

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

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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°465 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 10 to 16 March 2025**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 16 march 2025, Iteka has documented at least 719 cases of enforced disappearances*

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGES</b>
<b>0. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>I. CONTEXT.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>I.2. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>I.3. SECURITY CONTEXT.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>II.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS AND THE IMBONERAKURE MILITIA.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>II.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>II.2.1. PERSONS TORTURED.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>III.1. ECONOMIC DISRUPTION.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>III.2. RIGHT TO HEALTH.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>IV. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>IV.2. WOMEN'S RIGHTS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>V. CONCLUSION &amp; RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>11</b>

## **ACRONYMS**

<b>BRARUDI</b>	: <i>Burundi Brewery and Lemonade</i>
<b>CDS</b>	: <i>Health Center</i>
<b>CNDD-FDD</b>	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy</i>
<b>CNL</b>	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
<b>DRC</b>	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
<b>ECOFO</b>	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
<b>FARDC</b>	: <i>Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
<b>FDLR</b>	: <i>Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda</i>
<b>FDNB</b>	: <i>Burundi National Defense Forces</i>
<b>GBV</b>	: <i>Gender-Based Violence</i>
<b>GVC</b>	: <i>Civil Volunteer Group</i>
<b>M23</b>	: <i>March 23 Movement</i>
<b>MSD</b>	: <i>Movement for Solidarity and Democracy</i>
<b>NGO</b>	: <i>Non-Governmental Organization</i>
<b>OPJ</b>	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
<b>UNHCR</b>	: <i>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i>
<b>UPRONA</b>	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>

## 0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents an alarming human rights and security situation in Burundi. Six people were killed, including 5 found dead, as well as one person killed by Imbonerakure, 4 victims of GBV, and 3 people tortured.

Civil and political rights, socio-economic and cultural rights, as well as categorical rights are covered

in this bulletin. The humanitarian, political, environmental, economic, and security contexts are also covered.

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

## I. CONTEXT

### I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

The political context in Burundi is currently tense, with the ruling CNDD-FDD party considering the elections to be a foregone conclusion. According to party leaders, only the procedures of counting and announcement are left, according to the party's leaders in the communes during sports and meetings. However, opposition parties are facing violence and intimidation, which constitutes a flagrant violation of their right to political freedom.

The Burundian government recently interrupted a meeting of the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition in Buhiga commune, Karusi province, despite compliance with legal requirements. Witnesses reported that coalition members had already installed flags along the road between the market and the El Manar Hotel, where the meeting was to be held. As soon as the Governor became aware of these preparations, she immediately interrupted the event and ordered the police to remove all flags and prohibit the meeting to be held. Despite long discussions between coalition members and the police, the situation remained unchanged. The provincial commissioner indicated that the decision to suspend the meeting was from higher authorities. It should be noted that the administrative authorities of Karusi province had been informed in advance of this meeting, and the Governor had even acknowledged receipt of the official correspondence announcing this event.

In addition, CNDD-FDD party organized a show of force in Muyinga commune, where it organized a

show of force as part of preparations for the June 2025 elections. According to information communicated to Ligue Iteka, Juma Bigirimana, communal secretary of CNDD-FDD in Muyinga, issued a statement calling on party members to participate massively in the show of force activities scheduled for April 15, 2025. Meetings of department heads were organized on March 8, 2025, led by Juma Bigirimana, to collect compulsory contributions from public services, particularly in education. Teachers were asked to contribute 5,000 BIF and 10,000 BIF or more for department heads, while traders were also solicited. Non-CNDD-FDD teachers who refused to contribute were warned of the consequences. The show of force began with a parade of Imbonerakure from Gasorwe, Buhinyuza, and Mwakiro communes, starting from Mukoni roundabout to Umuco stadium in Muyinga. The day was characterized by a disruption of activities, with all roads blocked from the morning, and all services, including markets and shops, closed, except Imbonerakure parades.

UPRONA party organized a meeting in Gisagara commune to mobilize its members for the upcoming elections. This was the first meeting of its kind in this commune, where only CNDD-FDD and UPRONA parties are present on the ground. The meeting was moderated by Serges Njebarikanuye, UPRONA's provincial representative in Buhumuza province. During this meeting, Njebarikanuye urged RWAGASORE's party members to resist intimidation by the presidential party youth.

## ***1.2. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT***

### **Transfer of more than 1,800 Congolese refugees to Rutana province : temporary relief amid on-going tensions**

As part of an operation organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 1,836 Congolese refugees, mainly women and children, were transferred from Rugombo camp to Giharo camp in Rutana province. This evacuation follows a mass displacement of Congolese refugees in Rugombo, Cibitoke province, two weeks earlier.

The refugees, exhausted by repeated displacement and precarious conditions in classrooms, fled violent clashes between the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) and the March 23 Movement (M23) rebels. School authorities welcomed this transfer, emphasizing that classes could now resume normally.

Despite this relief, concerns remain about the impact of this delay on the refugee children's school calendar. Meanwhile, the situation in the border

areas remains worrying, with fighting continuing across Rusizi River and a growing number of Congolese crossing the border to flee the violence.

The transfers took place on February 28, March 5, March 6, March 8, March 12, and March 15, 2025. Reports from localities such as Katogota, Luvungi, Bwegera, Luberizi, and Sange reveal a worrying presence of young Imbonerakure, members of the National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD), who have joined the Burundian and Congolese military forces in their clashes against the M23 rebels.

This rising tension is causing serious concern among residents of Rugombo and Buganda communes, who continue to flee the area massively for fear of possible violence. Burundi, already facing an influx of Congolese refugees, appears trapped in a cycle of cross-border conflicts, where hope for peace is declining.

## ***1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT***

### **Insecurity in Kibira forest in Cibitoke province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 16, 2025, reveals that, for over a month, Butahana zone in Kibira forest has been the scene of armed clashes between the FDLR and the FDNB, supported by Imbonerakure. From Tuesday, March 11 to Thursday, March 13, these clashes intensified, as the FDLR sought to supply food from local residents, who trade with this rebel group.

The Burundian soldiers and Imbonerakure have responded. Residents of the affected areas, whose daily activities were disrupted, accuse some government, military, and police officials of being behind the situation. They claim that these officials sheltered and fed the rebels, supplied them with weapons, and were involved in mineral trafficking. They condemn the fact that these rebels are now being hunted like criminals, causing consequences for the population.

According to a Mabayi resident, a former demobilized soldier who refused to participate in the hunt for the rebels, this change in strategy is linked to the desire of some regime officials to force them to go

to the DRC. This tactic would allow the Rwandan army to patrol Kibira and prove the absence of Rwandan rebels, contrary to the claims of some Burundian sources. In addition to the supports sent to the FDNB, the FDLR, and the FARDC, several Imbonerakure, having received false promises of integration into the FDNB and heading towards the DRC, have turned around and gone into hiding.

About thirty of them, including a minor, returned to Mabayi this week. Similar returns have been reported in other communes of Cibitoke province. In Rugombo and Buganda, many Imbonerakure have chosen to hide among the Congolese population to avoid mistreatment, like the soldiers who refused to participate in a conflict whose reasons are beyond their understanding.

### **Fear caused by Imbonerakure in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province**

On March 15, 2025, Gisagara commune, in Cankuzo province, witnessed a show of force by young Imbonerakure, the youth league of the ruling CNDD-FDD party. These young people, from the former communes of Gisagara, Cendajuru, and



Mishiha, gathered on Camazi zone soccer field, causing fear among residents.

The Imbonerakure sang threatening songs against the opposition, claiming that the elections had already been won and that all that remained was the counting of votes. The provincial Imbonerakure youth representative, Shabani Nimubona, urged young people to remain vigilant and monitor the activities of opposition members, considered as potential threats.

Nimubona also encouraged young people to work to win the elections and to conduct door-to-door

outreach to maximize votes. According to our local source, a closed-door meeting was held for youth league representatives, during which they were asked to select five young Imbonerakure from each hill for a mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to fight the M23 and Red Tabara rebel groups.

This show of force and the Imbonerakure's threatening rhetoric are raising concerns about security and freedom of expression in the region. Residents of Gisagara commune live in fear, fearing repercussions if they do not support the ruling party.

## **II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

### **II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE**

#### **II.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS AND THE IMBONERAKURE MILITIA**

##### **CNDD-FDD party member killed by Imbonerakure in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province**

On March 14, 2025, on Kaniha hill, in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province, Juvénal Nikeze, a married man and father of two, aged approximately 38, was beaten to death with sticks by young Imbonerakure from this hill. He was accused of crossing a barrier guarded by the Imbonerakure while returning home drunk at night. Although unemployed, he had completed his secondary education.

He was a member of MSD party before 2015 but

was currently member of the ruling party. Transported in critical condition by Mishiha commune vehicle to Gishungu CDS, he died there. According to local sources, Evariste Bukuru, one of the instigators of this assassination, was arrested by Alfred Murengerantwari, the communal judicial police officer, and imprisoned in Mishiha cell. The other Imbonerakure involved fled to Tanzania, and an investigation is underway. The victim was buried by his family in collaboration with the communal administration.

#### **II.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE**

##### **The body of a CNDD-FDD member found in Mutimbuzi commune, rural Bujumbura.**

On March 10, 2025, on the 14<sup>th</sup> street in Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province, the body of Juvénal Butoyi, a 53-year-old resident of this hill, a member of CNDD-FDD party and one of the five elected officials, was discovered not far from his home below the office on the 14<sup>th</sup> street.

According to local eyewitnesses, the deceased was strangled. He was most favorite among the candidates on this hill for the upcoming elections. According to the same witnesses, the victim's body was taken to Baho Hospital mortuary in Kajaga to await burial scheduled for March 18, 2025.

##### **A body found in Gitega commune and province**

On March 14, 2025, at around 6:00 a.m., in Magarama quarter, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Gitega commune and province, the body of a man of about 50 years old, lying face down, was discovered by residents who alerted the local administration.

According to eyewitnesses, around 7:00 a.m., Léandre Nzibarega, the quarter head, accompanied by local police officers, arrived on the scene and reported the incident to Gitega police station. The body's face was deformed on the right ear, indicating that the victim had been killed with clubs or a hammer. According to witnesses, upon the arrival of OPJ Alice Ntakarutimana, the quarter head stated

to the OPJ and the residents that the deceased was a thief killed by watchmen while he was trying to steal from a church construction site in Magarama.

This claim was rejected by residents, who instead indicate that the man was killed elsewhere and that the perpetrators dumped the body there to mislead the investigation, with the absence of blood around the body as evidence. After arguments between the quarter head, the judicial police officer, and the police on one side, and residents on the other, the body was taken to Gitega hospital mortuary awaiting identification, as no identification document was found on him.

#### **A man's body was found in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province**

On March 9, 2025, at around 11 a.m., the body of Pasteur Nzomaramwe, nicknamed Jagari, aged 51, was found in Kagoma quarter, Gihinga hill, Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province city. According to eyewitnesses, the victim was a night watchman at a BRARUDI beverage depot owned by Dismas Manirakiza, a teacher and trader.

During the night of March 8-9, 2025, unidentified individuals robbed the depot, breaking down the door and stealing several crates of beer. Eyewitnesses reported that the victim's body was found in a gutter below the depot, with a big rock on top of his body, suggesting that the rock had been used to crush him.

#### **A body found in Rumonge commune and province**

On the morning of March 10, 2025, at Rumonge fishing port, at the mouth of Mugerangabo ravine located in Rumonge urban center, passersby found a wounded body of Nestor Nshimirimana, a bicycle driver. The victim was from Gitega province, Ntita hill, and currently resides in Rumonge, Gihwanya quarter, 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. His body was taken to Rumonge hospital mortuary.

#### **A person killed in Mugere commune, Bujumbura province**

On March 13, 2025, at around 4:00 p.m., Taoupe-

nissa Ntihebuwayo, a Lumicash service agent, was killed. According to an eyewitness, the victim was selling phone credits and Lumicash services at Ruziba market, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province. She received a phone call and left, informing her friends that it was a customer she was going to serve. She did not specify her destination. She has remained missing since that day, and her body was found on March 16, 2025, in a toilet located in Kizingwe quarter, Ruziba zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura province. The toilet belonged to a suspected perpetrator whose identity is still unknown. Investigations continue to identify the perpetrator and the reasons for this murder.

#### **A person almost killed in Rumonge commune and province**

On March 12, 2025, on Rukinga hill, in Rumonge commune and province, Désiré Ndikuriyo, 36, was the victim of mob justice. Accused of theft, he was injured, and his right arm was amputated.

According to witnesses, Ndikuriyo was arrested by unidentified individuals who took him to Rukinga hill during the night of March 11-12, 2025. He was thrown into a cassava field, where he was found injured. The hill administration took him to Rumonge hospital for treatment.

This is the second victim of mob justice in the region in a week. Residents suspect young Imbonerakure members of the joint security committees of being behind these acts of violence. These youths patrol late at night in the quarters, raising concerns among the population.

Residents deplore the inaction of administrative and police authorities in the face of these crimes, which create a climate of fear and insecurity in the region. Mob justice is a growing phenomenon in Burundi, where authorities are often accused of failing to take necessary measures to protect citizens and enforce the law.

## **II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY**

### **II.2.1. PERSONS TORTURED**

#### **A CNL communal leader tortured in Makamba commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 12, 2025, indicates that on March 8, 2025, Audifax Ndayirukiye, a CNL communal leader, was attacked by Claude Nininahazwe, a demobilized member of CNDD-FDD party, on Kinoso hill, in Makamba commune and province. The incident occurred while Ndayirukiye was preparing for a zonal meeting and had mounted his party flag. Nininahazwe, angry, arrested him and violently hit him, injuring his face and arm.

The attacker also confiscated the victim's Android phones and power bank and ordered the meeting to be interrupted, despite prior authorization from administrative authorities. Despite the filing of an arrest warrant, no arrests have been made, and witnesses accuse the police head of protecting the attacker.

This act of political intolerance has raised concerns among the population, which is calling for justice and action against violence targeting the opposition. The presence of the local Imbonerakure leader, who did nothing to prevent the attack, suggests tolerance of this violence to preserve CNDD-FDD's image ahead of the elections.

#### **A CNL party member tortured in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 13, 2025, indicates that on March 7, 2025, Ndikuriyo Bonaventure, a member of CNL party, was tortured by a group of young Imbonerakure on Kiyange hill, in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province. The perpetrators, led by Nahimana Jean Claude, Sindayigaya Emmanuel, and Claude Nijimbere, used sticks and rebar to beat the victim.

The Imbonerakure, 26 in number, all natives of this hill, also forced Ndikuriyo Bonaventure to swallow his own feces after being beaten. The incident occurred in the presence and under the orders of the

hill head, Manirakiza Félix, without his intervention to prevent it. The victim filed a complaint at the police station, but Dibora, the judicial police officer did not summon the perpetrators for investigation.

This incident is part of a series of violent acts committed by Imbonerakure, CNDD-FDD party's youth wing reported by the Burundian population and human rights organizations, particularly Ligue Iteka, in these weekly reports. These acts of violence are often committed with total impunity, raising concerns about the human rights situation in Burundi.

#### **A returnee CNL party member mentally tortured by the sub-hill head and the Imbonerakure in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province**

On March 8, 2025, at around 11:00 p.m., the home of Déo Hakizimana, a member of CNL party and returnee, was invaded by the head of Nyavyatsi sub-hill, Benjamin Manirakiza, accompanied by an unknown person. Déo Hakizimana, already in bed, opened the door and demanded to know the identity of the unknown person, but was told it was unnecessary.

Realizing he was in danger, Déo Hakizimana returned home and closed the door. The sub-hill head and his companion left. However, the next morning, the same sub-hill head returned with a group of six young Imbonerakure, who accused Déo Hakizimana of insulting the sub-hill head the day before.

Déo Hakizimana denied these accusations, claiming he was a victim of his political ideology as a member of Agathon Rwasa's CNL party. He was forced to pay a fine of 15,000 BIF without justification, under penalty of being beaten. Currently, Déo Hakizimana is scared, fearing for his safety.

It should be noted that a few days before the invasion of his home, Déo Hakizimana had been intimidated by the sub-hill head, who told him that all the returnees no longer had any strength. This situation raises concerns about the safety of political opposition members in Burundi.



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

#### **III.1. ECONOMIC DISRUPTION**

##### **Non-compliance with BRARUDI beverage prices in Ruyigi commune and province**

A worrying situation was reported to Ligue Iteka on March 12, 2025, where vendors in Ruyigi commune and province are not respecting the official prices of BRARUDI beverages. For example, a 72cl bottle of Primus is being sold for 4,000 BIF instead of 2,500 BIF, and a 65cl bottle of Amstel is being sold for 5,000 BIF instead of 3,500 BIF.

This is even more worrying given that the Ruyigi communal administrator, Antoinette Semugara, recently called on traders on March 7, 2025, to respect the prices set by the Government. Despite this, the administration seems to be turning a blind eye to this situation, leaving consumers to lament the exorbitant prices. This price speculation is a recurring problem in Burundi, where consumers are often forced to pay high prices for necessities.

#### **III.2. RIGHT TO HEALTH**

##### **Suspension of free healthcare for pregnant women and children under 5 at Kiremba Hospital, Ngozi province**

Since March 7, 2025, Kiremba Hospital, located in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province, has implemented a new pricing policy. Pregnant mothers and children under 5 will now have to pay 100% for medical care. This decision was made by the hospital's board of directors on March 6, 2025, following a report from the Ministry of Health ordering the hospital to cancel three months' invoices and suspend the hospital's contract. This decision was published in a press release signed by Minani Pasteur, hospital director.

It is important to note that this measure does not apply to pregnant mothers and children under 5 who are already hospitalized. Other measures were also taken, including the cancellation of three-month bills and the termination of the partnership contract with the Ministry of Public Health.

It should be noted that, since 2006, pregnant women and children under 5 have benefited from free coverage for healthcare costs in Burundi. This policy has improved access to healthcare for these vulnerable populations.

##### **Makamba schools threatened with water disconnection and poor hygiene**

In Makamba province, principals of primary and secondary schools are expressing concern over a water disconnection threat issued by the communal authority. While water bills were usually due in the third quarter, the commune has brought this date backward to February 14, 2025, without providing any explanation. This decision was communicated in a letter signed on January 9, 2025, by communal administrator Zuena Irakiza and the communal director of education, Evariste Nzobonimpa.

Principals are critical of this sudden initiative, especially since the billing is based on 100 BIF per student, multiplied by the number of students in each school, which represents a significant amount. Some see it as an election-related maneuver, implying that administrators are seeking to empty communal accounts following the administrative reorganization of the communes.

Faced with this situation, several local stakeholders are urging the communal finance inspectorate to remain vigilant. If no solution is found quickly, some schools could be without water, jeopardizing the smooth running of classes and student hygiene. Principals are demanding explanations and a flexible payment schedule, but the commune has not yet issued an official response.

## **IV. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS**

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

#### **A person raped in Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura province**

On March 1, 2025, a 14-year-old B.N. girl, a 7<sup>th</sup>-grade student at ECOFO Mboza, was raped in Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura province. According to local sources, the victim had left home to visit her maternal aunt in Kamesa, Muha commune, Bujumbura mairie. On the way, she met an individual named Merveille, who took her to his home and raped her.

The victim then fled to Busoro, where she was found by Mr. J., who temporarily accommodated her in Nyamutenderi, Ruyaga hill, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura province. The victim was returned home on March 4, 2025, and after a talk with Ruyaga zone head, she was taken to Ruyaga CDS, where examinations confirmed the rape.

It should be noted that this rape case is concerning and raises questions about the safety of children and girls in the area. Ligue Iteka has reported several cases of rape and disappearances of people under similar circumstances, raising concerns about the human rights situation in Burundi.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 16, 2025, indicates that on February 28, 2025, a 8-year-old girl, a 2<sup>nd</sup>-grade student at ECOFO Mudusi, was raped by her teacher, Mbarumuhito Ferdinand, aged 45, on Mudusi hill in Gatara commune, Kayanza province. According to the victim's parents, the teacher tricked the girl to wait a bit after other students had left, then led her behind the door and began touching her intimately and inappropriately. The victim cried for help and was rescued by the school neighbors.

The teacher fled but was pursued and caught in Mudusi marsh. He was taken by the population to Gatara communal police station, then handed over to the public prosecutor in Kayanza, Isaac Ningabira, who placed him in custody at Kayanza police station. The victim was treated at Maramvya CDS

and was then referred to Seruka Center with the help of Nshimirimana Léonce, a representative of Murekerisoni association, advocating for children's rights in Kayanza.

#### **A schoolgirl raped in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province.**

Information received by Ligue Iteka dated March 13, 2025, indicates that on March 7, 2025, on Mugerama hill, Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province, A. B, an 8-year-old 2<sup>nd</sup>-year student at ECOFO Mugerama II, was raped by Balène Havyarimana, aged 18, a member of CNDD-FDD party, from Nyakivumu hill, Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province. According to neighbors, the alleged perpetrator took advantage of the child's parents' absence to commit this crime. The victim's mother noticed that the child's walk had changed and that she was walking with difficulty, and she began talking to her. She reluctantly confessed to having had sex with the boy the day before, and it wasn't the first time.

The victim's mother, supported by the administration, filed a complaint with the police at Nyanza-lac police station, which commissioned a medical examination at Nyanza-lac health district hospital, which confirmed the facts. The alleged perpetrator was jailed in the cell for investigation purposes, and the file is ready with all the necessary elements to be forwarded to the public prosecutor's office.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 13, 2025, indicates that on March 9, 2025, on Rukinga hill, Rumonge commune, C.N., a 5-year-old girl from the same hill was raped by 14-year-old Divin Irvyibonera. The alleged perpetrator took advantage of her parents' absence, then called her and led her into the bedroom to rape her. The girl's parents noticed this while her mother was bathing her daughter. They took him directly to Humura center for holistic care, while the alleged perpetrator was arrested but not imprisoned due to his minor age.

## ***IV.2. WOMEN'S RIGHTS***

**A woman killed in Muramvya commune and province** opened the door and found her dead, with a large wound to her face and neck.

On March 13, 2025, Nduwimana Aline, aged 41, was found dead in her home on Biganda hill, Muramvya commune and province. According to local sources, the victim had divorced and was living alone in her deceased parents' house with her 2-year-old daughter. The neighbors immediately took the body to Muramvya Hospital mortuary, and the police started their investigation. It is important to note that the victim was not in conflict with anyone, which makes the investigation more complex.

The next morning, around 10:00 a.m., neighbors began to worry when they saw the victim's slow waking. Her sister-in-law, Niyokindi Charlotte, The police have already started investigations to determine the exact circumstances of Nduwimana Aline's death and identify the perpetrators of this crime.

## ***V. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS***

Ligue Iteka strongly denounces the persistent deterioration of human rights in Burundi and condemns the impunity of perpetrators of crimes. Faced with this alarming situation, Ligue Iteka urgently calls on the Burundian authorities to take immediate action to end these violations and guarantee justice and equality for all citizens.

- ⇒ The government must end impunity and implement existing justice mechanisms impartially and effectively to ensure respect for human rights;
- ⇒ The government must strengthen the protection of civil and political rights by ensuring freedom of expression, association, and assembly for all without discrimination. The Ministry of the Interior, Community Development, and Public Security must respect the right to freedom of assembly by guaranteeing freedom of peaceful assembly;
- ⇒ The government must end political favoritism to ensure a fair electoral process for free, democratic, and inclusive elections.