

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

Approved by Ministerial Order n ° 530/0273 of 10 November 1994 revising Order No. 550 /029 of 6 February 1991



"Is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), has observer status with the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights under the reference number OBS.236 and is a member of ECOSOC. Ligue Iteka is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections"

Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°466 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 17 to 23 March 2025



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 23 march 2025, Iteka has documented at least 719 cases of enforced disappearances

CONTENTS	PAGES
0. INTRODUCTION.....	4
I. CONTEXT.....	4
I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT.....	4
I. 2. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT	5
I.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT	6
I.3. SECURITY CONTEXT.....	6
I.4. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT	7
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.....	8
II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE.....	8
II.1.1. Intentional homicide.....	8
II.1.1.1. Persons killed by State agents or by the Imbonerakure militia.....	8
II.1.1.2. Persons killed as following settling of scores.....	9
II.1.2. Bodies found	9
II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY.....	10
II.2.1. Torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.....	10
II.2.2. Rape.....	10
III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.....	11
III.1. FREE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL LIFE	11
III.2. RIGHT TO REMUNERATION	12
IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	12

ACRONYMS

CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CNDD FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Force for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
OTB	: <i>Burundi Tea Board</i>
REGIDESO	: <i>Water and Electricity Distribution Authority</i>
STI	: <i>Sexually Transmitted Infections</i>
UNHCR	: <i>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents an alarming human rights and security situation in Burundi. We documented 6 people killed, including 1 found dead, including 2 people killed by police and Imbonerakure, 5 victims of GBV and 3 tortured people.

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

into account in this bulletin. The political, economic, judicial, security and humanitarian context is also reported.

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

1. CONTEXT

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Tense meeting of the Minister of Martin Ninteretse in Makamba commune and province

On March 21, 2025, Martin Ninteretse, Minister of Interior, Community Development and Public Security, held a meeting at Nonara Park Hotel Makamba province under strict conditions. Officials who arrived late were turned away, including members of the police, the army and Makamba administrator, Zuenta Irakiza. Witnesses reported that this ban was further worsened by another restriction: the media were not allowed to cover the meeting, which limited transparency on the topics discussed.

Several officials cited a lack of fuel as the reason for their delay, a problem that hinders travels and slows down provincial management. Even the governor of Makamba, Tantine Ncutinamagara, had to use her personal vehicle to get to the meeting. Due to the low participation of the executives, the minister finally allowed some latecomers to enter, including Zuenta Irakiza, who returned at a time when issues relating to her commune were on the agenda. This context marked by access restrictions, a lack of transparency and logistical difficulties raises questions about the management of the province and the effectiveness of the decisions taken.

Meeting of the CNL party in Ruyigi commune and province

On November 16, 2025, the CNL party organized a crucial meeting in Ruyigi, under the leadership of

its national president, Nestor Girukwishaka. This meeting marked the official inauguration of the party's office in the commune, a major event for CNL. According to the party's representative, the future looks bright for CNL, which seems to be in the midst of internal restructuring and preparing for the 2025 elections. This meeting probably allowed to strengthen the party's presence in the region and to mobilize members for the next elections.

Mobilization of women for the upcoming elections in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province

On March 17, 2025, a meeting of "Abakenyererugamba" Women's League of CNDD-FDD party was held in Butaganzwa, Ruyigi province, under the leadership of Valérie Seshahu, the provincial representative of this league in Buhumuza.

In her speech, she stressed that the main purpose of this meeting was to establish contacts, being from Cankuzo, and given the new administrative division, the commune of Butaganzwa is now part of Cankuzo province. In addition, this meeting is part of a wider calendar of meetings organized in all the communes of the new province of Buhumuza, aimed at mobilizing women for the upcoming elections.

Leveraging the strong female presence is crucial to helping the party win elections. She also urged women to vote and run for office at various levels.

I. 2. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Allegations against the administrator of Muruta commune, Kayanza province

On March 12, 2025, leaflets denouncing the wrongdoing of the communal administrator of Muruta, Audace Hacimana were discovered in the morning on several hills in the commune, including Yanza, Myugariro, Muruta, and Remera. These leaflets were also dropped in front of Muruta communal office and the premises of Kayanza provincial office. This communal administrator is criticized for many wrongdoings, including:

- ⇒ The theft of the engine of the old vehicle of the commune.
- ⇒ Fraud in the collection of taxes via forged receipts.
- ⇒ Corruption, embezzling a sum of 8,000,000 Bif granted by OTB and an entrepreneur named Teti for the rehabilitation of Kagomogomo road, as well as a trader known as Gudire who paid 500,000 Bif to install a mill on a State land in Rwegura hill, as well as mining extractors who have paid money for illegal gold mining in the zones of Ruvubu, Gihorwe, Rushishima, Buziraguhindwa, Mpfunda, Remera and Karunyinya.
- ⇒ In the hills of Kaserege and Kibakwe, residents are forced to sell their coffee cherries to a pulping factory whose owner has given money to the communal administrator.
- ⇒ The arbitrary detention of citizens, those who manage to give him money are released.
- ⇒ The refusal to visit the hills to hear the population's complaints.
- ⇒ The torture of citizens, including cases where the police officers in charge of his protection beat them in a rally: for example, Manirumva and Nyabenda Adelin were assaulted, with Adelin even requiring hospitalization at Remera health center because of his injuries.
- ⇒ Ethnic discrimination.
- ⇒ The theft of metal sheet supplied by the entrepreneur Ndoricimpa Anicet to the inhabitants

of Campazi, where he has established a tea factory.

From these leaflets, the community calls on the competent authorities to immediately dismiss the communal administrator Muruta before turning to the President of the Republic to request this decision.

Poor distribution of chemical fertilizers in Giharo commune, Rutana province

Information sent to Ligue Iteka on March 17, 2025 reveals that on March 14, 2025, in Butezi hill and zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province, between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., a crowd of people were lining up to collect chemical fertilizers they had paid for. According to sources on site, the zone head, known as Kibezi, disrupted the queues by ordering people to gather according to their hills and sub-hills of origin. Those who obeyed complied, but it was in fact a trick. Traders, such as Client Irakaza and Bissusu, instead of queuing according to the origin, entered directly into the fertilizer stores and spent more than 2 hours there, bribing the heads of zones, the store manager named Omer, as well as the police in charge of security that day to obtain chemical fertilizer, which would be sold at 5,000 Bif per kilogram of Urea. Note that a 25-kilogram bag costs 33,000 Bif.

The police officers in charge of security closed the door and left only one officer at the entrance to prevent anyone from entering the store.

According to the same sources, when it was time to distribute the fertilizer, the hill heads would have to present the lists of beneficiaries, but what was surprising was that these authorities brought out their own chemical fertilizers and, upon their return, delegated other representatives as substitutes on their behalf. These substitutes were traders wishing to represent the sub hill.

For example, Buhogo hill was represented by a trader named Mbonimpa. The person in charge of the store, Omer, simply informed the population that he had received little chemical fertilizer, which was insufficient for everyone. By 5:30 p.m., more than 80 percent of people had not yet received the fertilizer.

1.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

The Imbonerakure, alleged perpetrators of mob justice, refuse to report to the police in Rumonge

The individuals involved in recent mob justice cases¹, all CNDD-FDD party members, enjoy the support of the ruling party as well as the protection of administrative and police authorities. Since two weeks, the suspect, accused of amputating the right arm of an alleged thief on Rukinga hill, in Rumonge commune and province, has not been arrested. However, shortly after the incident, the victim was able to identify the person who had attacked him.

The administrator of the commune, Augustin Minani, and the commissioner of the judicial police in Rumonge province had promised that they would bring him to justice so that he would answer for his actions. According to some residents of this hill, the suspect is a young member of Imbonerakure of Rukinga, but his name has not been disclosed. However, the same sources claim that this young man would have acted under the orders of Jerome Nzobambona, representative of the Imbonerakure youth in Rumonge province, who is also the principal of Rukinga II fundamental school. The latter also supervises the paramilitary formations on the hill as well as night patrols. The victim had been arrested in Swahili quarter before being taken to a cassava field on Rukinga hill, where his dying body was found, without his arm. He was suspected of being

a thief, but the police never presented any stolen items or seized any property related to the alleged thief.

According to the same sources, the leader of Imbonerakure youth was summoned by the police to be questioned about this case, but he declined to appear. He said he would not appear and added that in the future they would not only amputate them but would also plan to decapitate those concerned. The provincial commissioner of the judicial police said that the alleged culprit had not yet been found. Police authorities are assuming that he escaped while he is still there without fear, benefiting from the support of the ruling party leaders.

Some residents informed us that the instruction to decapitate the alleged thieves was issued by party leaders at the highest level without details on accountability. This explains why the leader of the Imbonerakure youth in Rumonge province, suspected of orchestrating the two mob justice incidents on Rukinga hill in the three weeks of March 2025, refused to appear before the police. It also justifies why those alleged responsible for the two acts are not apprehended. As a reminder, the victim is a man named Désiré Ndikuriyo, 36 years old and from Gitega province. He is currently being treated at Rumonge hospital, after being assaulted and having his right arm amputated.

1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT

The security context during this reporting period was characterized by the following highlights : Twenty people bitten by stray dogs in Kayanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 17, 2025 reveals that since February 16, 2025, Gahombo commune has been facing an upsurge in bites by stray dogs, with 19 victims recorded. An additional case was also reported in Gatara commune, Kayanza province. This situation is particularly worrying given the shortage of rabies vaccines in Gahombo health district.

Indeed, rabies is a fatal disease if it is not treated quickly. Victims can therefore not benefit from adequate treatment, which increases the risk of developing rabies. This situation is creating concern among the inhabitants, who now live in fear of attacks by stray dogs.

Health officials stress that it is essential that the authorities ensure immediate availability of vaccines and urge the public to be vigilant. It is also recommended to intensify the hunting of stray dogs to reduce the risk of new bites.

¹ See <https://ligue-iteka.bi/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Bulletin-ITEKA-N-IJAMBO-464.pdf> and <https://ligue-iteka.bi/bulletin-hebdomadaire-iteka-nijambo-n465/>

Show of force in Ntega commune, Kirundo province

On March 23, 2025, on Mugendo hill, in Gihosha zone of Ntega commune, the Imbonerakure of this zone carried out a show of force. According to witnesses, Ahishakiye Abel, leader of Imbonerakure in

1.4. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

Congolese refugees who refuse to be transferred to Musenyi site in Rutana province and are threatened to be sent back to the DRC

A significant humanitarian crisis is emerging in Rugombo, Cibitoke province, where nearly 40,000 Congolese refugees are strongly opposed to their relocation to Musenyi site, located in Giharo commune, Rutana province. Deteriorating sanitary conditions and lack of food, which are real sources of despair, reinforce this opposition, placing UNHCR and the Burundian authorities in a humanitarian and security dilemma of unprecedented complexity.

Since 21 March 2025, a visible tension is in Rugombo site, where thousands of Congolese, having escaped the devastating violence in North and South Kivu in the DRC, have expressed their firm refusal to go to Musenyi site. These refugees strongly denounce the precarious reception conditions that await them in Giharo, in particular the inadequacy of the health infrastructure and the lack of hygiene, which they perceive as a threat to their health and dignity. *"We fled war, but we don't want to be sent to a place where our living conditions will be even more difficult,"* said a refugee on condition of anonymity, describing the feeling shared by the whole community.

However, UNHCR, through its focal point in Cibitoke, Felix Ndama, stresses the crucial importance of this transfer for security reasons, insisting that Musenyi camp was established in agreement with the Burundian government to better manage the growing influx of Congolese refugees. "It is essential to ensure the safety of these refugees within a structured framework," he said, while indicating that UNHCR will not force people from Rugombo to leave, thus respecting their right to choose their place of residence.

In addition to the tough living conditions, the refugees also report severe food shortages, placing them in extreme vulnerability. Many refugees, who

Butanyerera province, was present with a Motorola, as was Tite Habimana, leader of CNDD-FDD party in Bugabira commune. It was reported that they were performing exercises while chanting slogans asserting their power and that no other party could compete with them. All members of Imbonerakure wore CNDD-FDD party T-shirts.

have rented houses near Rugombo site, fear expulsion due to their inability to pay their rent, adding to their insecurity and despair. Faced with this alarming humanitarian situation, the Governor of Cibitoke province, Carême Bizoza, is taking a strict stance, warning that all refugees who refuse to go to Musenyi site will be sent back to the Democratic Republic of Congo. A declaration could escalate tensions and cause a major humanitarian challenge for refugee protection organizations, which will need to step up their efforts to find a solution that respects the rights and needs of this vulnerable population. It should be noted that since Friday, March 21, 2025, all activities have been suspended, except a mobile health clinic that only deals with medical emergencies, thus highlighting the seriousness of the situation.

Five deaths from cholera pandemic in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 19, 2025 indicates that the health situation at Rugombo stadium, a refuge for a significant number of Congolese refugees, is deteriorating at an alarming speed. The cholera outbreak has already claimed the lives of five children in less than 14 days, and local authorities are expressing deep concern about the scale of the crisis, which disproportionately affects the youngest. According to information from the field, the lack of drinking water and unsanitary living conditions, conducive to bacterial proliferation, are the main vectors of this disease, which is directly linked to poor hygiene practices. Refugees, crammed together in extremely crowded conditions, are trapped in an environment highly conducive to contamination.

Despite the efforts by health authorities, the risks of cholera spreading remain high, with about fifty confirmed cases, mainly affecting children. The inhabitants of the reception site, with increasing despair, appealed for help, imploring REGIDESO to provide enough drinking water. The recent rains, which

have aggravated already precarious infrastructure, have further intensified the crisis, leading to an increase in cholera cases.

Contacted for official information, the provincial doctor confirmed the implementation of preventive measures, such as spraying disinfectant products at the refugee site. However, he neither confirmed nor denied the exact number of cases reported. The health professional insisted on the need for a rapid humanitarian intervention, including the supply of drinking water, in order to stem the spread of the disease.

The continued influx of refugees into Rugombo is putting additional pressure on an already overcrowded and under-equipped site. The urgent need for humanitarian assistance, aimed at improving sanitation conditions and supplying safe drinking water, has never been greater. This health crisis strongly underlines the need to strengthen infrastructure and prevention measures in refugee camps, in order to protect the lives of thousands of vulnerable people, especially children, facing precarious living conditions.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. Intentional homicide

II.1.1.1. Persons killed by State agents or by the Imbonerakure militia

A woman killed by a policewoman in Muyinga commune and province

On March 21, 2025, on Kinyota hill, in Muyinga zone, commune and province, Kawera Eugénie, 40 years old, a resident of this hill, was shot several times by a police officer named Adidja, from Muyinga police station. According to local witnesses, the two women were neighbors and regularly had beer together.

The talks they had about their clothes were not liked by the police officer, who then rushed home to take her weapon before going to Eugénie's house to shoot her several times. Subsequently, Adidja went to the police where she has been jailed since March 21, 2025. The population of Muyinga commune demands the immediate holding of a trial in flagrante to deter this kind of behavior.

One person killed by police officers and Imbonerakure in Butihinda commune, Muyinga province

On March 16, 2025, on Wingoma hill, in Butarugera zone, Butihinda commune, Muyinga province, Pierre Claver Manirakiza, 33 years old, an electrician from Kabuye-Shororo hill, Vumbi commune,

Kirundo province, was killed by police officers in collaboration with Imbonerakure. According to eyewitnesses, Claver had left for Butihinda in Muyinga province where he had accepted a temporary job.

The Imbonerakure found him while he was quenching his thirst and began accusing him of theft. They began beating him, claiming that he had stolen REGIDESO equipment during his previous job. The community tried to intervene, but the Imbonerakure handed the victim over to the police in Butarugera zone, Butihinda commune. On March 16, 2025, these police officers again assaulted the victim, accusing him of trying to flee.

After a few hours, he succumbed to these acts of torture in the same cell. These police officers contacted the administrator of Butihinda commune, Gilbert Ndikumasabo, who had a vehicle sent to transport the body to CDS Butihinda, but the staff of this CDS refused to receive the body due to lack of space in the mortuary. The vehicle therefore brought the body back to the mortuary of Muyinga province hospital.

II.1.1.2. Persons killed as following settling of scores

One person killed in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

On March 21, 2025, a tragic family conflict erupted on Nyarubugu hill, Cibitoke province, during a mourning ceremony of the head of the family. Léopold Nsaguye, member of CNDD-FDD party, fatally wounded his younger brother, Serges Minani, who is in his thirties, leading to strong indignation and demands for justice among the population.

The evening of commemoration of the deceased quickly turned into a tragedy at around 8 p.m., in Ndora zone, Bukinanyana commune. Léopold Nsaguye, the eldest, fatally stabbed his younger brother, Serges Minani, in the heart following a disagreement over the possession of a jug of local beer. The victim died immediately. Witnesses report that Serges Minani wanted to save the rest of beer for later, which angered his older brother. Leopold's tragic act did not surprise some residents, who describe him as violent.

Christian Nkurikiye, the administrator of Bukinanyana commune, confirmed the death of the victim and said that investigations are underway, with the attacker in detention. The local community, deeply distressed, is calling for severe punishment against the murderer, fearing that he could escape justice. While waiting for the conclusions of the investigation, the local authorities ask the population to remain calm and patient.

One person killed in Marangara commune, Ngozi province

On March 19, 2025, on Masama hill, Giheta zone,

I.1.2. Bodies found

A body found in Butezi commune, Ruyigi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 17, 2025 indicates that on March 16, 2025, on Gisenyi sub-hill, Muyange hill, Butezi commune, Ruyigi province, the body of Jovithe, a 72-year-old man,

Marangara commune, Ngozi province, Claudine Iradukunda, 5 years old, daughter of Antoine Cishahayo and Florence Minani, was killed with a machete by Denis Nsanzamahoro, a neighbor of the victim's family. According to eyewitnesses, the alleged perpetrator of this crime, Nsanzamahoro, shared a drink with the girl's father, Antoine Cishahayo, before arguing about a sum of 500 francs. After their separation, Nsanzamahoro went to take a machete from home and went to his neighbor's house to hit the victim with machete. According to the same witnesses, the police intervened by firing in the air while the population armed with clubs and spears wanted to do justice. The alleged perpetrator of the crime was first jailed in Cindonyi zone and then transferred to the communal police station cell in Marangara awaiting the continuation of the case.

A woman killed in Ngozi commune and province

On March 20, 2025, on Busoro hill, commune and province of Ngozi, Audeline Bucumi, 28 years old, was killed by Roger Nzeyimana, former husband of the victim, accompanied by unidentified people. Local witnesses say her killers attacked her as she was returning home. The victim had been living with her parents for more than two months since she divorced. Roger Nzeyimana had spent the evening drinking very alcoholic drinks. The alleged perpetrator of the murder was arrested by the judicial police of Ngozi for investigation reasons.

was found in his field about 50 meters from his home where he was sowing beans. According to sources on site, Jovithe was killed by people not yet known using machetes. Sorcery is believed to be linked to this murder. His son and his wife were arrested and jailed in Butezi commune cell.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. Torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

A person beaten in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On March 20, 2025, at around 7 p.m., on Gitanga hill, in Buhiga zone and commune, Iradukunda David, a 33-year-old man and member of CNDD-FDD party, was attacked by Imbonerakure led by a person named Djuma, 35, accompanied with the hill head, Lionel.

Witnesses present reported that a bicycle, stolen the day before on this hill, was found in the street near David's house, and these Imbonerakure accused him of being the perpetrator of this failed theft. As they beat him, David defended himself and bit in the nose one of the Imbonerakure, known as Don-dori, 27 years old. Witnesses say David was taken to the police cell in Buhiga zone, where he spent the night, before being released at around 3 p.m. after paying the medical bills, he owed to the hospital in Buhiga, where he had also spent the night.

The alleged thief told the OPJ that the Imbonerakure broke the door of his house after beating him and forced him out. David added that Djuma had stolen 300,000 Bif from him that he had borrowed for harvesting maize and weeding beans, while the hill head had taken 60,000 Bif from him he had in his pocket, although the latter claimed to have taken only 25,000 Bif.

Two brothers tortured by Imbonerakure in Butezi commune, Ruyigi province

On the night of March 18, 2025, at around 10 p.m., on Mubira hill and zone, Butezi commune, Ruyigi

province, Berchmans, trader, and Révérien, two brothers, both active members of CNL party, when they returned, were beaten and wounded by Imbonerakure who were on patrol. According to sources on site, Jean Berchmans is a shopkeeper possessing a kiosk at Mubira trading center. These two people were beaten with sticks after being fined 30,000 Bif. They were accused of having exceeded the time to return home because in this commune, the Imbonerakure have set the time to return home at 9 p.m. and their patrol begins at 10 p.m. The two victims are admitted in Butezi hospital. In addition to the assaults, Révérien is currently experiencing a psychological disorder following this situation. Among these Imbonerakure, there were Gilbert, Alexis, Dieudonné, Pascal and another nicknamed Mweranda and the latter was the leader.

According to the same sources, Gilbert and Mweranda were arrested and jailed in Butezi commune cell while the other three were able to escape the police.

It should be noted that this measure of the Imbonerakure to set the hours of return home as the hours of curfew is a disguised way of stealing from people because whoever exceeds this time is fined without receipt, which the population qualifies as theft organized by the ruling party. According to the same sources, the administration remains silent in the face of this situation. Some residents say they don't understand how young Imbonerakure can substitute the defense and security forces in a country where the police and army are paid by the State.

II.2.2. Rape

A child raped in Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura province

On February 14, 2025, Gilbert Nahimana, a resident of Kavumu hill, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura province, abducted a 14-year-old girl and took her to Rumonge, Kanyekoko quarter. The victim, named Chadia Kezakimana, is a student in the 6th grade at ECOFO Kavumu. The alleged perpetrator, a teacher at ECOFO Stella Matutina and an

influential member of CNDD-FDD party, convinced the child to accompany him to Rumonge without informing her parents. They spent three days in a hotel in Rumonge. Faced with the child's insistence to return home, they returned. Once at home, Chadia reported the facts to her parents and Gilbert Nahimana was arrested and jailed in the provincial cell of Kabezi.

A child raped in Mukike commune, Bujumbura province

On March 14, 2025, at around 10 a.m., Gervais Nitunga, an agent of OTB Jenda, raped L. A, 12 years old, ^{4th} grade student at ECOFO Jenda, on Jenda hill, Mukike urban commune, Bujumbura province.

The alleged perpetrator invited the victim to join him at his home, where he committed the assault. After the incident, he fled.

A child raped in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura mairie

On March 6, 2025, on Maramvya hill, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province, two men, Claude and Étienne, asked A. M, 8 years old, to go buy them donuts at the shop. Upon his return, the child was sexually abused by these two men.

After informing her parents of the rape, the two men were arrested and convicted. They are currently jailed in Kabezi prison. The child was taken to hospital and is currently receiving medical treatment.

A girl raped in Rango commune, Kayanza province

On March 15, 2025, on Nyabibuye hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Nice Yandokoye, 3 years old, was raped by Leonidas Mbuzehose, a 62-year-old farmer, widower. According to the victim's parents, Buzoya Désiré and Mpawenayo Fides had gone to work in the fields, returning around 6 p.m., they found their child Nice crying saying that the old neighbor "Mutama" Mbuzehose Leonidas had inserted something into her genitals. The next day, her mother took her child to Mutaho Hospital in Gitega province where the doctor confirmed the rape and they protected the child from STIs. The

mother brought the result to the OPJ of Rango commune, and the latter arrested the alleged perpetrator. Currently, the alleged perpetrator is imprisoned in Rango commune cell.

A girl raped in Mutaho commune, Gitega province

On March 11, 2025, at around 1 p.m., on Kivoga hill, Mutaho commune and Gitega province, 4-year-old Nishimwe Anny Brianne was raped by Ndayikengurukiye Côme, 40 years old who is said to be "Ntibakorako" (CNDD-FDD member, untouchable) in Mutaho commune. According to the victim's parents, when the child came from her grandmother who was 100 meters away, this perpetrator asked her to go down the mountain together (ku mucamo) to collect the remains of corn (ibigorigori). When they arrived, he raped her and intimidated her, telling her he would decapitate her immediately if she screamed. According to the same parents, after the act, he let her go, telling her again that if she tells what happened to her, she will be killed one day.

When she arrived home, her mother noticed that the child was having trouble walking and blood was running down her legs, she asked the child what had happened and the victim ended up telling everything, even specifying the name of the perpetrator. Immediately, her parents and the community health worker alerted the police and transported the child to Mutaho Hospital. The perpetrator tried to flee but was arrested the next morning. He was jailed in Mutaho police cell until he was transferred to the central prison. The medical expertise confirmed that the child was injured in her genitals. The OPJ Juliette and all the neighbors do not understand how this perpetrator was released from the central prison when he had been convicted of the same offense and now it is for the ^{3rd} time that he commits the same despicable act.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. FREE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL LIFE

Compulsory contribution for the upcoming elections, in Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province

On March 19, 2025, a meeting of CNDD-FDD party was held in Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province, under the chairmanship of the provincial rep-

resentative of this party in Buhumuza province, Gérard Barutwanayo. According to local sources, the purpose of the meeting was to bring together the party's civil servants and their supporters to contribute a sum equivalent to their monthly salary.

This contribution is intended to support the electoral campaign for the next elections. Members of this party express their dissatisfaction, considering it to be a tax, especially because of the high cost of living faced by civil servants. A similar meeting was held in Kinyinya commune the next day, March 20, 2025, addressing the same topic. They should have been asked to give half of their salary instead of the full one, because in addition to this contribution, they have to provide for their families.

III.2. RIGHT TO REMUNERATION

Strike by employees of Nkurunziza Peace Park Stadium grant them loans because of accumulated debts.

On the morning of March 17, 2025, workers at Nkurunziza Peace Park Stadium in Makamba rioted to protest against the non-payment of their salaries for two months. According to witnesses, during this action, they blocked the engineer Célestin Nibasumba, in charge of supervising the work, by immobilizing his vehicle with stones. Former employees who were dismissed have joined the movement, protesting against dismissals deemed abusive as well as the non-payment of their compensation. The strikers expressed their distress, saying that they have difficulty providing for their families and paying for their transport, particularly from Bujumbura province. The region's traders are now refusing to

The police intervened to restore order, while a mediation team assured employees that Révérien Ndikuriyo would personally travel to pay them the salaries owed, specifying that his absence was related to an illness contracted abroad. The dismissed employees are demanding to be rehired, denouncing unfair dismissals after asking for their payment. This situation is reminiscent of similar sackings at Eagle Mineral Water, another company of Révérien Ndikuriyo. In the past, accusations of ethnic discrimination had been made against his companies, particularly against ethnic Tutsi workers. While tension remains high, the employees hope for a concrete response to their demands.

IV. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

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

To the Ministry of Justice :

- ♦ To strengthen impartial judicial and investigative mechanisms to impartially investigate acts of mob justice and punish the guilty;

To the police :

- ♦ To actively investigate and prosecute, try and punish in accordance with the law the perpetrators of the crimes committed, in particular those perpetrated by the Imbonerakure and the police regardless of their rank or status.

To UNHCR and other humanitarian NGOs :

- ♦ Strengthen infrastructure and access to basic services for Congolese refugees to ensure their safety and well-being.