

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°457 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 13 – 19 January 2025



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 15 January 2025, Iteka has documented at least 719 cases of enforced disappearances

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ACRONYMS

BRARUDI	: <i>Burundi Brewery and Lemonade</i>
CDP	: <i>Council of Patriots</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
FDLR	: <i>Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda</i>
FDNB	: <i>Burundi National Defense Forces</i>
FLN	: <i>National Liberation Force</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
RADEBU	: <i>Rally of Democrats for Development in Burundi</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin provides an overview of the security and human rights situation in a recent period. It covers civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights, and ends with a conclusion.

The main highlights of this period are as follows: at least 8 people lost their lives, including 3 found

dead, 2 victims of gender-based violence, 3 tortured, 3 abducted and 2 arbitrarily arrested. Among the victims, there is a girl and a woman killed, a member of CNL killed and another tortured, as well as two members of CDP arbitrarily arrested. The Imbonerakure, administrative officials, police and military are suspected of being the perpetrators of most of these human rights violations.

1. CONTEXT

Over the past week, Burundi has witnessed heightened security tensions and a series of human rights violations. Several violent incidents have been reported, including the discovery of bodies in the provinces of Makamba and Cibitoke. In Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, two individuals were killed, and five others were injured. Knife attacks have also been reported across provinces, including Gite-

ga, Makamba, Cibitoke, and Karuzi.

Additionally, Cibitoke province is grappling with a severe fuel shortage, coupled with a sharp rise in the prices of essential goods. Lives have been lost in attempts to secure supplies from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Disputes over fields purchased by the President of the Republic in Karuzi province

A land dispute opposes Ndizeye Mathias, member of CNDD FDD, to the President of the Republic on Shanga hill, Rutonganikwa zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province. Mathias, aged 62, supported by his lawyer, has submitted a letter to the communal administrator requesting the cancellation of the purchase of his property by the President, with a copy to the Governor and the president of the court of residence in this commune.

According to local sources, Mathias' property is next to another property purchased by the President, be-

longing to Bashishikare Nestor, also a member of CNDD FDD. Nestor allegedly usurped Mathias' land to sell it to the President. Mathias has already taken the case to the Hill Court, which ruled in his favor, returning the property to him. However, Nestor complained to the prosecutor, who summoned Mathias. Before the investigations were completed, Nestor sold the property to the president.

Mathias now plans to appeal to the presidential authorities if the communal administrator fails to make a favorable decision. This case raises questions about land management and conflicts of interest in Burundi.

1.2. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Search of Brarudi products and fuel in Muramvya commune and province

The week from January 13 to 19, 2025, was marked by an intense search for BRARUDI products and fuel across nearly all communes in Muramvya. Public Prosecutor Jean Paul Bizindavyi, accompanied by a large number of police officers, led raids to uncover these products hidden in private homes.

On January 14, 2025, authorities seized 86 crates of Amstel, 47 crates of Primus, and 26 crates of Small

Amstel in Shombo and Bugarama zones of Muramvya commune. Additionally, in Bukeye commune, 28 crates of Amstel and 34 crates of Primus were confiscated. These products, along with all the empties, were auctioned the following day by Muramvya prosecutor's office.

On January 16, 2025, 224 liters of gasoline, 28 empty cans, and 665,000 Burundian Francs were seized at Kingfisher gas station in Bugarama. Judicial sources revealed that the fuel was being sold illegally at night in cans.

The gas station owner, Niyonzima Tite, is currently in police custody in Muramvya. It is important to note that no gas stations have been operational since the beginning of the year, causing significant travel disruptions.

Fuel Crisis Shortage and Transport Paralysis in Cibitoke Province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 19, 2025, reveals that the fuel shortage in the six communes of Cibitoke province has paralyzed transportation and caused a dramatic increase in travel costs, with prices tripling. Faced with this critical situation, the population is expressing its frustration and despair. When contacted for comment, the Governor stated that the measures implemented were intended to protect the national economy.

Since January 17, the six communes in Cibitoke province have been facing a complete fuel shortage. All the twelve gas stations in the region are out of fuel, crippling the transportation sector. Mini-buses, cars, and motorcycle taxis are all immobilized, unable to operate due to the lack of fuel. This crisis, which has persisted for over two weeks, is directly linked to the authorities' decision to ban the clandestine importation of fuel from the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is then sold locally.

The population's anger is mounting, particularly after the arrest and imprisonment of 30 bus and motorcycle taxi drivers accused of engaging in fuel fraud. At the same time, fuel and transport prices have surged. A liter and a half of gasoline now costs between 45,000 and 50,000 BIF, while the 80 km trip from Rugombo to Bujumbura now costs between 30,000 and 45,000 BIF, depending on the mode of transport. Motorcycle taxi fares have also tripled.

1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT

FDNB press conference denouncing disinformation against soldiers operating in the DRC

On January 16, 2025, FDNB spokesperson Brigadier General Gaspard Baratuza held a press briefing to denounce misinformation against Burundian soldiers operating in the DRC.

He indicated that recent information circulating on social media are tarnishing the image of Burundian soldiers on a peacekeeping mission in the DRC as

The fuel shortage has had disastrous consequences for farmers and traders in the region. Mangoes and tomatoes, due to lack of transport, are rotting on-site, causing significant financial losses. Many farmers and small traders, already weakened by their debts, find themselves in a critical situation. The losses are immense for farmers and small traders who are already insolvent with financial institutions and who will no longer be able to repay the credits taken to conduct their business. However, the Governor of Cibitoke calls on local authorities and border guards to intensify the fight against this smuggling, which he considers as a threat to the national economy. He warned that severe sanctions will be imposed on cross-border traffickers.

Use of State vehicles in public transport

In this period when travel has become difficult due to the lack of petroleum products including gasoline and fuel oil, some ill-intentioned State officials use State vehicles for public transport to make money. The most recent case occurred on January 17, 2025 around 9 a.m., at Kanyosha seminary. According to an eyewitness, people are waiting for vehicles to take them. As soon as it arrived, a white double cabin vehicle, with license plate C461AGB driven by a police officer in the police uniform for the protection of institutions. One of the passengers calling customers to board the vehicles commonly called "Abakokaye" approaches the vehicle which heading towards Kanyosha. After a brief conversation with the policeman driving the vehicle, the policeman made a U-turn to position the vehicle to head toward the city center. Meanwhile, the individual began calling out to passengers, saying: "2,000 for the front cabin and 1,000 for the back." The vehicle then departed after passengers had boarded both the front and the back parts of the vehicle.

part of bilateral cooperation between Burundi and the DRC. The Brigadier General said that the images of Burundian soldiers allegedly dead in the DRC are nothing more than lies aimed at discouraging the troops and sowing division among citizens.

He further specified that the Burundian soldiers deployed in the DRC are carrying out their mission with unfailing professionalism and that their performance is positively welcomed by the beneficiary

population.

Gaspard Baratuza thus closed his press briefing by condemning the authors of the messages of hatred and denigration of his valiant soldiers known to be very disciplined, as well as the misleading numbers posted on social networks of the probable losses in human lives and material of the FDNB.

It should be recalled that on August 15, 2022, the Burundian Defense Forces contingent officially began entering the DRC as part of the force-sharing initiative advocated by the Heads of State of the East African Community (EAC). President Evariste Ndayishimiye justified Burundi's intervention in the DRC during the celebration of the 62nd anniversary of independence, stating: "When the neighbor's house is burning, you must hurry to help to put out

the fire, as its flames could spread to your own home... The DRC has been attacked, and Burundi has sent troops to help, so that what it is suffering does not spread to our country."

In conclusion, the FDNB press briefing comes a few days after fighting raged in the east of the DRC where Congolese forces and their allies in general and Burundian soldiers in particular are said to be suffering heavy losses inflicted by the M23 considered to be supported by Rwanda despite the latter's constant denials. In order to counter the destabilizing effects of the rumors mentioned by the FDNB spokesperson, it is imperative that Burundi implements a transparent and permanent communication strategy, which would help to allay the doubts of Burundian public opinion on the military operations in the DRC of which Burundi is a part.

1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A body of a member of CNL party found in Muha commune, Bujumbura-mairie

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 13, 2025 indicates that on January 10, 2025, in Musama quarter, Kanyosha zone, Mugere commune, Bujumbura-mairie, the body of Georges Bigirimana, recently separated from his wife, a member of CNL party was found in his house. According to eyewitnesses, the neighbors forced the door and saw the body of the victim after there had been a time without seeing him and they smelled the nauseating odor. According to the same witnesses, the body showed signs of strangulation and the front door was broken. An investigation was opened by the police to determine the exact circumstances of this death. The family, informed late, deplores that the body was buried in Gisyo without their consent and requests that the remains be exhumed for a dignified funeral.

A body of a police officer found in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura-mairie.

On January 19, 2025, around 6 a.m., in quarter 7, Buyenzi zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura-mairie, the body of Warrant Officer Jean Claude Ndayizeye, aged 38 and from Gishubi in Gitega province was found in a gutter. According to a source on site, assigned to the PSR, this police offi-

cer was killed and thrown into this gutter and his body showed no injuries. The victim had spent the evening of January 18 in Bwiza quenching his thirst in a bar. His body was taken by the police to Prince Louis Rwagasore clinic mortuary.

A girl committed suicide in Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province

On January 15, 2025, in a bush, on Buyongwe hill, Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province, a body of Annick Nitunga, aged 22, from Nyuro hill, Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province, was found by people looking for firewood, hanging from a tree with a rope. According to her will, the cause of the suicide was that she was impregnated by her fiancé Roger Irambona and abandoned by him. Annick had been missing since December 30, 2024, as evidenced by the will she left before her death. Roger Irambona is a native of Buyongwe hill, in Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province, the hill on which Annick committed after spending a few days with Roger Irambona's parents. Roger Irambona left his parents' home for a place unknown to the girl. The victim's body was found after two weeks and her body was decomposed. She was buried on January 15, 2025 on the same hill of Buyongwe, by her parents but the Croix Cankuzo first disinfected the body.

1.3.2. PEOPLE KILLED FOLLOWING THE SETTLEMENT OF SCORES

Two people killed in Kirundo commune and province

On January 6, 2025, on Rurira hill, Kirundo commune and province, Nkundubumwe Venant and his

wife Marguerite were beheaded by Miburo Pierre and Nkeraguhiga Gaspard accusing them of fetishists. According to witnesses, the latter went to Kirundo provincial police. They were jailed and investigations continue to make the case file.

1.3.3. OTHER SECURITY FACTS

Rebel patrol in Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province

Recent information received by Ligue Iteka on January 19, 2025 reveals that patrols on the border between Burundi and Rwanda, particularly in Kibira region (Mabayi-Bukinanyana), are largely carried out by rebels from the National Liberation Forces (FLN) and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). According to sources close to the Burundian military, the positions of these rebels have been reinforced in recent days by two or three soldiers tasked with sharing intelligence. In addition, these rebels use equipment such as tents, uniforms and raincoats from the National Defense Force (FDN).

It is also reported that elements of these rebel groups have been integrated into the ranks of the FDN to ensure their communication. These rebels carry out patrols along the Rwandan-Burundian border and receive supplies from Imbonerakures and civilians with whom they collaborate for money.

This situation raises concerns about security and stability in the region. It is essential that the authorities take measures to resolve this problem and guarantee the safety of the local populations.

Leaflets to lynch people in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province

On January 3, 2025, on Rugasa hill, Kigoma zone, Bugabira commune, KIRUNDO province, an unsigned letter was found on this hill in which Miburo, David, Ncamihigo and Cambu were warned that once another person dies, they will be killed too. In this leaflet, they were accused of fetishism. A security meeting was held by the administrator on January 5, 2025 to calm the situation but there were whispers that they had to be killed. In December, bees attacked a woman and she died because she was with the others at her daughter's funeral.

Theft of crop fields by Imbonerakure in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province,

On January 18, 2025, around nightfall, on Manege hill, Murwi commune, Cibitoke province, Sylvestre Nsanzurwimo, alias Kadafi, and Fabien Kabuyu, Imbonerakure were arrested stealing in the fields and beaten up by residents. According to an eyewitness, the attacks occurred while the victims were caught committing acts of vandalism in tomato and banana fields. The communal administrator confirms this information but denies that the individuals in question are not Imbonerakure while the inhabitants of the region are demanding exemplary sanctions. Injured by the population, they were taken to a local health facility. These incidents have been increasing in recent days in the region and are causing concern among residents who are demanding that those responsible be brought to justice. The communal administrator of Murwi, Melchiad Nzokizwanayo, confirmed the arrest of the individuals caught stealing crops on Manege hill. He called on the population to trust the judicial authorities and avoid acts of personal justice.

Theft from households and shops in the commune and province of Ruyigi.

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 13, 2025 indicates that since early January 2025, in Ruyigi commune and province, approximately 10 houses including the house of Salvator Ndayegamiye, OPJ and 7 shops including two shops of Berchimas and Patrick, have been robbed by unidentified people. According to sources on site, on the night of December 30, 2024, in Sanzu II quarter, Ruyigi commune and province, unidentified people stole drinks, salt, rice, soaps from the shops of Berchmas and Patrick, especially from Patrick, these people stole plastic juices and donuts because it was like a bakery, so everything that was in these shops was stolen.

On the night of January 15, 2025, in the general bursar's office of Ruyigi diocese, the reception center shop was robbed by these unidentified people, stealing wines including Dompom, altar wine, torero big, drosty big and small, cellar, Oxymans and juices, lumicash phone, power bank, etc. Fabien

Ndereyimana, head of Sanzu hill where many cases of theft are observed, asks the population to work in synergy to fight against these cases of theft and invites those who hire watchmen to look for those who are skilled in this profession.

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. RIGHTS TO LIFE

II.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS

A person killed by soldiers in Itaba commune, Gitega province

On January 17, 2025, around 5 p.m., on Kibogoye hill, in Itaba, Gitega province, a 22-year-old student, Niyomukiza Japhet, was killed by soldiers. According to witnesses, the incident occurred when Japhet, who was riding a bicycle, hit a military truck parked on the roadside. The soldiers then beat him and, when he screamed, they stabbed him in the heart with a bayonet. The witnesses alerted the OPJ of Itaba communal police station, who arrived on the scene to see what happened. However, the soldiers intimidated the OPJ, ordering him not to write anything and to go back. The victim was taken to Kidonzi Health Center, then to Kibuye Hospital, where he died on January 18, 2025. Witnesses are calling on the administrative and military authorities to take measures to identify, arrest and punish the soldiers responsible for this crime.

Five people shot and several injured in less than a week by soldiers in Cibitoke province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 18, 2024 indicates that fuel traffickers claim that five people from Nyamitanga and Kaburantwa hills were killed and eight others injured by soldiers from Nyamitanga position in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province in a week period from January 13 to 19, 2025. Residents of Rusizi are living in fear in the face of this escalation of violence. Faced with

this situation, the Governor issued a warning to speculators, without however providing concrete solutions to guarantee the safety of the population.

According to sources in Nyamitanga, at least 5 people were killed and 8 others injured by gunfire from soldiers in Nyamitanga and Kaburantwa hills of Buganda commune, Cibitoke province. According to an administrative source, speaking on condition to remain anonymous, 3 people were killed in Nyamitanga and 2 others in Kaburantwa. The victims were involved in cross-border fuel trafficking, transporting huge quantities of gasoline and fuel from the opposite bank of Rusizi to resell in Burundi. Faced with the intensity of the shooting, many traders had to abandon their loads in the middle of the river to save their lives. These events reflect a real manhunt for traffickers, urging most of them to flee the region. The intensified harassment of traders by the security forces, coupled with distribution problems linked to border tensions, has caused an unprecedented fuel shortage. This situation has led to a surge in prices, with a liter and a half of petrol now reaching 55,000 BIF. More than 50 traffickers have been arrested in one week and then jailed in the provincial cell. The transport sector is paralyzed and the transport fares has tripled. This is the case for Rugombo-Bujumbura trip where the transport fare has gone from 10,000 BIF to 40,000 BIF. Questioned for comment, the governor of Cibitoke reaffirmed his determination to put an end to

this fraud, which he attributes in part to the complicity of some of his subordinates. He assured that the latter would be subject to sanctions in accordance with the law. Concerning the recent murders of fuel traffickers, the Governor denied any involvement of

the police. He reiterated his commitment to protecting the national economy, in collaboration with the defense and security forces, while fighting against fraud.

II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Rumonge commune and province

On January 13, 2025, a 5-year-old girl, E.H.I., was raped by Asmani Nsengiyumva, a 26-year-old young man, in Rumonge city. According to the victim's parents, Nsengiyumva had been hired as a painter in a shop owned by the child's family in January 2024.

On the day of the rape, the child was returning home from nursery school when Nsengiyumva took her to the shop to commit his crime. The victim's parents alerted the police, and Nsengiyumva was arrested the next day and jailed to Rumonge police station.

On January 17, 2025, the Rumonge High Court (TGI) sentenced Nsengiyumva to 20 years in prison for rape of a minor. During the hearing, Nsengiyumva did not deny the facts and claimed that a sorcerer had advised him to commit this crime to acquire wealth and power.

II.2.2 PERSONS TORTURED

Two men tortured in Bururi commune and province

On January 17, 2025, in Rumonyi quarter of Bururi province city, Fidèle Kurunziza, aged 58, a member of UPRONA party, and Jean Claude Nduwayezu, aged 49, were beaten and mistreated by two young Imbonerakure Bertrand Nkurunziza and Buringo in this quarter near the bar called Chez Gisoda on National Road number 16 Bururi Rumonge under the orders of a teacher to Bururi Communal High School, Jules Singayimana, representatives of CNDD-FDD party in the same quarter. According to customers who were having a drink in this bar, Claude Nduwayezu was accused by these Imbonerakure of having helped Fidèle to hide money from BRARUDI products sold. They were imprisoned by the deputy provincial commissioner Dismas Mazuru, lieutenant colonel, and jailed in the provincial

Nsengiyumva was transferred to Murembwe central prison after the judgement. This case raises concerns about the safety of children and the fight against sexual violence in Burundi.

A girl raped in Rumonge commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 15, 2025, indicates that on January 11, 2025, around 8 p.m., on Kivubo sub-hill, Nyagasaka hill, Rumonge commune and province B. R., a 16-year-old shop assistant was raped by an unidentified man. The latter had found her in his shop when he introduced himself as a customer and intimidated her with a knife telling her that he would kill her if she dared to scream. After the rape, the alleged perpetrator left and she screamed for help. The neighbors intervened and took her to Humura center for holistic care. She was admitted at the center until January 16, 2025. Local authorities tried to look for this criminal but in vain.

police station cell in Bururi where they were released from the next day.

A CNL member tortured in Kayanza commune and province

On January 15, 2025, around 2 p.m., on Kavumu hill, Murima zone, Kayanza commune and province, Bigirimana Lazard, aged 42, a member of CNL party, was beaten by Imbonerakure supported by Godefroid Niyonizeye, administrator of Kayanza commune. According to eyewitnesses, the reason is that the CNDD-FDD party did not have many participants during the awareness campaign throughout Murima zone. These Imbonerakure told the administrator that the victim is recruiting members and that he is the cause of the absence of CNDD-FDD party members to the meeting. According to the same eyewitnesses, the administrator ordered the

Imbonerakure by telephone to search Lazare's house and arrest him. The Imbonerakure took Lazare and beat him all over his body with rebars. Administrator Godefroid Niyonizewe ordered these Imbonerakure to take the victim to Murima CDS and leave him there. At Murima CDS, she was given painkillers and in the evening he returned home but the situation did not improve, hence the family took him to Kayanza hospital where he is receiving treatment. The criminals were not worried.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.3.1. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

Two people abducted in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura- town hall

On January 17, 2025, at Athénée primary school, Rohero zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura mairie, Liévin Irakoze and Boniface Niyonkuru, both Lumicash agents, were abducted by people in police uniform. According to the testimonies collected, a double-cabin van without a license plate stopped near the two men and individuals in police uniforms aboard the latter got out and then forcibly two Lumicash agents in. An investigation was opened by the judicial police to find the victims and identify the perpetrators of this abduction.

A person abducted in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura-mairie

On January 2, 2025, in Maramvya quarter, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura-mairie, Ndayizeye Protais, night watchman of the hardware store located in Asiatique quarter belonging to David Uwimana residing in Maramvya quarter, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura-mairie was abducted by SNR agents aboard a double cabin without registration number. According to an eyewitness, the victim was apprehended at his home by armed individuals, in civilian clothes aboard a pick-up type vehicle. Despite searches carried out in the various cells, no trace of Ndayizeye Protais was found.

II.3.2. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

Two members of CDP party arrested in Mabanda commune, Makamba province

On January 14, 2025, on Mabanda hill and commune, Makamba province, Fabien Nijimbere and Antoine Mbabare, all members of CDP party in charge of mobilization were arrested at their home by police officers from Mabanda commune police

station. According to eyewitnesses, they are accused of holding an illegal meeting on January 13, 2025 despite the communal authorization of the administrator of Mabanda Jean Belly Hatungimana. They were taken to Mabanda police station cell to spend a few days there before being transferred to Makamba prosecutor's office cell on January 16, 2025 where they are still jailed.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. RIGHT TO HEALTH

Lack of doctors in Rumonge province

The health sector in Burundi is facing a critical shortage of doctors, which affects the capacity of hospitals to treat patients. According to the provincial doctor of Rumonge health province, Dr. Ferdinand Girukwishaka, the hospitals of Rumonge and Bugarama are having difficulty treating patients due to the lack of doctors.

The figures are alarming: the communal hospital of Buyengero has only 2 doctors, that of the Amahoro hospital of Birimba has 4, and the hospital of Magara in the health district of Bugarama has only 4.

This shortage of doctors is all the more worrying as the number of people requiring treatment continues to increase.

Governor Leonard Niyonsaba stressed the importance of improving the living and working conditions of existing doctors in order to retain them before requesting the recruitment of new doctors. Indeed, poor living and working conditions are considered one of the main reasons for the departure of doctors.

This situation is particularly worrying in a context where Burundi is already facing significant health

challenges, including the fight against epidemics and chronic diseases. It is therefore essential that the authorities take urgent measures to address this problem and ensure access to quality health care for the population.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Desertion of teachers in Kirundo province

On January 3, 2024, the provincial director of education in KIRUNDO held a meeting for communal directors of education and communal inspectors. According to witnesses on site, one of the items on the agenda was to analyze the desertion of teachers during the past calendar year. At DPE Kirundo, 32 teachers abandoned their teaching jobs. The DPE indicated that 41 teachers were given with 28 teachers

ready to retire in the 2024-2025 school year. Mukaporona Léocadie asked all DCEs to hold many moralization meetings, relying largely on teachers siding to the ruling party system. Those who were in the meeting raised a very significant issue linked to their salaries that have dropped down for some education staff sector with the new salary policy. The DPE Kirundo stated that she is not up to this issue that she report it to the ministry in charge.

IV. CONCLUSION

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

- ⇒ 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 violations;
- ⇒ 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 restore a peaceful political climate to allow free and transparent elections to be held;
- ⇒ To the government to take measures to combat the presence of rebel groups such as the FLN and FDLR on its territory and stop sending Burundian soldiers to fight alongside the Democratic Republic of Congo or avoid interfering in the conflicts of other countries;
- ⇒ To Gitega's government to improve cooperation with neighboring countries, particularly Rwanda, to combat cross-border threats and strengthen regional security.