

## **BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"**

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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°454 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 23 – 29 December 2024**



*In memory of Madame Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 29 december 2025, Iteka has documented at least 719 cases of enforced disappearances*

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## **ACRONYMS**

<b>BRARUDI</b>	: <i>Burundi Brewery and Lemonade</i>
<b>CENI</b>	: <i>National Independent Electoral Commission</i>
<b>CNDD-FDD</b>	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
<b>CNL</b>	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
<b>COOPEC</b>	: <i>Savings and Loan Cooperatives</i>
<b>CV</b>	: <i>Curriculum Vitae</i>
<b>ECOFO</b>	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
<b>FDLR</b>	: <i>Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda</i>
<b>FLN</b>	: <i>National Liberation Forces</i>
<b>GBV</b>	: <i>Gender Based Violence</i>
<b>OPJ</b>	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
<b>SNR</b>	: <i>National Intelligence Agency</i>
<b>TGI</b>	: <i>High Court</i>
<b>UPRONA</b>	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>

## 0. INTRODUCTION

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

Thus, during the reporting period covered of this bulletin, the human rights and security situation was reported as follows: at least 5 people were killed, including 2 found dead, 2 victims of GBV, 1 person

abducted and/or missing, and 1 victim of arbitrary arrest.

Among the victims, there were 2 children killed, 1 member of CNDD-FDD party killed, 1 member of CNL party tortured and 1 Imbonerakure abducted.

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

## I. CONTEXT

Security and human rights issues were reported in Burundi during this weekly report. A CNDD-FDD party member was killed in Makamba, and dead bodies were found in Mutimbuzi and Rugombo. In addition, two Imbonerakure were beaten in Rugombo.

Other incidents were also reported, including a threat to the economic stability of Bukinanyana and

Mabayi communes due to Kibira forest. A Congolese escaped death in Buganda, and one person was injured in Rutana. A boy died following an offensive grenade explosion in Vugizo, and a child was killed in Butaganzwa.

In addition, Cibitoke province experienced a shortage of fuel and BRARUDI beverages. A case of natural disaster was also reported.

### I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

#### **President Ndayishimiye appears in a public broadcast**

On December 27, 2024, the President of the Republic of Burundi, Evariste Ndayishimiye, answered questions from the population and journalists at Lycée Scheppers in Nyakabiga, Bujumbura. He began by wishing Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025 to all Burundians, promising that the year 2025 would be a "year of change" in all sectors, with the motto: "A year of the worker".

The President addressed various topics, including justice, administration, economy, the fight against corruption, diplomacy, the fuel crisis, the pricing program, the foreign currency issue and the exploitation of ore deposits.

On justice, he denounced illegal detentions and corrupt practices in courts and tribunals. He promised to prosecute magistrates and other defaulting civil servants.

Concerning administration, he warned civil servants who leave their workplaces to go to bars during working hours. He set a deadline of 100 days for executives of institutions to present projects that meet the citizens' expectations.

The President also addressed the issue of corruption, promising to create a commission to investigate executives responsible for economic misuses. He made the opening of the borders with Rwanda conditional on the handover of those responsible for the 2015 coup.

Finally, he announced a new agreement with SOTREVO Mining Company Limited for the exploitation of minerals in Murehe, in Kirundo province. However, the President's answers were considered evasive by the population, who are waiting for concrete answers to concerns about SOTREVO's experience.

## 1.2. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

### **Towards the exploitation of minerals from Murehe site in Kirundo province?**

Mining in Burundi is mainly focused on precious and strategic minerals such as nickel, tungsten, coltan and gold. This industry plays a crucial and essential role in the country's dynamic and changing economy, contributing significantly to economic growth and the development of key infrastructure. However, the mining sector faces many major and complex challenges such as poor governance that has persisted for many years, rampant corruption that splashes almost all levels of the industry and the lack of transparency that seriously harms operations. The regulation and management of mining is often hampered by corrupt practices that certainly undermine the essential integrity of the licensing and concession process necessary to ensure fair and transparent operations. Furthermore, the profits from the mining industry do not benefit the entire population equitably, which alarmingly exacerbates already existing social and economic tensions, leading to deep imbalances and injustices within local communities who often feel neglected and marginalized<sup>1</sup>.

Corruption has a major and devastating impact on mining in Burundi, a country that already suffers from economic and social development largely hampered by many complex and interconnected challenges. This phenomenon creates insecurity and instability that significantly discourages foreign investment, so that the financing and resources needed to improve this industry are scarce. As a result, this causes alarming disruptions in mining production, which is proving to be a nightmare for the national economy that is already struggling to recover. Furthermore, corruption results in a poor distribution of income from mining, thus depriving Burundi of vital and essential resources necessary for its sustainable development, social well-being and prosperous future.

#### **Case study:**

The Burundian government recently granted SOTREVO Mining Company Limited a mining permit to extract minerals in Murehe. However, this

decision raises concerns about the transparency, competitiveness and reliability of the process.

The granting of the permit without a call for tenders or open competition raises doubts about the integrity of the selection process. The absence of a competition then implies the absence of an objective assessment of the diversified technical capacities of several companies based on maximum performance criteria, which could have a considerable impact on the effective exploitation of these minerals. In addition, the feasibility study carried out by SOTREVO was not independently verified, which could undermine the objectivity of the results.

Questions also arise about the origin of SOTREVO, its owners and its technical experience. Contradictions between official speeches add to the uncertainty.

In the press release, it is presented that SOTREVO company sent, on October 19, 2024, a letter to the ministry in charge of mines to express its interest in exploiting Murehe deposit. However, during the public broadcast on December 27, 2024, the President of the Republic indicated that it was rather the Burundian State that took the initiative to contact experts from SOTREVO company<sup>2</sup>.

Also during this broadcast, President Evariste Ndayishimiye as well as the minister in charge of mines were unable to shed light on the origin of SOTREVO company, its owners, its technical experience as well as the criteria for granting Murehe site to this company.

We should recall that on July 16, 2024, the managers of BUMECO mining company (Burundi Metal Company), operating in the Northeast of Burundi, revealed to the Head of State the existence of cassiterite and coltan ores in a concession of Murehe National Park. This revelation reported an estimated quantity of 12,700,000 tons for an amount of more than 50 billion dollars. These declarations on these quantities as well as State revenues are theoretical given that they should normally appear in a feasibility study document and submitted to the OBM for analysis. However, this document was not

<sup>1</sup>A. Aknin, "The "resource curse" in developing mining countries," in \*The economics of mineral resources and the challenge of sustainability...\*, 2021.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.youtube.com/live/mXHEZNvIkBk>, [2:00 :15 – 2 :02 :07]



available.

To improve transparency in mining in Burundi, Ligue Iteka recommends that the Government strengthen the implementation and monitoring of

### ***1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT***

#### **Seven UPRONA party members illegally imprisoned in Bururi commune and province**

Daniel Nitunga, Emmanuel Ndimubandi, Élie Nzeyimana, Albert Ndayishimiye, Abdoul Kwizera, François Manirambona and Dieu-Aimé Nsengiyumva all members of UPRONA party of Mugozi hill, Bururi commune and province have all been acquitted since July 4, 2024 by Bururi Court of Appeal but are still in Rumonge prison.

The Attorney General at Bururi Court of Appeal

### ***1.4. SECURITY CONTEXT***

#### **A member of CNDD-FDD party killed in Vugizo commune, Makamba province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 26, 2024 indicates that on December 22, 2024, around 8 p.m., on Jongwe hill and zone, Vugizo commune, Makamba province, a man named Joël was killed with a machete by his older brother Gad.

According to witnesses, the source of the incident was land disputes where the victim's parents loved him more than his older brother, hence the manifestation of grief.

The trigger was the victim's animals, which damaged his older brother's fields, and upon arrival after his wife's report, Gad planned to kill his brother with a machete and then escaped.

After the police search, bloody clothes were discovered in her house and the woman failed to answer the various police questions. For the moment the alleged perpetrator of the incident is on the run while his wife is in the hands of the police for investigation reasons. They are all members of CNDD-FDD party.

#### **A body found in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura-rural**

On December 27, 2024, near Muzazi River, separating Muzinda zone, Rugazi commune, Bubanza province and Rubirizi zone, Mutimbuzi commune,

national and international regulations. This includes the establishment of independent monitoring mechanisms to control mining activities, as well as the adoption of more rigorous anti-corruption policies.

Emmanuel Iradukunda says that the decision to keep them in prison is from above, which he does not specify.

These men prosecuted for cases of machete murder in May 2023 on this hill had also been acquitted by Bururi TGI.

Their family members are requesting the intervention of civil society organizations as they are being illegally imprisoned, especially since they even are in possession of non-appeal certificates.

Bujumbura rural province, a body of an unidentified man of about 40 years old, was discovered.

According to eyewitnesses, the man was hit on the head because the victim's body had significant bleeding in the ears and nose. The police, accompanied by local authorities, went to the scene to carry out initial investigations. The body was transferred to the mortuary of a local hospital in Mutimbuzi.

#### **A body found in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province**

On December 24, 2024, a man in his thirties was found dead, hanging from a tree, on Mparambo I hill in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province.

According to an eyewitness, the body, in an advanced state of decomposition, was located about 500 meters from RN5 Bujumbura-Rugombo national road.

According to initial findings, the victim, whose identity has yet to be established, was wearing clean clothes, suggesting that he could be a person with a certain level of education. The exact circumstances of his death remain unclear. The inhabitants of the region, shocked by this macabre discovery, hypothesize a murder followed by a movement of the body.

Rugombo communal administrator confirmed the discovery of the body and the authorities buried it

on December 25, 2024, after disinfecting the premises for health reasons.

He also indicated that an investigation was underway to determine the exact causes of death and identify those responsible.

### **Two Imbonerakure beaten in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province**

On the night of December 22 to 23, 2024, Alphonse Kubwi alias Cuma and Matwi Gikoko, Imbonerakure were beaten after being caught red-handed stealing mangoes on Rusiga hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province.

According to the testimonies collected, the two men were surprised by local residents while they were carrying five bags full of mangoes stolen from private fields. The latter, exasperated by the repeated

#### ***1.4.1. OTHER SECURITY FACTS***

### **The Kibira Forest, a threat to the economic stability of the communes of Bukinanyana and Mabayi, Cibitoke province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 29, 2024 indicates that the proximity of Bukinanyana and Mabayi communes to the Kibira forest favors the presence of armed groups such as the FLN and the FDRL.

Local populations, tempted by the sums of money offered by these groups in exchange for food and information, are in serious danger.

In Mabayi commune, fear has gripped residents for several weeks. Many men have fled their homes for fear of being arrested by SNR agents and the police, accused of collaborating with the rebels.

Faced with this situation, the authorities seem to turn a blind eye, leaving the population to suffer the consequences of this insecurity. In addition, the presence of rebels, who use foreign currency to buy goods on local markets, contributes to price rise, thus penalizing civilian populations.

### **A Congolese escapes death in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province**

On December 26, 2026, a Congolese trader nar-

railed the thefts committed in the region, allegedly carried out a lynching. The victims were rushed to a health facility where they are currently hospitalized in serious condition. Although the authorities managed to evacuate them from the hands of the mob, the victims are in critical condition.

The communal administrator of Rugombo confirmed these events and called on the population not to take justice into their own hands. He also assured that investigations were underway to shed light on this case and bring the perpetrators to justice.

For several days, the inhabitants of the region have been accusing young members of the ruling party of being behind numerous thefts in the fields. They deplore the impunity enjoyed by the latter and threaten to continue taking justice into their own hands if they do not see concrete action from the authorities.

rowly escaped lynching allegedly orchestrated by Imbonerakure, on Ruhagarika hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province.

The incident occurred late in the afternoon, as the victim was crossing Rusizi River to Burundi.

According to witnesses, Imbonerakure tried to rob him his money and beat him up. To escape these attackers, the Congolese trader was forced to jump into the river and swim back to the Congolese bank. This act of violence sparked great indignation within the local community. Residents fear that this attack will trigger reprisals against Burundian traders operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Contacted on this issue, the communal administrator of Buganda, Pamphile Hakizimana, indicated that he had not been informed of this incident. However, he assured that investigations will be conducted to shed light on this matter.

These events are part of a context marked by a resurgence of violence at the border, attributed in particular to the Imbonerakure. Many traders, both Burundian and Congolese, have been victims of attacks and thefts in this region.

### **A person injured in Rutana commune and province**

On December 27, 2024, around 8 a.m., on Nyarubere hill, Rutana zone, commune and province, Anicet Niragira, a member of CNDD-FDD party, was beaten and injured in the head, face, arms and legs by the population.

According to sources on site, he was caught in a cornfield stealing the corn harvest. He was taken to

Rutana communal police station cell but he was not received because he was injured and the OPJ ordered him to be taken to Rutana hospital.

Jean Bigirimana and Elias Ndayizeye who were among those who beat him, were arrested and taken to Rutana communal police station cell.

Anicet was among those who had just been released by the decision of the President of the Republic of Burundi and had also been jailed for theft.

## **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**

#### **A girl raped in Rumonge commune and province**

On the night of December 28, 2024, around 2 a.m., on Kanyenkoko hill, Rumonge commune and province, A.C.C.I, a 15-year-old domestic worker, was raped by Fenja Nibogora, her employer.

According to the victim, her boss took advantage of his wife's absence because she was hospitalized at Rumonge hospital. The alleged perpetrator was arrested by the joint hill security committee and then taken to Rumonge police station cell where he is jailed. As for the girl, she was taken to Rumonge hospital for medical treatment.

Ryakabamba II, was raped by an unknown person.

According to an eyewitness, the victim was returning from school when she met the attacker. A 12-year-old boy, Gilbert Irakoze, who studies at the same school, discovered D. lying down and crying. He alerted a lady named Elysée, who called the victim's parents to take her to the hospital.

At Matongo hospital, the nurse confirmed the rape. However, D. accused Gilbert of being the perpetrator of the rape, but the nurse after consulting Gilbert, the nurse ruled out this possibility due to the severity of the injuries and Gilbert's age.

#### **A girl raped in Matongo commune, Kayanza province**

On December 11, 2024, around 12 noon, information received by Ligue Iteka indicating that on Bandaga hill, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, a 7-year-old girl, D.N., a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student at ECOFO

The Imbonerakure came to arrest Gilbert, but the nurse testified in his favor. Deborah eventually admitted that she had not seen her attacker's face and had mistakenly accused Gilbert. The victim was transferred to Kayanza Hospital to continue her treatment.



### ***II.1.2. TORTURED PEOPLE***

#### **A member of CNL party tortured in Musigati commune, Bubanza province**

On December 25, 2024, around 8 p.m., on Buhurika hill, Musigati zone, Bubanza province, Ernest Ntaconayigize, a member of CNL party, was tortured in a bar by Buhurika hill head, Japhet Niyonkuru, accompanied by several Imbonerakure including Désiré Niyongabo, leader of Imbonerakure on this hill, Flora, sister of the hill head, Elias Minani nicknamed Munagaza, Mayondori nicknamed Kamenge, Fabrice, Léonidas and Francine, all members of CNDD-FDD party.

According to eyewitnesses, they beat him with

sticks until he lost consciousness and rushed him to Musigati communal hospital, for fear that he would die on the spot.

Japhet had a financial dispute with the victim and he had used the justice system against the hill head to recover a sum of money he owed him. The debt was repaid and Niyonkuru has not stopped blaming him for humiliating him. The Imbonerakures have been arrested and are being questioned by the OPJ. The population is waiting for the action of the communal administrator of Musigati, Joachim Nduwumukama, to take firm measures against this hill head where he is also a native.

### ***II.2. RIGHT TO FREEDOM***

#### ***II.2.1. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING***

#### **An Imbonerakure abducted in Bugendana commune, Gitega province**

On December 24, 2024, around 2 p.m., at Bugendana center, Bitare hill and zone, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, Philotert Hakizimana, aged 24, a Lumicash agent and member of Imbonerakure militia, was abducted by unidentified persons.

According to sources on site, since 1 p.m., those who were at the center saw a vehicle that was parked on the premises. Then this Hilux double cabin vehicle left this place.

When Philotert was coming from Bitare market, the same vehicle returned. Since Philotert was working as a Lumicash agent at this center, he went to the super-giant to take a sum of money with a completed payment slip to be paid into COOPEC account located at this center some 30 meters away.

According to the same sources, while crossing the road to enter the COOPEC, a man in civilian clothes called Philotert and then forced him to get into the vehicle. Philotert entered after calling a COOPEC teller to give her this money with the completed payment slip and then the vehicle left at

high speed. Since that day, he has been unreachable on his phones.

#### **A person abducted and found in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura-mairie**

On December 24, 2024, Don Fleury Niyuhire, a 26-year-old trader, residing in Jabe III quarter and working at Ruvumera market in Buyenzi zone, was abducted by unidentified people on December 24, 2024.

According to his family's testimony, the young man answered a phone call inviting him to go to Siyoni market. Since then, he has not given any sign of life. On December 25, 2024, the family finally found Don Fleury at a police position.

According to witnesses, the young man had been arrested by the police during a patrol, but had been robbed his personal belongings, including his two cell phones and the money he had on him. The reasons for this arrest and the exact circumstances of his arrest remain unclear. The victim's family urges competent authorities to conduct a thorough investigation in order to shed light on this case and find the perpetrators of this despicable act.

## ***II.2.2. ARBITRARY ARRESTS***

### **A person arrested in Giharo commune, Rutana province**

On December 24, 2024, on Muzye hill, Giharo commune, Rutana province, Charifu Abudoule, representative of the mosque of Muzye hill and zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province was arrested by the police officers under the order of Olivier Nibitanga, Governor of the said province.

According to the same sources, each person wanted to go ahead to be served and Olivier Nibitanga, Governor of Rutana province was there that day, in order to follow the progress of these activities which had just started a few days ago but there were

complaints that the fertilizer is poorly distributed, that the quantity is insufficient and is reserved for the authorities only.

Returning to order, this governor beat these people and that is how Charifu Abudoule told this Governor that these people should not be beaten because they paid their money so that their fields are well maintained.

Afterwards, this Governor ordered the police to arrest Abudoule and took him to the police station cell in Muzye before being released towards the evening of the same day.

## ***III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS***

### ***III.1. DEFICIENCY AND SURGE IN PRODUCT PRICES***

#### **Shortage of fuel and Brarudi beverages in Cibitoke province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 29, 2024 indicates that recurring shortages of fuel and BRARUDI beverages have led to multiple abuses and violations of citizens' rights since early December 2024.

The transport sector is particularly affected. Transporters, accused of using fuel illegally imported from neighboring countries, are subject to excessive fines, confiscation of their vehicles or fuel. Faced with this situation, passengers are forced to travel in deplorable conditions: overcrowding in vehicles and exorbitant fares, sometimes tripled.

As for the shortage of BRARUDI beverages, it is less a real shortage than organized speculation. Traders, often in collusion with local authorities, hide products to resell them on the black market at exorbitant prices. This practice benefits a small circle of individuals while heavily penalizing consumers.

Bukinanyana stands out for its relatively low level of discontent compared to other communes in Bujumbura province. This situation is largely explained by the fact that the Prime Minister, who is from this commune, exercises considerable influence over local decisions. Through his personal investments in various sectors (sugar, beverages, build-

ing materials, fuel), he helps improve the living conditions of residents and mitigate the effects of shortages affecting other regions.

#### **Farmers' discontent in Makamba province**

Farmers in Makamba province in Burundi are facing a serious shortage of fertilizers, particularly urea, which is essential for crop growth. This situation, which has persisted since the start of the 2025A growing season, jeopardizes their yields and threatens their food security.

More than 45% of fertilizer needs are not met in the province, leading to a significant decrease in agricultural yields and reducing farmers' incomes. Farmers express frustration and despair over this situation, which increases their vulnerability to climatic hazards and plant diseases.

The shortage of urea highlights the vulnerabilities of the agricultural sector and the social and economic consequences it can cause. There is an urgent need to find solutions to ensure a regular supply of fertilizers and thus support farmers in their efforts to ensure their livelihoods and that of their families.

#### **Price rise of various products in Burundi**

The end-of-year festivities happen in hard times for Burundian buyers. Low purchasing power prevents them from purchasing clothing and food products,

which have seen their prices soar. For example, a kilo of meat has gone from 20,000 to 230,000 francs, and a bunch of bananas now costs between 35,000 and 40,000 francs.

Brewery products, such as beer, have been unobtainable since Christmas, forcing bar owners to sell drinks from Tanzania. In addition, prices for Brarudi products are speculated, with bottles of Amstel and Primus sold at exorbitant prices.

Elders in Buragane region deplore the current situation, which contrasts with the Christmas and New Year celebrations of the past, when Burundians celebrated with products from their own plantations. They criticize the administrative and police authorities for their inability to regulate prices and combat speculation.

### **Speculations by the administration officials of the commune on BRARUDI drinks in Bururi province**

Traders in Bururi commune accuse the communal administrator of speculating on Brarudi drinks. Felix Niyongabo, owner of a bar located near Bururi car park, testifies that consumers suspect the administrator of hiding stocks of drinks to artificially increase prices, especially during the festivities. They are asking that measures be taken to sanction these practices.

### **Shortage of Brarudi drinks in Karuzi province**

An unprecedented shortage of Brarudi drinks hit the province of Karuzi during the week of December 23

## ***III.2. NO ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN***

### **Severe shortage of benches and desks in Rumonge commune and province**

The commune of Rumonge in Burundi is facing an unprecedented educational crisis. The severe shortage of benches and desks, estimated at more than 7,570, jeopardizes the quality of education and the learning conditions of students.

This shortage affects all schools, both fundamental and post-fundamental, and forces students to sit on stones. The communal director of education, Mrs. Nintunze, stressed that this lack of equipment is one of the main causes of academic failure.

Despite the efforts of some organizations, such as

to 29, 2024. Residents across the province were faced with a total stock shortage, forcing them to change their consumption habits during the end-of-year festivities and only used plastic drinks and juices.

### **Lack of drinking water in Bururi commune and province**

Since December 24, 2024, the inhabitants of Kabuye and Rumonyi, in Bururi commune and province, have been facing a serious shortage of drinking water. This situation is due to the decision of the communal administration to cut off the water supply to RUSESO-KABUYE-MUTUTU network, justified by the refusal of the inhabitants to pay a flat-rate fee of 20,000 BIF per month for each household equipped with a tap.

However, the inhabitants protest this decision, arguing that they have never received detailed bills and that a sum of 70,000 BIF per household had already been claimed in August 2024. They also point out that the commune has stopped managing the drinking water network since 2021, following a national directive prohibiting communes from collecting water fees.

Residents of Kabuye and Rumonyi are ready to pay bills as soon as the commune takes over effective water management and sets up a transparent billing system. They are calling for the intervention of the provincial administration to resolve this conflict and guarantee access to drinking water, a fundamental right.

Messi microfinance, which donated 200 desks, the situation remains worrying. The politicization of the education system, with educational leaders mainly from the ruling party, also contributes to the deterioration of the school environment.

Added to this problem is the phenomenon of politicization in schools. Indeed, the educational leaders are mostly from the ruling party, CNDD-FDD. This biased affiliation has direct consequences on the school environment and the quality of teaching.

Schools have become spaces for political propaganda where the party ideology is systematically disseminated. The regular holding of political meetings within schools, the creation of partisan committees

in each class and the denigration of teachers who are not members of the party are evidence of this.

It is urgent that local authorities and education stakeholders take measures to improve learning conditions and guarantee all children access to quality education.

### **Teacher recruitment in Burundi: a system riddled with corruption**

The education sector in Burundi faces significant challenges, particularly in the recruitment of teachers. Despite the urgent need for teaching staff, the recruitment process is often marred by corruption and favoritism.

Recent cases have highlighted these practices. In

some communes, such as Bukinanyana, Cibitoke and Mugina, volunteer teachers work in precarious conditions, while new recruitments favor those close to local officials or those who have paid bribes.

A glaring example is that of Mabayi, where two new sections opened without qualified teachers. The communal director preferred to recruit his niece, economist, rather than respect the waiting list established in accordance with the ministerial order.

This situation is not isolated, and many school directors denounce a gap between the real needs expressed and the decisions taken. It is urgent to put an end to these corruptible practices and to guarantee transparent and fair recruitment of teachers to improve the quality of education in Burundi.

## **IV. COLLECTIVE RIGHTS**

### **IV.1. NATURAL DISASTER**

#### **A torrential rain mixed with strong wind and hail caused damage in Bukemba commune, Rutana province**

On December 29, 2024, around 3 p.m., on almost all the hills of Butare zone, Bukemba commune, Rutana province, a torrential rain mixed with strong wind and hail caused human and material damage.

According to eyewitnesses, while the sun was shining, a torrential rain mixed with very strong wind and hail fell and caused human and material damage.

Churches were completely demolished, for example the Charismatic church located in Kinyarwanda collapsed and some followers lost their lives on the spot, others lost consciousness, others were seriously injured.

Various schools were hit and demolished, for example five classrooms of Butare primary school, houses were hit and demolished by the wind, cornfields were ravaged, so many people did not have where to spend the night, food, and shelter.

## **V. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS**

### **V.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

#### **A boy died following the explosion of an offensive grenade in Vugizo commune, Makamba province**

On December 20, 2024, around 9 a.m., on Kiyazi hill, Vugizo commune, Makamba province, in a household on Kiyazi hill, a grenade exploded and killed Faless, aged 15.

He lives only 3 km from Inanzerwe mountain range. Passing by, the boy discovered this grenade and considered it a precious object and put it in his pocket to keep it in his room.

The next day, when sellers of old metal objects passed by, this boy began to prepare his objects and during this time, the grenade he had in his hands exploded as he was checking its weight on the scale. Joint investigations by the police of Vugizo police station and the administration are underway.

#### **A child killed in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 25, 2024 indicates that on December 4, 2024 on Kiryama hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza

province, Ariella Izonyongera, aged 15, a domestic worker, accidentally killed Butoyi, aged 2.

According to sources on site, Ariella knocked the child to the ground, head first, and he died on the spot. Now Ariella is jailed in Kayanza province cell.

## *V. CONCLUSION*

Ligue Iteka notes and denounces the persistent deterioration of human rights across the country. It condemns the impunity of the perpetrators of crimes and launches an urgent appeal :

- ⇒ To the Burundian Government to guarantee respect for human rights, including freedom of expression, association and assembly;
- ⇒ To the Government of Gitega to put an end to impunity by bringing to justice and holding accountable for their actions the perpetrators of human rights violation;
- ⇒ To the same government to take measures to improve the security situation in the country, including by combating violence and crime;
- ⇒ To the Government to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of national and international regulations;
- ⇒ To the government to set up independent monitoring mechanisms to control mining activities, as well as the adoption of more rigorous anti-corruption policies;
- ⇒ To the Government of Burundi to put an end to the practice of politicizing the education system in schools and guarantee the right to quality education to the children, future executives of this country.