



LIGUE BURUNDAISE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME " ITEKA "

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Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa

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0. INTRODUCTION

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

Thus, during this reporting period of this bulletin, the human rights and security situation was reported as follows: at least 11 people were killed, including 10 found dead, as well as 6 people who were victims of arbitrary arrest.

The victims included 2 women and 3 children killed, and six members of CNL pro-Agathon Rwasa's party arbitrarily arrested.

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

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SIGLES ET ABBREVIATIONS

CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CECI	: <i>Independent Communal Electoral Commission</i>
CENI	: <i>Independent National 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>
FDBN	: <i>Burundi National Defense Force</i>
FLN	: <i>National Liberation Forces</i>
GBV	: <i>Gender Based Violence</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judiciary Police Officer</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
TGI	: <i>High Court</i>

I. ECONOMIC, JUDICIAL AND SECURITY CONTEXT

I. 1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Rebels against Kigali in Kibila who terrorize the populations in Cibitoke province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 17, 2024 indicates that for two weeks, the inhabitants of Rutorero, Nyabungere and Gafumbegeti hills as well as Nderama, Ruhembe and Rutyzazo all rice fields of Kibira forest, Butahana and Bumba zones respectively of Mabayi and Bukinanyana communes of Cibitoke province have not slept for almost 2 weeks.

According to sources on site, Rwandan FLN rebels based for more than a decade in this forest demand ransoms daily by force from the inhabitants of this locality.

According to the latter, households are robbed and raids are committed where food, small and cattle are stolen.

Some people, according to various concordant sources, act in collusion with these rebels against Kigali also supported by the young Imbonerakure.

These rebels move around freely and patrol at night and during the day, armed with large-caliber weapons.

Various sources indicate that these Kinyarwanda-speaking rebels act under the protection of some civil and military authorities close to the ruling party, CNDD-FDD.

The same sources indicate that these rebels have the mission of destabilizing Kigali regime by attacking the South of Rwanda from Burundi in Kibira nature reserve considered as their rear base.

Goings and comings of these rebels facilitated by some dignitaries of CNDD-FDD party and the communes of Cibitoke and Bubanza are regularly reported. However, the information received on site now indicate the disinterest of the Imbonerakure.

According to some of them contacted, they are not supplied and encouraged. According to one of them who spoke on condition of anonymity, they individually received only a modest sum of 300 thousand Burundian francs that they left to their families at

the beginning before engaging alongside the FLN, some of whom are accused of having committed genocide in Rwanda.

According to a young person from CNDD-FDD party contacted, he explains that the thefts committed are motivated by the current non-supply of food, a task entrusted to the Burundian army, to all the fighters whose mission is to attack Rwanda.

According to a FDNB soldier contacted, he speaks of a perilous adventure with no way out for the fighters who claim to launch attacks against a better politically and militarily organized State while they are poorly trained, poorly equipped and poorly supplied.

In the meantime, some inhabitants of these aforementioned hills, for fear of being killed, are beginning to flee en masse towards the communes cities and even to Cibitoke center.

The same inhabitants urge the administrators and the military not to continue supporting these rebels who are sowing disorder and desolation. Failing that, they continue, mass movements of flight cannot be excluded and the hills concerned risk being emptied of their populations.

Contacted on this issue, the 2 administrators concerned do not confirm this information. They say that Burundian soldiers control the Kibira forest up to the border with Rwanda.

At this level and saying the same, a Burundian soldier acknowledges that Burundian soldiers ensure security throughout Kibira and the surrounding areas up to the border areas with Rwanda.

He rather invites the populations to collaborate with the FDNB soldiers by reporting any suspicious movement.

Combatant's week

The week of November 11 to 17, 2024 is dedicated to combatants in Burundi. This year, the ruling party, CNDD-FDD, has decided to change the way this day is celebrated. While previously, it was celebrated in all provinces of the country, it is now

celebrated at the national level, with representatives from each province meeting in the economic or political capital. This decision was taken due to the huge expenses incurred during previous celebrations. The party wanted to minimize costs to allocate the funds saved to the construction of housing for demobilized former combatants.

This week is an opportunity for CNDD-FDD party activists to reflect on the objectives and the cause they defend, as well as to pay tribute to the combatants who died in combat. The activities on the agenda for this week aim to promote patriotism and strengthen national unity. As innovations of the 2024 celebration, there is a change of format: celebration at the national level instead of provinces. A minimization of expenses: to finance the construction of housing for demobilized veterans

The 2025 voter registration, what is the outcome?

The National Independent Electoral Commission began on October 22, 2024 the registration of all Burundians of voting age, from eighteen, that is to say a Burundian born before June 2007¹ and closed this activity on the 31st of the same month. Indeed, the total number of people registered amounts to 6,022,268. According to François Bizimana², spokesperson for this institution, the CENI is sufficiently advanced in the preparation of the 2025 elections. It has implemented its branches, the CEPI and the CECI, the identification of 4246 registration centers and voters have already registered. Taking into account the 5 new provinces in accordance with the law of March 16, 2023 on the delimitation..., these figures of enrolled persons are distributed as follows:

- ⇒ Buhumuza : 881,188 persons
- ⇒ Bujumbura : 1,817,798 persons
- ⇒ Burunga : 1,027,847 persons
- ⇒ Butanyerera : 1,200,705 persons

⇒ Gitega: 1,087,584 persons

Persons registered in countries where Burundi has deployed peacekeeping soldiers, in the CAR with 771 and in the Republic of Somalia with 1,833 and in the diaspora, persons have been registered but here the figures were not yet available. At the level of the pre-electoral process, other activities were carried out, in particular the clarification of the documents required for registration as stipulated in the decree signed on October 30, 2024.

What are the challenges related to this registration?

During this registration, several challenges were reported, some of which were a form of violation of some fundamental freedoms of Burundians.

Observers reported cases where people were prevented from accessing some services or obtaining administrative documents. Showing a receipt in advance attesting their registration as voters was a *sine qua non* condition. The Minister of Interior even acknowledged the facts while specifying that these were "incentive" measures facing the low attendance for registration³.

Communiqués from the communal administrators of Kabezi in Bujumbura province and Buyengero in Rumonge province, issued on October 24 and 25, 2024, respectively, indicated that registration is a duty rather than a right and that anyone who does not register will no longer have access to the commune services at all levels.

This compulsory nature of voter registration has been observed in other provinces, particularly in Kirundo, Karuzi, Mwaro and Kayanza. Young members of Imbonerakure militia have been active in different places in these provinces. These young Imbonerakure have been positioned at the entrances to markets and schools to check whether everyone is in possession of the registration receipt. In some communes, Imbonerakure have been deployed on all the hills to force those who were in the fields to go and register.

¹Mr. Prosper Ntahorwamiye in a press briefing on October 25, 2024, see <https://lerenouveau.bi/cni-evaluation-a-mi-parcours-de-lenrolement-des-electeurs-de-2025/>.

²Radio Television Isanganiro, Mosaïque program of 9 november 2024

³[Enrollment of voters : a perplexing and unorthodox process – IWACU](#)

In the education sector, the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research set the tone. In his letter of October 25, 2024, he instructed school officials to facilitate the enrollment of staff and students of voting age for the 2025 elections.

Although the enrollment centers are set up and known, there have been some reports that zealous members of the CNDD-FDD party have enrolled people in illegal places such as in their party offices. In Muramvya, for example, files of students, even those who have not yet reached the required voting age, were collected and taken in order to make receipts that were also kept by the party, which already suggests preparation for fraud for future elections.

Participation was disparate in different registration centers observed, such as in Bujumbura, where citizens were attending unhurriedly due to the lack of enthusiasm. Some residents did not hesitate to declare that considering the conditions in which registration was carried out, especially the forcing of future voters, the elections could be negatively impacted.

Thus, Ligue Iteka asks the CENI to fully play its role as a true arbitrator for free and transparent elections.

Launch of the 18th edition of the peace torch caravan in Burundi

Launched for the first time in 2006 by President Pierre Nkurunziza, the peace torch caravan has since traveled all the provinces of the country, carrying different messages over the years. Its main objectives are peacebuilding, unity, social cohesion, national reconciliation and to promote socioeconomic policy.

During the launch of the 18th edition of this caravan, in a press briefing held on November 6, 2024, Epipode Baranyikwa, president of the organizing committee of the torch of peace caravan indicated that this is an opportunity to invite and raise awareness among the Burundian population to participate in the free, transparent and peaceful elections of 2025. This caravan whose theme is *"Burundians, let's vote for the leaders who will guide the realization of the vision of a Burundi emerging in 2040*

and developed in 2060" began on November 6, 2024 and will end on November 30, 2024.

As for the President of the Republic Evariste Ndayishimiye, he urged the Burundian population to vote for leaders who have political programs likely to contribute to development.

However, beyond the themes and slogans that have regularly characterized this peace torch caravan since 2006, several questions need to be raised regarding the real impact and management of this event until the 2024 edition.

Although the peace torch has among other objectives national unity, some might question the concrete and measurable objectives of this event in terms of peace. This event seems rather to be limited to a simple annual celebration without a real long-term strategy for peacebuilding.

Also, the question of finances arises during a public event of this kind. The funds allocated to the peace torch are not known by the institutions responsible for the management of public funds and the mechanisms for controlling and supervising public expenditure are not guaranteed. Given the money invested in the organization of the peace torch, it is essential to assess the real counterpart of this event. If it turns out that these funds do not generate a social, cultural or economic return on investment, it might be wiser to redirect these resources to more effective programs in terms of sustainable development of the country.

Another major question mark is the benefit that the peace torch actually brings to Burundian society. After 18 editions, it is necessary to question the evolution observable in Burundian society, particularly in terms of cohesion and social inclusion.

As indicated by the President of the Republic and the president of the organizing committee of the torch caravan, the 18th edition of the peace torch, which is being held on the eve of the 2025 elections, is perceived as an opportunity and a propaganda tool for the ruling party.

In conclusion, the 18th edition of the peace torch in Burundi raises important questions concerning its true scope, funding, impact and transparency. Although the event seeks to promote peace, it seems

to lack clear and measurable objectives and tangible benefit for society. It would be crucial to re-evaluate the initiative to make it more relevant and efficient, with a direct link to the social and political realities of the country. A reflection on better mana-

gement of funds and an assessment of the social impact are necessary to ensure that the peace torch is not just a symbolic act, but a real lever for positive change in Burundian society.

1.2. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Distribution of fertilizer in Giharo commune, Rutana province

On 11 November 2024, on Kabingo hill, Butezi zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province, the zone head Kibezi and Omer Manirakiza, stock manager, distributed chemical fertilizer in collaboration with

the police. However, the quantities were insufficient to cover the needs of the population who had paid and presented receipts. Local traders received a large portion of the bags of fertilizer, while the zone head claimed that the remaining bags were for associations and cooperatives, which appears to be a maneuver to divert them.

1.3. JUSTICE CONTEXT

Appointment of new magistrates of courts and tribunals in Burundi

The President of the Republic of Burundi has promulgated laws appointing the President of the Supreme Court⁴, 9 presidents of high courts⁵ and 8 heads of the Public Prosecutor's Office⁶.

Of all these appointments, that of Gamaliel Nkurunziza, a member of CNDD-FDD, as head of the Supreme Court of Burundi raises more concerns on several levels. Not only does this appointment contradict the principles enshrined in the Constitution of Burundi⁷ stipulating that "[...] *active magistrates are not authorized to join political parties*", but it also comes at a key moment, on the eve of the 2025 communal and legislative elections.

Indeed, such an appointment compromises the neutrality of the judiciary and suggests a judicial drift, especially during the upcoming electoral period. Gamaliel Nkurunziza's membership in a ruling political party raises legitimate doubts about the impartiality of future judicial decisions during the upcoming elections and especially in the context of the repression of election-related offenses as well as electoral disputes. Opposition political parties could find themselves in a situation where they will no longer be able to count on the courts to obtain justice or challenge political decisions.

The appointment of Gamaliel Nkurunziza and other

magistrates was unanimously approved by the Burundian Senate. This approval without debate reveals a clear submission of legislative institutions to the will of the executive power, which raises a fundamental question between the true representation of the Burundian people by the Senate or the existence of a body subservient to the CNDD-FDD party regime.

It should be noted that the President of the Supreme Court is appointed by the President of the Republic for a non-renewable 5-year term⁸.

In conclusion, the appointment of Gamaliel Nkurunziza as President of the Supreme Court of Burundi is a significant political act that has deep repercussions on democracy and the rule of law in Burundi. By violating the Constitution and appointing a member of CNDD-FDD to a key position in the judiciary, the current regime is embarking on a path of politicization of justice. On the eve of the 2025 elections, this appointment raises legitimate concerns about the integrity and transparency of the electoral process. In this context, it becomes crucial for the international community to closely monitor the evolution of the upcoming electoral process in Burundi, to defend democratic principles and ensure that the 2025 elections can take place in a framework of fair justice and impartiality to allow Burundian citizens to fully enjoy their fundamental freedoms.

⁴Decree n° 100/172 of 12 November 2024, article 1

⁵Decree n° 100/172 of 12 November 2024, article 2

⁶Decree n° 100/173 of 12 November 2024, article 1

⁷Constitution of the Republic of Burundi, article 82

⁸Law n° 1/21 of 3 August 2019 on the Supreme Court, article 4.

Sandra Muhoza's case in deliberations, 12 years in prison requested for this journalist in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura-mairie

On November 12, 2024, journalist Sandra Muhoza of the online media La nova Burundi was heard at Mukaza High Court, Bujumbura-mairie and she pleaded not guilty while the public prosecutor accused her of undermining the integrity of the national territory and racial aversion.

According to an eyewitness, Muhoza denied these accusations and clarified that they are unfounded because she explained *"I only reacted in a WhatsApp group we share with other journalists without any intention of harming because in this group, everyone was debating on any topic without evasion"*. Sandra pleaded not guilty and asked for her freedom. The public prosecutor has not released on the charges and has requested a 12-year prison sentence and a fine of one million Burundian francs for Sandra Muhoza.

Sandra Muhoza's defense lawyers welcomed the fact that their client was heard and that the trial took place and Eric Ntibandetse, one of the lawyers, said he was waiting for the court's decision to know what happened next, he added that his client should be cleared and released because the charges against her are unfounded and deplored the prosecution's indictment.

1.4. SECURITY CONTEXT

1.4.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A person killed in Gitega commune and province

On the night of November 13 to 14, 2024, around 11 p.m., François Ndereyimana, aged 75, a trader, widower but living illegally with a young woman, residing on Gisuru hill, Giheta zone, Gitega commune and province, was killed by unidentified people. According to an eyewitness, the body was found decapitated, at the roadside by passers-by.

The victim's body had injuries to the head and face. The knife used for this crime was placed next to the body. Pierre, Bihororo hill head, mobilized the neighbors to evacuate the body to Saint Joseph Clinic mortuary in Giheta. The burial took place in the afternoon of November 14, 2024. According to Mi-

Sandra Muhoza was arrested on April 13, 2024 by the head of SNR in Butanyerera province, Ngozi commune and transferred to the SNR cells in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura-mairie. She appeared before a magistrate on April 22, 2024, accused of undermining State security and ethnic aversion and she was transferred to Mpimba central prison.

Trial in flagrante delicto at the Rumonge TGI

On November 15, 2024, at Rumonge TGI, there was a trial in flagrante delicto of Mathias Ntunzwe-nimana, Rémy Ndayishimiye and Jean de Dieu Irankunda accused of the street sale of fuel. This fuel was found in the search of November 10, 2024. They are accused of fraudulent trading of fuel and undermining the country's economy, which the first 2 added that this fuel is their spare stock because they are fishermen, which the public prosecutor denied by adding that fishing fuel is mixed with oil, which is not the case for what is seized and showed other evidence including the line of cars waiting to be served. Finally the first two accepted that they are workers of the bosses Nsabimana Juvénal nicknamed Bayote and Nimubona all from Rumonge city but who fled. These 2 were sentenced to 6 months imprisonment and a fine of one million each while the 3rd was acquitted. The packaging (drums and cans) will be sold and the amount will be paid into the public treasury.

chel and Benoît, successively Administrator and OPJ, organized on the same date of November 14, 2024, a meeting for the population of this locality to ask them to do everything so that the perpetrators are arrested.

The reasons for his death are not yet known except that he had long been accused of sorcery by his children.

According to some information from his neighbors, he had spent the evening in a bar near his home and it was on the way back home that these unidentified people killed him. The OPJ investigating this case had arrested the children of the deceased but decided to release them on November 15, 2024.

A body of a person found in Gitobe commune, Kirundo province

On November 11, 2024, on Baziro hill and zone, Gitobe commune, Kirundo province, Jean de la paix Amri Uwizeye, a gold miner, was found dead in a gold mining site. He did not return in the evening. According to sources on site, the victim's wife was informed that her husband was dead and that his body was near the road. Upon arrival at the location, his body was taken to Mukenke hospital for expertise and investigations started. He was buried on November 12, 2024. Two people including Révérien Kayiranga and Issa Mugisha, sharing the same profession, were arrested by Bwambarangwe police station for investigation purposes. Issa called him around 9 p.m. and Révérien had spent the evening together.

A body found in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On October 28, 2024, at Kamenge military hospital mortuary, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Bujumbura-mairie, the body of Don Joe Brayan Aki- mana, aged 20, who had been reported missing was found at Kamenge military hospital mortuary.

According to sources on site, the victim had been reported missing on October 24, 2024, at 11th avenue in Mutakura quarter, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie. According to sources on site, the child was at home and it was around 10 p.m. that he went to the shop to buy food and he brought it home and then he went outside. From that time on he did not return home. The burial took place on November 9, 2024 at Mpanda cemetery, all the staff of the military hospital questioned by the police deny how the body reached the mortuary.

A person killed in Muyinga commune and province

On November 13, 2024, on Mukoni hill, Muyinga

commune and province, a body of Diane Irakoze, aged 16, was found hanging on a tree at their home. The circumstances and reasons for this crime are not known.

A body found in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province

In the morning of November 17, 2024, a body of Jonathan Ndoricimpa, aged 24, was fished from the waters of Lake Tanganyika at the fishing site located on Muguruka hill, Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, the victim had gone to quench his thirst in a local bar since the evening of November 15, 2024 and has not returned to this site in Muguruka where he was watching over the fishing boats. His colleagues believe that he drowned when he tried to reach the boats about 30 meters from the shore. Jonathan Ndoricimpa is a native of Gihororo hill, Giheta commune, Gitega province.

A person died at the Burundian-Tanzanian border, Mabanda commune, Makamba province

On November 16, 2024, Mutabazi died on the Burundian-Tanzanian border while fleeing Tanzanians who wanted to steal his goods. The Tanzanian police refused to give the body to his family and the administration of Mabanda commune, in Makamba province. According to administrative and police sources, Mutabazi Julien and his friend Éric Ruzocimana came from the locality of Mwandinga in Kigoma commune and province as part of field work. Arrived on the Tanzanian border at Shuza sub-hill; Ruvuga hill, they met a group of Tanzanian bandits who wanted to steal the goods they possessed. The two Burundians tried to escape to this locality where Julien Mutabazi fell into a very rugged rock chasm and died on the spot around 6 am. His friend who also broke his leg was able to alert theirs who came to evacuate the victim's body which was not according to the police and the administration in the commune.

1.4.2. OTHER SECURITY INCIDENTS

Four people of the same family killed in Muramvya commune

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 12 November 2024 indicates that on the night of 9 to 10 November 2024, on Bihororo sub-hill, Masango hill, Muramvya commune and province, four people of the same family were killed, including Evelyne Ndikuriyo, aged 35, and her two children Darcy Tuyisenge, aged 4 and Fanillela Nimbona, aged 9 months, were murdered by the head of the family Evode Nsengiyumva, aged 38.

According to police sources, the alleged perpetrator came home drunk around 10 p.m. When he arrived home, his wife and two children were already in bed. He killed them with an axe. After the crime, he hanged himself with a rope in the same house.

OPJ Chief Warrant Officer Barnabé Nuwakazi, who made the report, and the Public Prosecutor in Muramvya, Jean Paul Bizindavyi, decided to take the bodies to Muramvya hospital mortuary.

The burial took place on November 14, 2024, and according to local sources, the communal administration was responsible for the funeral expenses.

A woman almost killed in Cankuzo commune and province

On November 15, 2024, around 7 p.m., on Muterero hill, Cankuzo commune and province, Révérien alias Alpha Kim residing in Kigwati I quarter, in Cankuzo province city, working in a warehouse, almost killing his mother-in-law with a knife, at her home. According to sources on site, Révérien married the woman named Spès 8 months ago and after 4 months, the latter left her husband to go to Bujumbura. His wife used to go to Tanzania for adultery and the husband would look for her and take her home but the woman did not change her behavior. According to the same sources, Révérien went to court to ask that the woman be advised and return home and was summoned for an appointment for the following week. So on November 15, 2024, he visited his mother-in-law and they began to communicate normally but afterwards, he told his mo-

ther-in-law to return his wife and his mother-in-law instead asked him to hand over his daughter. Then Révérien took a knife and jumped on his mother-in-law, strangulate her but she did not die. The latter was taken to the hospital for treatment.

A woman injured in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitke province

On November 15, 2024, around 7 p.m., Léonie Nyandwi, aged 35, mother of a 2-year-old child, was injured on the way, on Kibande sub-hill, Masango hill and zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province.

Residents and the administration say that land conflicts are at the origin of this assassination attempt. The administration in collaboration with the security forces indicates that investigations are underway.

According to an eyewitness, Léonie Nyandwi was returning from her shopping at the market in the same locality where an unknown person walking behind her struck her several blows with a machete to the neck.

The victim was immediately transported by the population to the nearest health facility and the victim is in stable condition according to Thaddée Muhitira, Masango zone head. This administrative official points the finger at bandits who wanted to steal the goods she was carrying and they ran away.

This authority acknowledges that investigations are already underway with the police authorities to determine the reasons and identity of the alleged perpetrator of this act.

The same authority affirms that this woman had no problem with the neighbors but does not exclude disagreements related to land conflicts with some of her relatives who could be behind this attempted murder.

On the side of Léonie Nyandwi's family, they ask that investigations be accelerated to determine the real reasons behind this assassination attempt which almost took the life of one of its members.

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 gua-

ranteed 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 PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

II.1.1. 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 woman killed in Muramvya commune and province

On November 13, 2024, around 8 p.m., on Muyange sub-hill, Muramvya hill, commune and province, Necelatte Nizigiyimana, aged 67, was killed by her husband. According to a source on site, Budovori Sylvestre, 74, a member of CNDD-FDD party, killed his wife using an old hoe (agafuni). According to sources on site, it all started on November 10, 2024, when the husband stabbed his wife accusing her of stealing his money. He stabbed

her lightly and she was taken to Muramvya hospital for treatment. On November 11, 2024, Sylvestre was arrested by the police and jailed in the communal police cell in Muramvya. On November 13, 2024, his wife came to visit him in the cell, and lied that she had been stabbed by another person whose name she promised to reveal later. And her husband was released. According to the same sources, the two spouses arrived home around 5 p.m. and shared a drink with the neighbors in a nearby bar. It was around 9 p.m. that the same neighbors heard a loud scream and went to see what was happening. They found the old mother dead, and her husband still had the hoe in his hands covered in blood. In a flagrante delicto trial on November 14, 2024, at Muramvya TGI, Sylvestre did not deny the facts and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

II.2. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.2.1. PERSONS ARBITRARILY ARRESTED

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 12 November 2024 indicates that on 10 November 2024, around 5 p.m., on Musumba hill, Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province, six members of CNL party including Ndereyimana André, representative of this party on this same hill; Jean Marie Ngendahayo, representative of this party in Kinyinya commune; Egide Ngomiraganje; Lazare Sindotuma; Dieudonné Kwizera and Gratien Gwire who consider Agathon Rwasa as the leader of this party, were arrested and taken to Kinyinya communal police station cell, by Djuma Ndereyimana, the police commissioner in Kinyinya. According to eyewitnesses, they were discussing as usual at the home of their friend and neighbor André Ndereyimana, a representative of this party on the same hill.

According to the same sources, all these members of CNL party were accused of holding a party meeting without permission, which the latter do not accept but explain that since it was Sunday, it is easy to meet friends and discuss especially since they were all neighbors and report that only six people cannot hold a meeting. On November 11, 2024, they were transferred to Ruyigi provincial police station cell.

According to the same sources, on November 13, 2024, they appeared before the deputy prosecutor of Ruyigi where they were questioned if they are all neighbors and report that only six people cannot hold a meeting. On November 11, 2024, they were transferred to Ruyigi provincial police station cell.

According to the same sources, on November 13, 2024, they appeared before the deputy prosecutor of Ruyigi where they were questioned if they are all members of CNL party pro Honorable Agathon Rwaswa. The accusations they did not deny, they accepted that they had been members of CNL party for a long time, pro Agathon Rwaswa, and were accused of holding an illegal meeting, which they rejected outright because where they were arrested there was no evidence that they wanted to disrupt security or the holding of the meeting. After questioning by the public prosecutor, the 6 members of

CNL party returned to Ruyigi provincial police station cell.

On November 14, 2024, they were taken to Ruyigi central prison. They are charged with two counts: disrupting security and holding an illegal meeting. The population of this hill, the families of the victims and other members of CNL party are pleading for these members to be released because, they say, they are illegally imprisoned and are victims of their political ideologies.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

One hundred and eighty-five homeless families in Rumonge commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 15, 2024 indicates that one hundred and eighty-five families have been settled for over a year by the government of Burundi in a village located on Mutambara hill, Gatete zone, Rumonge commune and province. They were victims of the floods from Lake Tanganyika. The authorities installed them in houses built from tents, most of which are in tatters on Mutambara hill. These residents say that they are taken like thieves, dogs and face the cold as well as new floods linked to torrential rains during this rainy season. Many of them lived from agriculture.

These residents say that they lack everything and are waiting for help to eat because they do not have land. They are asking the government to give them land to cultivate so as not to live in begging.

In 2022, the inhabitants of Kanyenkoko, Nkayamba and Iteba quarters saw their plots flooded, their property and houses destroyed by the waters of Lake Tanganyika. In total, 1,340 of them were relocated to village 3 of Mutambara, including 703 women and young people. Among them, there are about ten families from the Batwa community. They do not have easy access to health care and food. With their houses in tatters, they say they are exposed to theft and cold and fear diseases linked to lack of hygiene.

IV. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS

IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

A child beaten up and received in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province

On November 12, 2024, in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province, Jean Philbert Ndayikeza, from Buryoryo sub-hill, Kivubo hill, Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province, was beaten up in Tanzania by his boss Charles Kalamuji and received in Gisagara commune, in critical condition. He had just spent 2 years in Tanzania, he had left their home at the age of 13, on March 24, 2022, at night and spent the night at the commissionaire Rivuzimana in Gasorwe, and they set off around 4 a.m., on March 25, 2022. Arriving in Tanzania on the same date, Jean Philbert Ndayikeza started working with his first boss, in a place called Akeza, in Ngara. After realizing that he had just spent a year without receiving his salary, he left that job and went to this second boss called Charles Kalamuji, on March 27, 2023,

and found another domestic worker there and his boss told him to wait for this domestic worker to finish his work period in order to start work. The child obeyed his boss but in the meantime, he was working there in field work and other jobs. It was on February 20, 2024 that this child started work by telling him that he will receive 350,000 shillings per year. The boss, Charles Kalamuji realized that the one-year period is coming to an end and started accusing the child for stealing three sheep. On November 12, 2024, this boss woke him up very early in the morning, telling him to go together in search of these sheep but this boss had prepared another man and roped him and beat him up, they saw that the child lost consciousness and took him to the head of this hill of Rurenge, in Mubuga. This head looked for 8 people who also beat him up again and then they took an iron and injured him in the leg.

They saw that the child seemed to be dying and his boss Charles Kalamuji, took him to Burundi on a motorcycle. Arriving in Gahumo, the motorcycle chain was broke down, and was repaired it and continued the way, and stopped in Kirehe to repair it properly, the child woke up but could not sit up alone and cried out. People who were there came to see what was happening and asked the child why he was screaming. The child told them that he had been beaten and that it was this very man that he had beaten and these people arrested him and took him to Mishiha communal police station, Cankuzo province while the child was taken to Gishungo CDS where he was admitted.

V. CONCLUSION

Ligue Iteka notes and denounces the persistent deterioration of human rights across the country. Ligue Iteka is concerned by this continued violation in the total silence of the Government and often the acts attributable to members of the ruling party in total impunity. It recommends the Burundian government to guarantee respect for human rights and punish the alleged perpetrators