

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°444 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 14-20 october 2024



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 20 October 2024, Iteka has documented at least 708 cases of enforced disappearances

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ACRONYMS

ANAGESSA	: <i>National Agency for the Management of Food Security Stock</i>
BPEAE	: <i>Provincial Office of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock</i>
BRARUDI	: <i>Breweries and Lemonade Factory of Burundi</i>
CECI	: <i>Independent Communal Electoral Commission</i>
CEPI	: <i>Independent Provincial Electoral Commission</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
DCE	: <i>Communal Directorate of Education</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
FAB	: <i>Armed Forces of Burundi</i>
FENADEB	: <i>National Federation of Associations Engaged in the Field of Childhood in Burundi</i>
GBV	: <i>Gender Based Violence</i>
MIPAREC	: <i>Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation Under the Cross</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judiciary Police Officer</i>
PJ	: <i>Judiciary Police</i>
SNR	: <i>Intelligence Service at the service</i>
TGI	: <i>High Court</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

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

Therefore, during this reporting period covered of this bulletin, the human rights and security situation was reported as follows: at least 4 people killed, including 2 killed by police officers and 1 found dead, as well as 5 victims of GBV. Among the victims are 2 women killed.

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

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

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Presentation of the electoral calendar for the 2025 elections in Burundi

While the electoral calendar should be carefully and rigorously developed in order to guarantee a transparent, reliable, fair and flawless democratic process. It would aim to allow all Burundian citizens, without distinction, to participate actively and fully in the political life of their country, by exercising their fundamental right to vote in a free, informed and responsible manner.

The detailed and exhaustive presentation of the complete electoral calendar for the communal and legislative elections of the year 2025 in Burundi, including all the key stages, important dates and the various planned ballots, dated October 15, 2024 by the CENI to the electoral partners. This calendar indicates the important dates:

October 22-31, 2024: voter registration

June 5, 2025: legislative and communal councilor elections

July 23, 2025: senatorial elections

August 25, 2025: elections of quarter heads and hill councilors

However, this calendar was developed without any *consultation with political actors*, raising concerns about the fair preparation of the 2025 elections. According to the president of CENI, Prosper Ntahorwamiye, the decree calling voters will be issued on December 7, 2024 and on December 9, 2024, it is planned the submission and verification of candidacies for the legislative and communal elections.

Most of the Burundian political partners of the opposition in particular agree on the early submission of candidacies while the recruitment of new members is very intense during the pre-election period. With the lists of candidates being drawn up and validated by the CENI, political parties will no longer have the latitude to freely manage their membership lists concerning the candidates to be aligned in the 2025 elections.

Also, the formation of coalitions¹ of political parties is hampered. Indeed, coalitions of political parties are not authorized before the convocation of voters. However, a period of 2 days is given to these political parties to form their possible coalitions as well as their electoral lists, which largely limits the room for maneuver for the formation of these coalitions.

Clearly, the electoral calendar for the 2025 elections in Burundi raises questions of transparent participation of electoral actors. Ligue Iteka recommends the need for independent international observation, which is essential to ensure the credibility of the electoral process and strengthen the confidence of all electoral

¹Electoral Code of Burundi, article 29, alinea 2

stakeholders, as well as support for civil society organizations in order to fully play their role, in particular the monitoring and documentation of all human rights violations related to the electoral process and thus alert the competent authorities and the international community.

1.2. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Launch of activities for the A crop season

On October 17, 2024, the President of Burundi, Evariste Ndayishimiye, launched the "Agatasi" crop season in Mashitsi, Gitega province. During this event, he announced that selected seeds of hybrid corn, soybeans and potatoes will be planted on an area of 68 hectares out of the 324 available.

The President stressed the importance of collaboration between leaders and farmers to develop agro-livestock. He also called on ISABU to provide quality seeds and individuals to set up greenhouses to achieve the goal of an organic country. In addition, he called on FAO and the Ministry of Environment to contribute to the modernization of agricultural techniques to promote agribusiness.

In Giheta commune, 324 hectares of land are available, but so far, only 68 hectares will be exploited this year by ISABU and 30 cooperatives, including VASO. A center for the multiplication of basic seeds and export crops will also be established in this locality.

The President encouraged landowners to work in partnership to increase production, but also highlighted the challenges facing the agricultural sector, including degrading soil fertility, lack of access to quality inputs and suboptimal production and marketing practices.

In addition, the Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca denounced the speculative practices of the government agency ANAGESSA, which left large quantities of corn to rot before reselling them to consumers, and demanded payment of a debt of 26 billion Bif from the farmers concerned.

1.3. CONTEXT JUSTICE

Judgment rendered at Rutana TGI

On October 18, 2024, at Rutana TGI, a public hearing was held in flagrante delicto which sentenced Egide Niyongere to a principal sentence of 10 years and a fine of one million Burundian francs, accused of trafficking in human beings. He was arrested by the police, in Birongozi quarter with 3 children aged 10, 12 and 13 respectively, heading to Tanzania from Karusi province without their parents' knowledge. According to eyewitnesses, Egide Niyongere and these 3 children were taken to Rutana communal police station cell while waiting for justice to be done and these children to be recovered by their respective parents, action which was taken.

A retired ex-FAB detained in Buyengero commune, Rumonge province

Gordien Nkurunziza was arrested in March 2024, at his home, by young Imbonerakure then taken to the communal police station cell in Buyengero, is detained in a critical state of health in the central prison of Bujumbura because he suffers from prostate which requires an operation since July 2024. He had been referred to the university hospital center of Kamenge then removed by the prison services with tubes. Gordien Nkurunziza is from Mujigo hill, Buyengero commune, Rumonge province. According to sources close to his family, he has been prosecuted for participation in armed movements since 2015. The same sources specify that Gordien Nkurunziza was arrested on a fabrication orchestrated by his wife named Jeanine because her husband came to inquire about the situation concerning the family property squandered by his wife. The latter, in the absence of her husband, sold the cows without consulting her husband who was serving in the economic capital Bujumbura.

When her husband came, his wife Jeanine, a member of Abakenyerarugamba women's league of CNDD-FDD party called Imbonerakure arguing that her husband Gordien Nkurunziza was training rebels at home in 2015. Since his arrest in March 2024, this ex-FAB retiree has only appeared before the council chamber on July 18, 2024. After his appearance in the council chamber in a critical state of health, the management of Rumonge prison decided to send Gordien Nkurunziza to Roi Khaled hospital. Doctors found that he suffers from prostate requiring surgery but that the equipment for this operation is only available in Kira hospital and Tanganyika care. Doctors at Roi Khaled hospital decided to give him a tube because he could not relieve himself. Some time later, Gordien Nkurunziza was released from the hospital in critical condition and taken to the central prison of Bujumbura without care or medication.

Gordien Nkurunziza was prohibited from collecting health vouchers from the police hospital that provides care to police officers and retired security forces. The relatives of this retiree are asking that he be released to receive treatment because his arrest is linked to the disputes between him and his wife who has squandered the family assets. The Rumonge court chamber before which he appeared on July 18 of this year has not yet ruled, whereas normally the decision should be issued within 48 hours.

1.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Lamentations following cases of favoritism in the health district, in Cibitoke province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on October 19, 2024 indicates that the heads of health centers in the communes of Buganda and Rugombo are lamenting the favoritism of Dr. Egide Ndayishimiye, head doctor of the health district in Cibitoke province linked to the delegation of participants in capacity building meetings and training.

According to a medical source, for this participation, the heads of basic public health structures are replaced on the lists by nurses close to the head doctor of the district and the mission expenses are shared equitably between these nurses and their heads who delegate them to this type of meeting.

This situation frustrates the beneficiaries, in particular the heads of health centers who should delegate these people. The latter are demanding that this situation stop, especially since their profession is apolitical and requires technicality at the expense of clientelist practices. The same health professionals propose the rotation of participants in training as a selection and fairness criterion to allow everyone to participate.

The impact is measured on the quality of the work accomplished and the health care provided to patients.

This leader is asked to prioritize transparency in the choice of beneficiaries of the various training courses and to take as an example that of his colleague Dr. Pierre Claver Barabwiriza, of Mabayi health district grouping the communes of Mabayi and Mugina but also Dr. Blaise Niyorukundo, of Ndora health district for the communes of Bukinanyana and Murwi who all preach by objective criteria. These include among others competence, transparency and fairness.

Rejoicing of the population after the arrest of the head of the intelligence services in Cibitoke province

The inhabitants of Cibitoke province and even the traders welcome the arrest of the head of the national intelligence service in Cibitoke. They ask the justice to give an exemplary sanction. The governor of Cibitoke province, Carême Bizoza, confirms this arrest and tells people who have questions to file a complaint with the courts.

After a week of arrest followed by imprisonment of Félix Havyarimana, the residents and traders of Cibitoke province are happy and relieved.

According to information from traders and gold miners, this former head of SNR in Cibitoke had already stolen from this category of people a sum of more than 100,000,000 BIF after torturing them.

The same information indicates that among the victims are traders and gold miners robbed and tortured by the same intelligence officer after bribing them a sum of 40 and 50 million BIF respectively.

A security source confirms this information and admits that most of the people arrested without any legal procedure and to avoid being killed were forced to pay money to save their lives.

The same source also confirms the acts of banditry and assassination in which Felix Havyarimana was each time cited through different files. As evidence, the same source reports at least ten people killed less than 6 months in the intelligence jails in Cibitoke and transported by the vehicle registered E 0535 A belonging to the SNR services of Cibitoke.

The bodies were each time buried in inhumane conditions in different places and often on the coast of Rusizi, bordering the DRC at the level of the locality of Nyamitanga, Kaburantwa and Rusiga in the communes of Buganda and Rugombo.

1.5. SECURITY CONTEXT

1.5.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A woman killed in Kabezi commune, Bujumbura rural province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on October 20, 2024 indicates that on October 8, 2024, around 9 p.m., on Ramba hill, Kabezi commune, Bujumbura province, Christophe Hakizimana, a fisherman, aged 41, father of 9 children and member of CNDD-FDD party, killed Jeanine Nahimana, aged 36, his wife.

According to the victim's neighbors, this man was returning home, and following a slight delay in opening the door by his wife, he kicked her in the stomach while she was pregnant.

His wife died and the alleged perpetrator fled. The victim was buried in Karava cemetery in Kabezi commune.

A person nearly killed in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On 14 October 2024, at around 8pm, a violent incident broke out in Nyabunigu, Rwingoma hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province. Manirakiza Elie, a 42-year-old CNDD-FDD party member, was attacked at his home by Issa Tuyisenge, a 28-year-old Imbonerakure. According to eyewitnesses, the dispute started when Issa and Elie's children were fighting during the day, in the absence of their parents. When Issa's children returned home, they reported the incident to their father, who rushed to Elie's house with a machete.

Elie, who was unaware that Tuyisenge was armed, reprimanded him, which angered Tuyisenge. The latter struck Elie with a machete to the head, knocking him to the ground. Believing he had killed him, Tuyisenge took Elie's phones and tried to escape.

However, Elie's wife alerted the neighbors, who intervened to assist the victim. They first transported him to Buhiga hospital, where he was admitted. Subsequently, the zone leader of the Imbonerakure, Jérôme, intervened to arrest Tuyisenge and take him to the police cell.

The attack sparked great emotion in the community, particularly because of the involvement of a member of Imbonerakure, a pro-government militia. The incident is currently under investigation.

A body found in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province

On October 18, 2024, on the shores of Lake Cohoha in Gaturanda, Kigina border hill, Kigina zone, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province, a body of a man nicknamed Budeberi, aged about 35, from Kayanza

was found. The victim had come to Bugabira to trade. According to eyewitnesses, on October 15, 2024, Budeberi and Jean Kubwayo nicknamed Hogoza, aged 42, a member of CNDD-FDD party spent the day together in Kigina center Rukore sharing a drink. According to the same witnesses, around 8 p.m., they returned to Nyamabuye where they live via Lake Cohoha. As of October 16, 2024, neither Budeberi nor Jean Kubwayo, no one was to be found but Jean Kubwayo reappeared then fled. The burial took place on October 19, 2024 in Gaturanda with his family present but until October 20, 2024 Kubwayo was in hiding, no one knows where he is.

1.6. OTHER SECURITY FACTS

A person injured by a police officer in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On 18 October 2024, at around 9 p.m., a serious incident occurred in Gasenyi, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province. Gédéon Nzitonda, a driver, was shot and injured by a drunken police officer, Moïse Nkurunziza. According to an eyewitness, Nkurunziza, dressed in police uniform and armed, entered a bar and began to cause trouble, harassing customers. When Nzitonda asked the police officer for his work post, Nkurunziza reacted violently and shot two bullets that hit Nzitonda in the throat.

The neighboring residents, alerted by the gunshots, massively intervened, disarmed the police officer and beat him before handing his weapon over to the communal commissioner. It was thanks to the intervention of his colleagues that Nkurunziza was saved.

The population is demanding sanctions against the police officer, who has lost all sense of ethics and professionalism. The residents are threatening to take self-defense measures if necessary. The victim, who was seriously injured, was taken to a local health facility to receive intensive care.

The provincial police commissioner, Colonel Jacques Nijimbere, confirmed the facts and announced the arrest of the police officer awaiting legal proceedings. Nijimbere called on the inhabitants of Buganda to strengthen cooperation between the population, the administration, the judiciary and the defense and security forces.

A phenomenon of cohabitation following the exploitation of minerals, in Ruyigi city

Information received by Ligue Iteka on October 14, 2024 indicates that in Ruyigi city, a phenomenon of cohabitation is observed following a movement of people who exploit minerals on Rusobanya site, in Ruyigi commune and province.

Most of these miners come from the provinces of Gitega, Cibitoke and Bubanza. This phenomenon destabilizes most couples and creates misunderstanding in households.

Examples:

1. On September 30, 2024, Gloriose Habonimana living in Gasanda quarter, in Ruyigi commune and province, aged 35, was caught with Gérard Bukuru, from Cibitoke province, mining minerals on Kazimya-Rusobanya in Ruyigi commune and province. After this offense, a quarrel occurred between Gloriose and her husband, Jérémie Nzikobanyanka, consequently Gloriose was chased away by her husband.
2. On October 2, 2024, Emelyne Nijimbere, resident of Bonogera hill, Rusengo zone, Ruyigi commune and province, was caught in the act with Jean Bazompota, an minerals miner from Musigati commune, Bubanza province. From that moment on, Emelyne was separated from her husband Gilbert Ndongeye.

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 has taken 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 the regularly ratified international texts are an integral part of this constitution, implementing texts are put in place, in particular the penal code of December 29, 2017 and the code of criminal procedure of May 11, 2018 and other institutions for the protection of human rights in Burundi have been created.

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS

II.1.1. 1. PEOPLE KILLED BY POLICE OFFICERS

A woman member of CNDD-FDD party killed in Rumonge commune and province

On October 14, 2024, at the barrier at the entrance to Rumonge city, in Nkayamba quarter, Rumonge commune and province, Belyse Nimpagaritse, a member of CNDD-FDD party, was beaten and brutally taken off her motorcycle by police officers who were guarding this barrier. According to witnesses, the victim had a bag containing 20 loincloths from the Democratic Republic of Congo. After beating her and falling to the ground, she lost consciousness and these police officers transported her to Rumonge hospital where she died the next day following injuries inflicted on her hips and knees. Her family refused to bury her without doing an autopsy. According to a medical source at Rumonge Hospital, the victim's body had injuries to the neck, ribs and knees. She suffered trauma to the spleen while these police officers were beating her. The police seized the loincloths and the motorcycle on which the victim was sitting.

A person killed in Muyinga commune and province

On October 16, 2024, on Gatongati hill, Rugari zone, Muyinga commune and province, Oscar Mbarushimana nicknamed Zambolin, aged 44, was shot dead by Godeliève Ininahazwe nicknamed "*mama wa reta*", a Burundian national police officer. According to eyewitnesses, three police officers from the police station on this hill chased a person who had two cans on his motorcycle, suspecting him of transporting an unauthorized drink from Tanzania. When these three police officers arrived at the trading center on the hill, they forced the population to reveal where this person was and the latter replied that they had not seen him. They then kicked out the people who were drinking and these people, angry, started making noise. The policewoman shot at them and the bullet hit one of them who died on the spot. According to the same witnesses, the two police officers who were with the alleged perpetrator fled and the population disarmed this policewoman and threw stones at her. The policewoman was injured and was rescued by police officers from her attached position who intervened by shooting in the air to disperse the population. The victim was taken to Muyinga Hospital mortuary and the policewoman was taken to Muyinga Hospital for treatment.

II.2. RIGHT TO VOTE

A problem of voter registration entrusted only to CNDD-FDD members in Cibitoke province

The 2025 elections worry members of opposition political parties who are demanding that the recruitment of census agents hired are all from CNDD-FDD party in Cibitoke province.

A few 7 months to the general elections, only CNDD-FDD party members are entrusted with all citizen registration tasks in this province.

According to various concordant sources, the opposition was categorically excluded from the process, especially since its members were unable to get jobs even for the registration work of the population for the next elections.

According to the same sources, all members of the opposition parties who had applied had their applications rejected and most of them, their candidates were not even shortlisted.

A local source also warns about the credibility of the electoral roll. The latter could contain irregularities because fictitious people and those who have not yet reached the age to vote could appear there.

The other danger reported concerns the refusal of registration agents close to the presidential party to register members of the opposition, especially since the latter do not even trust them. According to various local sources, it is to be feared that elections will be non-transparent and far from free.

In this regard, the said sources mention the fact that opposition members have been excluded from the CENI branches, namely the CEPI and CECI at the provincial and communal levels respectively.

Regarding these concerns of the opposition and about the upcoming elections, Carême Bizosa, Governor of Cibitoke province says that severe sanctions will be given in accordance with the law to any census agent who will ignore his mission but prefers not to comment on the fact that only CNDD-FDD party members have had the privilege of getting jobs to the detriment of those of the opposition.

Same story for Juvénal Habineza, president of CNDD-FDD party and president of the body in charge of voter registration in the new administrative and territorial constituency of Bujumbura who speaks of the reliability and credibility of the upcoming elections starting with the registration of voters. Asked why only members of the ruling party were recruited, he denies all his allegations.

Gaps in the recruitment of census agents for the 2025 elections in Gitega province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 15 October 2024 indicates that everywhere in all the former communes of Gitega province, members of the opposition parties are lamenting. These lamentations are due to the shortcomings observed during the recruitment of census agents for the 2025 voter registration position. According to sources on site, in some former communes of Gitega, this work was entrusted only to CNDD-FDD party unemployed members.

According to the same sources, why waste time saying that there will be elections while transparency is difficult to obtain because opposition members are not included in the same way as CNDD-FDD party members. In all the 11 former communes of Gitega province currently merged into only 3 communes including Bugendana, Gishubi and Gitega, CNL party of Agathon Rwaswa has not received any census agent while UPRONA party, in the new Bugendana commune which is the merger of Bugendana and Mutaho communes, has only received 7 census agents.

Training of census agents in the new province of Buhumuza (Cankuzo)

On October 18, 2024, as in the whole country, in the new province of Buhumuza, the Independent National Electoral Commission with the CECI proceeded with the training of census agents who will be responsible for the registration of voters who will participate in the 2025 elections. According to sources on site, the training was done in a single day, in peace, at head city of the five new communes, namely: the new commune of Butaganzwa grouping the former commune of Butaganzwa only with a single zone amputated from the commune of Ruyigi which is Bisinde zone; the new commune Ruyigi grouping the former communes of Ruyigi, Butezi and Bweru; the new commune of Gisuru grouping the former communes of Gisuru, Kinyinya and Nyabitsinda; the new commune of Gisagara composed of the former

communes of Gisagara, Cendajuru and Mishiha and the new commune of Cankuzo grouping the former communes of Cankuzo and Kigamba.

According to the same sources, as of October 20, 2024, the kit was distributed and more than 98% of the census agents are members of the ruling party, CNDD-FDD and the lists of the latter were made in the party offices. Some people have lost confidence in the results that will be from this registration, which has a party character. The fact of returning home with the registration material has given rise to concerns because there may be manipulations to register at home those who are not in order.

The submission of files of agents responsible for the registration of voters in Cankuzo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on October 14, 2024 indicates that from October 1 to 4, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the new province of Buhumuza composed of the former provinces of Cankuzo, Ruyigi and part of Muyinga, as in other new provinces of the country, the CECI proceeded to recruit census agents who will be responsible for the registration of voters for the 2025 elections.

As for the new commune of Cankuzo composed of two former communes including Cankuzo and Kigamba, received the files from these former communes. The CECI was split into two parts, one received the files from Cankuzo and the other the files from Kigamba. This organization helped to keep order in the long lines and the candidates received order numbers that facilitated this activity.

According to sources on site, some candidates who are CNDD-FDD party members, the ruling party, had a message to go to the party office after submitting their files to register. Regarding the new commune of Gisagara composed of three former communes Gisagara, Mishiha and Cendajuru, it was the president of CECI who led the activities of submitting applications. Long lines were observed from October 1 to 4, 2024. According to sources on site, during the submission of files and the registration of candidates, the president of CECI Gisagara insisted on the physical presence of the candidates and according to the commune of origin but this call was not well received by the candidates who remained angry about the recruitment process by saying that members of the ruling party are favored.

As for the Butaganzwa commune, the activity of submitting applications was carried out in a good climate of security. According to sources on site, some of the candidates said that they have no hope on the legality and transparency in this activity because all the CECI members are activists of the ruling party, CNDD-FDD. These candidates continued saying that CECI members in Butaganzwa have already received a list of candidates proposed by CNDD-FDD party and the president of CECI has been ordered to keep this list.

Concerning CECI Gisuru, the current town center of this commune is the former commune of Nyabitsinda, some people who came to submit their files complained about the difficulty in submitting files because the CECI required that each candidate bring his own file which was not easy for people from the distant hills of the CECI Gisuru. A long line was observed but the CECI members were able to resolve this problem by aligning the candidates according to the former communes of origin in order to facilitate the work.

As for the CECI of Ruyigi, which gather the former communes of Butezi, Bweru and Ruyigi, candidates were observed coming in large numbers. Among these candidates, some went to the former office of the CECI Ruyigi, while the office moved to the office that housed the CEPI Ruyigi in the previous elections but they were directed to this place. According to sources on site, some desperate candidates, as they are unemployed, said that those who have a better chance of being selected are those belonging to the ruling party, CNDD-FDD, because almost all CECI members are from this party.

II.3. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

II.3.1. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The Law on Gender-Based Violence adopted in Burundi in 2016 was a major step forward. It guaranteed better protection, in particular by providing a definition of rape that takes into account the issue of consent and by prohibiting harmful traditional practices.

A girl raped in Muramvya commune

On October 16, 2024, around 7 p.m., in Swahili quarter located in Muramvya commune and province, C. B. K., aged 16, a student at ECOFO Muramvya II in 8th grade, was raped. According to the victim, she had gone to evening class at the home of Charles Nkurunziza, a math teacher at ECOFO Biganda, a friend of this teacher called Abdoul Shakuru Bankitse, aged 26 and a member of Imbonerakure took advantage of the teacher's absence and raped this student. It was the teacher himself who surprised him in his room raping her. He called the quarter head, Shabani Baheza, who in turn called the police officers from the police station who were nearby. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and is being jailed at Muramvya provincial police station. The victim was taken to Muramvya hospital the next day for medical treatment.

A girl raped in Itaba commune, Gitega province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on October 20, 2024 indicates that on October 8, 2024 around 8 p.m., on Kibogoye hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province, C. N. aged 10, was raped by Longin Ntakarutimana, aged 52, married and a farmer. According to an eyewitness, the victim was in Longin Ntakarutimana's house, with her children, because his wife was this girl's baptism mother and they were neighbors. Around 8 p.m., the child left the house and Longin accompanied her. Arrived behind the house, he raped her, intimidating her that if she refuses or screams, he will cut off her head on the spot. According to the same eyewitness, after the act, the girl came home. As she approached her parents, she screamed and ended up telling her mother everything. On October 9, 2024, Longin was arrested and taken to the communal police station cell in Gihamagara, Itaba commune, to be questioned by OPJ Noelline. Longin was transferred on October 18, 2024 to the central prison of Gitega.

Two girls raped in Rumonge commune and province

On the afternoon of October 18, 2024, on Murambi hill, Rumonge commune and province, Q. I. aged 8 and C.N aged 5, were raped by Claude Ntirampeba, aged 29, Imbonerakure. According to a family member of the victims, the latter took them into the bush to commit the incident. They screamed and the entourage was alerted. Claude was arrested and imprisoned in Rumonge police station cell on October 19, 2024. The victims were taken to Humura center for treatment and then to Rumonge hospital.

II.4. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.4.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

A person arrested and then released in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province

On October 16, 2024, Bénit Gakunzi, living in Gatunguru in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province, had been abducted by SNR agents and then returned to his family on October 19, 2024. According to a witness, Bénit had left the house and went to Mutanga Nord, in Ntahangwa commune, in Bujumbura mairie to visit his relatives. In the evening when he was on his way home, he was arrested by SNR agents who confounded him for someone else, later he was released after they realized they were mistaken.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. ECONOMIC RIGHT

Torrential rains in Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province

On the evening of October 16, 2024, torrential rain mixed with hail fell on the hills of Mwakiro and Rugabano zones of Mwakiro commune in Muyinga province caused damage including the destruction of residential houses and fields. According to the Permanent Secretary of Mwakiro communal administrator, Majambere Ernest, sheet metal of around twenty houses, a meeting room of Mwakiro parish, an office of Muyange hill head, kiosks at Mwakiro market and banana plantations were damaged. According to eyewitnesses, the most affected hills by these torrential rains are Gihoza, Muyange, Butobwe, Mwakiro in Mwakiro zone and Rukanya hill in Rugabano zone.

Lack of potato seeds in Ngozi Province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on October 14, 2024 indicates that in Ngozi province, residents are lacking potato seeds for A season. According to eyewitnesses, farmers from different hills of Ngozi go to the Provincial Office of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock or to the different seed storage sheds to search but in vain. For now, a kilo costs 5000 Bif if available from individuals while in 2023 the same quantity was 2500 Bif. Farmers are asking the Ministry of Agriculture to provide these seeds because the quantity produced in BPEAE or by traders who prepare these seeds is insufficient.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Grumpiness in Muruta commune, Kayanza province

The inhabitants of Kavoga hill, Muruta commune, Kayanza province, express their frustration about the school that has never opened despite their financial contributions since 2018. They also participated in the manufacture of bricks, but their efforts were in vain.

Initially planned as a vocational training center, the school is now used as a warehouse to store corn grains collected by ANAGESSA. The inhabitants are demanding the opening of the school to allow their children to continue their studies close to their homes, thus avoiding long journeys. They also emphasize that the functional school could offer employment opportunities to young graduates. However, the communal administrator, Audace Hacimana, has not provided convincing explanations for the non-opening of the school.

Allegations of corruption have also emerged, with some residents claiming that ANAGESSA paid money to the administrator for the rental of classrooms, without this money reaching the communal treasury. Residents are demanding explanations and a solution so that the school can finally become functional.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

Alarming situation at Gitega Regional Hospital

At Gitega Regional Hospital, nurses are lamenting the fact that many cases of Monkey Pox have been recorded recently while there is no strategy taken to protect other patients admitted there. Last week, 2 tents were set up in the courtyard of this hospital but unfortunately there are 2 patients on the same bed which could promote the spread of this disease.

The spread was from the inmates of Gitega central prison who come for treatment at this hospital. This situation is becoming alarming, the authorities of this hospital do not want information relating to this

disease to be disseminated so as not to sully Gitega town.

IV. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS

IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

A child abused in Ruyigi commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on October 19, 2024 indicates that in Sanzu quarter, Ruyigi commune and province, Jonas Haragirimana, aged 14, from Burenza hill, Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province, was recruited as a goat herder by Candide living in this quarter. She had promised him a salary of 20,000 BIF per month but from August 12, 2024 until October 12, 2024, he received no salary and was beaten while being told that he would not file a complaint anywhere. The child found refuge with another family and is asking that his rights be restored by receiving his 2-month salary.

A minor exploited in Nyanza lac commune, Makamba province

On October 18, 2024, on Kabondo hill, Nyanza lac commune, Makamba province, Odette Uwimana, aged 13, a domestic worker from Buhinyuza commune of, Musinga province, was exploited by her boss Alexis Nizigiyimana, Director of the technical secondary school "Ourhome school" and member of CNDD-FDD party by depriving her of her salary since November 2023 pretexting that she had committed minor professional errors in her domestic service but that her boss could not explain properly before the local administrators the little girl had referred to. She did not succeed and she called local humanitarian organizations such as FENADEB; Thars and MIPAREC to try finding a solution but who faced the reluctance of the Director who in addition to that has organized death threats to her. The little girl was accompanied to the police on November 18, 2024 by these three organizations to resort to police justice. The child has not been paid for 12 months already and this is part of human exploitation that is punishable by law.

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 Interior, Community Development and Public Security to inclusively guarantee public rights and freedoms to all Burundian citizens.