

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 for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), has observer status with the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights under the reference number OBS.236 and is a member of ECOSOC. Ligue Iteka is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections"

Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°432 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 22 – 28 July 2024



In memory of Madame Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 28 July 2024, Iteka has documented at least 700 cases of enforced disappearances

CONTENTS	PAGES
ACRONYMS.....	3
0. INTRODUCTION.....	4
I. POLITICAL, HEALTH, GOVERNANCE, JUDICIAL AND SECURITY CONTEXT.....	4
I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT.....	4
I.2. HEALTH CONTEXT.....	5
I.3. GOVERNANCE.....	5
I.4. JUDICIAL CONTEXT.....	6
I.5. SECURITY CONTEXT.....	6
1.5.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE.....	6
1.5.2. OTHER SECURITY INCIDENTS.....	8
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.....	9
II.1. THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY.....	9
II.1.1. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.....	9
II.1.2. PERSONS TORTURED.....	10
II.2. RIGHT TO FREEDOM	10
II.2.1. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR REPORTED MISSING.....	10
II.2.2. ARBITRARY ARRESTS.....	11
III. ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.....	11
IV. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS.....	13
IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.....	13
V. CONCLUSION.....	14
VI. Annex.....	14

ACRONYMS

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

CNL : *National Congress for Liberty*

COOPEC : *Savings and Loan Cooperative*

DRC : *Democratic Republic of Congo*

ECOFO : *Fundamental School*

FDBN : *National Defense Force of Burundi*

GBV : *Gender Based Violation*

OPJ : *Judicial Police Officer*

MSD : *Movement for Solidarity and Democracy*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

WHO : *World Health Organization*

0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin covers the political, health, governance, judicial and security context that marked this period. It also deals with civil and political rights, economic social and cultural rights as well as categorical rights and ends with a conclusion.

Therefore, over this reporting period, the human rights and security situation was reported as follows: at least 11 persons killed, including 7 found dead, 1 victim of GBV, 3 abducted and/or missing, 2 tortured and 6 arbitrarily arrested.

The victims included one soldier, 2 women, 5 CNDD-FDD party members killed and a child who drowned, as well as a CNDD-FDD party member reported missing.

Imbonerakure, administration officials and police officers are singled out as the alleged perpetrators of most of these human rights violations and assassinations.

1. POLITICAL, HEALTH, GOVERNANCE, JUDICIAL AND SECURITY CONTEXT

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

The establishment of CEPI¹ members lacks inclusiveness

In July 2024, CENI presented 52 CEPI members for Burundi's five new provinces. Most of CEPI members are from CNDD-FDD party, with 18 officially recognized members, 5 of whom hold the presidency. Other members belong to parties loyal to CNDD-FDD, such as UPRONA with 5 members, and satellite organizations such as ONELOP, RADDEBU, RANAC, CNL² with 5 members, and religious denominations³, especially Protestants. Curiously, it has been observed that CENI has set up its representatives⁴, which leads to confusion and everyone is entitled to wonder whether CENI is a partner in its own to replace other organizations that have submitted an expression of interest file. Another observation is the absence of Catholic Church members, despite it was aware of the period for submitting candidacies, as explained by CENI communications officer François Bizimana to Iwacu Journal.

With regard to ethnic representation, the members whose ethnicity was specified show that there are 16 members of Tutsi ethnic group, 27 of Hutu ethnic group and 1 of the Twa social component. Furthermore, it is important to point out that these members were established while members of opposition political parties were subject to manhunts and death threats. The leaders of these parties were not allowed to hold members' meetings; this was the case of Agathon Rwasa, who saw his party given to members who opposed his representation under the protection of the Ministry of the Interior. The latter had prohibited him to organize meetings, reproaching him for not having implemented the recommendations made against him.

Considering this situation, it is difficult to confirm the credibility and transparency of the elections, given that CENI itself was unable to play an independent role in setting up the CEPI members.

¹Provincial Independent Electoral Commission

²This party no longer belongs to the opposition since its president was ousted by members acting under the protection of the government by allowing them to organize a fanciful congress while its leader was not allowed to hold a meeting.

³The Catholic Church has withdrawn from the election observation

⁴5 members belong to CENI because they were chosen for having worked with this institution

Disruption of activities following the visit of the CNDD-FDD secretary, Muyinga commune and province

On July 22 and 23, 2023, in Muyinga province center, the visit of CNDD-FDD party secretary general Réverien Ndikuriyo to Muyinga prevented any movement from the evening of his arrival until the early hours of the following morning. According to eyewitnesses, no activity was allowed in the town center, either at the market or in the kiosks, as everyone was forced to close and go to Umuco stadium to listen to CNDD-FDD party secretary's speech. According to the same sources, the purpose was to mobilize the population, especially the young Imbonerakure, to participate massively in the electoral process currently being prepared, and to contribute to the local solidarity festival to be held on August 2, 2024.

Intimidation by Young Imbonerakure during the morning sport in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province.

On July 28, 2024, at around 5 a.m., in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province, a group of around 40 young Imbonerakure woke up the population of Bukeye and Kabondo hills with slogans demonstrating their strength, paying tribute to their CNDD-FDD party and its leader Evariste, while demonizing other political parties such as Uprona and CNL. They circulated in the streets chanting slogans of verbal threats, which worried the population, especially in the forthcoming elections.

1.4. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

Eleven detainees released out of almost a hundred after inspection visit to Cibitoke public prosecutor's office

On July 26, 2024, a magistrates' inspection was carried out at Cibitoke police station cell, to assess prison conditions. Eleven detainees were released, including 3 minors. Human rights defenders welcome this initiative and call for regular inspections. To date, 11 detainees, including 3 minors, have been provisionally released following a visit by a team of 6 magistrates led by the public prosecutor from Cibitoke High Court. According to information on site, 105 detainees were being in provincial police station cell, which has a capacity of no more than 40. This overcrowding incited the Cibitoke public prosecutor's office to release some of the detainees, who spent several days without being questioned.

Jean Paul Nsavyimana, the public prosecutor in Cibitoke, has indicated that inspection visits will be carried out from now on to resolve the problems linked to the promiscuity of the detainees. This magistrate is calling on humanitarians to support the judiciary in Cibitoke for the transport of detainees whose sentences have been pronounced, in particular to Mpimba central prison. According to him, this would relieve the overcrowding in the prison and improve prison conditions. Human rights defenders working in the region welcome this decision and call for its popularization, which could curb the phenomenon of abusive imprisonment at the root of the over number of detainees.

1.5. SECURITY CONTEXT

1.5.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

Four people killed, including 1 soldier, in Bukinanyana Kibira, Cibitoke province

On the night of July 23-24, 2024, on Nderama hill in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, in the vast natural forest, 3 butchers were killed, including Fabrice Mutabazi, Charles Kankanaguzwa and Bagirumwaka Thomas, along with a soldier from FDNB, who was also killed. Two other butchers, Mukeshimana Thaddée and Karikwanka, are missing.

1.2. HEALTH CONTEXT

Statements by President Evariste Ndayishimiye on the migration of Burundian doctors abroad

During tours organized as part of the “Inkebuzo” caravan, the President of the Republic Evariste Ndayishimiye severely criticized Burundian doctors who are leaving the country in search of better-paid jobs. In a speech given after the inauguration of Butihinda communal hospital in Muyinga province, he said that the migration of Burundian doctors abroad was motivated less by low salaries than by a lack of patriotism: *“We will pay doctors even if they are mercenaries. I always say that if they consulted us, we could contribute and pay them. I'm a farmer, so let's split my salary in half with any mercenary doctor who wants to go to France, since I owe my survival to my own production. The population can raise funds to pay the doctors. But since they lack patriotism, even if they were paid 100 million, they'd still go”*.

These words from the President of the Republic contrast to those of the Minister of Health on the issue of Burundian doctors leaving the country. In January 2024, the Minister of Public Health and Fight against AIDS, Dr Lyduine Baradahana, acknowledged to senators that the mass migration of doctors is a reality and will remain difficult to resolve as long as the issue of their salaries remains unresolved. As an indication, she said that a specialist doctor in Burundi earns 650,000 Bif, while he earns 1,300,000 Frwa in Rwanda, 3,000 US dollars in Kenya and 1,300 US dollars in Tanzania.

This situation has a negative impact on health, in particular the overloading of doctors, which reduces the quality of care and services offered to the population, given that Burundi has 1 doctor per 37,000 inhabitants, whereas the WHO recommends 1 doctor per 10,000 inhabitants.

Beyond political rhetoric, the Burundian authorities should take effective financial measures to stabilize Burundian doctors locally, in order to safeguard the health of the Burundian population.

1.3. GOVERNANCE

Forced participation to CNDD-FDD party activities in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On July 25, 2024, at around 1 p.m., in Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Phocas Sindaruhuka, zone head, in coalition with Alexis Bandyatuyaga, zonal secretary of CNDD-FDD, ordered the closure of Buhiga's central market, urging all traders to attend a prayer dedicated to the ruling party every last Thursday of the month. According to eyewitnesses, the prayer was held in a reception room to Abdallah's in Buhiga.

On July 26, 2024, at around 8 a.m., loudspeaker announcements urged no one to open the shops and go to Karunyinya hill in Buhiga zone and commune to welcome the President of the Republic on his visit to the home of a farmer Rubie Bazira. According to the same sources, sensitization continued until 10 a.m., with a warning that anyone opening a shop would be fined. Séverin Bompanokira, head of the shopkeepers' association, accompanied by communal tax collectors, gave receipts of 5,000 Bif to all those who failed to respond to the call. The communal administrator Bacebaseme Thérance in his fury urged them to go and tax all absentees without mercy after seeing the low participation to the president's welcome.

⁵<https://data.who.int/fr/indicators/i/CCCEBB2/217795A>

According to witnesses on site, the victims were smuggling 8 cows from Rwanda to sell them the following day at Ndora market.

According to a security source, the victims, who used to cross the Kibira at night to Rwanda in search of the cows, were victim to a large-scale ambush by a group of Kinyarwanda-speaking armed men based in the forest. According to the same source, all 8 cows were then recovered by the armed group. All those killed were identified as being from Bukinanyana commune.

Despite the closure of borders, movements between the 2 countries are being observed, according to another military source. This source also explained that this prohibition on border residents travelling to either country explains the refusal of the administrative authorities to allow members and relatives of the missing to mourn. This irritates the residents contacted, who have not been authorized by the communal administration and the communal police to mourn their loved ones. The same source speaks of 2 other people still being sought. "They may have been lost in the middle of the Kibira or simply killed", says the same source with fear. The victims' families are calling for light to be shed on the murder. The administrator of Bukinanyana commune, Christian Nkurikiye, confirms this information and states that investigations are underway to determine the causes of these killings.

Nkurikiye also warns anyone engaging in clandestine trade in cows while land borders are closed between Burundi and Rwanda.

This Burundian army officer threatens to apply military regulations in terms of sanctions to any soldier assigned to Kibira who fails to properly carry out his assigned mission.

A body found in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 22, 2024, indicates that on July 20, 2024, on Gasagara sub-hill, on Rubuga hill, Kiyonza zone, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province, the body of Oscar Mitakaro, aged 56, member of CNDD-FDD, native of Kiri hill where he lived, was found in the forest on this sub-hill by children collecting firewood. According to witnesses, the victim had spent the day of July 19, 2024 in Ruhehe at a wedding party, and his wife waited for him in vain. Relatives say that he was not liked by the neighbors and was accused of being a sorcerer. According to the same witnesses, a list of sorcerers was found as a leaflet in 2015 in Kigoma zone, and two of them have already died in the same way. The heads of these two hills agreed on his burial in collaboration with the family.

A body of CNDD-FDD party member found in Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province

According to information received by Ligue Iteka on July 22, 2024, on the night of July 20, 2024, Ferdinand Hatungimana alias Ndito, guard at Ruseseka Communal Lycée in Buhoro zone, was called by unidentified individuals who told him that a robbery was being carried out at his workplace, but he didn't hesitate to go out and see what was really going on, even though it wasn't his day on duty. When he arrived near the school, a car with men in police uniforms took him aboard. The following day, July 21, 2024, the body of Ferdinand Hatungimana was found on Buhoro hill, Nyarure sub hill.

The victim had been a member of CNDD-FDD for two years. He had left CNL to save his life. CNDD-FDD party sources say that a manhunt is underway to eliminate all influential CNL party members before the 2025 elections. Two persons have been arrested, including one woman, for investigation reasons.

1.5.2. OTHER SECURITY INCIDENTS

A body found in Rumonge commune and province

On July 22, 2024, in a bar of Birimba quarter of Rumonge downtown, Rumonge commune and province, the body of Venant Niyongabo was found. According to witnesses, the alleged perpetrators of this murder are not yet known. Police sources say the victim's body has been taken to Rumonge hospital mortuary. Two young women were arrested and taken to Rumonge police station cell by police officers for investigation reasons.

A girl died in Ntega commune, Kirundo province

According to information received by Ligue Iteka on July 22, 2024, 13-year-old Chantal Mukamana, a pupil at ECOFO Mugendo, died on July 16, 2024 on Kinyota hill in Ntega commune, Kirundo province, drowning in a deep-water pool while planting rice in marshes. According to sources on site, she was working for 48-year-old Michel Manirakiza. Children on vacation are exploited by farmers, who use them as cheap labor in rice cultivation. They give them 3,000 Bif a day, especially during the vacations. The hill head, Boniface SINZINKAYO arrived on the scene to deplore the exploitation of children and the lack of adult supervision in these plantations.

A man killed by suicide in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province

On July 24, 2024, at around 10 p.m., on Musongati hill in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province, Janvier Bizimana, aged 46, father of 6 children and farmer, died of suicide using a rope. According to sources on site, he had gone home drunk from a local bar commonly known as “Ku Kayaga”. According to the same sources, he had consumed too much wine made in Kayanza called “Sorora wine”. After waking his wife to open the door, he told her he was going to see his cow at the stable. When his wife waited in vain for him to return, she went to look for him in the enclosure and found him dead, hanging to a pole of the stable. He was buried the next day in Musongati cemetery.

A woman killed in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province

On July 25, 2024, at around 10 p.m., on Kivumu hill, Mugege zone, Butaganzwa commune, Godeliève, aged 55, was killed by a group of people when she was in bed with her husband, Pascal Macumi, aged around 60, both members of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, the team who came to kill them first clubbed her husband. The woman woke up and went outside to cry for help but clubbed and died instantly. Her husband is hospitalized at Muhene health center. According to sources on site, before he was knocked unconscious, he had already identified two faces, including Nyandwi and Minani, his neighbors, also members of CNDD-FDD party. According to the same sources, he had no conflict with his executioners, but he had another person with whom he had a conflict, and that they had been bribed to kill this victim. Nyandwi and Minani are still missing, but three persons have been arrested for investigation.

A woman killed by mob justice in commune Gisagara, province Cankuzo

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 22, 2024, indicates that on July 21, 2024, between 4 and 6 p.m., on Gisoko hill, Camazi zone, Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province, a woman named Nzeyimana alias Bishara, CNDD-FDD party member, from Muzire hill in the same zone and commune, was killed on her way to Alodie Nsekankabo's house by the population using a worn hoe for poisoning Alodie, of CNDD-FDD party. According to eyewitnesses, Alodie Nsekankabo, from Gisoko hill in the same zone and commune, died when she came from Gasenyi market with stomach pains. Before she died, her neighbors said that she had shared drinks with Nzeyimana, alias Bishara, and that her death was linked to the poisoning she had consumed in this shared drink. According to the same sources, Balthazar Gapera, of

CNDD-FDD party and head of Gisoko hill, rushed to find Nzeyimana, alias Bishara, to ask him to cure Alodie, but she was already dead. Suddenly, the people who were with this Gisoko hill head beat Nzeyimana alias Bishara to death with a old hoe and died on the spot. The hill head and some of the others involved, including 4 Imbonerakure and the head of 10 houses on the same hill, are jailed at the communal police station for investigation. According to the same sources, the hill head was released on July 24, 2024.

Leaflets found in the streets in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura-mairie

On July 24, 2024, in the streets of Kinama quarters, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura-mairie, leaflets defying CNDD-FDD party were found. The inhabitants of the locality read these writings without authors with fear and dread while others ignore the purposes and objectives of these leaflets.

These leaflets which specified the misery of the population, the high cost of living in the country, the price rise of everything defied CNDD-FDD party regime which failed to find solutions to the problems that haunt the country and deplored the speech of the authorities who show that everything is rosy while all the signals are red in all sectors of the country.

These leaflets asked the population to overcome fear and overcome obstacles in order to rise up as one man to get rid of the regime which is the source of all the evils weighing on Burundi and the Burundians. Around 9 am, young Imbonerakure and SNR agents circulated throughout the quarter to collect the leaflets by preventing the inhabitants of Kinama from saying anything about the content, an attitude that shocked most of the population. According to the inhabitants of Kinama, it would be better to find a solution to the problems instead of hiding the smoke from the fire that has already exploded. It should be noted that this is the fourth time that leaflets asking the population to act to change the CNDD-FDD party regime have been found in the country. The first time was on July 1, 2024 in the political capital while on July 2, 2024, these leaflets were found at the presidential palace while on July 7, 2024 these unsigned papers were found in Kanyosha commune in Bujumbura province and in Musaga zone in Muha commune, Bujumbura City.

A CNDD FDD party flag burned in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura marie

On July 24, 2024, in Ntakangwa commune, Buterere zone in Bujumbura mairie, unidentified individuals burned the flag of the ruling party. According to sources on site, Buterere zone has quite a few offices of the ruling party CNDD-FDD, it is the one located on the 2nd avenue that was attacked by these unidentified individuals. The next day, young people from the ruling CNDD-FDD party were circulating in the quarters of this zone where the party's offices are located.

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.

II.1. THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

II.1.1. 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.

A woman beaten in Makamba commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 22, 2024 indicates that on July 7, 2024, around 8 p.m., in Swahili quarter, Makamba commune and province, Aline Niyogusenga, aged 38, was punched on the eyes and ears, then her braided hair was torn out by her partner André, driver of the truck of the water manufacturing plant located in Gahosha belonging to honorable and Secretary General of CNDD-FDD party, Révérien Ndikuriyo in complicity with his concubine, both members of CNDD-FDD party. According to eyewitnesses, the victim filed a complaint with the judicial police and the OPJ Juvénal gave her a summons which she took to one of the local administration officials Abdoul but the latter refused to give it to the perpetrator. The woman returned to report to the Judicial Police Officer that the perpetrator refused to appear because he is a driver for the ruling party authority. The victim has not yet had access to justice.

II.1.2. PERSONS TORTURED

A member of CNL party tortured in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 27, 2024 indicates that on July 16, 2024, on Kabonga hill and zone, Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province, Omar Bucumi, a member of CNL party was injured after being punched and beaten with sticks by Imbonerakure led by their leaders Oscar Nyandwi and Jean-Marie Sabushimike, all from the ruling party. According to the victim, they accused him of collaborating with rebel groups, the victim filed complaints with the judicial police of Nyanza-lac police station twice but so far the torturers have not yet reported to the OPJ.

A person tortured in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 25, 2024 indicates that on July 15, 2024, on Nyabigina hill, Kabonga zone, in the internally displaced persons site, Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province, Etienne Nyandwi, aged 63, member of CNL party, of the Twa social component, was beaten and injured in the head, arms and back when he returned around 6 p.m. close to Nyamitonga sub-hill by a nicknamed Gipara, a young Imbonerakure. According to the victim, the alleged perpetrator accused him of exceeding the hours and that he is also of the Twa ethnic group, Gipara was not worried and he is still free.

II.2. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.2.1. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR REPORTED MISSING

Two persons reported missing in Kibira of Bukinanyana, Cibitoke province

On the night of July 23 to 24, 2024, on Nderama hill, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, in "Kibira" natural forest, 2 persons Thadee Mukeshimana and Karikwanka went reported missing during an ambush by an armed group against butchers from Rwanda, Fabrice Mutabazi, Charles Kankanaguzwa and Bagirumwuka Thomas accompanied by a soldier of the FDNB who were killed on the spot.

According to security sources on site, the victims were smuggling 8 cows from Rwanda to sell them the next day at Ndora market.

According to a security source, the victims who used to cross the Kibira at night to Rwanda in search of cows were victims of a large-scale ambush by a group of armed men speaking Kinyarwanda operating in this forest. As the same source still indicates, all 8 cows were then recovered by this armed group. The people killed were all identified as being from Bukinanyana commune.

The same source says that the 2 persons still wanted either got lost in the middle of Kibira or were killed".

The victims' family is asking for light to be shed on this assassination. The administrator of Bukinanyana commune, Christian Nkurikiye confirms this information and says that investigations are underway to determine the causes of these killings, while also warning anyone who engages in the clandestine trade of cows while the land borders are closed between Burundi and Rwanda.

A member of CNDD-FDD party abducted in Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 22, 2024 indicates that on July 18, 2024, Isidore Sibomana, aged about forty, member of CNDD FDD, nurse running CDS Nyarusebeyi, Muhungu hill, Butahana zone was abducted by unknown persons aboard a Toyota TI vehicle with tinted windows and without plates.

According to eyewitnesses, this arrest took place near COOPEC Cibitoke, not far from the office of the Governor and the Prosecutor. According to the same sources, no one, neither his work colleagues nor his family members know the place of his destination and the people who arrested him. Isidore was a member of MSD party provincial committee before exiling to Rwanda in 2016. Returning from exile in 2017, he became a member of CNDD-FDD party.

II.2.2. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

International and national texts in Burundi recognize the principle of innocence until proven guilty, and that detention is an exception.

Five CNL party members and one CNDD-FDD party member arrested in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province.

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 26, 2024 indicates that on July 12, 2024, on Sampeke hill, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, Hélène Ndayikeza, member of the women's league, Elias Minani, Salvator Ndagusaba alias Kuvunagura, Pascasie Nintunze, Clovis and Pierre Simon Nyabenda, all members of Agathon Rwasa's CNL party, were arrested by the police commissioner in collaboration with Pierre Simon Nyabenda, administrator of Kayogoro commune. According to witnesses, they were accused of working with grigris users from Tanzania while Isaïe Sakubu, Sampeke hill head and the head of intelligence in Bigina zone named Fabien members of CNDD-FDD party who were among the people who ordered this team to remove grigris from suspected households were not worried. They were jailed in the communal police station cell in Kayogoro then transferred to Makamba prosecutor's office except Helene who was released.

III. ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Burundi ratified accession to the international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights dated March 14, 1990, adopted in New York on December 16, 1966.

Untimely power cuts in Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 22, 2024 indicates that in Makamba province, untimely power cuts are causing losses to state and private companies. Services requiring electricity are forced to stop their work during the day. According to some managers of state and private companies, some managers of public and private structures say that they are no longer supplied with electricity during working hours while the services offered require electricity. A source at Makamba hospital says that this hospital is currently spending more than 19 million each month as a result of these power cuts. This source says that all the services of this hospital are computerized, which makes it impossible to work if it does not have electricity, even though these expenses were not planned. In addition to these cuts, they say that they cannot find fuel to power the generators, which creates temporary work stoppages and therefore

patients miss out on health care.

The situation is similar for banks and microfinances in all the communes of Makamba province. Customers who come to withdraw or deposit can spend the whole day waiting for electricity so that they can benefit from the services. Bank and microfinance managers say that all this is due to the lack of electricity and fuel. They add that this situation causes big losses to their institutions. Even managers of mobile phone company agencies say they are affected. They explain that the networks are almost non-existent because they cannot find fuel for their generators to replace direct current, which is hurting their customers. All are asking for the regulation of these cuts especially since the ministry in charge of energy had recently said to have integrated 20 MW of electricity produced by the Kabu 16 dam.

Destabilization of fuel distribution by CNDD-FDD officials in Kirundo province

On July 26, 2024, communal representatives of CNDD-FDD party were served 1000 liters of fuel stored on July 25, 2025 during the distribution at the gas station while there were still more than 60 vehicles lining up to be served. According to witnesses, these CNDD-FDD party representatives went to the provincial office of the party to make the list then made a long procession to go to the gas station and others continued without knowing that they were not entitled to it. They filled their motorbike and a 20-litre can each and then ordered the pump attendant to reserve 1000 liters for the provincial authorities. According to the same witnesses, this activity was supervised by Kankuyo Médiatrice, provincial secretary of CNDD-FDD and executive secretary of Butanyerera as well as Eric, the chief of staff of the Governor.

Discontent among applicants for administrative documents in Makamba commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 22, 2024 indicates that in Makamba commune and province, no administrative document is signed without giving contributions. Birth certificates, full identity, residence, family composition, all extracts are granted for three contributions including 2000 Bif for the construction of the provincial office for a farmer and 5000 Bif for civil servants. In addition to these costs allocated to the construction of the province, a sum of 1000 Bif is allocated to solidarity. Applicants who want to request their documents at Makamba commune office say that a document costs 8,000 Bif because in addition to the contributions which amount to 6,000 Bif, these certificates and extracts each cost 2,000 Bif, paid to Makamba commune account opened at COOPEC Makamba while these contributions are paid against receipts. Some say that they return without having these certificates and/or extracts following these contributions especially since they are informed at the time of the request while it is expensive for most.

A mortgage registration certificate required in banks to apply for credits is the most expensive. To obtain it, the administrator of Makamba commune, Zuena Irakiza demands the payment of 60,000 Bif corresponding to the price of a bag of cement of Zambian origin called Dangoté. This contribution would be for the construction of a new office of the commune as the employees of the commune explain to the acquirers of these documents. The applicants for this certificate wonder how the administrator of the commune Zuena Irakiza, demands this sum of 60,000 Bif from them when they are there to seek credits therefore without money on them. They also wonder if this money reaches its destination especially since the contributions for the construction of the offices of the Makamba province began in 2016 arguing that there will be monitoring commissions on their use but this commission has never been put in place. They ask the hierarchical authorities to closely monitor this situation to demand the suspension of these contributions demanded by the administrator of Makamba Zuena Irakiza.

Ten fuel traffickers arrested in Bugannda and Rugombo communes, Cibitoke province

On July 24, 2024, a search was carried out by the police between the localities of Nyamitanga and Ruhwa respectively in Buganda and Rugombo communes and resulted in the arrest of 10 fuel traffickers including Alexia Nkurunziza, Cyprien Kazoza, Ndayisenga, Harerimana, Nizeyimana Jean, Yamuremye,

Ntahimpera, Barnabé Sinzumusi, Faustin Karikurubu and Ndikumana as well as 10,025 liters of fuel consisting of gasoline and fuel oil supplied from the DRC via Rusizi River.

The decision was given on July 22, 2024 by Careme Bizoza, Governor of Cibitoke province, in a meeting with administrators and zone head.

These authorities contacted confirm that they are implementing the order from above. The Governor of Cibitoke talks about preventive measures to deal with incidents caused by fires in households.

The population and transporters say that this measure worsens a situation of severe shortage of black water and ask the Government to allow fuel from the DRC to enter to alleviate the suffering of the population. As for those arrested, a case of attack on the economy and security of the country will be opened against them according to sources on site. These traffickers are all jailed in Cibitoke police station cell.

Rise of transport fares following the arrest of fuel traffickers in Cibitoke province

Since July 24, 2024, in Cibitoke province, there has been a general increase in transport fares within and outside the province following the hunt for black gold traffickers. The latter are supplied with gasoline and fuel oil from the DRC, and were arrested and jailed while several thousand liters were already seized by the police in complicity with the administration.

According to various concurrent sources, since July 22, 2024, Rugombo-Bujumbura transport fare has increased from 15,000 Bif to 20,000 Bif while for Rugombo-Bukinanyana trip, the fare is 28,000 Bif instead of 18,000 Bif. Travelers find it difficult because the transport fares, especially within the communes, has gone from single to triple for those traveling on motorcycles. This is the case for those Rugombo-Mugina-Mabayi route, the fare has increased from 8,000 Bif to 12,000 Bif or even more.

Same scenario for Buganda-Murwi transport, although 2 neighboring communes about ten kilometers apart, the fare has just crossed the 10,000 Bif mark while the same journey was paid at 5,000 Bif.

The repercussions also affect the prices of foodstuffs. The kilo of rice and beans has gone from 3,000 Bif to 2,300 Bif and from 3,700 Bif to 2,800 Bif respectively. According to local sources, before the measure prohibiting traffickers from obtaining fuel supplies in the DRC, a 20-liter can was purchased for 200,000 Bif, while the same quantity is currently sold for 270,000 Bif or more. The repercussions of such a situation are largely reflected in the organization of social events. According to several local sources, wedding celebrations and/or burial ceremonies and partial and final lifting of mourning are disrupted due to this fuel shortage.

Some residents are urging state authorities to allow traders to obtain fuel supplies in the DRC while waiting for a solution to be found.

IV. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS

IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

A child working and returning home without money in Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 26, 2024 indicates that on July 6, 2023, on Nyabitaka hill, Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province, driven by family poverty, Richard Kezakimana, aged 13, was recruited and brought to Tanzania by Pacifique Nyawenda, aged 25 and living on the same hill as the victim. Arriving in Tanzania in Sengelema, Richard Kezakimana was hired as a cattle guard with an annual contract of 350,000 shillings per year. After the agreed upon deadline, the boss did not give the salary, pre-texting that the latter will compensate for the fines he paid throughout the year when the cows destroyed

the neighbors' fields following Richard Kezakimana's inattention. According to sources on site, it was on June 5, 2024 that the victim returned home, without money, after a year of work and the victim had dropped out of school when she was in the 2nd year.

V. CONCLUSION

Ligue Iteka notes a continued deterioration of 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.

VI. Annex

List of members of the Provincial Electoral Independent Commission (CEPI)

I. Buhumuza

1. President : Ndayisenga Evelyne : Tutsi, CNDD FDD,
2. Vice- president : Ndayishimiye Elysé: Hutu, Institutional Memory,
3. Logistics : Hagura Thomas : CNDD FDD
4. Ntahondi Godefroid : Hutu, CNDD FDD
5. Hamenyimana Claude : Tutsi, Uprona
6. Cimpaye Odette : Hutu, CNL
7. Niyonkuru Hussein : Tutsi, Islam
8. Irakoze Annonciate : Hutu, RANAC
9. Kwikukira Cleophas : Tutsi, ACOPA

II. Bujumbura

1. Juvénal Habineza, Man Hutu, President. He is from CNDD-FDD party.
2. André Habonimana, Man Tutsi, Vice-President. He is from Uprona.
3. Anne-Marie Nduwimana, Woman Hutu, In charge of equipment. She is from Civil Society Organization (OSC).
4. Nathanael Nimbona, Man Hutu, Member. He is from Civil Society Organization (OSC).
5. Aimée Mylène Dushime, Woman Hutu, Member. She is from the Institutional Memory (IM) for having worked at CEPI.
6. Maître Bella Ndayirorere, Woman Tutsi, Member. She is a lawyer.
7. Dona Fabiola Niyonkuru, Woman Hutu, Member. She is Magistrate.
8. Jules Muragwabugabo, Man Hutu, Member. He is from Cnnd-Fdd.
9. Carine Rupereza, Woman Tutsi, Member. She is from Cnnd-Fdd.
10. Christian Nsengiyumva, Man Hutu, Member, CENI.
11. Jean Hakizimana, Man Hutu, Member. He is from Cnl.
12. Thierry Nshimirimana, Man Tutsi, Member, CENI.
13. Annick Hatungimana, Woman Tutsi, Member. She is from PISC Burundi.

III. Burunga

1. **Philemon Nahabandi**, Man Hutu, President. He is from Cnnd-Fdd party.
2. **Révérant Antoine Bikorimana**, Man Hutu, Vice-President. He is from Anglican Church.
3. **Annonciate Niyokwizera**, Woman Tutsi, In charge of equipment. She is from Cnnd-Fdd party.
4. **Gilbert Ciza**, Man Hutu, Member. He is from Cnnd-Fdd party.
5. **Patrice Ngendakuriyo**, Man Tutsi, Member. He is from Uprona party.
6. **Fremence Misago**, Woman Hutu, Member. He is from Cnl party.

7. **Charlotte Nizigama**, Woman Tutsi, Member. She is from Frodebu.
8. **Jeanne Nibona**, Woman Hutu, Member. She is from Raddebu party.
9. **Lambert Nsabimana**, Man Tutsi, Member. He is from Union for Christian Churches in Burundi.

IV. Butanyerera

1. Désiré Minani, Man Hutu, President. He is from Cndd-Fdd party.
2. Janvière Nzeyimana, Woman Tutsi, Vice-Presidente, she is Uprona party.
3. Célestin Minani, Man Hutu, in charge of equipment, he is from ONELOP Burundi.
4. Placide Migambi, Man Hutu, Member,
5. Achel Bimenyimana, Man Hutu, Member, he is from Cndd-Fdd party.
6. Souavis Rukundo, Woman Tutsi, Member, he is from Cndd-Fdd.
7. Celeus Bavugirubusa, Man Hutu, Member, he is from CNL party.
8. Gervais Misago, Man, Twa, he is from AMIBU Batwa.
9. Rose Nsavyumukama, Woman, religious denomination.
10. lexis Ntunzwenimana, Man Tutsi, he is from FNL party.

V. Gitega

1. Président : Maniraho Joseph, Hutu from CNDD FDD Gitega
2. V. président : Manirakiza Euphreum, Hutu from CNDD FDD Karusi
3. Matériel: Nininahazwe Vestine: CNDD FDD of Muramvya, Member
4. Nininahazwe Annick, Uprona
5. Hakizimana Nestor, CNL- DD
6. Simpamagaye Valence, Hutu former CENI staff
7. Niyonzima Magnifique, CNDD FDD protestant church
8. Ninziza Gérard, Hutu CODIP friend of CNDD FDD
9. Nduwumuremyi Clotilde, HUTU former CENI staff
10. Ngurinzira Célestin, CNDD FDD Anglican Church
11. Hasabuwitonda Égide, Hutu from APDR