

## **BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"**

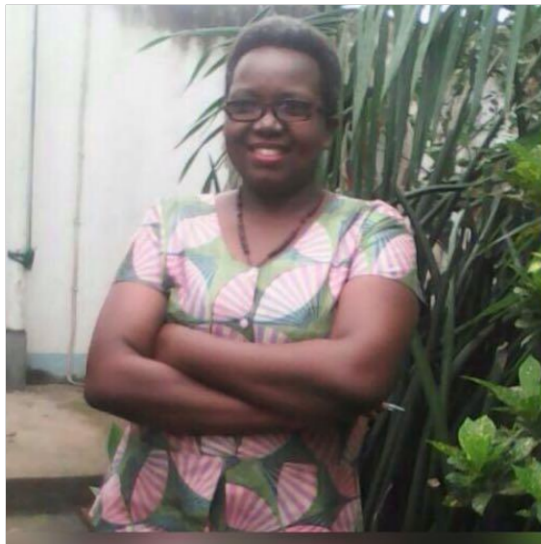
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***Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°423 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"***

**Week from 20-26 May 2024**



***In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 26 May 2024, Iteka has documented at least 690 cases of enforced disappearances.***

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## ***ACRONYMS***

<b><i>BSPI</i></b>	<b><i>: Special Brigade for the Protection of Institutions</i></b>
<b><i>CDS</i></b>	<b><i>: Health Center</i></b>
<b><i>CNDD-FDD</i></b>	<b><i>: National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i></b>
<b><i>CNL</i></b>	<b><i>: National Congress for Liberty</i></b>
<b><i>ECOFO</i></b>	<b><i>: Fundamental School</i></b>
<b><i>FARDC</i></b>	<b><i>: Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo</i></b>
<b><i>OPJ</i></b>	<b><i>: Judicial Police Officer</i></b>
<b><i>RAF</i></b>	<b><i>: Administrative and Financial Manager</i></b>
<b><i>SNR</i></b>	<b><i>: National Intelligence Service</i></b>
<b><i>SGBV</i></b>	<b><i>: Sexual and Gender Based Violence</i></b>

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

This bulletin covers the political, judicial and security context that marked this period. It also deals with civil and political rights; categorical rights and closes with a conclusion.

Therefore, over this reporting period, the human rights and security situation was reported as follows: at least 42 people dead including 38 found dead, 1 victim of SGBV and 3 tortured, 4 abducted as well as one person arrested arbitrarily.

Among the victims is 1 woman and a newborn killed.

Members of political parties were not spared. Thus, 2 members of CNDD-FDD party killed, 2 members of CNDD-FDD and CNL party abducted, 1 member of CNL party tortured as well as one member of CNL party arbitrarily arrested.

Police officers, administrative officers, SNR agents and Imbonerakure are singled out as the alleged perpetrators of most of these human rights violations and assassinations.

## ***I. POLITICAL, JUDICIAL AND SECURITY CONTEXT***

### ***I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT***

#### **Call for dialogue between Burundi and Rwanda**

On May 25, 2025, at the end of his mission in Burundi, Keith Gilges, Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim at the United States Embassy in Burundi held a press conference during which he called on Burundi and Rwanda to dialogue.

Keith Gilges, who has just completed his mission in Burundi, pointed out that in diplomacy, relationships are not always undeviating, ups and downs arise but dialogue remains the preferred way. “I just know that the best way to achieve a better relationship is through dialogue and understanding what the other parties want. So, we always look forward to seeing neighbors talking to each other and engaging constructively.”

Mr. Gilges recalled that the closure of land borders between the “two twins” has significantly reduced their trade. He thus called on both countries to escalate these tensions which apparently have become stronger. “It is a delicate challenge and we would therefore like Burundi and Rwanda to continue to dialogue.”

What the United States can do, he insisted, is largely to talk, to dialogue with both parties (countries) because this is how we will better understand what motivates the other party.

During this interview, Mr. Keith also indicated that specifically, his country supports Burundi financially and technically in the population census worth more than a million dollars and as well as with the ongoing electoral process. In addition, the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim announced that the United States will advocate much more for the search for strengthening the space for popular expression. *“We must also help in the elections. But, generally speaking, our hope is that as long as we continue to advocate for free media; to seek opportunities for civil society to be able to express themselves openly and forcefully; the result of any election can contribute to strengthening the expression of the will of the people, and not only the will of the people in power.”*

Note that during this interview, Mr. Keith indicated that his country remains concerned about the situation prevailing in the Great Lakes region and requested that there be negotiated solutions.

#### **Burundi's position on the conflict between Taiwan and China**

In its press release via its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation to Development of the Republic of Burundi of May 25, 2024, Burundi indicates and reiterates its support for China.

In fact, the Government of Burundi says it is committed to the one-China policy with Taiwan as an integral and inseparable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China. The government of Burundi says it recognizes that the government of the People's Republic of China is the only legal government representing all of China.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation to Development ends its press release by calling for international solidarity as well as the peaceful resolution of disputes through the provisions and values provided for by the United Nations Charter, in particular negotiation, dialogue and consultations.

## ***1.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT***

### **Trial of 270 Burundian military deserters in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

On May 22, 2024, the trial of 270 soldiers accused of having refused to fight the M23 Movement in the Democratic Republic of Congo was held before the military prosecutor's office in Rutana. The majority of these soldiers were arrested in December 2023

In this trial which was held in public hearing in the youth conference room in Rutana, these soldiers were accused of conspiracy<sup>1</sup>, revolt<sup>2</sup> and insubordination, punishable charges, according to the military auditor, in accordance with articles 35, 66 and 69 of the military penal code. None of these soldiers was assisted by a lawyer.

These soldiers were deployed in a secret military cooperation agreement called TAFOC between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo while Burundi had also deployed other soldiers in North Kivu within the EAC Regional Force<sup>3</sup> with other soldiers from South Sudan, Uganda and Kenya.

Note that these 270 soldiers are detained in different prisons across the country, namely Rumonge, Ngozi, Ruyigi and Bururi, but were transferred to Rutana prison as part of this trial.

## ***1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT***

### ***1.3.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

#### **Thirty-two bodies found in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on May 20, 2024 indicates that from April 12, 2024 until May 15, 2024, in Kibira nature reserve, on Ruhembe and Kiruhura hills, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, 32 bodies in FARDC military uniforms were found by forest guards. According to witnesses who participated in the burial of these bodies, 7 bodies were found on April 12, 2024, 4 bodies on April 15, 2024, 5 bodies on April 18, 2024, 3 bodies on April 24, 2024. April 2024, on Ruhembe hill, 2 bodies on May 4, 2024, 4 bodies on May 10, 2024, 6 bodies on May 14, 2024 and 1 body on May 15, 2024, on Kiruhura hill. These bodies were all men and showed signs of injuries on their heads and ribs showing that they had been shot. All these bodies were buried on the same sites of discovery by the population of this locality accompanied by Imbonerakure on the order of Christian Nkurikiye, communal administrator of Bukinanyana. The residents near this Kibira nature reserve are scared and are asking for a light on these crimes of people found.

#### **A body found in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

On May 20, 2024, on Mubere sub-hill, Rugajo hill and zone, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, a body of Claude Mugisha, aged 14, a street peanut seller, was found in a gutter. According to a security source, this young street peanut seller was murdered on the night of May 19 to 20, 2024 by unidentified criminals who subsequently stole all his money he owned from the peanuts sold.

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<sup>1</sup> A military conspiracy is deemed to be any resolution to act concerted and agreed between two or more people tending to undermine the authority of the commander of a unit: military penal code of Burundi, article 35

<sup>2</sup> Are in a state of revolt, armed soldiers and persons assimilated to soldiers who, united in number at least two, act in concert: military penal code of Burundi, article 66

<sup>3</sup> The mission of the EAC regional force officially ended in December 2023.

### **A body of a member of CNDD-FDD party found in Ruyigi commune and province**

On May 24, 2024, in a bush, on Buruhukiro hill, Ruyigi commune and province, a body of Ndayisaba, aged around 30, member of CNDD-FDD party, from Munyinya hill, Bwagiriza zone, Butezi commune, Ruyigi province was found. The body was full of wounds. According to sources on site, the victim was suspected on a daily basis of stealing goats in the area of Buruhukiro.

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

On May 20, 2024, on Kiryama hill, Ruvumvu zone, Songa commune, Bururi province, a body of Jean Niyonkuru alias Kabodoro, working in a bar at Kiryama center, member of CNDD-FDD party, was found in a 3-meter deep pit very close to his bar. According to sources on site, he left his bar around midnight with 3 cans of fuel that he wanted to hide to prevent the police from surprising him with his fuel. According to witnesses who saw the body, the victim had injuries on his face. An administrative source in Songa indicated that the first investigations of the police indicate that the victim died by accident while he was hiding this fuel and others say that he was killed because he had injuries on the head.

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

### **Two bodies, including a woman, found in Mabanda commune, Makamba province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on May 20, 2024 indicates that on May 19, 2024, on Mudaturwa sub-hill, Mabanda hill and commune, Makamba province, Audacienne Niyomugisha was killed by her husband Jackson Minani using a machete. According to a family member, all the victim's body had injuries and was found at her home. According to the same sources, the body of Jackson Minani was found hanging on a rope tied to a tree on Gikombe hill in the same commune. Family conflicts over the management of family properties are believed to be at the origin of this double murder. The head of ten households in Mudaturwa sub-hill was arrested and taken by police to Mabanda police station cell for investigation.

### **A man killed in Gitega commune and province**

On May 24, 2024, around midnight, on Nyarubanga-zege sub-hill, Rukoba hill, Gitega commune and province, Ezéchiel Bigirimana, aged 36, died to club blows. According to administrative sources at this hill, the victim was in conflict with her neighbor Pascaline Nizigiyimana. This woman accused the victim of beating her child. This is how she swore revenge. That evening, Pascaline asked her younger sister to come spend the night together and help her avenge her child. Around midnight, Pascaline and her sister slipped into Ezekiel's house and beat him. Being in agony, the neighbors tried to transport him to the hospital but he died along the way. Pascaline and her younger sister were arrested and taken to the provincial police station cell in Gitega.

## ***1.3.3. OTHER SECURITY FACTS***

### **A man killed in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on May 22, 2024 indicates that on May 17, 2024, around 2 a.m., on Murambi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province, Pacifique Irakoze was beaten by Ndikumwenayo. According to sources on site, Ndikumwenayo saw him wandering around his fence with other people

and he suspected them that they were coming to steal his cow. He was able to catch Pacific Irakoze and beat him to death. The victim was evacuated to Kibago health center where he succumbed to his injuries.

#### **A young man committed suicide in Bugendana commune, Gitega province**

On May 25, 2024, around 10 a.m., on Nkanda hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, a body of Japhet Nizigiyimana, aged 16, was found hanging on the trees of his room's ceiling. According to the hill head, the victim had been accused of stealing a sum of 62,000 Bif belonging to his elder sister Gylène, but the accused had sworn not to have stolen this money. On the evening of May 24, 2024, his uncle, named Bonaventure, advised Gylène and Japhet to go to a witch doctor to find out about the real thief. Then, the next day, around 5 a.m., Gylène, Japhet and their uncle Bonaventure went to Giheta commune, to see a witch doctor. When they arrived, this witch doctor told them that it was Japhet who stole the money. They returned around 9 o'clock. According to this hill head, the young boy continued to reject the accusations against him by telling his sister that he is going to do something unforgettable and that the witch doctor has just created a climate of disagreement. Their parents were working in the fields, Japhet took advantage of his sister's departure and committed suicide using a rope and left on his bed a little written note: "Gylène you see how much you accused me unfairly and trusts our uncle who only believes in witch doctors, stay with him, I'm leaving". The OPJ, Eurade Irakoze arrived at the scene around 11 a.m. to make the report and arrested Gylène and her uncle Bonaventure and took them to Bugendana police station cell. The hill head asked that the witch doctor be arrested. The victim's body was taken to CDS Nkanda mortuary.

#### **An albino child exhumed in Giharo commune, Rutana province**

On May 22, 2024, around 11 p.m., on Gasenyi sub-hill, Giharo hill and commune, Rutana province, an albino child under 2 years old, son of Gérard Kabura was exhumed by a group of people all CNDD-FDD party members including Innocent Congera, director of ECOFO Nyagahara, André Ndayisenga, representative of CNDD-FDD party on Mura hill, Giharo zone, Jean Bosco Ndayisenga, Bosco Busago and Apollinaire Bucumi. According to sources on site, the reason for this act is the sale of the body for 14 million Bif and they had received an advance of 12 million from a dealer from Kinyinya, in Ruyigi province. The child died and buried the same day around 2 p.m. on the same sub-hill and they exhumed him at night. These alleged perpetrators were surrounded by patrolling police officers and arrested them and taken them to Giharo police station cell for investigations.

#### **Ransoming by state agents in Bururi province**

On May 22, 2024, in Bururi commune, Alexis Nimpagaritse, head of Bururi quarter, Bururi commune and province and a Vyanda police officer were arrested and taken to the police cell in Bururi for ransoming the population who were going to Bururi market, according to police sources. Always having the habit of doing so, this quarter head acted as an SNR agent in Bururi during these acts and the police officer as a communal commissioner in Bururi. They required anyone to pay money to be allowed to attend the market. Sources on site indicate that two other people including a woman and a young Imbonerakure from the same quarter as this administrative official and accompanied him in these acts, they are on the run after having been informed that the latter was arrested and the police is looking for them.



### **A person threatened in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on May 20, 2024 indicates that on April 2, 2024, on Gasura hill, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province, Ferdinand Miburo, trader, was threatened by Jennifer Kankindi, communal administrator of Vumbi, for having filed a complaint with the president of the communal council. According to sources on site, the administrator is indebted for drinks of 2 million Bif during the 2020 electoral campaign to distribute to members of CNDD-FDD party and Imbonerakure during campaigning meetings. According to witnesses, every time Miburo asks him to pay the bill, he is threatened and treated as an opponent even though he is also a member of CNDD-FDD party. Ferdinand was forced to move his family to Bujumbura because he was being intimidated by young Imbonerakure at night. Until then, he has not been paid and has been forced to reduce his commercial activities in Vumbi.

## ***II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS***

Burundi is one of the countries adhering to the international covenant on civil and political rights (1965) and its optional protocol (1976) without any reservation on May 9, 1990, which as part of its implementation, Burundi took measures in domestic legislation in particular in its constitution of June 7, 2018 (Main Law) in its article 19 which guarantees that all the rights proclaimed and guaranteed by regularly ratified international texts are an integral part of this constitution, implementing texts are put in place, namely the penal code of December 29, 2017 and the criminal procedure code of May 11, 2018 and other institutions for the protection of human rights in Burundi have been created. However, in reality, respect for human rights is a long and difficult path based on the volatile Burundian political and security context that undermines the rights and fundamental freedoms of the population.

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

The law guarantees it, human dignity must be respected and protected by the State and in the event of violation, sanctions should be applied to the alleged perpetrators, art 21 of the Constitutional Law of the country, as to the facts observed and convincing, political will overrides it

### **A person shot in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

On May 24, 2024, around 11 p.m., at the 15<sup>th</sup> avenue, very close to the People's Hospital in Mirango quarter, Kamenge zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, Jonathan Ndiokubwayo, aged 24, was shot by Corporal Alexandre Rwasa. According to the victim's family, Jonathan was carrying out his activities as a works manager in Muyinga province. On May 24, 2024, he went to Bujumbura to participate in his friend's dowry delivery. The ceremonies ended around 11 p.m. and Jonathan and his friends returned home. Arriving a few meters away, a team of people threatened them, accusing them of not greeting them. Just a few meters from there, they found themselves surrounded by people who wanted to steal their cell phones. Jonathan, defending himself so as not to have his chain stolen, ended up being shot with a pistol by police officer Alexandre Rwasa. After committing this crime, the perpetrator tried to flee but he ended up being arrested and taken to Kamenge zone police station cell by police officers who were guarding the people's hospital. Corporal Alexandre Rwasa guarded Honorable Félix Mpozeriniga, from CNL party of Nestor Girukwishaka's wing.

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

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

The Law on Gender-Based Violence adopted in Burundi in 2016 constituted a major step forward. It guaranteed better protection, notably by providing a definition of rape that took into account the question of consent and by prohibiting harmful traditional practices. However, cases of GBV are observed.

#### **A girl raped in Bugendana commune, Gitega province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on May 20, 2024, indicates that on May 13, 2024, around 6 p.m., at Bitare market, on Bitare hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, D.B, aged 18, was raped by Fulgence Nimbona, aged 24, married and father of two children. According to the OPJ, Urbain Baranyizigiye, the victim was going to the mill where Fulgence worked. Seeing that D.B was left alone, he offered her a sum of 5,000 Bif to agree to have sex with him and that if she refused, he was going to kill her. The alleged perpetrator started two mills and a sheller to cause a lot of noise and raped her and the victim screamed for help but to no avail. Arriving home around 8 p.m., she told her parents what happened to her. The next day, her parents went to complain and Fulgence was arrested. Béatrice Bukuru and Eric Bigirimana, successively Administrator and communal commissioner, as well as Jean Marie, Fulgence's father-in-law and the mills' owner, tried to cover up the case, proposing an amicable settlement by payment of a sum of 300 000 Bif while the family asked for 1 million Bif. The OPJ refused this settlement and Fulgence was jailed in Bugendana police station cell.

### ***II.2.2. TORTURE***

As part of compliance with the texts of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984) and its protocol, Burundi in its internal measures specifies in its constitution in its article 25 that every human being has the right to the freedom of his person and his physical and psychological integrity, as well as the freedom of his movement; any person will be punished who uses torture or other treatment to make an accused confess to acts that he did not or even committed. Although prescribed in this way, the facts are different.

#### **A member of CNL party tortured in Giharo commune, Rutana province**

On May 20, 2024, around 5 p.m., on Giharo hill, zone and commune, Rutana province, Méelchiade Kabura, aged 34, zonal representative of CNL party youth on Giharo hill, was arrested by Amos, SNR responsible in Rutana. The victim was accused by Amos of slandering Nduwayo, a member of CNDD-FDD party, telling him that it is forbidden to wear the clothing of any party beyond 8 p.m. The victim was taken to Giharo police cell for investigations. According to sources on site, on the way, he was diverted towards SNR office and he was beaten up. After beating him, Kabura was taken to the police for detention. According to the same sources, as of May 21, 2024, the victim was not registered in the prison record book and was removed from the other detainees under the order of Amos to be interrogated again and he was beaten again by this SNR responsible before being taken back to the communal police station cell where he is jailed.

#### **Two people tortured in Muramvya commune and province**

On May 21, 2024, around 4 p.m., on Muramvya hill, commune and province, Viateur Nkezabahizi and Alexandre Niyokindi, guard workers at Muramvya hospital were beaten by a group of eight police

officers in civilian clothes who were transporting police dogs of the Head of State from Gitega. According to hospital sources, these police officers parked and exited double-cab Hilux vehicles and a Hiace bus in front of Muramvya Hospital. They went to urinate at the entrance to the doctors' home in front of the hospital, which was criticized by the two guards on duty and tried to prevent them by showing them where the toilets were located but in vain. The police officers began beating them and each took out a pistol, intimidating them into shooting them. One of these police officers went into the vehicle and brought a Kalashnikov and continued to beat them using the butt of this rifle. The administrative director of the hospital, Pie Bitababaje, tried to alert the local police and administrative authorities but in vain. According to the same sources, the two victims are being treated at this hospital.

### ***II.3. THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT***

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

The constitutional law of Burundi guarantees in article 38, to every individual, the benefit of a fair trial and that their case is heard and judged within a reasonable time. However, on the ground, alarming irregularities in this aspect are noticeable.

#### **A member of the CNDD-FDD party abducted in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

On May 21, 2024, around 11 p.m., in Carama quarter, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, Diomède Bankuwiha, supplier of bricks for the construction of houses, CNDD-FDD party member, was abducted from his home by people in BSPI police uniforms. According to Diomède's neighbors, during the day, they noticed an unusual movement of police officers wearing BSPI uniforms very close to Diomède's house. Around 11 p.m., they heard people knocking on the gate of Diomedes' house. A member of the family went to the entrance to open it but found himself with people in police uniforms who climbed over the walls of the fence. These people rushed to enter the house and rushed into the victim's room and they took him out forcibly and forced him enter the vehicle "white double cabin van" with tinted windows and took off to a destination unknown to the family. His family and neighbors are concerned about his safety.

#### **A member of Imbonerakure militia abducted in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

On May 21, 2024, around 8 a.m., at the gas station in Carama quarter, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, Eric Dusengimana, aged 27, driver, member of Imbonerakure youth league, was arrested by agents on board of a white Toyota Hilux double cabin van with tinted windows and registered D3986A. According to witnesses on site, the alleged victim was looking for fuel at this gas station and this van came and then four agents got out, some in police uniforms and others in civilian clothes. They arrested him and put him in the vehicle before fleeing. His family does not know where he is and is worried about his safety.

#### **A member of Agathon Rwasa's CNL party abducted in Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province**

On May 20, 2024, around 3 p.m., Ezéchiél Ndayisenga, aged 45, member of Agathon Rwasa's CNL party, agricultural monitor, living on Mureba hill, Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province, was abducted by 6 people in police uniform who were in a black double cabin van, with tinted windows, registered C051AIT. According to sources on site, the victim was returning from a meeting in Nyabitsinda commune, which ended around 3 p.m. and was returning with his five colleagues all on bicycles. According to eyewitnesses, when they arrived at a place called Mburamazi, they found people in police

uniforms parked on the roadside and followed them from behind and a few meters away, they arrested Ezéchiel and forced him into their vehicle with his bike then left for an unknown destination. After a while, the same police officers returned with their vehicle and searched and took all the phones of the other monitors then took the road towards Ruyigi province. The family has no news on the destination of Ezéchiel Ndayisenga.

#### **A member of Agathon Rwasa's CNL party abducted in Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province**

On May 20, 2024, around 9 p.m., at his home, on Nyabitsinda hill and commune, Ruyigi province, Rémégie Gahungu, aged 34, communal representative of Agathon Rwasa's CNL party in Nyabitsinda, was abducted by police officers. According to eyewitnesses, Rémégie Gahungu was at home entering household items left outside. Police officers with other people in civilian clothes arrived, then handcuffed him, beat him, searched his house but found nothing and took his phone and his wife's. They took him to Nyabitsinda Communal High School not far from his home, where they had hidden their black double cabin vehicle with registration C051AIT, with tinted windows which had been used during the abduction of Ezéchiel Ndayisenga, around 3pm the same date. The family was not informed of Rémégie Gahungu's destination.

### ***1.3.2. ARBITRARY ARRESTS***

International and national texts in Burundi recognize the principle of innocence until proven guilty, and that detention is an exception. The application of these principles leave a bit to be desired, as is evident in most cases.

#### **A member of CNL party arrested in Kayanza commune and province**

On May 23, 2024, around 9 p.m., in Gitaramuka quarter, Kayanza commune and province, Bonaventure Niyibitanga, aged 38, teacher at Kayanza high school, member of CNL party, was arrested at his home by Isaac Ningabira, prosecutor of the Republic, accompanied by Godefroid Niyonizigiye, communal administrator of Kayanza and the provincial police commissioner in Kayanza Pascal Nshimirimana. According to the victim, the reasons for his arrest were linked to his political affiliation because a group of Imbonerakure students from Kayanza high school led by Jafari Barutwanayo, aged 23, a student in pedagogy IV, fabricated that the arrested was dating a young girl studying in pedagogy IV at this high school. According to the victim's relatives, after interrogation conducted by the public prosecutor on May 24, 2024, Bonaventure was accused of attempted rape for having spoken on the telephone with the girl Divine Irankunda and for having recruited students last year to join CNL party. The teacher remained in Kayanza police station cell located at Kinga hill, Kayanza commune and province and then released on May 26, 2024.

## ***III. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS***

### ***III.1. WOMEN'S RIGHTS***

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted by the UNGA on December 18, 1979 and around a hundred countries ratified it in 1990, including Burundi on January 8, 1992.

### **A woman beaten in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On May 20, 2024, on Ramvya hill, Rutonganikwa zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, Alice Murekerisoni, member of CNDD-FDD party, was beaten by Joséphine Niyokindi, hill leader also a member of this party, Daniel Citegetse, leader from Gahe sub-hill, accompanied by a group of 7 young Imbonerakure. According to eyewitnesses, they found her on the hill where she was buying salt and this group took her to a tree plantation of the commune to beat her. People from the neighborhood who intervened following the painful cries, found the woman already in agony and took her to Karusi Fiftieth Anniversary Hospital where she remains admitted. According to sources on site, the victim had been beaten for not having paid on May 20, 2024 a sum of 20,000 Bif demanded from her as a fine for having fought and argued with her husband Gahungu on May 16, 2024 on the complaint of her husband . On May 22, 2024, the police summoned the two local authorities and jailed them in the provincial police station cell for investigation.

### ***III.2. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS***

#### **A body of a newborn found in Kayanza commune and province**

On May 20, 2024, around 8 a.m., on Canzara hill, Kayanza commune and province, a body of a newborn was found in Kayave river, wrapped in a bag. People who came to collect sand found this body floating on the water. The latter alerted the local administration. The hill leader, Adélin Minani informed Godefroid Niyonizigiye, administrator of Kayanza commune and he rushed on site and ordered the population to bury this child.

### ***IV. CONCLUSION***

Ligue Iteka notes a continued deterioration of the human rights situation across the country.

It protests against the impunity of the crimes observed and asks the Minister of Justice to ensure the strict application of the law against the perpetrators of the crimes.