

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°467 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 24 to 30 March 2025



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 30 march 2025, Iteka has documented at least 722 cases of enforced disappearances

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ACRONYMS

API	: <i>Support for the Protection of Institutions</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>
DCE	: <i>Communal Director of Education</i>
DPEA	: <i>Provincial Directorate of Livestock and Agriculture</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
FARDC	: <i>Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
FDLR	: <i>Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda</i>
FDNB	: <i>Burundi National Defense Force</i>
FOMI	: <i>Organo-Mineral Fertilizers</i>
M23	: <i>March 23 Movement</i>
MSD	: <i>Movement for Solidarity and Democracy</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
UNHCR	: <i>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

The bulletin highlights a critical human rights and security situation in Burundi, characterized by numerous violations: 7 people have lost their lives, 3 of whom were found dead, including a newborn, and four others killed, including 2 killed during Imbonerakure paramilitary training in Cibitoke province. In addition, three people were abducted, 5 victims of gender-based violence (SGBV), one of whom was raped by her son, and two people arbitrarily arrested.

This bulletin therefore takes into account civil and political rights; socioeconomic and cultural rights; and the political, security, governance, and humanitarian contexts.

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

UPRONA party meeting in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province

On March 23, 2025, UPRONA party held a meeting in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province. Léopold Hakizimana, the party's communal representative, chaired the meeting, which took place on Mugeru hill. In his speech, he invited RWAGASORE party members to vote for UPRONA, rather than allowing CNDD-FDD party to dominate. He also urged them to resist intimidation by the ruling party's youth, recalling that the country belongs to everyone, as stated by Prince Louis RWAGASORE, the hero of independence.

Awareness-raising for the upcoming elections in Ruyigi province.

Significant efforts in preparation for the upcoming elections were noted in Ruyigi province:

In Gisuru commune, on March 25, 2025, on Ruyaga hill, Thérence Ndikumana, communal secretary of CNDD-FDD party, met with members. During his speech, he reminded members of the important date of the elections scheduled for June this year. He asked them to rise very early that day to ensure everyone finish voting before 10:00 a.m. to focus then on other activities. Furthermore, he emphasized the need for a contribution of 5 kg of corn per household, intended for the production of corn drink for the show of force day scheduled for April 12, 2025, in Kinyinya commune.

Residents of the new Gisuru commune are expressing their dissatisfaction with the return to a single-party system, as in this commune, united by the former communes of Gisuru, Kinyinya, and Nyabitsinda, only CNDD-FDD party will run in the 2025 elections.

In Ruyigi commune and province, on March 27, 2025, a meeting of CNDD-FDD party members was held in Rusengo zone. According to local sources, several prominent figures were present, including Gérard Barutwanayo, provincial secretary of the party in Buhumuza province; Shabani Nimubona, provincial head of CNDD-FDD youth league and head of Cumba zone in Muyinga commune; as well as Fiacre Nkuzimana, communal secretary of CNDD-FDD party in Ruyigi; and other party leaders at the zonal and hill levels. To force the population to gather, Rusengo market remained closed from morning until 4:00 p.m., and all market entrances were guarded by Imbonerakure, who intimidated or assaulted anyone who attempted to approach the place.

During this meeting, all speakers urged the population to vote for CNDD-FDD for the upcoming elections. In a long speech, the provincial Imbonerakure coordinator raised the various inter-ethnic conflicts since independence to prove to the audience that only CNDD-FDD party can ensure the security of Burundians. He urged all Imbonerakure leaders in the sub-hills to transform all primary school children into "ibiswi vy'inkona" and train them to

become true Imbonerakure ready to defend the nation.

The activities concluded with a prayer for peace in the Great Lakes region, as recommended by the Catholic bishops of Rwanda, Burundi, and the DRC during their recent meeting in Tanzania. It was also the last Thursday of the month, a day of prayer for CNDD-FDD.

Women's mobilization for the upcoming elections in Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province

On March 23, 2025, a meeting of CNDD-FDD party women was held in Kigamba commune and zone, Cankuzo province. The representative of the provincial women's leagues chaired the meeting, which allowed discussing issues related to women's mobilization for the upcoming elections, as well as other social and political issues. The opportunity was also taken to distribute health insurance cards to vulnerable people, as part of a program launched after a prayer organized by the ruling party.

Visit of CNDD-FDD party secretary general to Makamba province

CNDD-FDD party Secretary General Révérien Ndikuriyo returned publicly to Makamba on March 24, 2025, after spending three weeks sick, a condition he attributed to fatigue from his numerous tours across the country. This arrival, announced suddenly, sparked a significant mobilization along the roads connecting the provinces of Gitega, Rutana, and Makamba. Schools and public services were suspended to allow citizens to welcome him warmly, at the instigation of the Imbonerakure.

In his speech at his private stadium, he shared that his thoughts came to him like memories in dreams while he was still sick. He talked about the behavior of Imbonerakure, the war in the DRC, and the obstacles met in his sports initiative, the Nkurunziza

Cup. Stating that he will continue his project despite resistance, he urged the population to commit to the edition scheduled for June 28, 2025.

However, this pressure to mobilize has provoked criticism, due to the closure of schools and the interruption of public activities. Observers point to the use of institutions for partisan purposes.

Public broadcast by spokespersons of public institutions in Rumonge

On March 28, 2025, Rosine Gatoni, representing the Burundian President Évariste Ndayishimiye, blamed Rwanda for obstructing the reopening of the borders between the two nations. She expressed these allegations during a broadcast in Rumonge province, responding to a journalist's question about the timeline for this reopening.

Gatoni claimed that Rwanda is hosting the command of Red Tabara rebel group, accused of a failed coup attempt in 2015 in Burundi. According to her, this group, declared a terrorist group by the Burundian authorities, receives support and shelter from Rwanda. She indicated that the border could only be reopened after the group's leaders are handed over to the Burundian authorities, a condition she considers crucial to ensuring the region's security.

In March 2025, delegations from both nations discussed to set the modalities for reopening the borders. However, President Ndayishimiye's recent statements on BBC have fueled doubts about the possibility of a favorable outcome to these negotiations. Tensions remain, as Burundi waits to see if Rwanda will address its neighbor's concerns before agreeing to the reopening of the borders.

Relations between Burundi and Rwanda have remained tense for several years, worsened by mutual accusations of supporting rebel groups.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

Imbonerakure's night patrols in Butaganzwa, Ruyigi province, to wake residents in their homes around midnight

On March 29, 2025, around midnight, on Maramvya hill, in Rugongo zone of Butaganzwa commune, a group of young Imbonerakure from CNDD

-FDD party, including Déo Hategekimana, nicknamed Gasongo, the zonal leader of Imbonerakure in Rugongo zone, as well as Thacien Bizimana, Jérémie, Renovat, and Alexis, gathered on the hill at night. These youths visited all the households where men were present and woke them up,

announcing that they were looking for those who would boycott the community work planned for the next day on the hill, which they consider a stronghold of opposition parties, particularly CNL party. The residents of this hill perceive this as an intimidation tactic and condemn the youths' behavior. They call on the administration to take action against these Imbonerakure, claiming that this constitutes a violation of their rights.

In this region, young Imbonerakure patrol at night and visit the homes of opposition party members, particularly those of CNL. "If you don't vote for CNDD-FDD in the next elections, you will be sent to where your brothers were sent in 2015," these young Imbonerakure threaten opposition members.

It is clear that the activities of the ruling party have increased significantly in almost all the communes of Ruyigi province in the run-up to the elections. These political activities are often accompanied by acts of intimidation against opposition party members, including night patrols.

Two gold miners killed during Imbonerakure military training in Cibitoke province

On March 25, 2025, an Imbonerakure military exercise had a tragic end in Cibitoke province, causing the death of two gold miners: Gaspard Bazovayo, aged 29, from Ruhororo hill in Rugombo commune, and Pascal Nsengiyumva, aged 32, from Gisaba hill, Buhindo zone, Murwi commune. This incident also injured Tanga, aged 30, from Kiramira hill in Rugombo commune, Thomas Sindakira, aged 28, from Mushanga hill, Buhindo zone, Murwi commune, and Ndizeye, aged 29, from Rusororo hill in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province. This tragedy, which occurred near Cishemere shooting range, raises serious concerns about the militarization of the ruling party youth and the safety of civilians.

Around 4 p.m., gold miners at a gold mining site close to the shooting range were fatally wounded by stray bullets and shrapnel during an Imbonerakure paramilitary exercise. Witnesses report that these military maneuvers included heavy and light weapons fire, causing widespread panic among the local population. The Imbonerakure were assisted by members of the FDNB as well as FDLR fighters.

According to a security source, the purpose of these

training sessions is to prepare the youth for possible participation together with the FARDC in fighting the M23 rebels. Faced with growing concern, residents are demanding an immediate halt to these military training sessions near residential areas, workplaces, and transit points for Congolese refugees. The commander of the 112th Battalion based at Cibitoke camp confirmed the deaths of the two gold miners, describing the incident as an isolated incident. He stated that prevention messages were regularly disseminated to keep civilians away from the shootings. However, he rejected any involvement of the Imbonerakure, contradicting consistent testimonies and the confessions of some youth members of the movement.

This tragic incident is one of a series of similar accidents. In less than six months, eight people, including six children, died near Cishemere shooting range due to undetonated explosive devices. Public opinion is questioning the safety of civilians in the face of these repeated military exercises, as well as the growing involvement of youth members of the ruling party in military operations.

Worrying mobilization of young Imbonerakure and former combatants in Cibitoke in preparation for an intervention in the DRC

There is worrying news of a mobilization of young Imbonerakure and former CNDD-FDD combatants at the party's headquarters in Cibitoke, province. These individuals, from several regions, raise considerable concerns about their goals and the ruling party's involvement in actions that could disrupt public order.

According to internal sources, these young people are reportedly preparing to intervene in the Democratic Republic of Congo to occupy mining areas and farmland, while providing support to Burundian forces against the RED TABARA rebels and other armed groups. Funding for these initiatives is reportedly being handled by CNDD-FDD party, with each commune responsible for providing the members sent. Only combatants from Ntahangwa commune, located in Bujumbura, reportedly receive money for payment.

The individuals are accommodated in a CNDD-FDD building under construction in Cibitoke and receive logistics (food and transportation) provided

by vehicles from the governor and the administrator of Rugombo. They are awaiting uniforms and weapons, and military training sessions are held frequently, especially at night. Distributions of rice and beans are also scheduled for their families.

The actions of these youths, including nighttime training and running exercises accompanied by threatening chants against the opposition, the Tutsi ethnic group, and the Rwandan authorities, are causing great concern among the residents of Cibitoke. The population fears for its safety and demands an immediate cessation of these activities, asserting that security should be provided by official forces and not by civilians or a political party.

Military training for young Imbonerakure demobilized from the former CNDD-FDD rebellion in Burunga province.

At Mabanda camp in Burunga province, a military training session is being held for young Imbonerakure demobilized from the former CNDD-FDD rebellion. Approximately 50 individuals representing demobilized individuals spread across all zones of Burunga province have been recruited.

Not all of them participate in military training activities due to their age, but they appear as young people in official documents, except for those who wish to do so, who join the others after shooting or weapons training sessions. Many wonder why only demobilized members of the former rebellion and young Imbonerakure were selected. The latter were selected based on one person per zone in the five provinces of the new division, to spend three months under the supervision of instructors before being assigned to various military camps across the country. In reality, this training is currently taking place at Mabanda camp.

A dangerous bridge worries residents in Makamba province

Residents of Mukenke quarter and Kirama hill, in Makamba province, are concerned about the frequency of accidents on the bridge spanning Kirama River. Since its construction, two people have lost their lives, including one two weeks ago, and a recent incident left a user seriously injured.

This bridge, essential to the community, is used daily by the sick, students, traders, farmers, and athletes. Residents emphasize the dangerous situation, which forces them to take risks to access essential services.

The Makamba communal administration acknowledges the problem, but explains that the delay in securing the bridge is due to a lack of suitable materials. Local officials promise to explore funding for a lasting solution, while residents urge the administration and government to intervene quickly to prevent further tragic incidents.

Technical solutions such as a reinforced concrete bridge, a steel suspension bridge, or a temporary reinforced wooden footbridge could be considered to ensure users' safety.

Imbonerakure paramilitary exercises as a show of force in Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province

On March 29, 2025, on Nyagahanda hill, in Nyabitsinda zone and commune, Ruyigi province, CNDD-FDD activities took place. These activities were attended by CNDD-FDD youth, the Imbonerakure, from all the hills of Nyabitsinda zone for community service. Paramilitary activities were organized to train and prepare for CNDD-FDD party's show of force exercises scheduled for April 12, 2025, in Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province.

Preparations for the show of force activity scheduled for April 12, 2025, in Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province

On March 26, 2025, in Gatara and Gasenya hills, located in Muhwazi zone, in Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province, CNDD-FDD party organized a zonal meeting to remind members in the region of the principles of CNDD-FDD party's ideology and to encourage them to participate in some activities to strengthen the party. This event also served to encourage the Bagumyabanga to engage in the show of force activity scheduled for April 12, 2025, in Kinyinya. On the same day, Adelin Nzohabonayo, the zonal secretary, urged the Bagumyabanga to ensure that their children are educated up to university, in order to have an educated youth who could emerge as future leaders.

1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

The end of Ramadan marred by price rise in Cibitoke province

On March 30, 2025, as Muslims in Cibitoke celebrated Eid al-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan, their joy was marred by a widespread surge in the prices of necessities. This increase, which affects all essential foodstuffs, is plunging households into a precarious situation and causing widespread concern.

For the past month, food prices have skyrocketed. Rice, a basic food, has seen its price rise from 4,500 to 5,500 BIF for medium-quality rice, and from 5,000 to 6,500 BIF for premium rice. Beans, another basic food, have also seen a sharp increase, rising from 3,200 to 4,300 Bif for medium-quality beans, and from 4,000 to 6,000 Bif for premium beans. Meat, corn and cassava flour, potatoes, and even second-hand clothing have also seen their prices rise.

This price surge comes amid a persistent fuel shortage, which complicates the transportation of goods and contributes to rising costs. Residents also denounce the impact of the recent Ministry of Commerce order setting the prices of necessities, which they say has only worsened the situation.

Faced with population's anger, the governor of Cibitoke, Carême Bizoza, warned against speculative practices of some traders and announced the implementation of a commission to regulate prices. He also calls for urgent measures to facilitate the importation and movement of goods in order to ease pressure on the local market.

1.4. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

Closure of Rugombo transit site: Congolese refugees left for themselves

On March 25, 2025, the transit site for Congolese refugees in Rugombo, Cibitoke province, was unexpectedly closed, plunging hundreds of people into a desperate situation. Faced with the refugees' refusal to be relocated to Musenyi, in Rutana province, a site with deplorable sanitary conditions, the Burundian authorities ended their temporary shelter. Deprived of any humanitarian assistance, these refugees are now forced to return to the DRC, risking

While awaiting concrete solutions, the residents of Cibitoke are celebrating the end of Ramadan in a climate of precariousness and economic uncertainty. They are calling for swift and effective action to stabilize prices and ensure access to necessities.

Meeting by Minister Martin Niteretse, at Cankuzo province city

On March 26, 2025, in the provincial hall located in Cankuzo, a meeting was chaired by Martin Niteretse, Minister of Interior, Community Development and Public Security. He addressed the heads of provincial services and communal administrators, asking them to briefly identify the challenges faced in their respective sectors. He clarified that this was a mandate from the President of the Republic and that he would therefore transmit the report as presented. In conclusion, he called for constant monitoring of irregular activities and emphasized the need to always be prepared to defend against possible attacks by Kagame, who might attempt to attack Burundi from Tanzania or Congo. He reiterated the President of the Republic's words. According to his speech, if Kagame launched an offensive on Bujumbura via Congo, even with a single bullet, Burundians would head towards Kigali via Kirundo. This journey would only take three hours on foot.

Furthermore, according to his investigations, the minister uncovered cases of fraud involving the export of maize to Tanzania, but ultimately revealed that this maize was actually being diverted to Rwanda. If Tanzania wishes to purchase maize, it will buy it at the usual price, indicating that he has already contacted Tanzanian officials.

their lives.

Rugombo soccer field, which served as a temporary shelter for these Congolese people fleeing the violence in North and South Kivu, is now empty. The Burundian authorities ordered its immediate closure, placing the refugees before a tragic choice: a dangerous return to the DRC or relocation to inhumane conditions in Musenyi.

Since February 15, 2025, these refugees, from Kamanyola, Katogota, Luvungi, Bwegera, Luberizi,

Rwenena, Mutarule, Sange, Kiliba, and Uvira, had sought refuge in Rugombo, fleeing clashes between the Congolese army, supported by Burundian soldiers, and the M23 rebels.

The proposed relocation to Musenyi, in Giharo commune, Rutana province, has sparked fierce opposition. The refugees denounce the site's unsanitary conditions and the lack of drinking water, food, and bedding equipment. Despite their complaints, the UNHCR and the Burundian authorities have maintained their decision. Cibitoke Governor Carême Bizoza stated that, while no one can be forced into relocation, cross-border movements of refugees are not permitted. A UNHCR official, speaking on condition of anonymity, justified this decision by citing international protocols that require

refugees to be moved at least 150 kilometers from the border.

Faced with this impasse, many refugees have undertaken a perilous return to the DRC. Some have crossed Rusizi River, the natural border between Burundi and the DRC, exposing themselves to the risk of drowning and attacks by crocodiles and hippos. Others, from Uvira and Sange, were transported by buses and military vehicles to Gatumba and Kaburantwa border posts in Buganda commune.

Despite promises of protection from international organizations, this abrupt closure highlights the plight of Congolese refugees and the authorities' inability to provide them with dignified and secure care.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. Persons killed following the settlement of scores

A woman killed in Cankuzo commune and province

On March 29, 2025, at around 6:00 p.m., in Ndava IV quarter, Cankuzo commune and province, Anatolie Ndimurukundo, aged 38, was killed with a machete by Léonard from the same quarter. The victim is accused of stealing corn from him. According to local sources, Anatolie Ndimurukundo died instantly and her body was taken to Cankuzo Hospital mortuary. The perpetrator fled after the crime. The victim was carrying a 3-month-old infant on her back and was the mother of five children.

One person killed in Bubanza commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 24, 2025, reveals that on March 23, 2025, on Muyange hill in Bubanza commune and province, Boniface Sibomana, a 32-year-old butcher, CNDD-FDD party member, was accused of stabbing his younger brother, Schadrack Ndayizeye, aged 25, to death following a dispute over a 2,000 BIF debt. Three days after the incident, the wanted individual remains unable to be found, causing concern and anger among residents, who suspect protection by local authorities.

According to an eyewitness, the day before the incident, an initial quarrel had occurred between the two brothers over this sum of money. On Sunday morning, when Schadrack found Boniface at his home, tensions escalated. A violent argument broke out, during which Boniface allegedly used a knife to stab his brother in the chest. Neighbors, alerted by screams, watched but were unable to intervene. Despite their attempts to help him, Schadrack Ndayizeye died from his injuries at the scene.

After the murder, Boniface Sibomana quickly escaped and is still on the run. The police launched an investigation and jailed a neighbor for questioning as a witness. However, the local population is critical of the authorities' inaction to arrest the suspect. Some residents explicitly accuse local officials of covering up for Boniface due to his status as an influential member of Imbonerakure. "He should have been arrested immediately, but no one seems to be actively looking for him," said a resident who wished to remain anonymous.

The murder has created an atmosphere of fear and frustration within Muyange community. Many voices are being raised to demand justice, regardless of the suspect's influence. Administrative and

police authorities affirm that the investigation is ongoing and that all measures are being taken to find Boniface Sibomana. However, the silence surrounding this case raises doubts about the impartiality of the local justice system. “We want the law to be applied to everyone, without exception,” says a

1.1.2. Bodies found

A body of a newborn found in Rumonge commune and province

On March 27, 2025, on Birimba hill, Rumonge commune and province, a decomposing body of a newborn was discovered in the evening by children playing in an empty plot of land. Witnesses on the scene report that the children saw many flies around the body wrapped in a bag and alerted nearby residents. Our sources indicate that the body was removed by Red Cross agents in collaboration with the local administration, including Manassé Gafasha, head of Birimba hill, to proceed with its burial.

A body found in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On March 29, 2025, the body of an unidentified man in his thirties, decapitated with a machete, was found on the 9th street of Rusiga hill, near the provincial office and Nyamagana River, not far from a position raised in the area by members of the young Imbonerakure.

According to an eyewitness, his new motorcycle, found intact at the scene, suggests that the murder could be linked to a missed robbery attempt. However, many residents suspect the involvement of young Imbonerakure, who are regularly cited in similar cases.

According to a security source, the man was killed less than 500 meters from the provincial office and not far from Nyamagana River. The police, alerted to this discovery, immediately opened an investigation. The body was transferred to Cibitoke Hospital mortuary, while police authorities are calling on the

neighbor. The case continues to provoke strong reactions in Bubanza, putting increasing pressure on the authorities to quickly arrest the suspect and shed light on this tragedy that has disrupted the population’s peace.

public to help identify those responsible.

Testimonies gathered on the scene highlight that young Imbonerakure are often mentioned in similar cases, including recent murders in the region. A local source insists that these youths are likely involved, especially since the crime took place near their positions established on the banks of Rusizi River, on the border with the DRC.

Residents, concerned about the upsurge in these acts of violence, are calling on the authorities to conduct thorough investigations and guarantee security in the region.

A body found in Bugendana commune, Gitega province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 24, 2025, indicates that on March 20, 2025, at around 6 a.m., in Nyamasagwe Valley, separating Murayi hills in Giheta commune and Gitongo hills in Bugendana commune in Gitega province, the body of Haharugira Apollinaire, aged 42, was found. According to Ndayisaba Manacé, head of Gitongo hill, the victim had spent the evening of March 19, 2025, at one of the bars on Murayi hill. This hill head states that the victim was murdered by unknown persons and adds that he was accused of sorcery by the entire population of the hill, as well as by members of his family. His head was crushed with machetes, according to this hill head. The victim's brothers, including Twagirayezu Jean Marie and Hatungimana Zéphyrin, as well as his wife Seconde, were arrested and jailed in Bugendana cell for investigations but were released on March 27, 2025, and the case was closed.

1.1.3. Abductions and/or enforced disappearances

A retiree abducted in Muha commune, Bujumbura mairie

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 24, 2025, revealed that on March 22, 2025, in Bujumbura, Dominique Ndikumana, a former employee of the Ministry of Education, was abducted by members of the National Intelligence Service. This incident raises serious concerns about the safety of citizens and the methods employed by the intelligence services. According to reports, Dominique Ndikumana, a resident of Nyakabiga III quarter, 8th Avenue, in Mukaza commune, was heading downtown around 4 p.m. to purchase Star Times credits when he was arrested as he exited the bus by men in civilian clothes. They forced him into a tinted double-cab pickup truck, without plate number, which drove toward Regina Mundi Cathedral.

Witnesses categorically identified the abductors as agents of the Burundian intelligence services. Ndikumana's family is deeply concerned for his safety and well-being, fearing for his life.

A person abducted in Muyinga commune and province

On March 23, 2025, at the roundabout in Mukoni quarter, in Muyinga commune and province, Nkurunziza Schadrack, aged 33, a hairdresser from Nyakarama hill, in Bugabira commune, Kirundo

province, was abducted by three Imbonerakure members who forced him into a vehicle with plate number CA 0444 belonging to Basabose Antoine. According to local witnesses, the driver, nicknamed Kinyenyi, worked for Shabani Nimubona, leader of Imbonerakure in Muyinga province, known for numerous human rights violations in that province. The vehicle headed for Gitega, but its final destination remains unknown. Family members express concern for their loved one's safety until they receive information on his detention location.

A person abducted in downtown Gitega province

On March 24, 2025, between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m., in Gitega downtown, near the American Corner cultural center, Mfitye Emmanuel, a 65-year-old retired member of MSD party, was abducted by men in police uniforms and two others in Special Institutional Guard (API) uniforms. According to an eyewitness, these police officers, led by Venant Ndayishimiye, provincial head of National Intelligence Service (SNR), were in the vehicle with tinted windows and with no plate number. As the man approached his home, the police officers abruptly arrived, grabbed him, and forcibly removed him, then the vehicle took Gitega-Bujumbura road. Until now, his relatives have wondered whether the vehicle continued to Bujumbura or returned to the Intelligence office in Gitega.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

1.2.1. Persons arbitrarily arrested

A street leader arrested in Muha commune, Bujumbura mairie

Information received by Ligue Iteka indicates that on March 18, 2025, a woman nicknamed "Computer" was the victim of a violent assault around midnight in Kinanira II. Beaten by a man named Olivier, she was thrown into a gutter filled with rainwater. People living near the scene of the crime were awakened by screams and alerted the police.

The police, helped by Kawinga, the head of the 16th Avenue in this quarter, arrested Olivier and evacuated the victim to the police station. Kawinga returned home to sleep while awaiting further investigation in the morning. However, in a surprising de-

cision, the police returned the victim to the scene of the crime, where she was assaulted again. Olivier's brother threw him into a gutter, as confirmed by those present.

The next day, the two brothers, the police officers, and Kadwinga went to Musaga police station for questioning. The Kinanira II police station head, Emmanuel Ndayikeza, was nearly jailed, but a senior official refused to allow him to be imprisoned.

The police officers then attempted to contact Kadwinga to help them avoid consequences once the female victim, "Computer," died, but he refused. This refusal led the police officers to bribe witnesses, thus allowing Kadwinga to be jailed instead of the police officers. This case raises

questions about corruption and abuse of power within the police.

A person arrested in Muyinga commune and province

On March 24, 2024, at Muyinga prosecution office, located in Muyinga commune and province, Siniremera Theodore was arrested and jailed in Muyinga judicial police cells by a judicial police officer named Gérard, nicknamed Gasongo. According to local witnesses, the victim responded the summon of this judicial police officer regarding a land dispute

1.2.2. Rape

A girl raped in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka dated March 28, 2025, indicates that on March 17, 2025, at Ngara sub-hill, Musema hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, around 6:30 p.m., I O, a 5-year-old kindergarten student at Ecofo Musema, was raped by Emmanuel Nsengiyumva, aged 33, according to the victim's parents. According to the victim's parents, the child was playing with others when the perpetrator called her and took her behind an uninhabited house to rape her. The victim's parents also added that after a few minutes, they saw the child come home crying and said that someone had raped her and that if she reported him, he would hurt her. The latter fled that same night but was arrested the next day by the police. Jailed first in Butaganzwa commune cell, he was then transferred to Kayanza police station cell. The victim was taken to Musema Hospital for medical examination the same night.

A woman raped in Kabarore commune, Kayanza province

On March 25, 2025, at around 5 a.m., on Rukere hill, Kabarore commune, Kayanza province, Stany Nimubona, aged 30, committed suicide after raping his own 50-year-old mother. According to an eyewitness, that morning, Stany's wife got up very early as usual to collect the goods. After she left, his son Stany sent a message to his mother telling her to hurry up and see him. The mother hurried and upon arrival, her son Stany gave her a cup of porridge and at his first intake, the mother fell into a deep sleep. She was woken up after 1 hour around 6

between him and an individual named Mwarabu.

On March 27, 2025, during a visit by the public prosecutor at Muyinga High Court, the victim was released after alerts were raised. The magistrate noted that a 2m x 2m cell housed more than 200 inmates. He decided to release several of them, who were jailed for civil cases. Inmates in Muyinga cells report suffering from nosocomial infections due to long periods spent standing in these cells, not even being able to sit down due to the excessive number of people in such small cells.

o'clock by the noise of Stany's children as they too woke up to find their father hanging on the rope in the living room and their grandmother asleep in the armchairs. The mother, after waking up, found herself raped and realized that it was her son who had done it.

A woman raped in Ngozi commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 24, 2025, reveals that on March 23, 2025, on Kambati hill, in Mivo zone of Ngozi province, a 50-year-old woman named N.G. was raped by her 30-year-old son, Nshimirimana, who lives with his parents. According to local witnesses, the suspect had used drugs, had expelled his father, and had threatened his mother with a knife. The perpetrator was arrested and jailed at Mivo zone police station for further investigation. The rape was confirmed at Mivo hospital, where the victim was treated.

A student raped in Buyengero commune, Rumonge province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 24, 2025, indicates that on March 20, 2025, on Nkizi hill, Buyengero commune, Rumonge province, a girl named L M, aged 16, from the same hill and a student, was raped by Pierre Tuyisenge, a 22-year-old farmer. He raped her when he found her in a field and then pulled her into the bush. She screamed, and passersby rescued her. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to Buyengero police cell, then transferred to Rumonge provincial police station on March 25, 2025. The survivor was taken to Humura center for holistic care.

A girl raped in Rumonge commune and province

On March 25, 2025, on Gishasha hill, Rumonge commune and province, M.N., aged 17, from the same hill, was raped by Jean Marie Bizoba, an Imbonerakure of the ruling party, who surprised her as

she went to the field to harvest cassava. The victim was rescued by the palm tree guards. The victim was taken to Humura center for holistic care, and the alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to Rumonge police station cell.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. Right to work

Call for the unemployed to join CNDD-FDD party to find job, in Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province

On March 24, 2025, on Ndagiye hill, Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province, a meeting was held for job seekers led by Thérance Ndikumana, communal representative of CNDD-FDD party. The objective of this meeting was to encourage them to participate in different activities organized by CNDD-FDD party, including upcoming campaign and participation in training reinforcement sessions for the parade scheduled for April 12, 2025, the day of the show of force by CNDD-FDD party youth in the new commune of Gisuru.

Suspension of transport agencies in Ngozi province

Since March 25, 2025, in Ngozi province, none of the five transport agencies (Volcano, Kirezi, Tramwex, Modern Coast, and Asante Yesu) have operated for five days. According to local witnesses, the managers of these agencies claim to be running out of fuel. They explain that if they purchase fuel on the black market, at a very high cost of around 20,000 BIF per liter, they cannot maintain the rates set by the government. They specify that if transport prices increase, they face severe penalties. Their work is suspended until the gas stations supplying these agencies are supplied or the government rise passenger transport rates. Meanwhile, minibuses called Hiace or small Probox cars charge between 40,000 and 60,000 Bif for Ngozi-Bujumbura trip.

III.2. Right to education

Forced contributions in schools at the provincial direction of education in Makamba province

A decision was made by the senior authorities of Makamba province to collect corn to help the famine-stricken population of Kirundo. Thus, all the communal education officials organized a mandatory corn collection from students, going so far as to expel those who failed to contribute anything, on March 21, 2025, in all communal direction. Each student was required to provide 1 kg; those who were far from their families had to go to the market, thus reducing their foods. What is worrying is that the collected stock is stored in CNDD-FDD party offices instead of being put in a community hall or recognized public space.

Regarding the population, each hill must provide 30 kg, and the latter also bring the collected quantities to the same locations, which must be closely monitored. The Makamba provincial Direction of Educa-

tion is complying with the higher authorities' instructions.

Forced participation of students in CNDD-FDD party political activities in Cankuzo commune and province

As of March 22, 2025, all students of schools in Cankuzo urban center, whether public or private, including Cankuzo Communal High School, Cankuzo Paramedical School, Stan Food High School in Muterero, Cankuzo ETS, Cankuzo Espoir High School, Cankuzo Full Gospel High School, Cankuzo ECOFO I, and Lueur des Élités School, from grade 7 and up, were forced to go to Buhumuza Stadium without exception, to learn CNDD-FDD party ideology and vote for the party in the upcoming elections without exception. In some schools, such as Cankuzo Communal High School, roll calls were conducted to identify absentees. At the forefront of the teaching of this ideology were Béatrice

Hakizimana, DCE Cankuzo, and the governor's socio-cultural advisor, Evelyne Tuyisenge. For some, this constitutes electoral fraud, while others consider it intimidation in violation of electoral law. It is also a form of anticipated campaign.

III.3. Right to health

The lumpy skin disease epidemic in Bururi province

For two months, lumpy skin disease has been declared in Bururi province. Ten cows have died, and about twenty are showing symptoms of this epidemic. Twenty-one cows in Bururi commune, 22 in Matana commune, and 78 cows showing signs of this epidemic have been recorded in Songa com-

According to sources from Bururi DPAAE, medications and vaccines are available. Administrative authorities in Bururi province have already banned the movement of cattle on the hills. They are asking farmers to keep their herds in stables to prevent the spread of this epidemic.

IV. CONCLUSION AND 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.