

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°434 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 5 to 11 August 2024



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 11 August 2024, Iteka has documented at least 700 cases of enforced disappearances

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ACRONYMS

APDR	: <i>Alliance for Peace, Democracy and Reconciliation</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
INSS	: <i>National Social Security Institute</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
GBV	: <i>Gender Based Violation</i>
OBR	: <i>Burundi Revenue Authority</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judiciary Police Officer</i>
PJ	: <i>Judiciary Police</i>
REGIDESO	: <i>Water and electricity production and distribution company</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
WFP	: <i>World Food Program</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin covers the health, political, economic, environment, health and security context that marked this period. It also deals with civil and political rights; economic social and cultural rights and ends with a conclusion.

Therefore, over this reporting period, the human rights and security situation was reported as follows: at least 10 persons killed, including 7 found dead, 5 victims of GBV, 1 person tortured and 14 persons victims of arbitrary arrests.

Among the victims is 1 woman killed, 1 member of APDR party tortured, 1 member of CNDD-FDD arrested and 3 children victims of rape.

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

1. POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SECURITY CONTEXT

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Celebration of the commune Day, 2024 edition

On August 3, 2024, the country's various authorities enhanced the festivities to celebrate the day dedicated to the commune, the aim of which was to assess achievements and plan future projects. Celebrated in all the country's communes, the commune Day was established by law n°100/203 of August 31, 2013 establishing the commune Day.

Indeed, the Prime Minister, Gervais Ndirakobuca, enhanced the ceremonies marking the Bukinanyana commune festival on Nyarwumba hill. In his speech, Burundi's head of government, a native of Bukinanyana commune, praised the communal administrator's achievements over the past year. Commenting on the current general census of the population, agriculture and livestock, the Prime Minister Ndirakobuca emphasized the role of everyone involved in its successful completion. According to him, it is imperative that there be close collaboration between the enumerators and the population, as well as the local administration. In order to achieve the vision of the country's emergence, he called on everyone to look back regularly, evaluate themselves and decide to move forward, because, he stressed, emergence begins in the family.

Regarding the administrative division, where the provincial capital Bujumbura will be located a little far away, Ndirakobuca reassured the population that the work of granting some documents will be decentralized.

For the Speaker of the Senate, Emmanuel Sinzohagera, accompanied by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr Lydwine Baradahana, joined the inhabitants of Isare, his native commune in Bujumbura province, during the ceremonies celebrating the commune day, which took place on Nyarumpongo hill, Rushubi zone, where he urged the inhabitants of this commune to be characterized by love of neighbor and mutual aid. He asked them to avoid all forms of injustice, and to get on with the various tasks required for development.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Daniel Gélase Ndabirabe, attended this celebration in his Matongo native commune. In his speech, he praised the achievements of Matongo Commune, as presented by the Commune Administrator. He also invited the population of this commune to register their arable land so that they can have a title deed that will enable them, if need be, to get bank loans, and to take part in

the census, to help the State to know the level of development and thus make a planning that will lead the country to the 2040-2060 vision.

Finally, the celebration of this day dedicated to the commune was an opportunity for residents and natives to get together and share traditional food and drink. It was also a time for presentations of communal achievements. However, there was an omission or lack of presentation of the challenges or obstacles faced by communes in terms of decentralization policy, the cornerstone of communal development. It was noted that there have been repeated changes in the orientation of decentralization policy. Prior to 1982, the policy was to reduce the number of communes and provinces. After 1992, there was a change in policy, with a tendency to increase the number of communes from 76 to 129, and from 8 to 17 provinces. Currently, Burundi's provinces have been reduced from 18 to 5; communes from 119 to 42; zones from 399 to 451 and hills/quarters from 2910 to 3044.

1.2. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The Bank of the Republic of Burundi liberalizes foreign exchange activities

In a press release issued on August 8, 2024, the Bank of the Republic of Burundi authorized the reopening of forex bureau as part of the liberalization of foreign exchange operations. The BRB also announced that forex bureau are authorized to operate freely in accordance with foreign exchange regulations, and called on investors in this field to approach the bank for guidance.

This decision comes after a tumultuous period of manhunt against foreign exchange dealers. Since 2019, foreign exchange dealers have been arrested or killed¹, forex bureau closed and amounts of money confiscated. In November 2022, thirty currency traders were arrested and incarcerated in Bujumbura police station cells, while in April 2024, around fifty currency traders were arrested in Bujumbura and detained in the SNR cells, accused of breaking the law by not respecting the official central bank rate.

On February 10, 2020², the BRB ordered the closure of all forex bureau except those operating in banks. They were accused of not respecting the exchange margin.

During this period, the gap between the official exchange rate and the black market exchange rate continued to widen, the scarcity of these currencies became more acute and the inflation rate of the Burundian currency continued to rise.

1.3. ENVIRONMENT CONTEXT

President Evariste Ndayishimiye calls on the population for sanitation

On August 10, 2024, President Evariste Ndayishimiye surprisingly visited the buildings of different ministries in Mukaza commune in Bujumbura mairie, to assess the state of sanitation.

President Evariste Ndayishimiye noted a lack of hygiene, and recommended that all public and private services devote the entire week of August 12, 2024 to cleaning up the surroundings of their workplaces, except healthcare and justice personnel. President Ndayishimiye sharply criticized the well-dressed department heads working in the garbage. He then announced that the following week, no one would be allowed to work in the office, and that they would only be allowed to return after an assessment of the state of sanitation.

Although the President's action was commendable, it was badly launched, lacking planning and organization. Indeed, the surprise mobilization of the country's entire staff for a week to focus solely on sanitation will certainly cause a major loss of earnings and a negative economic impact for different departments.

Finally, we have to wonder about the added value of the community work introduced by the CNDD-FDD regime as soon as it came to power.

¹A currency trader named Jackson Simbananiye alias Kirahwata was killed in May 2020 and another named Vianney was killed in March 2022.

²<https://www.brb.bi/sites/default/files/Cqu%C3%A9%20fr.pdf>

1.4. HEALTH CONTEXT

Monkeypox epidemic in Rumonge province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 6, 2024 indicates that a case of monkeypox has been reported in Rumonge hospital, Rumonge province. According to local sources, 9 cases of people suspected of having symptoms of this epidemic are admitted in this hospital. Since the week of July 29 to August 4, 2024, people with symptoms have been coming to Rumonge hospital for treatment. The town's inhabitants fear the rapid spread of the epidemic due to trade with the Democratic Republic of Congo via Rumonge commercial port. The movements of Congolese and Tanzanians are exposing the population of Rumonge. Some residents are calling for surveillance of population movements at Rumonge commercial port, as well as at different fishing ports on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. At national level, the number of cases already confirmed by the Ministry of Health and Fight against AIDS up to August 4, 2024 is 37. Of these, 15 cases have been recorded in Bujumbura city. Several quarters of Bujumbura mairie are facing a shortage of drinking water. Barrier measures against this epidemic are proving ineffective due to the lack of drinking water in families and households. It should also be pointed out that transport problems are making it difficult for people in Bujumbura to get around. People are scrambling to get around. People queue up and jostle to get on and off the bus.

1.5. SECURITY CONTEXT

1.5.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

Two bodies found and buried in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 6, 2024 indicates that on August 2, 2024, two bodies of two unidentified people were found by passers-by in the bush around Bujumbura Melchior Ndadaye airport in Rukaramu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province. According to eyewitnesses, the bodies were naked and decomposing. Siméon Butoyi, administrator of Mutimbuzi commune, ordered and supervised the burial of these bodies in Mpanda cemetery on the same day, the same sources added.

A body found in Bubanza province city center

On the afternoon of August 5, 2024, in Matonge quarter of Bubanza province city center, a body of Elie Ndayizeye, aged 34, was found hanging from the roof of his house with a rope around his neck. The circumstances of this crime remain unclear. According to the victim's neighbors, he was mentally disabled.

Three bodies found in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On the morning of August 7, 2024, on Street 3 Nyamitanga, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, a body was found. According to a security source, it was an unidentified, decomposing corpse in its thirties. On August 5, 2024, towards nightfall, not far from there on the street 7 of Ndava hill, two other decomposing, unidentified bodies were recovered by the local administration. According to local sources, on the orders of Pamphile Hakizimana, administrator of Buganda commune, all these bodies were buried without further investigation. The victims were allegedly killed elsewhere, taken away and dumped in these two localities to erase all traces.

Young Imbonerakure in complicity with SNR agents in Cibitoke are said to be the alleged perpetrators of these assassinations. According to the same sources, the SNR head vehicle in this province is often spotted by local residents in these places and late at night, and each time, the next day, bodies are discovered and buried rushing by Imbonerakure with the authorization of the communal administrator.

At the pacification meeting held on August 7, 2024 in Nyamitanga, Buganda administrator admitted that bodies were regularly recovered in his commune, particularly in the localities of Nyamitanga and Ndava, close to Rusizi river on the border with the DRC.

A body found in Muruta commune, Kayanza province

On August 8, 2024, at around 6 a.m., in Rwegura hill and zone, Muruta commune, Kayanza province, the body of a 57-year-old Zabulon Ntirampeba, father of six, was found in Kibira nature reserve, hanging from a tree with his feet on the ground and a rope around his neck. According to local sources, the victim's wife, Laetie Niyongere, said that before he left, he had told his wife he was going to work as a day laborer in Rwegura tea plantations, and had not returned home. According to witnesses who saw the body, next to the victim's body were two bottles of savana-type drinks and a product used for spraying the fields called "Dudu". According to the same witnesses, the victim was suspended to simulate a suicide; the rope could not kill him as his feet were on the ground. According to the same witnesses, this man did not live well with the neighborhood, as he liked to dispute.

1.5.2. OTHER SECURITY INCIDENTS

A man killed in Vyanda commune, Bururi province

On August 8, 2024, on Gihinga hill, Binyuro zone, Vyanda commune, Bururi province Jean Pierre Ndikumagenge alias Masuguru, aged 64, was beaten to death and wounded in the head with an unidentified object by his wife Godeliève Niyonsaba, a member of CNDD-FDD party. According to family members, the victim's body had blood in its nose and mouth. Family conflicts between the man and the woman, who had already been separated, were said to be the cause of the murder. The victim's body was taken to Bururi hospital mortuary by members of his family, including his wife Godeliève and Spés Nemerimana, Godeliève's younger sister and head of Binyuro zone. Godeliève was arrested and taken to Vyanda communal police station cell on the afternoon of August 9, 2024.

One person killed in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province

According to information received by Ligue Iteka on August 8, 2024, on July 28, 2024, on Kabondo hill, Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, at Nyagatanga fishing site, Yves Nimubona, from Kinyami hill, Nyabiraba commune, Bujumbura Rural province, was stabbed in the chest and spine with a spear. According to witnesses, a machete and two blood-stained spears were found in the house of the alleged perpetrator during a search of the home of his comrade Christophe, with whom he worked extracting palm nut oil. The alleged perpetrator, Christophe, owed a debt of around one million to the victim, a clear indication of his guilt. He was arrested by the Nyanza lac police station for investigative purposes.

Forced contributions to buy CNDD-FDD party flags in Kinama commune, Bujumbura Mairie

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 6, 2024 indicates that in Kinama commune, Bujumbura Mairie, the collection of contributions began on July 23, 2024, throughout the quarter, and young Imbonerakure from the joint security committee were moving in all households, shops, stores and bars. According to local sources, anyone working in the zone is required to pay a fee for the purchase of CNDD-FDD ruling party flags, with even the most vulnerable being asked to pay at least 1,000 Bif, while small shops pay 5,000 Bif and other households 3,000 Bif, while large stores and shops pay between 20,000 Bif and 50,000 Bif. The inhabitants of this quarter speak of a violation of human rights, as they do not all belong to CNDD-FDD party. They point out that these flags should be bought by militants of the said party, and point out that they are obliged to pay the sums demanded to save their lives and continue to do business in this locality.

The CNDD-FDD party members collecting the money say they have been instructed by the CNDD-FDD party office in the aforementioned commune to plant party flags in several corners to give the party visibility while Burundi is moving towards elections.

Faded lettering on CNL party office in Giharo commune, Rutana province

According to information received by Ligue Iteka on August 6, 2024, on the morning of August 3, 2024, in Giharo commune, Rutana province, writings on the walls of CNL party office were erased by the wife of Nyamitwe, the owner of the house, both members of CNDD-FDD party. According to local sources, this office was inaugurated 4 months ago, and the owner's wife said that the contract had to be terminated because the rental fees had not been used for the family, but the husband did not accept this. The latter then told Cyriaque Nyandwi, local leader of CNL party, to lodge a complaint against his wife and that he would be a witness, but on August 6, 2024, they were not heard, even though they had an appointment with an OPJ.

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. RIGHT TO LIFE

One person killed in Muyinga commune and province

On August 5, 2024, at around 1 a.m., at Muyinga communal Lycée, Muyinga commune and province, Claude Nzobiturimana, aged 18 and a former pupil of Muyinga communal Lycée, in 9th form, was shot by one of the police officers on night patrol. According to sources on site, the victim was shot by police officers guarding the maize store at Muyinga communal Lycée when they spotted a thief taking a bag of maize out of the store room through the window and quickly opened fire on him, who then died on the spot. According to witnesses, his body was evacuated by family members, who promptly buried him. The same sources reveal that similar thefts had already been recorded, as more than 500kg of corn had been stolen before police surveillance was stepped up. More than 23 bags of maize have already been stolen, but the total losses will be clarified after verification by WFP officials, as stated by the store manager in the presence of the provincial economic advisor.

II.2. THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. 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.

Woman raped and later died in Ruyigi commune and province

According to information received by Ligue Iteka on August 6, 2024, on July 25, 2024, at night, in Rusengo center, on Gisoro hill, Ruyigi commune and province, J. B., aged 25, single and with 2 children, was sexually raped in turn by 4 male gold miners, including Jean Marie Barinakandi and Martin Nsengiyumva, in the latter's house, and consequently died on July 30, 2024. According to local sources, she had just given birth a week earlier and, according to medical data, her womb had been damaged, which caused her death. When she went to Cimpaye hospital in Rusengo, she was transferred to Kibuye hospital, but without success.

A woman injured by her husband in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province

According to information received by Ligue Iteka on August 8, 2024, on August 4, 2024, at around 5 p.m., on Mugombwa sub-hill, Kiri hill, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province, Sandrine Ingabire, aged 31, a farmer, was wounded with a machete by her husband Jean de Dieu Sibomana, aged 34, a farmer. According to witnesses, the alleged perpetrator had been drinking highly alcoholic beverages and was drunk. Sibomana even almost killed Issa Bucumi, who came to his aid, wounding him with a steel bar. The alleged perpetrator was arrested by the police and taken to Kirundo PJ, while the two victims are in hospital in Kirundo.

A child raped in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 8, 2024, indicates that on July 16, 2024, on Rukaramu hill, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province, A.I, a 7-year-old pupil in 2nd grade at ECOFO Kirwati, was raped by Omar Ngendakumana, a 48-year-old married member of CNDD-FDD party, in the latter's house. According to local sources, the victim was raped on her way to play with the alleged perpetrator's children. The victim was treated at Seruka center. The alleged perpetrator was arrested by the police and taken to Bujumbura public prosecutor's office.

Mentally handicapped girl raped in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

On August 8, 2024, at around 5 p.m., on Camumandu hill, Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, M.K., aged 16, living with a mental disability, was raped by Jimmy Vyukusenge, aged 23, a farmer. According to local sources, the alleged perpetrator came across her coming from a nearby shop, and asked her to accompany him to his home. She agreed and spent the night there. Jimmy was getting ready to get married in November and his house was ready. It was his relative who reported to the hill head that he had been staying with this mentally disabled neighbor, and he was arrested the next day and taken to the communal police station cell.

A girl impregnated by a miner in Kabezi commune, Bujumbura province

According to information received by Ligue Iteka on August 11, 2024, a case of unwanted pregnancy was recorded on July 10, 2024 on Ramba hill, Kabezi commune, Bujumbura province. According to local sources, the victim, 15-year-old C.B.I, a student at ECOFO Nyamugari, is currently pregnant. The victim took advantage of her summer vacations to mine rocks and concrete in Mugere river, which is exploited by CEMPRLA cooperative under the responsibility of Thierry Baranzira. She was then impregnated by Dieudonné Habonimana, a 45-year-old married member of CNDD-FDD party, who also mines rocks in the same river.

II.2.2. PERSONS TORTURED

APDR party leader tortured by police in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On August 8, 2024, at around 9 p.m., Gabriel Banzawitonde, president of APDR party, was beaten and abducted before being released, on Gikoma bridge linking Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, and Rubirizi zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province.

As Banzawitonde explains, police officers on the bridge were manhandling a driver, demanding a bribe because he had overloaded his cab, while the APDR party leader pleaded for the driver to be released or for the fines to be paid into the state resources via the OBR.

The police asked who Banzawitonde was and he introduced himself. The policemen asked him for his badge attesting that he is the president of the party, and he replied that he had forgotten it and handed over his identity card, which was promptly torn up by the policemen. According to witnesses, these policemen started to beat him up.

After a few minutes, a crowd of people who had witnessed the scene refused to allow the police to continue beating the party leader, and the officers loaded Banzawitonde into a pick-up vehicle for an unknown destination. They spoke of an attempted abduction. The police decided to take him to Kinama zone cell, fearing other vehicles pursuing them.

According to the victim, at around 1 a.m., the police tried to free him, but he refused to leave the cell as it was late. The next day, the victim was released, as the OPJ found no offence against him. He asked that the police officers who had manhandled him be brought to justice and that Gikoma bridge police station be properly guarded. Banzawitonde is in shock and undergoing treatment, as he has scars and wounds where the police beat him with belts, not to mention wounds on his mouth and back. In any case, he deplores the police's behavior in mistreating the population they have the prerogative and obligation to protect.

II.3. RIGHT TO LIBERTY

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

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

A person arrested in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On August 9, 2024, in the afternoon, Jean-Claude Niyuhire, a member of CNDD-FDD party, was arrested by SNR agents. According to eyewitnesses, the victim was very close to the military hospital and a Toyota Hilux double cabin van with tinted windows came and people in civilian loincloth got out and put him in the car. People who were nearby indicated that this car belongs to Eliphaz Niyongabo, head of SNR in Bujumbura Mairie. The reasons for his arrest are not known but there is information that mentions that land conflicts could be the basis of his arrest. Jean Claude is jailed in the SNR cell located very close to Regina Mundi Cathedral.

Thirteen people arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On August 7, 2024, around 2 a.m. at Kibenga hill, on the border of Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, a group of 13 young people from the hills of Kagwa, Rubuga and Kigozi commune Gitaramuka were arrested aboard a probox taxi belonging to Tuyisenge Landry of Buhiga. According to sources on site, the owner of this car indicates that he received a phone call from Gérard, Imbonerakure of Kibenga hill saying that there was a group of young people who wanted to go to Tanzania in search of work and gave him the address to pick them up. According to the same sources, they were surprised by Imbonerakure commanded by Innocent Ntunzwenimana, zonal secretary of CNDD-FDD of Gitaramuka and took them to Buhiga police station cell where they are jailed. The taxi driver was questioned by an OPJ before the zonal secretary but was released. The victims are accused of joining rebel groups while the latter claim to go and look for work elsewhere as life has become too expensive in Burundi.

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.

Fuel seized in Kayanza commune and province

On August 10, 2024, on Musave hill, Kayanza commune and province, Emmanuel Bigirimana, aged 40, and Edgar Murwaneza, aged 31, were arrested and then jailed in the police station cell. Information provided by the police in Kayanza says that they were arrested after being caught at their homes with about 400 liters of fuel that they wanted to sell fraudulently on the black market.

At Emmanuel Bigirimana's house, 280 liters were seized and at Edgar Murwaneza's house, 120 liters. Pascal Nshimirimana, provincial police commissioner in Kayanza, indicates that the information relating to this fuel was provided by the joint security committee.

Grumbings of REGIDESO employees in Bururi commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 6, 2024 indicates that more than 7 employees of REGIDESO center Bururi are demanding employment agreements because they work as day laborers, some for 7 years without a contract. According to witnesses, these employees including Raphaël Irankunda and Charles Bizindavyi hired in 2017, both working at the pumping station located at the entrance to Bururi town on Bururi-Rumonge road, Ernest Kwizera alias Maradona and Gérard Ndagijimana, hired in 2017, who work at the water reservoir in Magufa, a storekeeper Jean Ndikunkiko hired in 2020, Christophe Manirakiza meter reader and Egide hired as water technician, both have just spent more than a year at work, all these REGIDESO employees without employment agreements indicate that they have repeatedly sent complaints to REGIDESO general management but without response. They are fearing to retire while the employer has never contributed to the INSS for them.

Rising of transport prices in Karuzi province

Since August 5, 2024, the glaring shortage of fuel of all kinds has been raging in Karuzi province. According to sources on site, drivers who used to go to refuel at Tanzanian borders were refused fuel. The notable consequences were observed because the prices were revised upwards.

For example, the Buhiga - Muyinga (35 km) travels costs 20,000 Bif, the Buhiga-Karuzi (12 km) travels costs 6,000 Bif, Buhiga-Gitega (65 km) travel costs 30,000 Bif. According to the same sources, a one and a half liter bottle of gasoline costs 30,000 Bif while the week of July 29 to August 4, 2024 cost 18,000 Bif. Food prices at the market have raised as well.

Serious shortage of petroleum products in Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 6, 2024 indicates that the scarcity of petroleum products has caused harmful consequences for the all the population in general and particularly for travelers. In addition to possible delays, the payment of fares has also become an official obstacle, for example, in 2022, travelers who left Mabanda to Gishiha should pay 5,000 Bif per person, but today they pay 14,000 Bif, the only reason is the scarcity of fuel sometimes, travel agency managers or drivers increase prices as they want without any other choice for travelers and especially during this period of social events. It is observed that many travelers waiting vehicles in Mabanda parking, some vehicles going to Makamba, others to Bujumbura route, all were desperate because of this lack of vehicles. Another observation is the increase in OBR taxes, a can of palm oil that paid 500 Bif to this institution early this year now pays 2500 Bif and it is noticed that this difference is very remarkable while nothing has been added to the salaries of civil servants.

IV. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS

IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Children politically manipulated in Mutaho commune, Gitega province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 8, 2024 indicates that on the hills of Gitongo and Kidasha in Mutaho commune, Gitega province, children from primary schools in Rwisabi zone: Ecofo Rwisabi I, II and III, Ecofo Gatabataba, Ecofo Rurengera, Ecofo Kivoga, Ecofo Ngoma, in the same commune are politically manipulated by Imborekure from this zone including Elie Ngenzebuhoro, leader of these Imbonerakure, teacher at Ecofo Gatabataba and zonal representative of CNDD-FDD party in Rwisabi.

According to eyewitnesses, these Imbonerakure wake up the children every Saturday to gather at Rwisabi zone and then travel all the hills singing songs intimidating members of the opposition parties. According to the same sources, these children have been forced to run through all the zones with sticks and clubs for three consecutive Saturdays.

As of August 10, 2024, these children left their homes at 5 a.m. and returned at 4 p.m. Some are getting sick from fatigue and hunger. Parents are wondering why the administrative and educational authorities are turning a deaf ear to this situation that violates children's rights. Parents who try to prevent their children from these sports are accused of slowing down the country's activities.

Among the songs and slogans we could hear :

- ⇒ Uwutari muri CNDD-FDD ari hehe? (where is the one who is not a member of CNDD-FDD party?)
- ⇒ Murasubira muzokwibonereko (if you dare again you will be severely punished)
- ⇒ Hatemba hamanuka ni CNDD-FDD gusa (be it raining, be it snowing, only CNDD-FDD party remains)
- ⇒ Burakeye turabe uwundi yiyamaza (let's soon wait for any other candidate who will dare campaigning)
- ⇒ Ntimutugaye turi Bato ntituri bito (don't neglect us for our age, we are though people of value)

Twenty-five minors employed in the CMPRLA cooperative in Kabezi commune, Bujumbura rural province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 8, 2024 indicates that in Kabezi commune, Bujumbura province, the CMPRLA cooperative which exploits rocks and concrete in Nyabage, Karonke, Ramba and Nyamugari rivers, whose manager is Thierry Baranzira, resident of Kajiji quarter, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura Mairie, member of CNDD-FDD party, employs 25 minors under the age of 16 spread across these different rivers during this holiday period. Despite their young age, these children contribute 10,000 Bif per truck filled or not like adults to the cooperative. The working conditions depend on each child because the more rocks the child exploits, the more money he earns. According to sources on site, the parents of these children fear that their children will not return to school.

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.