

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°439 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 9 to 15 September 2024



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 15 September 2024, Iteka has documented at least 701 cases of enforced disappearances

CONTENTS	PAGES
ACRONYMS.....	3
0. INTRODUCTION.....	4
I. JUSTICE, POLITICAL, GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY CONTEXT.....	4
I.1. JUSTICE CONTEXT.....	4
I.2. POLITICAL CONTEXT.....	5
I.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT.....	5
I.4. SECURITY CONTEXT.....	6
1.4.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE.....	6
1.4.2. OTHER SECURITY INCIDENTS.....	7
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.....	8
II.1. THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY.....	8
II.1.1. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.....	8
II.1.2. PERSONS TORTURED.....	9
II.2. RIGHT TO LIBERTY.....	9
II.2.1. PERSONS ABDUCTED/MISSING.....	9
II.2.2. PERSONS ARRESTED ARBITRARILY.....	9
III. ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.....	10
IV. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS.....	11
IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.....	11
V. CONCLUSION.....	12

ACRONYMS

BRARUDI	: <i>Breweries and Lemonaderies of Burundi</i>
CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
DCE	: <i>Communal Direction of Education</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
FENADEB	: <i>National Federation of Associations Engaged in the Field of Children in Burundi</i>
FONIC	: <i>National Communal Investment Fund</i>
FRODEBU	: <i>Front for Democracy in Burundi</i>
GBV	: <i>Gender Based Violence</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judiciary Police Officer</i>
PNB	: <i>National Police of Burundi</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
TGI	: <i>High Court</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin covers the justice, political, governance and security context that marked this period. It also deals with civil and political 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 5 people killed including 3 found dead, 5 victims of GBV, 1 person abducted, 1 person tortured and 6 victims of arbitrary arrests.

Among the victims are 1 child killed and 13 children victims of human trafficking. Two members of CNDD-FDD party were killed as well as two members of CNL party arbitrarily arrested.

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

I. JUSTICE, POLITICAL, GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY CONTEXT

I.1. JUSTICE CONTEXT

Appearance of Doctor Christophe Sahabo in fragile state of health

On September 9, 2024, Dr. Christophe Sahabo, former Director General of Kira Hospital, appeared before the High Court of Muha in Bujumbura after a long journey of almost three hours. Despite his request for a medical examination for his asthma and hypertension, he was forced to appear. Dr. Sahabo's fragile state of health deteriorated during the hearing, leading to vomiting and loss of consciousness. The court suspended the trial and he was admitted to hospital, but his care was interrupted the next day to be taken back to Ruyigi prison.

The detention and trial of Doctor Christophe Sahabo were regularly marred by several procedural defects in violation of various regulatory texts. The legal principle stipulating that freedom is the rule and detention the exception¹ was violated. Also, the defendant was arrested without an arrest warrant on March 30, 2022 by SNR agents and then taken to the SNR cell before being transferred to Mpimba prison. The first appearance before the judge took place on May 17, 2022 to note the regularity of his detention and this is how he was transferred to Mpimba prison after largely exceeding the police custody period² which are 7 days renewable once upon justified decision of the Public Prosecutor.

On June 6, 2022, the defendant appeared before the chambers at the High Court of Muha but this Court decided to keep Christophe Sahabo in prison and was not notified of the decision until June 15, 2022, i.e. 9 days later while the regulatory deadlines for notifying the chambers' decision are 48 hours³. Dr. Christophe Sahabo was transferred to Ruyigi prison in September 2022 and the first public hearing did not take place until May 5, 2023.

In addition, Christophe Sahabo is subject to a communication ban⁴ as well as the deprivation of visits from his family, his lawyers and doctors.

Clearly, the imprisonment and inhuman treatment of Christophe Sahabo is a flagrant illustration of the instrumentalization of Burundian justice by the regime in power.

¹Burundian Code of Criminal Procedure, article 154

²Idem, article 34

³Idem, article 157

⁴Idem, article 36

It should be noted that the next public hearing has been provisionally scheduled for September 17, 2024 pending the convalescence of the defendant.

Flagrancy trial in Ruyigi commune and province

In a flagrancy trial RP 9477 of September 10, 2024, in Ruyigi commune and province, Emmanuel Bucumi of Karidonzi hill, responsible for environmental protection at PSTP Ruyigi, was accused of telling his child David Niyomwungere to burn Mpungwe mountain on September 4, 2024. The facts were confirmed by Emmanuel's brother and was sentenced by TGI of Ruyigi to 40 years in prison and a fine of 1,000,000 Bif as well as 89,000,000 Bif for the burned trees.

In case of non-payment, he will be imprisoned for 490 more years and pay 500,000 Bif while David Niyongere, was sentenced to a 2-year prison in the juvenile prison in Rutimbura, Ruyigi province, a house built by Maison Shalom and a payment of 10,000,000 Bif for the burned trees. These trees were planted in the EBU State project.

1.2. POLITICAL CONTEXT

A FRODEBU party office destroyed in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province

On the night of September 9 to 10, 2024, on Butembe hill, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, the Sahwanya FRODEBU party office was destroyed by criminals not been identified. According to a FRODEBU party member contacted on site, this is the 2nd office of this party destroyed in a 3-month period in Bubanza province. Sahwanya FRODEBU party leaders deplore the facts and denounce a political intolerance that is always observed in the run-up to elections.

The administrator of Mpanda commune, Nadine Nibitanga reassures the members of this party and explains that investigations are underway to identify these criminals.

Some Imbonankubone are said to be the alleged perpetrators of these destructions of the Sahwanya FRODEBU party office. A delegation from Sahwanya-FRODEBU party led by Alexis Niyonkuru, National Secretary in charge of mobilization and recruitment of new members of Sahwanya FRODEBU party left for the field around 11 a.m. to note the acts committed at the party's office.

1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Police officer caught red-handed stealing fuel at the gas station in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On the night of 13 to 14 September 2024, Warrant Officer Patrice Niyorugira, also known as "De Corps", was arrested red-handed for stealing fuel at DELTA service gas station, located in Rugombo commune, in Cibitoke province. SNR agents caught the police officer self-serving 20 cans of petrol. According to witnesses, this is not the first time that Niyorugira has committed such an act, as he was reportedly caught on 14 July 2024, but without being worried.

It seems that the police officer had conspired with the gas station managers and the communal commissioner, Colonel Roger Nahishakiye, to steal fuel on several occasions. The PNB members went to the gas station pretexting to ensure security when the pump attendants had left. Currently, Niyorugira is being jailed in the SNR cell with two gas station employees.

The local residents condemn this act which damages the image of the police and demand severe sanctions in accordance with the law, as well as the arrest of Commissioner Nahishakiye, considered an accomplice.

Intimidation in Bururi commune and province

On September 9, 2024, Félix Niyongabo, administrator of Bururi commune, ordered the Imbonerakure to rope Honoré, resident on Rukanda hill, communal secretary of Sahwanya FRODEBU party, in Bururi once he returned to Mpinga on Mubuga hill, Gasanda zone of this commune.

According to witnesses, he said this in his speech after the ceremonies for the provisional handover of a drinking water supply built by the commune with the financial support of FONIC.

He considered Honoré as a criminal who risks disrupting the forthcoming elections. Félix Niyongabo had just learned that this native of Rukanda hill not far from Mubuga hill had recently sensitized the population of Mpinga center to refuse forced contributions demanded by the ruling party, specifying that they are being cheated and robbed by CNDD-FDD party.

Decongestion of Cibitoke commune cell

On September 10, 2024, the judges of Cibitoke public prosecutor's office decided to decongest the cell by releasing illegally incarcerated detainees. The public prosecutor's office before Cibitoke TGI released 48 detainees, including 10 minors, out of at least more than 160 detainees in the provincial police station cell limited to a capacity of 40 to 50 detainees. Residents near this cell welcome this act, however, ask that the delays in the files be dealt with quickly for everyone. According to a young magistrate who requested anonymity, people who were released were jailed for minor offenses. Jean Paul Nsavyimana, prosecutor at TGI in Cibitoke explains that there is prison overcrowding due to the fact that some convicted prisoners remain in the cell for lack of vehicles to transport them to Mpimba prison, especially in this context of severe fuel shortage. Jean Paul Nsavyimana reassures and urges human rights defenders working in this field to support in terms of transport and especially the extension of the provincial police station cell, which is very old and small.

On the prisoners' side, they denounce the delays related to legal proceedings because most of them spend more than 3 to 5 months without being heard. According to them, cases of corruption imputable to magistrates have become commonplace recently.

1.4. SECURITY CONTEXT

1.4.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

Two bodies including a female member of CNDD-FDD party and her child, found in Mutaho commune, Gitega province

On September 9, 2024, around 6 a.m., on Bigera hill, Mutaho commune, Gitega province, a body of Noëlla Ndacayisaba, aged 28, member of CNDD-FDD party, single mother, concubine of Fabrice Nizigama, farmer, was found in a eucalyptus plantation 300 meters from Mutaho-Rwisabi road. According to an eyewitness, the victim was throttled and she had injuries to her genitals. Her underwear was thrown next to the body. Gaspard, Bigera hill head, ordered the body to be transported to the mortuary of Mutaho district hospital while waiting for the perpetrators to be identified. According to the same eyewitnesses, on September 10, 2024, Fabrice Nizigama, aged 35, a small trader in Mutaho center, member of CNDD-FDD party, from Rubagabaga hill, was suspected by the local security guards because they had seen this man with a woman on the road and that on Monday morning his clothes were blood wetted.

On September 11, in the morning, Fabrice Nizigama finally confessed that Noëlla had refused the proposal to abort since she was impregnated by the perpetrator's second child, which is why he was obliged to kill her. Arlène Nishimwe, aged one year and eleven months, who was on the back of her mother Noëlla, was also slaughtered and thrown into the toilet near the scene of the tragedy. A man whose name is not

yet known died while trying to remove the body of this child from this toilet.

A body of a member of CNDD-FDD party found in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province

On September 9, 2024, on Mugerama hill, Nyanza-lac zone and commune, Makamba province, a body of a man named Kwizera, Imbonerakure was found by his neighbors under the tree 100 meters from his home. According to witnesses, the victim was separated from his wife Chantal Ndayishimiye following mistreatment by her husband.

According to the same witnesses, after Kwizera's body was discovered, young Imbonerakure organized a hunt against this woman accusing her of having poisoned her husband and ended up taking her to Nyanza-lac communal police station where she is jailed.

1.4.2. OTHER SECURITY INCIDENTS

A member of CNDD-FDD party died in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province

On September 11, 2024, on Rukore sub-hill, Kigina hill and zone, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province, Safari Burikukiye, aged 32, farmer, member of CNDD-FDD party, died following the consumption of the local drink Kicks manufactured in Ndoricimpa's company. According to eyewitnesses, Safari spent the day with his friends in a bar. Around 4 p.m., the victim returned with two bottles of this drink Kicks bottled in Azam juice bottles. The latter consumed these two bottles alone when he arrived home. Around 9 p.m., he was taken to CDS Ruhehe where he died. The traders of this drink retail it in plastic bottles collected by children because of its high purchase price for consumers of this drink when bottled in glass. His family took the body and buried him at the cemetery of Kigina hill, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province.

Drivers' riot in Karuzi, Ngozi and Muyinga provinces

On September 14, 2024, in Karuzi, Ngozi and Muyinga provinces, transport agencies rioted following the new transport prices set by the Ministry of Interior. According to eyewitnesses, the Karuzi, Buhiga offices for Ikirezi Transport, Ngenzi Transport, Chrono and Asante Transport agencies closed their doors after the police suspended the first trips on 14 September 2024 in Buhiga where Buhiga passengers who had paid 30,000 Bif to go to Bujumbura were refunded their money. Those who had come from Muyinga were forced by the police to return and get their money back. Then the vehicles turned back to park in Muyinga. The new prices set by the ministry are: Buja - Karuzi: 13,500 Bif; Buja - Muyinga: 16,500 Bif; Gitega - Karuzi, : 6,500 Bif; Gitega - Muyinga: 8,500 Bif, Karuzi - Muyinga: 4,200 Bif. The drivers lament and say that they are losing in their work.

A person died in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka dated September 11, 2024 indicates that on September 7, 2024, on Mugerama hill, Nyanza-Lac zone and commune, Makamba province Juvénal Niciteretse, aged 30, watchman, Imbonerakure died following a stone thrown at him by one of the girls who were looking for firewood. According to sources on site, three girls including Claudine Nizigiyimana, aged 15, resident of Bukeye hill, Nyanza-lac commune were looking for firewood with her two friends in Rwaba valley on Mugerama hill, Nyanza-lac commune. They met the watchman of the fields of this valley, Imbonerakure, resident of Mugerama hill, Nyanza-lac commune who was guarding palm trees of a boss named Jonas. This watchman prevented them from carrying piles of wood and chased them away running after them throwing stones that hit one of them named Claudine who responded with a stone that hit her in the stomach.

Towards the evening after, he felt sick and went to Nyanza-lac health district hospital for treatment but around 7 p.m., he died. According to the same sources, the police arrested the girl for investigation

reasons and she is being jailed in Nyanza-lac communal police station cell.

The OPJ nicknamed Kitoko has arranged a meeting with human rights organizations to advocate for this child within the framework of dialogue created by MIPAREC, FENADEB and Thars Burundi.

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 girl raped in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on September 15, 2024, indicates that on September 9, 2024, on Rwingoma hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, J. N, aged 13, was raped by Christophe Ninziza and Mutizeti, aged 30, both Imbonerakure and members of CNDD-FDD party. According to witnesses, the victim was with J.U, aged 18 and N. N, aged 13 where she was from the meeting around 5 p.m. on the ground called the mission ground and after the Imbonerakure meeting in which they were recruited and subsequently went to Buhiga market with the alleged perpetrators. The latter gave them a drink called "*Umugorigori*" mixing it with Hozagara until 8 p.m. promising to accompany them home but they were drunk. They took them to a stable where Mutizeti works as a night as watchman. Nadia Niyogusenga escaped and returned home, the two remaining Jeanine and Jeannette spent the night there and little Jeanine was raped by Christophe and Mutizeti. The parents of the little girl looked for their daughter but it was this morning that they found her when she was returning with Jeannette and had to ask them what happened. Then they revealed everything and Jeanine was quickly taken to Buhiga hospital where tests confirmed the rape. On September 10, 2024, Christophe was arrested by the police while his colleague Mutizeti took off.

A child raped in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On September 4, 2024, on Kinyinya III hill, Rukaramu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province, B.N, aged 12, a student at ECOFO Kinyinya III in the 4th year, was raped by Moïse Bigirimana, a fisherman nicknamed Congomani, aged 35, member of CNDD-FDD party. According to the victim's neighbors, the alleged perpetrator was a tenant at her house. The alleged perpetrator called the victim telling her that he had a message for her and that he had 500 Bif for her as a gift. The alleged perpetrator lifted

the victim and carried her to his house in everyone's eyes, saying that they were playing. He took off her clothes, putting his hand over her mouth and raped her. The victim was transported to SERUKA center and was treated. The alleged perpetrator was arrested by the police and taken to Mutimbuzi commune cell and then was taken to Bujumbura prosecutor's office in Kabezi commune where he was released.

A person injured in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on September 15, 2024, indicates that on September 8, 2024, around 6 p.m., on Ruramba hill, Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province, Innocent, a local beer seller at a place called "Kigina" was injured with a machete in the head by Christelle, his legal wife. According to an eyewitness, the reasons for this fight are not known but neighbors say that the lady is a person of loose morals who likes to fight. Misunderstandings are often reported between these 2 spouses and they have 2 children together. According to the same witness, the victim was taken to Kibumbu hospital by neighbors for treatment. After the crime, the alleged perpetrator left for her native family on Rwuya hill in the same commune.

A child raped in Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura Mairie province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on September 15, 2024, indicates that on July 1, 2024, on Kavumu hill, Muyira zone, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura Mairie, S.M, aged 8, was raped by Blaise Mugisha, aged 18, a student at Notre Dame de Rohero School in 12th grade. According to the neighbors of the alleged perpetrator, he was a neighbor of the victim's family and, as the child was used to visiting Blaise's family, he called her saying that he was going to buy her candy then raped her and told her that he would kill her if she revealed the secret. The victim was afraid and did not tell anyone what happened to her. In the evening when her parents returned home, her mother noticed that she had moving difficulty but the child refused to talk. After her parents shouted on the child to force him tell what had happened to her, she revealed it. Her parents took her to Seruka center and he was treated. The alleged perpetrator was arrested by the police and taken to Muyira commune cell where he is being detained.

A Woman nearly killed in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On September 11, 2024, around 4 p.m., on Rwingoma hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Odette Butoyi, member of CNDD-FDD party, aged 26, a farmer, was nearly killed at her home by her husband, Emmanuel Mbarishimana, aged 32, member of CNDD-FDD party, a farmer, by beating her with a machete. According to eyewitnesses, they argued and the man beat her with the face of a machete, which scared her because he could hurt her because he said he would kill her if she did not remove the child from her house. The source of their conflicts is that this man had married his wife 11 months ago when she had a 2-year-old child and they had agreed that she would return the child to her father but she resisted giving him to his father. The same witnesses add that the alleged perpetrator accuses the woman of incapacity, that she does not work properly while she has a one-month-old baby. It seems that the victim does not know the father of the child who becomes an object of threat in the family.

II.1.2. PERSONS TORTURED

A person tortured in Ryansoro commune, Gitega province

On 7 September 2024, at around 6 p.m., Aloys Niyonkuru, a 42-year-old teacher at Murambi communal high school, was tortured by Imbonerakure on Ntunda hill, in Ryansoro commune, Gitega province. He was with his wife Jeanine Manirakiza and his neighbors Jean Belchimas and Protails Buninga, all members of the same family, during a family celebration. The Imbonerakure, led by Nzambi and Lydiano, accused them of holding a CNL party meeting and beat Aloys on the orders of Ntunda hill head, Eric alias Basitoro, until he lost consciousness.

The other members of the group managed to resist and transported the victim to Nyangwa CDS the same night, then filed a complaint at Nyangwa police station. However, the head of the position, Lionel, refused to listen to them and arrest the attackers. On September 11, 2024, the victim and his friends filed a complaint with OPJ Ingabire Jean Baptiste in Ryansoro, but they do not expect fair justice, because the attackers and are considered as "untouchables" and are free.

II.2. RIGHT TO LIBERTY

II.2.1. PERSONS ABDUCTED/MISSING

A person abducted in Rutana commune and province

On September 10, 2024, around 6 p.m., on Nyarurama hill, Ngoma zone, Rutana commune and Rutana province, Prime, a member of CNL party, teacher at ECOFO Nyarurama was abducted by 3 unidentified people in civilian clothes. According to eyewitnesses, they were on their way home from Gakome parish bar and were taken aboard a double-cabin van on Ngoma-Gakome road. Land conflicts are believed to be behind this abduction because the victim had a lawsuit with his brother who is colonel in the army.

II.2.2. PERSONS ARRESTED ARBITRARILY

Two CNL party members arrested in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province

On September 14, 2024, around 1 p.m., on Nyamabere hill, Musenyi zone, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, Omar Ndayishimiye, from Kibenga hill, Muzinda zone, Rugazi commune, Bubanza province, Mussa from Nyamabere hill, member of CNL party were arrested by police officers of the position of this hill and then taken to Mpanda commune brigade cells. According to eyewitnesses, these victims were arrested without warrants and for unclear reasons. The friends and relatives of these CNL party members cry injustice and demand their release.

A person transferred to Gitega prison

Information received by Ligue Iteka on September 9, 2024 indicates that on September 6, 2024, Innocent Ntirandekura, aged 34, from Ntonde sub-hill, Kibande hill, Cendajuru commune, Cankuzo province, was transferred to Gitega prison after 2 years of detention in SNR cell in Bujumbura, without his family knowing. When he converted to Islam, he was given the name Karim Ramadhan. Difficulties started when Innocent Ntirandekura nicknamed Karim Ramadhan was in Tanzania in Dar-es-Salaam, in a place called Kariako, in June 2022. Tanzanian intelligence agents arrested him and asked him where he found the M-PESA Sim card he was using. The victim said that the one who gave him this SIM card is a Burundian who left for South Africa and released him before arresting him again three weeks later, on June 21, 2022.

Innocent Ntirandekura was arrested by Tanzanian police officers who were with Gervais Abayeho, Burundian Ambassador to Tanzania. For the second time, he spent a month in detention and was questioned about his same friend saying that he is in a terrorist movement located in the Democratic Republic of Congo. On July 21, 2022, Innocent Ntirandekura was returned to Burundi and Tanzanian police officers took him to Mabanda, in Makamba province and it Méroé Ntwunzwenimana, provincial head of the SNR who picked him up. Innocent Ntirandekura was taken to the SNR cell in Bujumbura where he had just spent more than 2 years without his family knowing.

Four women arrested in Mabanda commune, Makamba province

On September 11, 2024, very close to the local market of Mabanda, 4 women street traders were arrested by the police. According to witnesses, they are accused of street fuel trading and were transferred to Makamba prosecutor's cell on September 13, 2024.

Those who witnessed the scene say that the police wanted to arrest the people who would be the target of this fuel trade because these women did not have fuel. Some of these women had empty plastic bottles while the real street fuel traders work peacefully. They explain that several traders of this product do so in the eyes of the police and the administration. The latter are regularly supplied from these traders and/or work together. Since the beginning of the fuel shortage, some ladies from Mabanda commune city have

been busy supplying fuel from Tanzania to sell it on the black market.

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.

Questioning belief in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On September 10, 2024 at around 9 a.m., on Mwoya hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Valérie Kwizerimana, aged 47, a follower of a Church called “Abasohoke”, refused to be counted. According to eyewitnesses, Valérie told a census agent that she was not asking anything from the State and that the latter should not ask anything from her. Mabwirizwa, head of ten households, reported to the zone head Phocas Sindaruhuka who ordered her arrest. The head of the ten households accompanied by Imbonerakure took her to BUHIGA police cell where she spent her first night. According to the same witnesses, her Church does not allow them to seek treatment or eat underground products such as cassava, yam or potatoes.

Price rise of drinks in Kirundo province

Since mid-August 2024, in Kirundo province, the prices of products set by the State have been ideal and commercial speculation is evident in bars across the said province. According to eyewitnesses, the price of Fanta that should be bought at 2000Bif costs 2500Bif even in secret, Primus costs 4000 Bif or even 5000 Bif instead of 2500Bif, Amstel costs 6000Bif or even 7000 or 8000 Bif instead of 3500 Bif. And this is evident in a climate of tranquility without the administration intervening to assert what is right.

For example, at "Mugenzi Bar" owned by Nestor Hatungimana, member of CNDD-FDD party, representative of traders in Bugabira and owner of BRARUDI product depot, Primus costs 4000 Bif or 5000 Bif, Amstel 7000 Bif and Kicks is sold at 16,000 Bif and 4000 Bif small bottle. The bottles are plastic bottles of Azam Juice recovered to retail this bottle of 16000 Bif.

IV. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS

IV.1. CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

Thirteen children victims of human trafficking in Giharo commune, Rutana province

On September 11, 2024, a police operation dismantled a child trafficking network in Giharo commune, Rutana province. Thirteen children, aged 13 to 16, from different hills and communes of Gitega, Rutana and Ruyigi provinces, were victims of this trafficking.

The victims:

- ⇒ Olivier Ntakarutimana, 16 years old, 4th grade student, from Mugomera hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Liévin Nzeyimana, 15 years old, from Mugomere hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Innocent Ciza, 15 years old, from Mabawe hill, Musongati commune, Rutana province
- ⇒ Elvis Nkundimana, 14 years old, from Mabawe hill, Musongati commune, Rutana province

- ⇒ Edmond Niyomukiza, 14 years old, from Kugitega hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Patrick Ndayikengurukiye, 15 years old, from Musenga hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province
- ⇒ Cédric Manishimwe, 14 years old, from Batye hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province
- ⇒ Justin Nikundana, 13 years old, from Bugarama hill, Ruyigi commune and province
- ⇒ Cédric Niyonsaba, 15 years old, from Mugomera hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Egide Niyonyishu, 13 years old, from Kugitega hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Lionel Nshimirimana, 15 years old, from Mugomera hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Arcade Havyarimana, 14 years old, from Kibogoye hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Fabrice Munezero, 14 years old, from Mabawe hill, Musongati commune, Rutana province

The alleged perpetrators:

- ⇒ Lionel Ndikumwenayo, 21 years old, from Mugomera hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Fugence Iteriteka, 19 years old, from Mugomera hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Cédric Irakoze, 19 years old, from Mugomera hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Eric Nihorimbere, 19 years old, from Mugomera hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Elvis Nimbona, 19 years old, from Mugomera hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Cédric Nsengiyumva, 18 years old, from Mugomera hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Eric Nzambina, 27 years old, from Mugomera hill
- ⇒ Sylver Kabura, 42 years old, Mabawe hill, Musongati commune, Rutana province
- ⇒ Jean de Dieu Niyonkuru, 19 years old, from Mugomera hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province
- ⇒ Ernest Niyongabo, 20 years old, from Gisikara hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province

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 demands:

- ⇒ The Minister of Justice to ensure compliance with the law against the perpetrators of crimes.
- ⇒ The Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security to inclusively guarantee public rights and freedoms to all Burundian citizens.