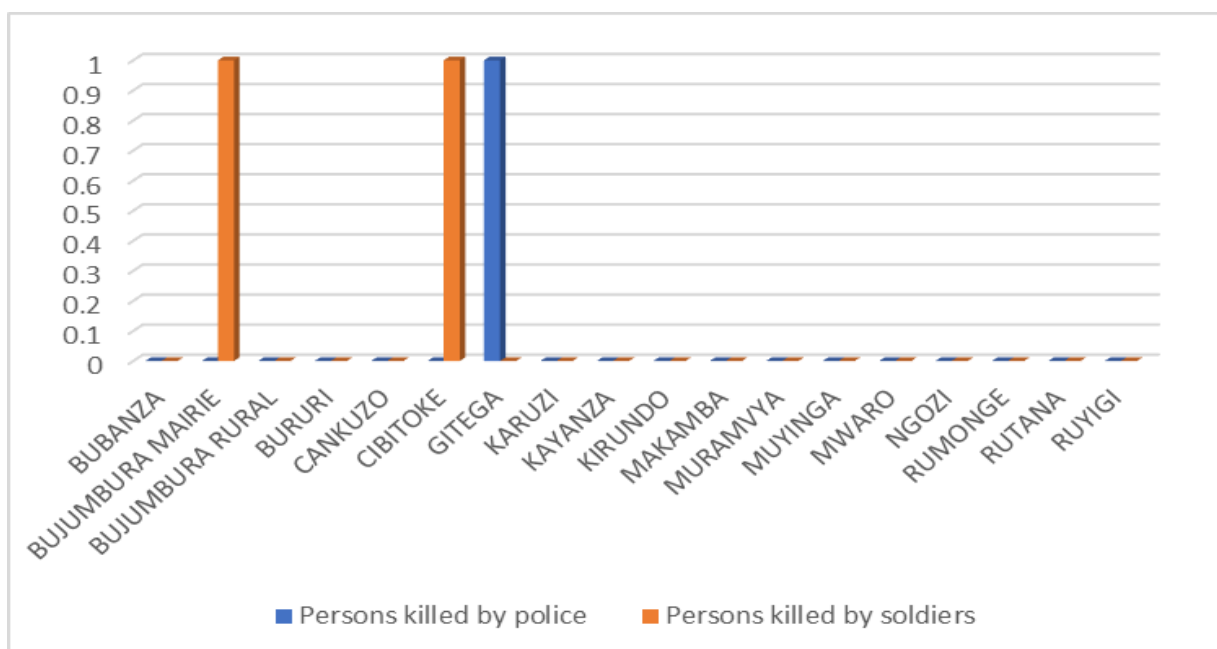
I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

I.1. ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS

During the month of May 2022, Ligue Iteka recorded three cases of people killed by soldiers, with two cases in the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie and Cibitoke, each with one case, and in Gitega province with one case, by police.

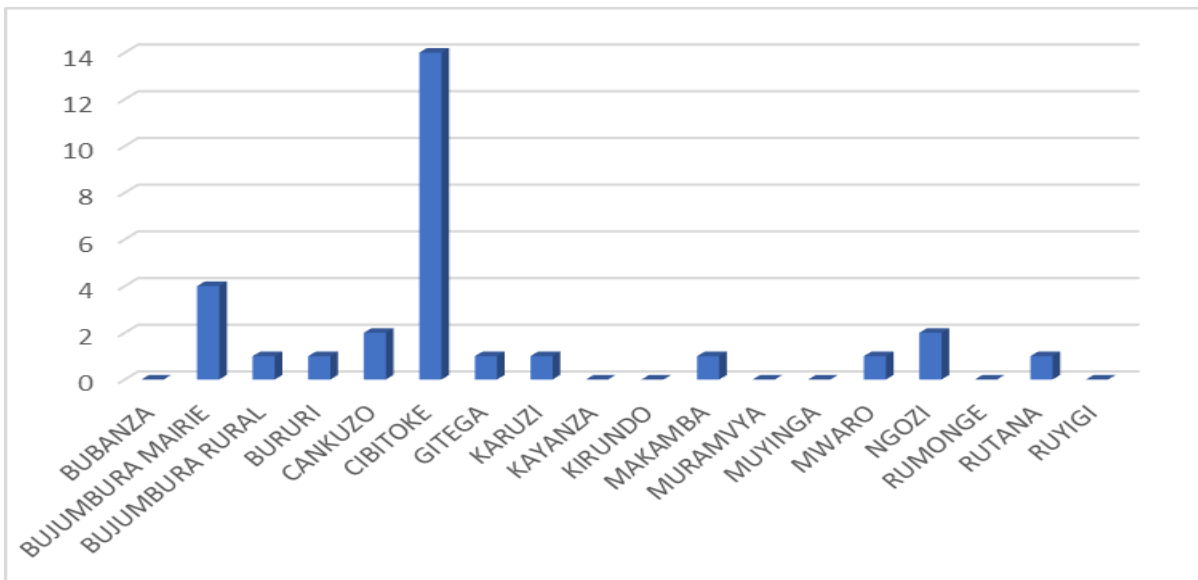
Figure 2: Graph of people killed by state agents



I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

During the month of May 2022, Ligue Iteka recorded 29 cases of persons killed by unidentified people. As illustrated in the graph below, the province of Cibitoke leads with 14 cases, followed by Bujumbura Mairie with 4 cases.

Figure 3: Graph of persons killed by unidentified people

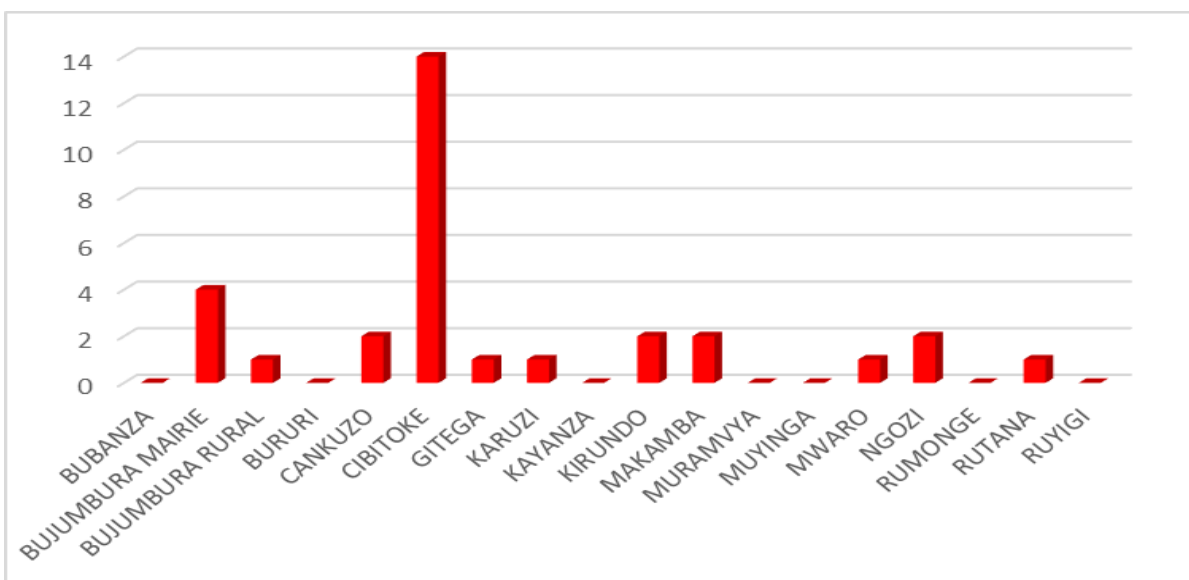


1.1.3. BODIES FOUND

During the month of May 2022, Ligue Iteka recorded 31 cases of bodies found. As shown in the graph below, the province of Cibitoke leads with 14 cases, followed by Bujumbura Mairie with 4 cases, Cankuzo, Kirundo, Makamba and Ngozi 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 being conducted to determine the identity of the victims, the perpetrators and the reasons for these killings.

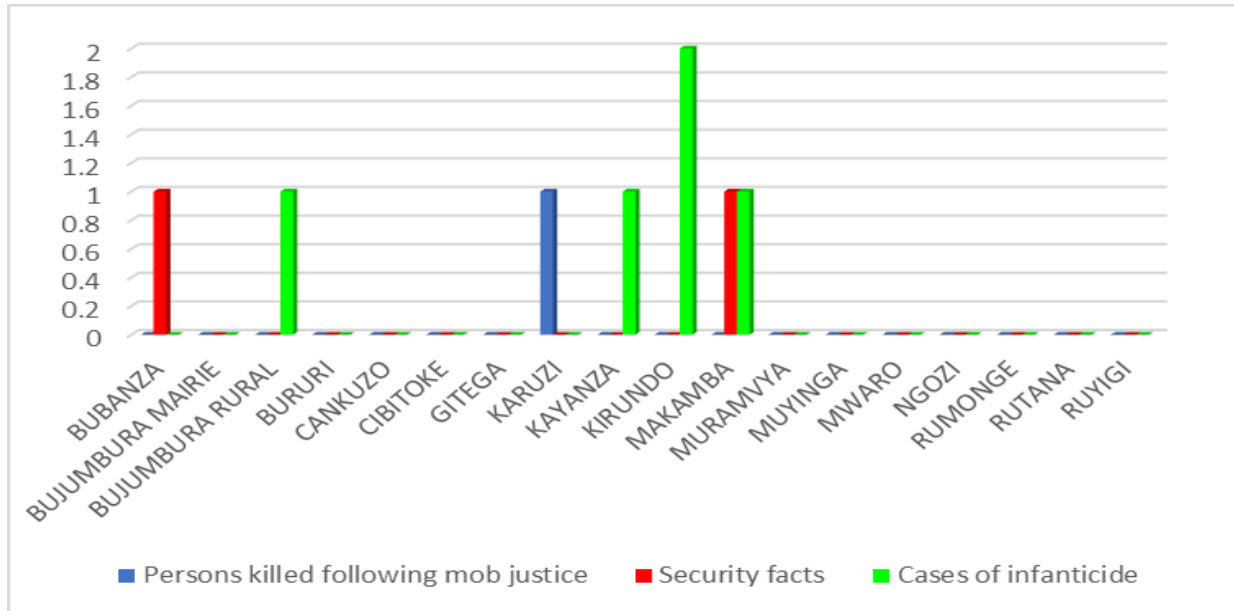
Figure 4: Graph of bodies found



1.1.4. PERSONS KILLED FOLLOWING SECURITY FACTS, MOB JUSTICE AND INFANTICIDE

During the month of May 2022, as the graph below illustrates, 8 people were killed, including 5 cases of children killed, 2 cases as a result of security facts and 1 case as a result of mob justice.

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

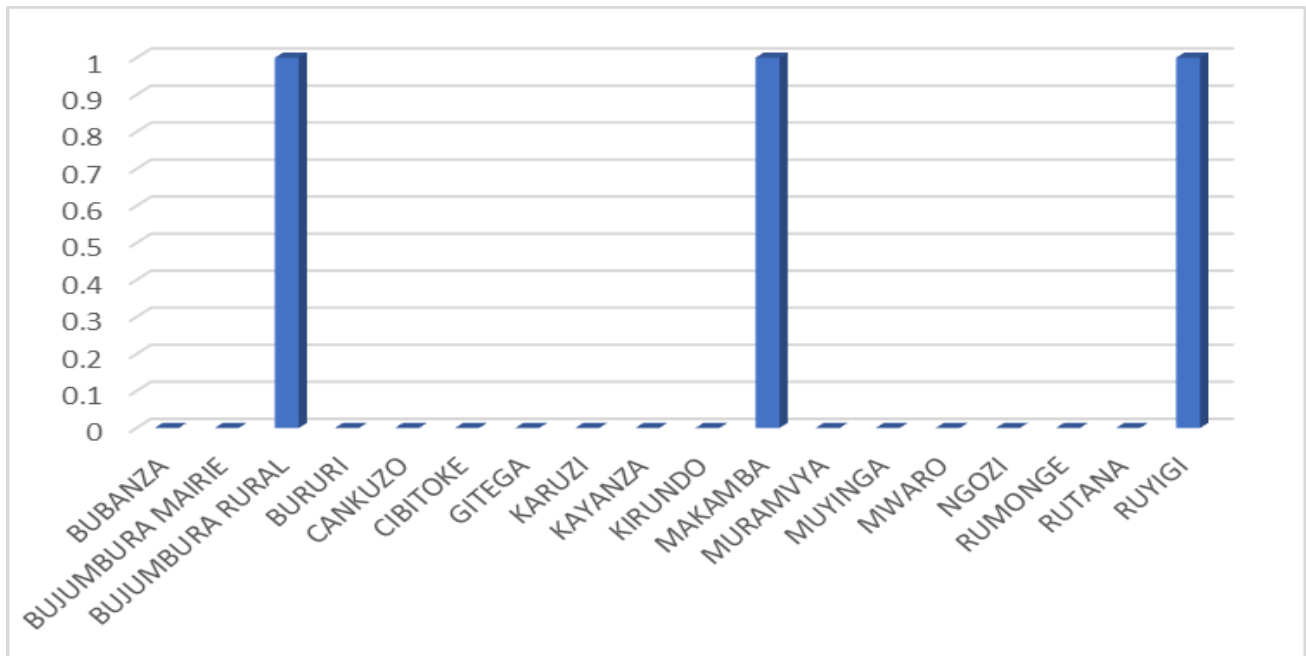


I.2. THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

I.2.1. PERSONS TORTURED

During the month of May 2022, the Ligue Iteka reported three cases, including one member of the CNL party and one member of the CNDD-FDD party who were tortured by members of the Imbonerakure militia. As the graph below illustrates, these cases of torture were recorded in the provinces of Bujumbura rural, Makamba and Ruyigi, with one case each.

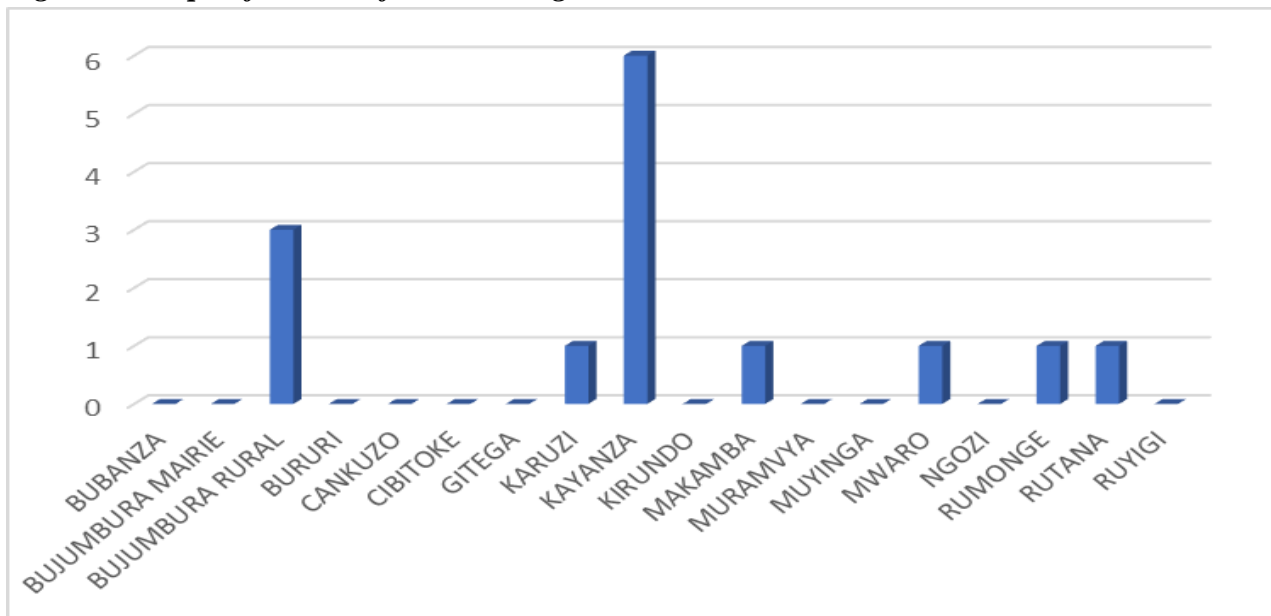
Figure 6: Graph of persons tortured



I.2.2. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

During this period, Ligue Iteka documented 14 cases of SGBV. As shown in the graph below, Kayanza province leads the way with 6 cases, followed by rural Bujumbura with 3 cases.

Figure 7: Graph of victims of sexual and gender-based violence

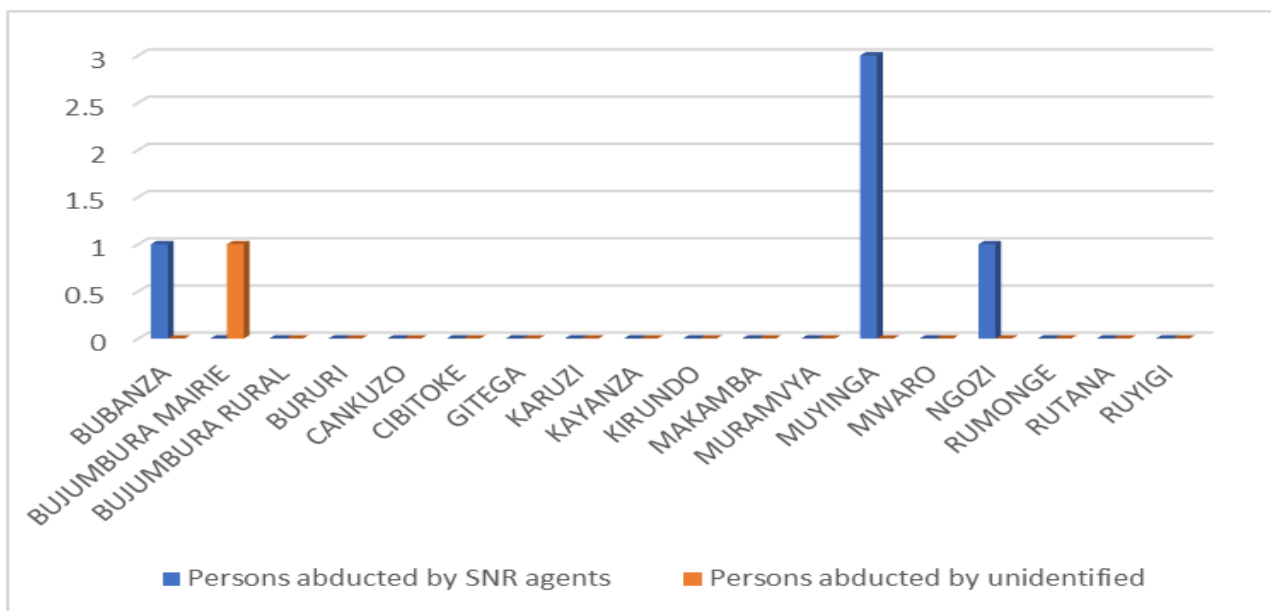


I.3. THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM

I.3.1. ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING PERSONS

Over the reporting period, six people, including one woman member of CNDD-FDD party and two members of CNL party, were abducted and/or reported missing. The alleged perpetrators of these abductions included SNR agents in five cases and unidentified people in one case. As the graph below indicates, Muyinga province leads with 3 cases, followed by Bubanza, Bujumbura Maire, and Ngozi with 1 case each.

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

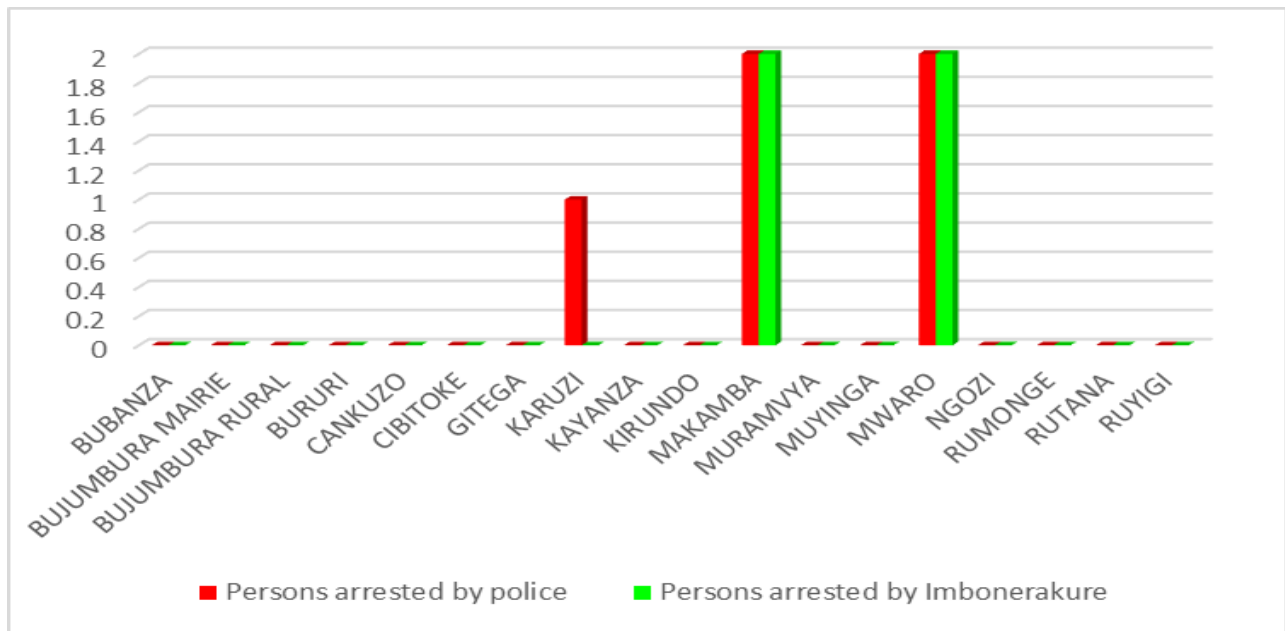


I.3.2. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

During the month of May 2022, Ligue Iteka recorded five cases of arbitrary arrest, including four members of the CNL party and one member of the CNDD-FDD party.

As the graph below shows, the provinces of Makamba and Mwaro are in the lead with two cases each, followed by Karuzi with one case. The alleged perpetrators of these arbitrary arrests are police officers.

Figure 9: Graph of people arbitrarily arrested



II. JUSTICE

Over the reporting period, Ligue Iteka noted cases related to justice. These included eight persons, including three police officers and a soldier, who were arrested on charges of ransoming people in Bujumbura Marie, and three people who were sentenced in Cibitoke province to life imprisonment for killing a motorcycle driver.

III. GOVERNANCE

As far as governance is concerned, during this period, there were cases of grumbling by prisoners of Bururi prison, accusing prison officials of discrimination in the application of the conditional release decision; complaints by traders in Bururi commune and province after being charged twice by an Imbonerakure, the agent responsible for collecting communal taxes; provincial authorities involved in the fraudulent sale of fuel; and drivers of motorcycle taxis interfering with the sale of fuel; Ligue Iteka recorded irregularities related to the distribution of SOSUMO sugar and the seizure of 65 bags of sugar in Rumonge province.

IV. OTHER SECURITY FACTS

During the month of May 2022, security facts identified included attempted assassinations, motorcycle and tricycle storage at Ladak and MSF medicines set on fire in Bujumbura Mairie, five people injured, a police officer burned by petrol, paramilitary training and a contagious disease called "lift valley fever" in some provinces of the country

V. COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Regarding the covid-19 pandemic, Ligue Iteka noted two hundred and six cases that tested positive for covid-19 in the communes of Vumbi and Ntega, Kirundo province, and whose patients were sent home because of the lack of a dedicated isolation site in these communes.

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Since the establishment 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 bodies continues to be reported in various parts of the country and investigations are not being carried out, which is very worrying.

Issues related to justice, governance, covid-19 pandemic, and security were recorded during this period.

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

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

To the Government of Burundi

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

To technical and financial partners

- Use their influence to compel the Burundian government to restore the rule of law and democracy.

To the EAC, the African Union and the United Nations

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

To the ICC

- to accelerate the investigations and to proceed with the necessary indictments.

To the population

- to remain united and not to give in to divisionist solicitations and teachings or any solicitation to violence.
- to denounce any act that could sow or maintain insecurity.