

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°451 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 2 – 8 December 2024



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 8 december 2024, Iteka has documented at least 714 cases of enforced disappearances

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ACRONYMS

CDS	: Health Center
CNDD-FDD	: National Council for the Defense of Democracy
CNL	: National Congress for Liberty
DRC	: Democratic Republic of Congo
FAB	: Burundi Armed Forces
FDLR	: Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda
FLN	: National Liberation Front
FOMI	: original-mineral fertilizers
FRODEBU	: Front for Democracy in Burundi
GBV	: Gender Based Violence
SNR	: National Intelligence Service

0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin covers the 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.

Thus, during this reporting period of this bulletin, the human rights and security situation was reported as follows: at least 5 people killed, 4 of whom were found dead, 2 abducted and/or missing, 1 victim of GBV, 1 tortured and 2 persons victims of arbitrary

arrest.

Among the victims, there are two women killed, a member of CNL party tortured and a member of CNDD-FDD party arrested.

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

1. POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY CONTEXT

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

1.1.1. CALLING OF VOTERS FOR THE 2025 ELECTIONS IN BURUNDI

The President of the Republic of Burundi has promulgated Decree No. 100/187 of December 7, 2024 calling voters for the 2025 elections¹. The various elections are scheduled as follows:

- ◇ Legislative elections: June 5, 2025
- ◇ Elections of communal councilors: June 5, 2025
- ◇ Senatorial elections: July 23, 2025
- ◇ Communal elections: August 25, 2025

The presidential decree also specified the distribution of MPs per province, in accordance with the new administrative division:

- ◇ Buhumuza: 16 MPs
- ◇ Bujumbura: 23 MPs
- ◇ Burunga: 17 MPs
- ◇ Butanyarera: 23 MPs
- ◇ Gitega: 21 MPs

Through this decree, it should be noted that it mostly reveals the will of the regime to eliminate potential candidates in the electoral race for the 2025

elections, particularly Agathon Rwasa who was ranked second in the 2020 elections.

Indeed, government pressure was established, aimed at complicating Rwasa's participation in the 2025 elections. On March 10, 2024, a CNL party congress was held in Ngozi province by party dissidents and the said congress decided to oust Agathon Rwasa from the CNL leadership party and the Minister of the Interior ratified this decision on March 18, 2024.

Following this dispute, Rwasa filed a complaint and the Supreme Court of Burundi opened the trial on November 7, 2024, opposing him to the new CNL party leadership chaired by Nestor Girukwishaka and the hearing was postponed to February 27, 2025. In these circumstances, if the outcome of this trial is not known before the start of the legislative and communal elections to be held as of June 5, 2025, or if it is lost, it will be impossible for him and his members to run as independent candidates in accordance with Article 2 of Decree No. 100/187 of December 7, 2024 stipulating that "*A member of a governing body of a political party may not stand as an independent candidate in these elections until after the expiration of a period of two years since his ouster or resignation from his political party of origin*".

¹Decree 100/187 of December 7, 2024 calling voters to the elections of MPs, communal councilors, senators, hill or quarter councilors and hill or quarter heads.

In addition, as stated in the electoral code², this decree prohibits coalitions of independent candidates³, in contradiction with the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi⁴.

Finally, other political parties, especially FRODEBU, have already expressed their willingness to form coalitions to form a bloc against the ruling party. On 29 November 2024, Patrick Nkurunziza, President of FORDEBU party, announced his party's desire to join forces with other Burundian political actors to form a coalition to confront the ruling party. This initiative is part of a political context marked by a desire to rebalance the balance of power within the national political landscape. The envisaged coalition would aim to unite the forces of FRODEBU and CNL parties to offer a credible alternative to Burundian voters. But here too, the electoral code and the decree calling voters is a significant obstacle.

To conclude, presidential Decree No. 100/187 of 7 December 2024, which calls voters to the 2025 elections in Burundi, seems to mark a crucial turning point in the electoral process, with deep implications for the candidates, in particular Agathon Rwasa and his party, the CNL. The complex situation he faces, particularly due to the internal dispute within the CNL and the legal restrictions imposed by the decree, could prohibit him from running as an independent candidate due to the "two-year period" rule. In addition, the ban on coalitions of independent candidates raises concerns about the transparency and fairness of the electoral process. Thus, this context highlights a political strategy aimed at weakening opponents and reducing the chances of real competition in the 2025 elections. If these conditions are not changed, they risk compromising the credibility of the electoral process, by hindering the political rights of Burundian citizens and limiting the diversity of choices available to voters.

1.1.2. PRESS RELEASE OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF BURUNDI

In a press release at the closing of the ordinary plenary assembly of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Burundi, the Bishops expressed their key concerns about the deterioration of human rights situation in the country. The Bishops denounced the persistent poverty following the surge in food prices leading to the inability of the population to obtain these necessities. They are also concerned about the community violence that is affecting more and more Burundian families, highlighting the urgent need for the authorities to take measures to support those who suffer the most.

The Bishops also welcomed the advances in the security domain, but expressed their concern about

the increase in killings in some communities. They called for civic responsibility ahead of national elections, urging Burundians to participate in this democratic process with respect for the law and human dignity.

Bishop Bonaventure Nahimana, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, stressed that the elections must take place in a climate of peace and mutual respect, without discrimination against any person, party or coalition of political parties. It is essential that the Burundian authorities take these concerns seriously and act urgently to improve the human rights situation in the country.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

1.2.1. GRADUAL RETURN OF FLN AND FDLR REBEL POSITIONS IN CIBITOKE-MABAYI

The return of FLN and FDLR rebels to Mabayi, after more than a year of absence, has been reported since late October 2024. These armed groups, whose objective is to attempt incursions into Rwanda and support CNDD-FDD regime, are better armed and fortified, benefiting from external fun-

ding. Kibira, a region bordering Rwanda, was chosen as a strategic area because of its proximity to Rwanda, easy access to supplies and the presence of exploitable minerals. The rebels use the population to survive, by providing them with money for necessary shopping.

²Electoral Code of Burundi, article 128

³Decree 100/187 of 7 December 2024, article 2, al. 1

⁴Constitution of the Republic of Burundi, article 8, al.1

For 14 months (August 2023-October 2024) these rebels had left Mabayi to settle in Bukinanyana. Their return as well as the progressive reinforcements that continue to arrive from the DRC via Bubanza have been reported in Mabayi since late October 2024 after they had been pushed back from Rwanda following an incursion carried out late October 2024. After retreating towards Burundi, the Rwandan army pursued them to the localities of Marura, Twinyoni where the fighting lasted more than 10 days causing several losses in the ranks of the FDN which had been caught in the crossfire. Thus, after these clashes, Burundian soldiers other than those who are on the Kibira positions intervened with the support of the Imbonerakure on November 27, 2024 to dislodge about ten positions of these rebels, the clashes lasted three days. The toll remains secret but a source within the Imbonerakure who participated in these clashes specifies that these rebels are better armed and fortified, to say that they benefit from some kind of funding.

Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE behind these rebels

A well-informed source close to intelligence and who has worked closely with the rebels indicates that these rebels are coming en masse to fill the gap left by more than 10 FDN battalions left for the DRC. And with the 2025 elections approaching, Neva fears that they will be disrupted and in this case, these rebels would intervene. Kibira in its part of Mabayi and Bukinanyana was chosen as a strategic zone for three reasons:

1. Border with Rwanda

Despite the closure of the two borders at Ruhwa (Rugombo and Mabayi), the inhabitants of Cibitoke, particularly Rugombo, Mugina and Mabayi communes, have never stopped maintaining relations, especially commercial relations (fuel, cattle, gold, beer). Through these relations, there is fear of incursions by Rwandan intelligence or soldiers on Burundian soil.

2. Easy access to supplies

As before, these rebels use the population to survive. They give money to individuals so that they can do necessary shopping for their daily lives. The inhabitants of Mabayi being kinyarwanda speakers for having lived, visited Rwanda or for the relatives they have there, the rebels adapt easily be-

cause some of them also have relatives in Mabayi.

It is this second reason that explains several imprisonments in the past, of civilians accused of collaborating with the rebels. The series of arrests resumes like that of Nsabimana Jacques alias Ngera, head of Kabere hill of Mabayi commune. He was arrested on Wednesday, November 4, 2024 after two rebels arrested in Kabere and Rushiha cited him among the key people who facilitate their supplies. Other people on the hills of Kibande, Gitukura, Rushiha, Nyagaseke, Mukoma, Gafumbegeti, Rutorero fled after the arrest of this hill administrator. These arrests recall several hundred others made in September 2023 including that of the former administrator and two of Imbonerakure leaders who are still imprisoned in Mpimba

3. Minerals in Kibira, a significant source of funding

Since gold and coltan in Kibira are not too exploited, the rebels have always used them. Sold abroad via their collaborators in CNDD-FDD regime (Neva and Ndakugarika), they obtain in return money and weapons that are added to the other funding they obtain here and there, from the same regime or from other donors.

The conditions of treatment of these rebels by the regime remain the same as in the time of Nkurunziza, with two sides within the army: one mainly ex-FDD rebels who are informed of the need for these rebels who collaborate with the rebels and the other camp ex-FNL and ex-FAB rebels who attack them, as a way of showing that they are not welcome and that they do not collaborate with the regime.

In the event of the arrest of these rebels, only the SNR has the right to question and jail the rebels and their collaborators arrested. The army and the police do not have the right to do so.

With their mass return from the DRC, our source indicates that their donors from the Rwandan diaspora, mostly traders, are gradually moving to Burundi from Lusaka, Maputo and Luanda where they had settled since 1995. Their security has reportedly been under threat for some time after Kigali regime revived its relations with these three States.

Most of these donors run their businesses in the Asian quarter and most of them live in the same quarter, in Kabondo and Kinindo.

1.2.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A body found in Gitega commune and province

On December 5, 2024, in the afternoon, on Rutoke hill, Gitega commune and province, a body of an unidentified man, aged at least 35, was found. According to eyewitnesses, the victim had traces of clubbing. The same witnesses add that not far from the place where this body was discovered was a solar panel. This information is confirmed by Privât Ntiranyibagira, head of this Rutoke hill who indicates that an investigation has already been initiated by the police.

A body of a woman found in Mutumba commune, Karuzi province

On December 5, 2024, around 6 a.m., on Yagigizo hill, Mubaragaza zone, Mutumba commune, Karuzi province, a body of an unidentified woman was found in the street. According to eyewitnesses, the deceased had traces showing that she was roped at the neck and her identity was not known. Euphrasie Ruzobavako, communal administrator urged the population of this hill to bury her, in the afternoon of the same day.

A person killed in Mwumba commune, Ngozi province

On December 2, 2024, around 9 p.m., on Buhanda hill, Gatsinda zone, Mwumba commune, Ngozi province, Emmanuel Rwaswa, aged 60, was strangled to death by unidentified people and then thrown into a gutter. According to eyewitnesses, the victim's body had injuries to the head and back. According to local sources, land disputes were the cause of this murder. Four people, including 3 men and a woman, were arrested by the judicial police and then

taken to Gatsinda zone cell for investigation purposes.

Two bodies of a man and a woman found in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

On December 7, 2024, two bodies of Vedaste Mbarempore, aged 45, and his wife Pascaline Ndarusha, aged 35, decomposing, roped and hung on a tree were found by passers-by in the Kibira nature reserve, on Myave hill, Ndora zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province.

The communal administration confirms this information and indicates that the reasons for these killings are not yet known and according to him, investigations are underway.

The two bodies were spotted in the middle of the Kibira forest by people looking for pastures for their cows around nightfall on Myave hill, Ndora zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province.

According to sources on site, after the alert to the security forces, the communal administrator delegated Ndora zone head accompanied by the young Imbonerakure to conduct the investigations.

The investigations carried out on site, according to Ndora zone head reveal that the 2 people were killed by a group of armed men based in the natural forest before indicating that the research is continuing to explore other lines of investigation.

The families of the deceased, for their part, demand very thorough investigations so that the perpetrators are punished in accordance with the law, especially since the victims did not have any particular problems with the society in which they lived.

1.2.3. ACTS OF INTIMIDATION AS THE ELECTIONS APPROACH

Acts of intimidation and paramilitary exercises in Cankuzo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 5, 2024 indicates that on November 30, 2024, in all the communes of Cankuzo province including Cankuzo commune, Cendajuru, Kigamba, Gisagara and Mishiha, there were meetings of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, the item on the

agenda was the preparation of lists of candidates for political positions such as communal councilor candidates, MPs and senator candidates for the next elections at a rate of 75 candidates per zone. But also to inform the members of this party that in the coming days there will be a census of CNDD-FDD party members throughout the new province of Buhumuza. The majority of participants in these meetings are young job seekers.

In Gisagara commune, before the meeting, the young Imbonerakure of the CNDD-FDD party did paramilitary exercises including sports and a parade. The same paramilitary exercises were done in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province. According to the same sources, during these activities, these young people sang songs containing words of intimidation towards members of the opposition parties such as: "*abatavyumva tugiye kubashira kumurongo, amatora yaraheze hasigaye guharura, President Never tuzomutora nkambere, inkona ntiyaruzwa, ...*" (Those who do not understand this situation, we will force them understand, the elections are already over, all that remains is to count the votes, President Evariste Ndayishimiye, we will vote for him like last time, the eagle cannot lose its chicks, ...). The population says that they are worried by this behavior of these young people while elections are approaching and deplores the silence of the ad-

1.2.4. OTHER SECURITY INCIDENTS

Leaflets found and vehicle damaged in Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province

Recent information obtained by Ligue Iteka on December 5, 2024 reveals an incident that occurred on the night of November 30, 2024, at around 1 a.m., in Nyabitsinda commune, located in Ruyigi province.

According to reliable local sources, an unidentified individual committed an act of vandalism by breaking the windshield of a van belonging to Nyabitsinda commune. However, what makes this

ministration in the face of this situation.

In Kinyinya commune, the meeting of CNDD-FDD party took place with the aim of preparing for the next elections and the representatives of this party in this commune asked members to contribute a sum of money in order to carry out visits to different hills of this commune. The contribution was 2000 Bif per household of non-employees and 5000 Bif for households of employees.

On the morning of December 7, 2024, in Butaganzwa commune town, residents were awakened by the noise of young Imbonerakure on sport.

This activity was described as a "show of force" and was accompanied by slogans that frightened the population, especially members of the opposition parties.

incident particularly intriguing is that the perpetrator left behind leaflets containing a threatening message. These leaflets had the following inscription: "*We came without retreat, we the members of Agathon Rwasa's CNL party*".

This statement demonstrates that the incident could be linked to political activities or tensions between political parties in the region. Ligue Iteka continues to follow this case and gather additional information to better understand the motivations behind this incident.

1.3. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

1.3.1. TABLE MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND PRIVATE INVESTORS FOR BURUNDI

Burundi organized, from December 5 to 6, 2024 at the Palais des Congrès de Kigobe, a round table of development partners and private investors. The main objective of this round table was to share the government's vision for the socio-economic development of Burundi in order to mobilize all stakeholders and the financial resources necessary to finance the achievement of the 2040-2060 Vision.

In his speech, President Evariste Ndayishimiye urged foreign investors to explore growth and investment opportunities in high-potential sectors. According to him, Burundi is a land of opportuni-

ties. "*The Burundian subsoil is full of important natural resources*", including "*gold, nickel, rare earths, coltan, etc. The country also has a large hydrographic network and its position is strategic. It can be the granary of Africa.*"

This round table of development partners and private investors presents several positive challenges for Burundi on the economic level, including the mobilization of financial resources, the development of natural resources and opportunities in sectors with high potential, as highlighted by the President of the Republic.

However, although this round table can offer significant opportunities for Burundi, several challenges must be met to ensure its success and the achievement of the objectives set. In the context of this round table, governance, political stability and the fight against corruption are key aspects for successfully attracting investment and ensuring the sustainability of development projects.

Political stability is a fundamental element for attracting investors and ensuring sustainable economic development. In the context of this round table, political stability is essential for various reasons. Investors, whether national or foreign, seek to invest in countries where the political situation is stable. Also, political stability is essential for partnerships with international donors, financial organizations and development partners. These actors seek environments where their investments will be used in a stable and efficient manner.

Corruption is a real problem in Burundi, ranking it among the most corrupt countries on the planet. In 2023, Burundi scored 20% on the corruption perception index, having reached the lowest level of 17% in 2018 since 2005. Cases of embezzlement of public funds have been regularly brought to the attention of the public, but their perpetrators have remained unpunished. The lack of independence of the judiciary and other oversight institutions limits the ability to bring those responsible for corruption to justice. Sanctions against the perpetrators of economic crimes are rare and, if there are any, the culprits are not sufficiently punished. Under these conditions, it is clear that this level of corruption constitutes a major obstacle to economic investors. Burundi should therefore strengthen independent judicial mechanisms to ensure that the money invested in the country is used efficiently and not di-

verted for personal or political purposes.

The governance challenge in the context of the roundtable is a central element in attracting investment and ensuring the success of the country's socio-economic development. Although Burundi presents many opportunities, governance issues can constitute significant obstacles. The lack of transparency in the management of public finances is another major challenge for governance in Burundi. Opacity in the use of public funds, the risks of embezzlement of funds negatively affect investor confidence. The judicial system in Burundi is often criticized for its lack of independence, which creates a climate of impunity. Investors may then hesitate to invest in a country where the rule of law is not applied fairly and where investment protection is not guaranteed.

In conclusion, the roundtable of development partners and private investors organized by Burundi represents a significant opportunity to boost the country's economic development to achieve 2040-2060 Vision. However, for these opportunities to materialize and to ensure the long-term success of development projects, it is crucial that Burundi addresses some fundamental challenges. Political stability, the fight against corruption and transparent governance are essential elements in creating an environment conducive to investment. Strengthening judicial independence, ensuring the efficient use of public funds and ensuring sanctions against corruption will be key actions to reassure investors and sustain socio-economic development. The success of this roundtable will therefore depend on the government's firm commitment to establishing sound governance and ensuring the stability needed to attract investment and transform opportunities into concrete results for Burundi.

1.4. GOOD GOVERNANCE

1.4.1. SLOWDOWN IN CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE JIJI HYDRAULIC DAM IN BURURI PROVINCE

Since December 6, 2024, construction work on the Jiji-Murembwe hydraulic dam has been slow. Sources close to ORASCOM company in charge of the work say that activities have been slow for days due to lack of fuel. Some employees have asked to stay home. Only essential and indispensable on-site personnel remain on site. The employees have been sent on forced leave for a few days. The same

sources indicated that they are waiting for the fuel problem to be resolved before resuming activities that have been stopped. It is not only the Jiji Murembwe project that is disrupted by the fuel shortage in Burundi. Transport to Bujumbura town and within the country is disrupted. Speculation is being made about the transport fare in the eyes of administrative officials.

The latter are helplessly watching the surge in transport fare prices. For example, the Rumonge-Matana transport fare is now 20,000 BIF when it was normally 10,000 BIF. The Bujumbura-Rumonge fare is 10,000 BIF when the official price is 6,500 BIF. In other routes, speculation is also taking place following a fuel shortage that has become almost endemic in the country. On the black market, a 20-liter can costs 460,000 BIF. Fraudsters are making a fortune on the misery of the population.

1.4.2. FLOODS IN CIBITOKÉ PROVINCE WHERE MORE THAN 200 FAMILIES ARE FORCED TO LIVE IN GATERI SITE, BUGANDA COMMUNE, CIBITOKÉ PROVINCE

Since November 28, 2024, 211 families composed of 288 displaced persons from Gatambu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, have been relocated to Gateri site, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, due to the floods that affected the region.

The inhabitants of Mutimbuzi commune consider this relocation as a relief for the displaced persons, who are now asking for insurance, a health center and a market in this site. Jean Marie Mpawenimana, head of the site, indicates that the living conditions of the new arrivals are acceptable, but he appeals to the government and donors to provide them with assistance in food and medicine. The displaced persons are expected to settle on this site for several years, and it is important that partners and the State build schools, health structures and ensure a supply of drinking water. Residents are also demanding the construction of houses and school infrastructure, as well as the granting of land for cultivation, as the site is located near Rusizi River and does not offer agricultural potential.

The governor's chief of staff, Anicet Saidi, reassured the displaced persons by promising them that everything is organized and that the State will equip the site with everything necessary.

1.4.3. AN IMBONERAKURE LEADER RELEASED TWO DAYS AFTER FINDING WEAPONS AT HIS HOME, IN MUTIMBUZI COMMUNE, BUJUMBURA RURAL PROVINCE

On December 5, 2024, Emmanuel Nibitanga nicknamed Maniga, leader of the young Imbonerakure was released after being arrested on December 3, 2024 after finding weapons and military equipment at his home.

According to the inhabitants of Buhomba sector, 13th street of Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, during a police search, the latter found at Maniga's house a bag filled with grenades, military knives, new machetes, military and police uniforms. Emmanuel was arrested and taken to Mutimbuzi commune cell where he spent two nights. The inhabitants of Maramvya zone demand that he be punished in accordance with the law to eradicate the behavior of civilians who possess weapons illegally and for the security of the population.

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 PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

II.1.1. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Burambi commune, Rumonge province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 7, 2024 indicates that on December 1, 2024, on Rutwenzi hill, Burambi commune, Rumonge province, E.N., a 17-year-old woman was raped by an

unidentified person. According to sources on site, the victim was surprised when she came from a party and was passing by when she was attacked by an unknown man and dragged into the bush nearby. The victim screamed and was rescued by passers-by and the alleged perpetrator fled. The victim was taken to Rutwenzi CDS for medical treatment.

II.1.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A member of CNL tortured in Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura-Mairie

On December 3, 2024, around 1 a.m., coming from a bar called chez Solé, in Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura-Mairie, Gérard Nibizi, aged 42, living in Gisyo quarter, Kanyosha zone and commune, was beaten up by Imbonerakure while on patrol as he was returning home.

According to eyewitnesses, the victim was beaten

on the orders of their leader named Peste. These Imbonerakure arrested him and Gérard, out of fear, refused to stop while trying to flee. They chased him until they arrested him and began to stick him.

According to the same witnesses, the victim was injured and was carried away by people who heard his cries because these Imbonerakure had left him alone. The victim received the necessary care at the health center called "KUBANYAGIHUGU" in Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura-mairie.

II.2 RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.2.1. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING

A person reported missing in Kayanza commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 5, 2024 indicates that as of December 1, 2024, Boniface Nikobamye residing on Gati sub-hill of Musave hill in Kayanza commune and province is missing. According to sources on site, Boniface Nikobamye left his family on September 27 to go to work in the Republic of Tanzania in the company of his two friends: Evode and Omer, living on Gihororo hill, Rango commune.

On December 1, 2024, around 7 a.m., Noëlla Tuyisenge, Boniface's wife, received a call from her husband telling her that everything he had was stolen when he returned to Tanzania and that his friends lent him 30,000 BIF to cross the border. Tuyisenge Noëlla sent him the money via her sister Dalie Mugisha living on Gihororo hill in Rango commune and that Boniface has not yet arrived in Kayanza. His phone was turned off. The family and loved ones are asking the judiciary to help them find Boniface.

A person abducted in Kirundo commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 5, 2024 indicates that since November 1, 2024, the head of the family named Mirerego, aged 65, from Kavogero quarter, Kirundo commune and province remains untraceable after having an accident in Tanzania with his Noa-type vehicle in August 2024. He was helped by the provincial administration to tow his vehicle in order to have it repaired at his hotel-restaurant in Kirundo but the head of intelligence forbade him from having it repaired and ordered him to be brought to his office located in Bushaza quarter as well as another Noa that had not even had an accident. The 2 vehicles were parked and another SNR team from Bujumbura came. Then the head of Imbonerakure Abel Ahishakiye took him to his hotel WINDORA to hide him from this team in order to avoid interrogations by this team.

On September 17, 2024, another SNR team in two pick-ups returned and questioned his wife who denied her presence as there were conflicts with her husband. But this team made holes under the seats of each vehicle and they affirmed the information

they had that Mirerego was transporting coltan to Rwanda via Tanzania.

Abel Ahishakiye brought him to Bujumbura to present him to the SNR without the knowledge of all these SNR teams but from this day he remains untraceable.

The family's sources confirm the information and

II.2.2. PERSONS ARRESTED

A person arrested in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province

On 2 December 2024, Elias Ngendakuriyo, a representative of farmers in Nyabarere marsh and a member of CNDD-FDD party, was arrested by the Buheka branch head in Nyanza-lac, Makamba province. This arrest comes in the context of a conflict between the administrative authorities and the marsh operators, who were expropriated for the benefit of a returnee, Aron Nguribiriho.

The farmers, grouped within Turihamwe Birashoboka Buheka cooperative, have pleaded with several authorities and won their case, the special court having annulled the expropriation decision on November 20, 2024. However, the administrative authorities, in particular the administrator of Nyanza-lac commune Marie Goreth Irankunda and the governor of Makamba Tantine Ncutinamagara, continue to challenge the court decisions and sabotage the farmers' work.

The farmers accuse these administrative authorities of acting on the basis of corruption and ask the hierarchical authorities to take up the matter so that

the family is still looking for the place of detention but never finds him. The family contacted the SNR but was told to bring his father to be judged.

Abel was hiding Mirerego because he was selling these coltans for him, so it was to protect him from the SNR interrogation for fear of revealing the secret and the family fears that he preferred to kill him to distort the investigations.

they can harvest their crops that have rotted in the fields. The Minister of Interior Martin Ninteretse also raised the issue of this marsh, stressing that the expropriation decision was unfair and that a person cannot inherit a marsh of more than 20 ha to the detriment of more than two hundred farmers.

A child jailed in Muha commune, Bujumbura-mairie

Oscar Ntirenganya, aged 12, has been jailed for a month in Kinindo zone cell, Muha commune, Bujumbura-Mairie. He was employed by Raphaël Nizigama to sell eggs and peanuts. Oscar shared his tasks with Égide Miburo, a domestic worker. However, a conflict arose between the two children, as Égide also wanted to sell products and let Oscar take over the household work.

On the night of 6 November 2024, Égide cried for help, and Raphaël intervened and found that his employee had been raped by Oscar. The latter was arrested and jailed the next day without any case being filed. This case raises concerns about children's rights and detention conditions in Burundi.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

The surge in prices of basic necessities in Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 6, 2024 indicates that in Gisuru commune, the population is complaining about the surge in prices of necessities. According to sources on site, this is caused by the devaluation of the Burundian currency which is now exchanged at 300 BIF for 100 Tanzanian shillings while many basic necessities come from Tanzania, which borders this commune. Ac-

cording to sources on site, the population is also lamenting the delay in the supply of chemical fertilizers.

This same phenomenon of lack of chemical fertilizer is observed in almost all the communes of Ruyigi province, except Gisuru, there are also the communes of Kinyinya, Nyabitsinda, Butezi and Bweru. The population does not know what to do when the majority lives from agriculture.

According to the same sources, in this same commune on Gahinga hill, the administration requires breeders to pay between 25,000 Bif and 30,000 Bif to let their herds graze on grass on the mountains.

The shortage of fertilizer produced by FOMI, in Rutana province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 2, 2024 indicates that in Rutana province, people

living from agriculture are concerned about the shortage of fertilizer produced by FOMI called urea. According to sources on site, they use this fertilizer to maintain their corn fields and had paid for everything, they have receipts but are missing this product.

IV. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS

IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Two children injured in Kayanza commune and province

On 4 December 2024, at around 12:00 am, on Kirema hill, Kayanza commune and province, two boys brothers including Derrick Mugishawimana, aged 13 and Darcy Mucowimana, aged 12, sons of the late Médard Mpawenimana and Céline Nsenyumva, who is now in Tanzania, were beaten and injured by a neighbouring woman named Donavine Bigirimana Maniriho. According to sources on site, the woman suspected the boys of stealing her Android phone, while she was weeding a cornfield near the house where the children live. According to the same sources, Donavine looked for her phone in her handbag and did not find it and then accused the two children as thieves. She used the rebar and big stones, beating them and pushing the large stones into their feet and arms. The children were injured in the foot and arm and Derrick was seriously injured on the forehead. Finally, the phone was found in a ditch next to the handbag. The woman was arrested by Busimbo hill head, Diomède and the children are now hospitalized at Clinique Espoir in Kayanza.

A child stabbed by another child in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province mairie

On December 3, 2024, around 2 p.m., a tragic quarrel occurred in Mugoboka quarter, Rohero zone,

Mukaza commune, Bujumbura mairie. Consolatte Tuyishemeze, aged 12, was stabbed in the stomach by Marie Cynthia Iradukunda, aged 16, from Mabanda commune, Makamba province.

According to eyewitnesses, the victim's intestines were injured. Consolatte was evacuated to Mugoboka CDS and then transferred to Roi Khaled hospital in Kamenge, where she underwent an operation without complications. However, due to lack of financial means, she was unable to receive appropriate treatment.

The nurse Elysé Ndikumana appeals to charitable souls, benefactors and the Ministry of Solidarity to assist Consolatte, so that she can receive the medication and care necessary for her recovery. Marie Cynthia Iradukunda, the alleged perpetrator of the attack, was arrested and taken to Rohero zone cell.

A child injured in Rutana commune and province

On December 3, 2024, in Kigwati quarter, Rutana zone, commune and province, Franck Igiraneza, aged 14, was beaten up while roped by Inumire, head of the Imbonerakure in the same quarter. According to sources on site, Inumire was arrested by the police with the collaboration of the administrative authorities and taken to Rutana communal police station cell while Franck was taken to Rutana hospital for medical care.

V. CONCLUSION

Ligue Iteka notes that the human rights situation in Burundi continues to deteriorate in a worrying manner. Despite the existence of all the necessary tools and means, the perpetrators of grave crimes remain unpunished, which is unacceptable.

Ligue Iteka reiterates that the Burundian government must take firm measures to put an end to this impunity.

Ligue Iteka requests :

- ⇒ The Minister of Justice to ensure that the law is respected and applied equally to all citizens, regardless of their social or political status;
- ⇒ The Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security to guarantee public rights and freedoms to all Burundian citizens, without any form of discrimination. This implies taking concrete measures to prevent abuse of power, arbitrary arrests and violence against civilians.