

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°464 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 2 to 9 March 2025



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 9 march 2025, Iteka has documented at least 719 cases of enforced disappearances

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ACRONYMS

BPEAE	: Provincial Office for Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock
CNDD-FDD	: National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy
CNI	: National Identity Card
DRC	: Democratic Republic of Congo
ECOFO	: Fundamental School
FDLR	: Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda
FDNB	: Burundi National Defense Forces
FOMI	: Organo-Mineral Fertilizers Industry
M23	: March 23 Movement
OPJ	: Judicial Police Officer
RED Tabara	: Resistance for the Rule of Law in Burundi

0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents an alarming human rights and security situation in Burundi. Ten people were killed, including four found dead, four victims of GBV, and 525 cases of arbitrary arrests have been observed, including 315 people arrested on Bukeye hill and 210 in Kabonga zone of Nyanza-Lac commune following searches by police and soldiers.

Civil and political rights, socioeconomic and cultural rights, as well as rights of specific groups are also reported in this bulletin. The governance, economic, judicial, and security contexts are also reported.

Imbonerakure, police officers, soldiers, and administrative officials are accused of being the main alleged perpetrators of these human rights violations.

1. CONTEXT

1.1. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Rise of doctors' allowances in Burundi

Burundi has implemented monthly bonuses for doctors after a period of protests, following the signing of an ordinance by the Ministries of Health and Finance on January 16, 2025. This measure exclusively concerns some general doctors and dental surgeons, who will receive a monthly bonus of 1,000,000 BIF, while the allowance of specialist doctors will be increased to 2,000,000 BIF per month. Resident doctors will also benefit from this measure, although the exact amount to be received remains to be determined. In addition, a remoteness allowance ranging from 100,000 to 1,000,000 BIF, depending on the distance, will be granted to doctors practicing far from Bujumbura.

Some analysts believe this initiative is beneficial, although it does not treat all doctors fairly. Those based in Bujumbura may perceive this decision as punishment for those who demanded more. This could increase frustration and impact the quality of service in Bujumbura, where doctors have not received this remoteness allowance. Nevertheless, remote provinces could attract more doctors in these precarious times.

It should be noted that this measure comes when Burundi is facing a significant outflow of doctors. One wonders what other ministries, such as those of education and justice, are waiting for to improve the living conditions of their respective workers.

1.2. JUSTICE CONTEXT

A father sentenced to 20 years in prison for the murder of his son

The Cibitoke High Court announced its verdict, sentencing Jean Paul Hakizimana, alias Ndondo, to 20 years of penal servitude for the murder of his 15-year-old son. This judgment, passed on March 6, 2025, ends a case that shocked the local community and raised questions about justice and influence.

According to a witness, on February 22, 2025, Jean Paul Hakizimana struck his son, who tragically succumbed to his injuries. The attack was motivated by the victim's unlicensed driving of the family vehicle, causing an accident. During a trial lasting more than six hours, the defendant denied any intention to kill his child. However, the prosecution proved the severity of the beating, highlighting the

deliberate nature of the act.

Despite a public apology, Hakizimana was sentenced to 20 years in prison and a fine of 100,000 BIF. The crowded courtroom reflected the interest and emotion generated by this case.

The conviction was widely welcomed by the residents of Cibitoke, who saw it as a strong message against parental violence. A human rights defender reiterated the importance of this judgment, emphasizing that no form of violence against children is acceptable.

However, concerns remain. Jean Paul Hakizimana, a wealthy and influential businessman, is reportedly under the protection of political figures. Some fear he could obtain early release or a reduced sentence

during judicial appeals. A lawyer for the civil party expressed doubts about the effective implementation of the sentence, given the defendant's close ties to local authorities.

Fears of mob justice persist, with residents worried about the consequences of Hakizimana's possible

release.

Despite these concerns, the verdict remains a symbol of the judiciary's commitment to combating domestic violence. It serves as a reminder that no one is above the law, even those in a privileged position.

1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT

1.3.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A man killed in Rumonge commune and province

On the morning of March 6, 2025, on Rukinga hill, in Rumonge commune and province, Dieudonné Bazombanza was beaten to death by unidentified individuals. According to witnesses, the victim succumbed to his injuries shortly after being admitted to Rumonge hospital. Residents of the hill claim that his left arm was amputated by the alleged perpetrators of his death. Augustin Minani, administrator of Rumonge commune, indicated that Dieudonné Bazombanza was suspected of theft. Another person who accompanied him was arrested by the police and is currently being jailed at Rumonge police station. Administrative authorities urge the population to renounce mob justice and to trust the administrative and police authorities. The victim was from Gishubi commune, Gitega province, in the center of the country.

A body found in Butezi commune, Ruyigi province.

On March 2, 2025, in Nyankanda camp, located in Bwagiriza zone, Butezi commune, Ruyigi province, the body of Innocent, 30, a Congolese refugee residing in quarter 29 of the camp, was discovered with injuries on the body. The victim was married to a Burundian woman who had also taken refuge in Congo and currently lives in Burundi, but they no longer lived together. According to local sources, the husband suspected his wife of cohabitation. Three men who were with him in a bar, as well as his wife, were arrested for investigation.

A woman killed in Cankuzo commune and province

On March 7, 2025, around 4:00 p.m., at her home on Kabeza hill, in Cankuzo commune and province,

an elderly woman named Imelde was killed by unidentified individuals with machetes while she was alone in her home. Her husband, Michel Sebumba, was not present. She was reportedly accused of sorcery. According to local sources, four people, including her grandson named Eric, suspected by neighbors of being the perpetrators of the crime, were arrested and jailed at the police station for investigation.

A person killed in Muyinga commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 3, 2024, indicates that on February 28, 2025, on Buri-ma hill, in Muyinga zone and commune, a man named Misago, from this hill, died at Muyinga hospital from machete wounds. According to witnesses, he was attacked by unidentified individuals while returning from a bar on the hill. The population of this hill is scared due to the patrols by Imbonerakure armed with machetes and clubs starting at 8 p.m.

A person killed in Muyinga commune and province

On March 1, 2025, at around 9:00 p.m., in the Swahili quarter of Muyinga zone, commune and province, Berchmans Minani, 32, from Kinazi hill, Rugari zone, Muyinga commune, was shot dead by unidentified individuals with a silenced rifle while returning home. According to witnesses, he had fled his native hill to settle Muyinga province city after escaping several grenade assassination attempts, accused of sorcery. The communal administration and the police conducted no investigation and ordered an emergency burial. The victim was buried on March 5, 2025, in Kayenzi cemetery. It should be noted that some Imbonerakure are armed, including Juma, cousin of Shabani Nimubona,

leader of Imbonerakure in Buhumuza province. During Muyinga province traders' festivity at Lacasa Hotel in Muyinga, an Imbonerakure was seen entering vehicle TI CA 0444 with a Kalashnikov and four full magazines of cartridges.

A body found in Mutaho commune, Gitega province

On March 3, 2025, at around 10 p.m., a body was discovered in a house at Mutaho IDP site, Mutaho hill and commune, Gitega province. The victim, Aimé Jean de Dieu Nzitunga, aged 17, had rope marks and injuries on the neck. According to local sources, a neighbor alerted the police and the Judicial Police Officer (OPJ) after noticing the presence of a body in the home of Jean Pierre, the victim's father. Upon their arrival at the scene, the communal police commissioner, Denis Nshimirimana, and the Judicial Police Officer, Juliette Nduwayo, found the body lying in his bedroom, while the father was asleep in his marital bed, without his wife.

When questioned about the events, Jean Pierre stated that he fell asleep without any problems and that he was surprised to find his son's body. He added that his son had committed suicide and that his wife removed the rope from the body before fleeing.

However, the authorities decided to further investigate the circumstances of the death. The body was taken to Mutaho Hospital mortuary, and the next day, the victim's father was arrested and jailed in Mutaho police cell, awaiting the arrest of his wife.

A body found in Giheta commune, Gitega province

On February 8, 2025, at around 10:00 a.m., the Giheta communal police station was informed by Eugénie Bigirindavyi, head of Kiremera hill, of the disappearance of Tharcisse Ndayirukiye, born in 1962 in Rukoba, commune and province of Gitega,

residing in Kiremera, commune of Giheta, Gitega province. His disappearance dates back to February 5, 2025. According to testimonies, Tharcisse Ndayirukiye had spent the evening of February 5, 2025, in a bar in Rukoba, with Térance Nshimirimana, Emmanuel Mvuyekure, Claude and Adeline Louise Nshimirimana, and they returned home together around 8 p.m. Shortly after receiving this information, the police were alerted to the discovery of a body in Nyambeho Valley, separating the communes of Giheta and Gitega. Following the examination conducted by OPJ Benoît Manirambona, it was confirmed that it was the body of Tharcisse Ndayirukiye. Therence Nshimirimana, Emmanuel Mvuyekure and Adeline Louise Nshimirimana were arrested for judicial investigation, while Claude is still wanted.

A body found in Gitega commune and province

On February 5, 2025, at around 4 a.m., the body of Cédric Iradukunda, aged 24, son of Godefroid Ndayizeye and Claudette Nizigiyimana, was discovered on the RN8, Bikinga sub hill, Songa hill, in Gitega commune and province. According to a witness, the body had a deep wound on the forehead, injuries to the thighs, and torn shorts. The report prepared by OPJ Sébastien Nsengiyumva, in collaboration with local authorities, led to the conclusion that the probable cause of death was a road accident that occurred around 1 a.m., involving an unidentified vehicle. The investigation is continuing to identify this vehicle. Furthermore, the investigation revealed traces of blood at the gate of the home of Déo Nduwimana, aged 48, located approximately 10 meters from where the body was discovered. Déo Nduwimana and his wife, Christianne Nindabiye, were arrested for investigation. Suspicions are based on a possible homicide, as the victim was caught in adultery with Christianne Nindabiye at Déo Nduwimana's home. The investigation is continuing to establish the exact circumstances of this crime.

1.3.2 OTHER SECURITY FACTS

Imbonerakure paramilitary training in the new Buhumuza province

On March 4, 2025, a meeting was held at Cankuzo Communal High School in the new Buhumuza province, chaired by Shabani Nimubona, the provincial representative of Imbonerakure. The purpose of this meeting was to select young Imbonerakure for paramilitary training to be sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to fight the M23 movement.

According to local sources, three young Imbonerakure will be selected from each hill to undergo this training. After their selection, they will be sent to Mudubugu, in Bubanza province, to complete their paramilitary training. It is important to note that similar paramilitary training sessions have already taken place in other Burundian provinces, such as Cibitoke and Muyinga.

These paramilitary training sessions are part of a broader effort by the Burundian government to strengthen its military presence in the DRC and combat armed groups such as the M23. However, these actions raise concerns about security and stability in the region.

Imbonerakure military training in Cibitoke province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 8, 2025, reveals that large-scale military exercises conducted by Imbonerakure in Cibitoke province are causing great concern. The firing of heavy and light weapons, particularly near the Congolese refugee camp of Cishemere, is fueling fears of an escalation of violence. Voices are also being raised to denounce the involvement of these young people in the M23 conflict in the DRC.

According to local sources, the exercises are taking place in Cishemere shooting range, near the provincial administrative center, scaring residents and refugees. According to testimonies, these young people, who come from several provinces, are being trained in weapons handling and military tactics by FDNB instructors and FDLR combatants.

Military sources claim that these training sessions aim to prepare the Imbonerakure to support Burundian and Congolese forces against the M23. However, this initiative questions the ability of these young people to cope with a complex conflict, in which regional forces have suffered setbacks.

Many residents oppose sending their children to the front. A mourning father, who lost two sons in Kanyinya, calls on the authorities to prioritize domestic development. The ruling party's youth leader denies any direct involvement in the M23 conflict, but confirms that the training sessions focus on patriotic values. The local battalion commander justifies the shootings by referring to regular exercises.

This situation highlights growing tensions in Cibitoke, where the militarization of youth and Burundi's involvement in the DRC are raising concerns. The involvement of young people in external conflicts could have serious consequences for local and regional security.

Firearms seized on Kaburantwa hill: three Kalashnikov rifles discovered, a young CNDD-FDD deserter involved in Buganda, Cibitoke province.

On March 3, 2025, three Kalashnikov rifles (AK-47s) were confiscated on Kaburantwa hill, in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province. This operation was carried out jointly by the police and the army on the street VI, Kaburantwa hill. The weapons could be linked to the ongoing conflict between the M23 rebel group and the Congolese army in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A young CNDD-FDD deserter from Rusizi region is involved in the transport of these weapons, which he allegedly brought back to Burundi after leaving the army. The Buganda communal Police commissioner, Police Colonel Dieudonné Niyonzima, confirmed this seizure and indicated that investigations are underway to identify and arrest those responsible.

The population has expressed growing concern about the flow of weapons since February 15, 2025. Massive defections of young CNDD-FDD members left to support the Burundian army in the DRC are worsening this situation. Robberies have been

reported, particularly against Congolese refugees fleeing the fighting. Residents of Rusizi region fear a resurgence of killings due to the flow of weapons. The local population expresses concerns about the insecurity caused by this flow. Authorities affirm that measures will be taken in accordance with the law to ensure the safety of citizens and prevent further acts of violence. This seizure highlights the security challenges in the region, worsened by the conflict in the DRC and the proliferation of weapons. The situation remains under surveillance, as the population continues to fear for its safety.

Youth trafficking in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province

On March 6, 2025, Chadrack, a 30-year-old taxi

driver and CNDD-FDD party member, was arrested on Gashanga hill in Karuzi province while attempting to load about ten boys aged between 14 and 20 into his vehicle. Witnesses claim he planned to take them to Tanzania via Rutana province.

Chadrack was arrested by Guillaume, Buhiga communal commissioner, and Élysé, the first communal secretary of Imbonerakure. He was imprisoned in Buhiga zone cell for child trafficking. However, due to his family ties to Buhiga zone head, Phocas Sindaruhuka, he was released the next day around 3:00 p.m. for an unrevealed amount of money.

1.3.3. PERSONS KILLED FOLLOWING THE SETTLEMENT OF SCORES

A person killed in Giheta commune, Gitega province

On February 5, 2025, at around 12:00 p.m., Pamiteho Bunyakamwe, aged 54, died at his home located on Kigarama sub-hill, Kibimba hill, Kabanga zone, Giheta commune. According to information collected, he was killed by his wife, Fabiola Nduwimana, and his children, Joveri Nkunuzimana, aged 18, and Fabrice Nzigamiye, aged 13, following an dispute over the purchase of bean seeds.

The OPJ Jean de Dieu Ntakirutimana conducted the investigation. The alleged suspects fled. Charles Ndimurigwo, aged 27, and Gaëlle Akimana, aged 20, were arrested and taken into police custody for complicity, as they were at the scene at the time of the incident without assisting the victim. The local administrative authority expressed its condolences to the family and the population and authorized the burial.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

II.1.1. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Rumonge commune and province

On March 4, 2025, on Kanenge hill, Kigwena zone, Rumonge commune and province, E. N., aged 15, was raped by Gervais Nibigara, in complicity with Sylvere Nduwayo, both Imbonerakure. According to neighbors, the victim was raped in a palm field guarded by young Imbonerakure from CNDD-FDD party. The latter had accompanied her to the field and remained in the vicinity of the girl's location while waiting for his friend to arrive, then forcibly took him to a palm oil watchmen's house to commit the incident. The alleged perpetrator was immediately transferred to Rumonge police cell, where he was jailed awaiting further investigation.

The victim was transferred to Humura center for appropriate medical care. The judicial police authorities are continuing their investigations to shed full light on this crime.

A child raped in Bugendana commune, Gitega province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 9, 2025, indicates that on February 27, 2024, at around 6 p.m., on Carire hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, J. N., aged 3, was raped by Fabrice Ntakarutimana, aged 17. According to the victim's father, Apollinaire Ndagijimana, the child was on a path near the house. Fabrice saw him and called him for him for candy. He took him to the

roadside and sodomized him. As the child cried, a man named Jean Marie, who was heading to the store, approached slowly and saw the perpetrator intimidating him, telling him he would kill him if he continued to scream. He immediately alerted those nearby. This is how he was arrested after trying to escape. They consulted the child and found he had injuries, blood, and sperm in the anus. They rushed the child to Bukinga CDS and then to Mutoyi Hospital. According to the same victim's father, OPJ Antoine Mahinja stated that the perpetrator is jailed in Bugendana cell and waiting for the medical examination to complete the file in order to transfer the detainee to the central prison and the file to Gitega prosecutor's office. It should be noted that this perpetrator had just been released from Gitega central prison two weeks earlier.

A girl raped in Tangara commune, Ngozi province

On March 4, 2025, at around 6:00 p.m., on Bomba hill, Nyagatovu zone, Tangara commune, Ngozi province, a girl named F., a 6th-grade student at ECOFO Mugirampeke, was raped by Désiré Ndikumwenayo, a 30-year-old native of the hill,

son of Fidelis Banzirumuhito and Dominique Twagirayezu. According to local witnesses, the girl was from school, and the alleged perpetrator called her and gave her alcoholic drinks, then took her into the house to rape her. The alleged perpetrator was arrested by police officers from Tangara communal high school and is jailed at Tangara communal police station while the case file is being prepared.

A girl raped in Gashikanwa commune, Ngozi province

On March 4, 2025, on Maruri hill, Gashikanwa commune, Ngozi province, E.N., a 15-year-old girl was raped by Joseph Niyonkuru, a mill worker. According to local witnesses, the alleged perpetrator manipulated her into thinking he was going to marry her and kicked her out after two days together. According to the same witnesses, the victim went to Gashikanwa health center for treatment and to obtain necessary documents for legal assistance but received no help. On March 7, 2025, Guillaume Ntawukuriryayo, director of Ngozi hospital, received her for assistance. Children's rights advocates call on decision-makers to consider these victims when authorizing any assistance.

II.2. RIGHT TO LIBERTY

II.2.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

Three hundred and fifteen youths arrested during searches in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

On March 4, 2025, at around 4:00 a.m., a joint search by the police and army from the communes of Makamba, Mabanda, and Nyanza-Lac, Makamba province, in collaboration with soldiers from Nyanza-Lac camp, took place on Bukeye hill in Nyanza-Lac. Officially, the operation targeted Congolese refugees hiding in households, but it quickly shifted to checking household record books. Approximately 315 young men, mainly daily workers and bicycle taxi drivers, were arrested and taken to the communal police station. The families were unable to provide their identification documents. The detainees were released after paying a fine of 10,000 BIF for those whose names were not recorded in the household registers and 20,000 BIF for those without ID cards, while those unable to pay were locked in overcrowded cells until the next day. This wave of arrests is linked to a new measure requiring each household to keep a register

listing its occupants, sold for 5,000 BIF by hill heads. Residents denounce the high cost and the lack of awareness of this obligation. Observers suspect a financial maneuver by the communal administrator, Marie Goreth Irankunda, as her term is ending soon. No official statement has been made, fueling public concern about the true reasons of this operation.

Two hundred and ten people arrested in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

On March 7, 2025, people without national identity cards or those not registered in household registers were arrested in Kabonga zone, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province. During this operation, 210 men were arrested by police from Nyanza-Lac, Makamba, and Mabanda police stations and taken to the communal police station. Normally, security forces wake up very early in the morning around 3:00 a.m. and are positioned in front of houses surrounded by soldiers, as was observed on March 3, 2025, on Bukeye hill, Nyanza-Lac zone, where

approximately 315 people were arrested. According to eyewitnesses, the 210 people arrested in Kabonga were fined 10,000 BIF in exchange for receipts, while no receipts were provided in Bukeye.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Inequality in the distribution of agricultural fertilizers in Makamba province

Farmers in Makamba report that they have to wait for several days in front of distribution centers under strict surveillance by administrative officials and intelligence services. Some farmers have even been threatened or prevented from speaking out when they claim their already paid fertilizer.

Furthermore, there are numerous cases of injustices in fertilizer distribution. Farmers denounce cases of favoritism, where some CNDD-FDD party members quickly receive big quantities of fertilizer, while others, even though they are in order, leave empty-handed. It is also reported that some distributors charge additional fees to transport fertilizers to villages, an unplanned cost that further increases farmers' expenses.

At the same time, accusations of embezzlement are emerging: some of the fertilizers intended for Burundian farmers are being resold secretly in Tanzania at higher prices by traders who receive several tons of fertilizer. These practices are worsening local shortages and jeopardizing agricultural yields. Some claim they have not yet received fertilizer for the previous growing season. Faced with this situation, farmers in Makamba are calling for intervention from the authorities to ensure fair distribution and end abuses.

Shortage of agricultural inputs: Farmers in Bururi province fear a poor harvest

Grumblings are being heard among those who have not yet received their fertilizers. They report that they used to close the sowing during the first week of March and say they are already behind schedule, even though they had totally paid for the fertilizer. Others say they received half the quantity ordered and paid for. According to Gloriose Niyubahwe, director of the provincial office of environment, agriculture and livestock in this province, she is silent on the cause of this delay even if she con-

firms the delivery in drops of these fertilizers from FOMI Company.

She adds that not a single kilogram of urea has yet been distributed. As of March 7, 2025, only 52% of FOMI fertilizers called "Imbura" and the same quantities for Dolomite have already been distributed to farmers in Bururi province for this sowing of the B cropping season. In addition to the very scarce rainfall in Bururi province, farmers are facing a fertilizer shortage. There is no FOMI "Bagara", FOMI "Imbura" and Urea. Residents of Mugamba, Matana, Songa, and Bururi communes of Bururi province are worried. They lament that even the little fertilizer available is unfairly distributed. Only those close to distributors or those who bribe them can receive the fertilizer. Others are forced to keep their receipts to await later distribution.

Administrative authorities in these communes are aware of the situation but are incapable to do anything. They are waiting for FOMI to restock provincial stores so that these fertilizers can be delivered to the communes, but nothing is being done, according to some administrative sources. If they bring these fertilizers, they bring an insufficient quantity compared to demand. These administrative officials are asking FOMI to avail these agricultural inputs so as not to miss the B growing season. In this province, several residents missed the A growing season due to this fertilizer shortage.

Lack of chemical fertilizer in FOMI warehouses in Ruyigi province

According to information received by Ligue Iteka on March 8, 2025, Ruyigi province is facing a shortage of chemical fertilizer in FOMI warehouses, which is causing great concern among the local population. The region is currently experiencing a prolonged drought, with no significant rainfall, which is intensifying concerns. This alarming situation raises fears of an imminent famine of unprecedented proportions in the coming days.

Price spikes continue to be observed in almost all markets in Ruyigi province

According to information received by Ligue Iteka on March 8, 2025, Ruyigi province is experiencing

price spikes in most of its markets. For example, at Ruyigi market, the price of rice reached 7,000 Burundian francs (BIF) per kilogram, a 10% increase in less than a week, from 6,000 BIF to 7,000 BIF.

IV. CATEGORAL RIGHTS

IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

A child beaten in Giharo commune, Rutana province

On March 8, 2025, on Kabingo hill, Rutana province, a woman named Nishimwe beat her 9-year-old stepson, Vyongavyonga, using a tool called an "umudahara" (wooden spatula) to hit his cheeks.

The incident occurred after the child shared peanuts with his brother. Nishimwe, the stepmother, saw them and reacted violently. The child suffered injuries and nearly lost teeth from the beatings. The father, Steven, did not react to the assault.

The children filed a complaint with Savin, the judicial police officer, and the stepmother and father were jailed. The victims were placed to Steven's brother-in-law awaiting a resolution of their family

situation.

A newborn killed in Muruta commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 9, 2025, indicates that on February 22, 2025, on Mutana hill, Muruta commune, Kayanza province, Francine Ahishakiye, 23 years old and pregnant, gave birth alone at home, then killed the newborn and buried it in her bedroom. According to neighbors, after noticing that Francine was no longer pregnant, they arrested her and asked her where the baby was. She then confessed to burying it in her bedroom after giving birth. According to these same neighbors, Léandre Bizoza, head of Muruta hill, alerted the Muruta police, and the perpetrator was arrested and jailed in Muruta hill cell.

IV.2. WOMEN'S RIGHTS

A woman beaten in Kayanza commune and province

On March 8, 2025, at around 7:00 p.m., on Musave hill, Kayanza commune and province, Claudine Ndayiziga, aged 37, a bank agent at BBCI Kayanza branch, was beaten by two of her neighbors, Claudette Irambona and Marie Tuyikeze, street vendors selling bananas. According to the victim, she spent the evening sharing a drink with her husband to celebrate International Women's Day. Returning home, leaving her husband behind, she was beaten by her neighbors, accusing her that her domestic worker had asked them to sweep up the corn husks they had thrown in front of the gate of their home.

The victim was hit in the face and was pulled by her braided hair. Adelin, a hill head, forced the victim to seek treatment from one of the attackers named Claudette, who pretended to be dead to divert investigations and had her treated at Kayanza health center at 10 p.m. and even paid the bill. According to sources close to the victim, the perpetrators of the crime boasted that they were members of the ruling party and that the victim and her husband were "ibipinga" because they do not attend the morning meeting held on Thursdays, commonly called "inama nshingiro." The attacked family is afraid of the approaching elections, which could be difficult for them.

V. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Ligue Iteka strongly denounces the persistent deterioration of human rights in Burundi and condemns the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of crimes. Faced with this alarming situation, Ligue Iteka urgently appeals the Burundian authorities.

♦ Calls on the police:

- ⇒ Strictly respect legal procedures when arresting suspects;
- ⇒ Increase vigilance to prevent human rights violations, particularly assassinations.

♦ Calls on the Ministry of Justice:

- ⇒ Establish transparent and independent judicial oversight mechanisms to investigate and prosecute human rights violations;
- ⇒ Ensure true impartiality in investigations into human rights violations.

♦ Calls on the Government and the Presidency of the Republic:

- ⇒ Stop interfering in the external conflict in the DRC.