

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°469 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 7-13 April 2025



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 13 April 2025, Iteka has documented at least 724 cases of enforced disappearances

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ACRONYMS

ADRA	: <i>Adventist Development and Relief Agency</i>
ANAGESSA	: <i>National Agency for the Management of Strategic Food Stocks</i>
CDP	: <i>Cooperative for Population Development</i>
CECI	: <i>Independent Communal Electoral Commission</i>
CEPI	: <i>Independent Provincial Electoral Commission</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
CVR	: <i>Truth and Reconciliation Commission</i>
DCE	: <i>Communal Director of Education</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
FARDC	: <i>Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
M23	: <i>March 23 Movement</i>
NGO	: <i>Non-Governmental Organization</i>
ONPRA	: <i>National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons</i>
OBM	: <i>Burundian Mining Office</i>
OBR	: <i>Burundian Revenue Authority</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
OTB	: <i>Burundi Tea Office</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
TGI	: <i>High Court</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents an alarming human rights and security situation in Burundi. Six people died, all found dead. In addition, one person was abducted, two people tortured, five victims of GBV, including three victims of sexual violence against minors, and one person has been arbitrarily arrested.

Civil and political rights, socioeconomic, and cultural

rights are also covered in this bulletin. The political, security, humanitarian, governance, and human rights contexts are also reported.

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

During the previous week, Burundi was the scene of various significant political events. On April 12, 2025, CNDD-FDD party held a rally in Kinyinya, Ruyigi province, aimed at demonstrating its power in the expanded Gisuru commune. Many party members, "the Bagumyabanga," gathered at the communal stadium at dawn. At 5 a.m., Kinyinya residents were awakened by the chants of young Imbonerakure, who were participating in various morning sports activities. The atmosphere that day was charged with tension, with youths patrolling the stadium entrances, questioning those they considered not affiliated with CNDD-FDD, and demanding identification documents. Dressed in party-colored clothing, these youths waved branches and chanted worrying slogans such as "Kill the criminals, the goat's ear hears when it is grilled." Their objective was clear: to leave no room for any other party in Kinyinya commune after the 2025 elections, which caused considerable concern among opposition political parties.

The festivities began with a symbolic Kinyange parade, paying tribute to veterans, followed by Bakenyerarugamba, students, and Imbonerakure from several zones. This parade highlighted CNDD-FDD, bringing together committees from Buhumaza province, religious leaders, and various social actors, all in uniform. However, the day was also marred by unfortunate incidents, with two people injured, one requiring emergency medical evacuation, and the other who died. In his inaugural speech, Rubin Ntamavyariro, communal secretary of Gisuru, highlighted CNDD-FDD's efforts to or-

chestrate this show of force. Gérard Barutwanayo, the party's provincial secretary, advocated for the promotion of the values of peace and cohesion as the 2025 elections approach. Meanwhile, Shabani Nimubona, the provincial representative of the youth league, urged the Imbonerakure to ensure security during the pre-election period. During the ceremonies, the provincial committee also distributed supplies to patients at Kinyinya Hospital.

The following day, April 13, 2025, rumors circulated in Cendajuru about the recruitment of agents to distribute voter registration cards. This situation raised questions among opposition party members about the neutrality of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), leading to accusations of favoritism toward CNDD-FDD in the electoral process. Previously, on April 8, CNDD-FDD held a mobilization meeting in Camazi to strengthen its committees ahead of the elections. Further meetings continued on April 10, encouraging members to actively engage and convince the population to vote for the party rather than the opposition. On April 11, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released a list of 969 victims of past violence in Nyabitsinda, reinforcing suspicions of political motivation during this election period. Furthermore, Brigitte, a CNDD-FDD official, threatened women from a savings group, pressuring them to join her party or face expulsion.

Finally, clandestine meetings were reported on April 7, 2025 where CNDD-FDD members discussed strategies to monitor those who did not

participate in the party activities and identify those who disclosed information. All of these events highlight a particularly tense political climate in the

run-up to the elections, marked by threats and maneuvers intended to consolidate CNDD-FDD's domination.

1.2. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

Information dated April 7, 2025, relayed by Ligue Iteka, reported the death of eight Congolese refugee children under the age of five at Musenyi site, in Giharo commune, Rutana province, over a two-week period, as a result of a severe food shortage. Local sources attribute these deaths to illnesses resulting from malnutrition, caused by a lack of essential food products, particularly those rich in protein, fats, and carbohydrates, necessary for children's development. Most of young children suffer from this state of food insecurity, making them vulnerable to multiple diseases. They are also affected by harsh climatic conditions and the lack of adequate shelter. Respiratory diseases are particularly prevalent, especially among very young children.

Regarding humanitarian assistance, an update dated April 11, 2025 reveals that, faced with the continued influx of Congolese refugees fleeing ongoing conflicts in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, involving the M23 movement and the Congolese army supported by Burundian forces and local Wazalendo militias, several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) quickly set up emergency assistance at the transit sites of Cishemere and Cibitoke, in Cibitoke province. According to humanita-

rian actors on the ground, this mobilization brought significant relief to the hundreds of refugees recently arrived in these areas, who received essential humanitarian assistance on April 6 and 7, 2025. The aid provided includes basic food, kitchen sets, and bedding, distributed by organizations such as Tearfund, Help Channel, the Anglican Church, and ADRA Burundi.

Elias Siboniyo, ADRA Burundi program coordinator, highlighted that the refugees' needs far outweigh the currently available assistance. He therefore issued an urgent appeal to other humanitarian organizations and partners to engage in this solidarity effort and increase assistance resources. Furthermore, the ONPRA coordinator welcomed the significant support provided by these NGOs, which complements the Burundian government's previous efforts to respond to this humanitarian crisis. He also encouraged other donors to strengthen their commitment to address the magnitude of the humanitarian needs, the total value of which is estimated at BIF 356 million, reflecting a significant gesture of solidarity for the thousands of displaced people heading to these sites.

1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

The governance context in Burundi over the past week has been marked by several significant events. Three government officials, including an administrator, were arrested in Vyanda commune, located in Bururi province. On April 10, 2025, the administrator of this commune, Alexis Nshimirimana, a member of CNDD FDD party on Kirungu hill, was arrested and transferred to Mpimba central prison. He is accused of embezzling 13 tons of maize, valued at 25 million, which had been collected by the National Agency for Strategic Management of Food Stocks (ANAGESA) in this region. According to judicial sources, the arrest of this administrator was ordered by the Anti-Corruption Brigade. Two other individuals, Augustin Hatungimana and Oreste Nzohabonayo, also involved in this embezzlement and members of the same party, had been arrested the previous month. Hatungimana

was the manager of the ANAGESA store in Gitsiro, and Nzohabonayo was the maize collection supervisor. Both were detained in Bururi prison before their transfer to Mpimba on April 10, 2025. This embezzlement comes at a time of soaring prices for basic commodities, particularly maize, which is vital for many families. In response to this crisis, the provincial governor urged farmers to sell their harvest to ANAGESA so that it could be resold at affordable prices, to stabilize the market. Investigations remain open to clarify this case and establish responsibilities.

Furthermore, in parallel with this case, a trial in flagrante delicto took place in Kayanza province. According to information received by Ligue Iteka on April 11, 2025, the Kayanza High Court sentenced Victor Bigirimana, from Mugongo hill,

to two and a half years in prison on April 9, 2025. He was arrested by a security committee in Kotsi sub-hill on charges of theft and illegal sale of 600 grams of colombo tantalite minerals stolen from a mining company, CDP, on Kivuvu hill. This crime was committed on the night of March 28, 2025. On April 5, 2025, Kabarore communal administrator, Berchimas Nsaguye, accompanied by Police Commissioner Nahayo Eric, visited the hills bordering Rwanda to combat the illegal trade in minerals, coffee, corn, and other products. During this visit, they warned the population that anyone caught committing fraud would face severe penalties, including death.

On April 10, 2025, the Kayanza High Court, under the presidency of Havyarimana François, dealt with various flagrante delicto cases. Three defendants, Manariyo Evariste alias Nzovu, Nzohabonimana Didace alias Gasongo, and Minani Pascal, were charged with illegally selling minerals and harming the national economy. A police search in Kabarore on the night of March 31, 2025, revealed a substantial quantity of minerals at Didace's home, including 108 kg of amethyst and other substances. In addition, other minerals were discovered in Didace's store. Minani Pascal was charged with complicity after Didace's store keys were found in his possession. After deliberation, Minani was acquitted,

while Nzovu and Gasongo were sentenced to five years' imprisonment and a fine of ten million Burundian francs. The seized minerals are to be handed over to OBM.

Finally, another notable issue has emerged concerning the CEPBU¹, a community formed by fifteen local churches, in line with the implementation of a new law on religious denominations. Some churches have attempted to impose their authority despite the need for autonomy enshrined in their creation. The law adopted in September 2022 provided for a two-year period for religious bodies to adapt. However, the interpretation and application of the law within CEPBU varied, creating tensions. Ten churches proposed new statutes to establish a hierarchical structure, which was approved by the relevant ministry, thus expanding governance. However, the five churches that did not adhere to these new statutes and protested this decision, leading to an intervention by the Burundian presidency, which ultimately overturned the ministry's decision. Minister Martin Ninteretse was then forced to reverse his decision given the originality of CEPBU's creation, which was intended to allow for the autonomy and diversity of local churches. Ligue Iteka welcomed this decision by the presidency and called for a reassessment of other similar decisions taken by the ministry.

1.4. HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT

In Burundi, the human rights context is currently marked by a recent call for expressions of interest launched by the Burundian National Assembly. This call focuses on the process of replacing the commissioners of the Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi, a crucial institution for safeguarding citizens' fundamental rights. In a recent statement, the President of the National Assembly highlighted the dysfunction observed within this institution, thus justifying the need to replace its commissioners. Established in 2011 to strengthen its role in defending human rights in Burundi, the National Commission has played a central role in protecting civil rights. It received accreditation in July 2012 by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions and successfully obtained A status in January 2013, an

evidence to its contribution to democratic governance.

However, the political crisis that erupted in 2015 challenged the CNIDH, leading to its downgrading to B status on January 26, 2018, which is granted to national institutions that do not comply with the Paris Principles². This status was maintained until June 26, 2021, when a new assessment and re-accreditation under A status was scheduled³. The CNIDH was subject to another reassessment in May 2024 during the 43rd session of GANHRI following a request from Burundian human rights organizations and its international partner organizations. Following this reassessment process, the Secretariat of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), following the report

¹ CEPBU is a Community formed by fifteen main local/mission and autonomous Churches which are: Kayogoro, Kiremba, Mugara, Gishiha, Bujumbura, Nyanza-Lac, Ruyigi, Kigozi, Karama, Rusagara, Gitega, Mukoni, Gashikanwa, Kagari and Maramvya.

² <https://www.fidh.org/fr/nos-impacts/burundi-la-cnidh-perd-son-statut-a-d-independance>

³ <https://www.iwacu-burundi.org/la-cnidh-re-accréditee-au-statut-a/>

of the 45th session of the SCA Accreditation Subcommittee after its assessment, decided to maintain the CNIDH's A status.

During this year, an internal crisis emerged, leading to disagreements among the commissioners on key issues related to governance and ethics.

In this context of uncertainty, a letter was sent on March 2, 2025, to the President of the National Assembly by a group of commissioners, requesting direct and urgent intervention on his part to reestablish the CNIDH, which, according to them, has been experiencing a persistent governance crisis for two years. These commissioners also demanded the

resignation of the commission's president and a thorough audit of the organization's finances, to promote transparency and accountability in its management.

In response to these concerns, the Bureau of the National Assembly issued a press release on April 11, 2025, announcing a call for applications to appoint new commissioners without specifying the details of the positions⁴⁵. This press release also mentioned an investigation into the structural problems of the CNIDH, in accordance with several articles of Law No. 1/04 of January 5, 2011, governing its creation and responsibilities.

1.5. SECURITY CONTEXT

The analysis of the security context in Burundi over the past week highlights several significant events. First, the militarization of the Imbonerakure in Muyinga commune and province. On April 10, 2025, during a visit to Muyinga by the Deputy Secretary General of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, the Imbonerakure conducted patrols that resulted in acts of intimidation against passersby. According to testimonies collected, these individuals, led by Shabani Nimubona, were dressed in black police uniforms, wearing gumboots, and equipped with Motorola-type communications equipment, tinted glasses, and binoculars. Only Shabani was wearing military uniform. The same witnesses reported that these Imbonerakure, armed with rifles, traveled in gray Hilux double-cab vehicles, two of which were part of Shabani Nimubona's motorcade, while intimidating those present to force them to evacuate the premises.

Another incident occurred on April 13, 2025, on Buhiga hill and commune, Karuzi province, where an AMEC Burundi (African Methodist Church)

church was closed. That day, a ceremony was held to introduce the new Reverend Pastor Ryarambaje Evariste, from Makamba province, who was destined to succeed the former Reverend Pastor Nduwimana Belly, founder of this church in the region. According to witnesses, when Gitega's legal representative entered with the new pastor, the congregation boycotted the event by leaving the church to gather outside. The pastors, concerned about this situation, contacted the police and the zone head, who informed the governor. The latter promptly ordered the church to close, and the congregation was ordered to return home.

Regarding other security incidents, on April 8, 2025, a tragic incident occurred in Swahili quarter, in Muyinga commune and province, where a child lost his life in a fire. Witnesses reported that the victim's father was involved in illegal sale of gasoline in plastic bottles. Following this incident, the population demanded that the administration and the police take measures to eradicate this illegal trade and ensure the protection of citizens.

⁴<https://assemblee.bi/2025/04/15/prolongation-des-delaix-de-depot-des-candidatures/>

⁵<https://assemblee.bi/2025/04/15/prolongation-des-delaix-de-depot-des-candidatures/>

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. Bodies found

A body found in Bweru commune, Ruyigi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka dated April 11, 2025, indicates that on March 9, 2025, on Murambi sub-hill, Mibanga hill, Bweru commune, Ruyigi province, the decapitated and decomposing body of Jean Bosco, a married man, was found in Gisenyi River, separating Nyankanda refugee site and Kanisha and Nkanda hills, in Kayongozi zone.

According to his wife, on March 1, 2025, the day of his disappearance, he left in the morning dressed in pants and a jacket. His wife, who had finished preparing breakfast, called him to come for breakfast but refused, replying as he left that he would be back in a moment, but he did not return.

A body of a female member of CNL party found in Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province

On the morning of April 12, 2025, the body of Rosette Ndikumwenayo, a 42-year-old married mother of five, a member of CNL party, from Kinama hill, Gisuru zone, Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province, was found by passersby on the banks of Rumungwe River. According to local sources, the victim was part of the party's music band group. She had left her home on the morning of April 11, 2025, for farming activities and did not return. The communal administration, working with the family, proceeded with her burial. The victim had marks on her throat as if she had been strangled. The alleged perpetrators and reasons for this crime have not been identified, but the administration indicated that investigations have started.

A body of a CNL party member found in Mutumba commune, Karuzi province

On April 10, 2025, on Gasera hill, Gisimbawaga zone, Mutumba commune, Karuzi province, the body of Habimana Marinus, aged 49, a resident of Mutara hill and a member of the pro-CNDD-FDD Nestor, wing of CNL party, was found. According to witnesses, the victim was killed with machetes by as yet unidentified individuals. According to lo-

cal witnesses, the victim was ambushed as he returned home near his residential hill in the same zone and commune. According to the same witnesses, his body had injuries to the head and neck. The victim was the head of the communal councilor list for his CNL party. The police in this commune indicated that they had already started investigations and, as of April 13, 2025, no one had been arrested.

A body found in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura mairie

On the morning of April 10, 2025, the body of an unidentified man was discovered floating in the waters of Ntahangwa River, at the intersection of Ngagara and Buyenzi zones, on 24th Avenue in Buyenzi zone, in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura mairie. The Civil Protection Police, instructed by the judicial police officer from Buyenzi zone, quickly recovered the body.

According to statements from residents of Buyenzi zone, the body was caught by a tree trunk as it was being carried toward Lake Tanganyika by the waves of Ntahangwa River. These same sources claim that the body was submerged in the river during the night of April 9-10, 2025.

Residents of Buyenzi zone expressed deep frustration at the police's refusal to allow them to approach to identify the body and verify if he was locally known. The body was then recovered by Ngagara zone judicial police, under the responsibility of OPJ Nkengurukiyimana Isidonie, to conduct the investigation.

Two bodies in military uniforms found in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On April 10, 2025, at around 3:00 p.m., in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, two and unidentified men, dressed in Burundian army uniforms and wrapped in a tents, were discovered in an advanced state of decomposition on the 11th street, on Rusiga hill, located at least 4 km from Cibitoke province city. This discovery has caused disturbing

speculation, with some suggesting the possible execution of young Imbonerakure returning from fighting in eastern Congo. Faced with these persistent uncertainties, the population and members of the ruling party are strongly demanding thorough investigations.

The advanced stage of decomposition indicates that the bodies had been lying there for several days. The fact that the victims were wearing Burundian military uniforms adds a particularly alarming dimension to this situation.

The Rugombo communal police commissioner confirmed the discovery of the two bodies. He noted that, in a controversial decision, the remains were

immediately buried in Cibitoke cemetery, without an autopsy or via the mortuary. This measure, justified by the need to avoid potential health risks for the population, raises serious questions about the true intention of identifying the victims and clarifying the circumstances of their death.

While the precise details of these deaths remain obscure, calls for an independent and transparent investigation are growing. Families, young members of the ruling party, and many local residents are insisting that the full truth be revealed about this tragedy, which casts a worrying shadow over Burundi's role in the conflict in eastern Congo and the treatment of its own soldiers.

II.1.2. Abductions and/or Enforced Disappearances

A CNL party member abducted in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura mairie

On April 7, 2025, around noon, Pontien Ndayikeje, aged 38, native of Rutana province and a well-known figure in the pro-Rwasa CNL party in Buyenzi quarter, was arrested by two police officers at the 17th Avenue in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura mairie.

The arrest followed an incident in which police officers allegedly shot in the air to intimidate his family and those nearby. According to witnesses and close sources, two police officers traveling in a double-cabin vehicle with tinted windows allegedly manhandled Ndayikeje before forcing him into

their car.

Ndayikeje's family and friends express their deep concern, stating that his arrest took place at his home without a warrant. They still do not understand the reasons for this arrest or the location of his current detention, as their searches in several detention centers at Bujumbura mairie have proved fruitless.

As an active member of the pro-Rwasa CNL party in Buyenzi quarter of Bujumbura's Mukaza commune, Pontien Ndayikeje's arrest raises questions regarding the circumstances of the incident and compliance with legal standards.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

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

A woman beaten in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

On April 10, 2025, at around 9 p.m., on Munyinya hill in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, Iradukunda Joella, a 21-year-old farmer, was assaulted by her husband, Manirakiza Fabrice, aged 24, also a farmer and a member of Imbonerakure. Eyewitnesses report that the accused came home drunk. When his wife opened the door, he rushed at her, armed with a kitchen knife. He stabbed her in the right arm, neck, and right breast, then hit her in the face with an empty Primus bottle.

According to these witnesses, the woman lost consciousness after screaming, which alerted neighbors.

They rushed her to the nearby Kibimba Hospital, while the alleged perpetrator surrendered himself to Rutegama police station that night. He is currently jailed at Rutegama police station, where he was questioned by OPJ Havyarimana Juvent. According to police reports, he admitted the facts, stating that he acted under the influence of alcohol. The couple married in December 2024.

A person beaten in Giheta commune, Gitega province

On April 1, 2025, around 7 p.m., on Gisuru hill, in Giheta zone of Gitega province, a young boy named Niyonkuru Elysé narrowly escaped death. According to witnesses, it all began when Nijimbere

Salvator and Nibigira Dismas, the victim's older brothers, arrived at their mother, Katihabwa Cesalie, armed with hoes and machetes, threatening to kill her if she refused to sell a plot of land acquired outside the family property. Elysé then began alerting the neighbors, and his mother took the opportunity to escape through the back door.

The same witnesses report that upon seeing their mother flee, they attacked Elysé, brutally beating him and injuring him with machetes and hoes all over his body, particularly in the chest. Meanwhile, neighbors and the hill head, Birushe Cyriaque, intervened to calm the situation, but to no avail, as

II. 2.2. Rape

A girl raped in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 10, 2025, indicates that on March 21, 2025, C., a 9-year-old girl, was raped by Richard, a young Imbonerakure, her neighbor from Buheka hill in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province. According to neighbors, since then, this minor, whose father is mentally disabled, has not received treatment and currently suffers from genital diseases with discharge from the genital area. Local administrative officials reportedly intimidated the family, demanding that they not report the perpetrator, who is a member of Imbonerakure youth league from Maramvya sub-hill in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province. The leaders pointed are the head of Maramvya sub-hill, named Niyukuri, and the head of Buheka hill, Célestin Bukuru. Despite the neighbors' advocacy, the alleged rapist was not arrested, but he later allegedly evaded prosecution after being revealed by these authorities. Her mother, deprived of any financial means, cries every time neighbors ask about her daughter's situation. Traditional healing methods were reportedly used to treat the victim.

A girl raped in Rumonge commune and province

On April 12, 2025, in Swahili quarter of Rumonge town, around 4 p.m., G. N, a 16-year-old ninth-grade student, was raped by Innocent Sabushimike

Niyonsaba Georgette and Ngendakubwayo Nadine, the wives of Salvator and Dismas respectively, also assaulted and injured the hill head. Around 8 p.m., the police arrived on the scene and arrested the attackers and their wives, taking them to Giheta commune police station.

The victim was transferred to Saint Joseph Clinic in Giheta, where he remains in critical condition due to a lack of resources for a transfer to Bujumbura. The two women were released after paying a fine of 200,000 BIF each. The case is now being handled by OPJ Benoît, who works in Giheta commune.

with threats of being killed. According to neighbors, the alleged perpetrator is a young Imbonerakure member of CNDD-FDD party. He took the girl into his house before threatening to kill her if she screamed, but the girl cried for help at the time. Neighbors intervened, and the young Imbonerakure was arrested. He was jailed in the provincial police station cell in Rumonge. The victim, meanwhile, was taken to Humura center in Mutambara, where she was hospitalized for medical and psychological care.

A schoolgirl raped in Rumonge commune and province

Information received by the Ligue Iteka dated April 13, 2025, indicates that on February 28, 2025, on Kizuka hill, Rumonge commune and province, C. I, a 17-year-old schoolgirl at ECOFO Nyamibu, was raped by Bikorimana Arsène, a 22-year-old fisherman. Arsène had met the victim in the bush while she was collecting firewood. Since they knew each other, Arsène intimidated her not to reveal anything, otherwise she would be eliminated. This is how the girl revealed the secret later, on April 9, 2025, when she was one month pregnant.

The alleged perpetrator, who admitted the charges, was jailed in Rumonge police station cell. The victim was taken to Humura center and then to Rumonge hospital for medical treatment.

II.2.3. Other gender-based violence

A woman injured in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province

On the night of April 11, 2025, on Murengeza hill, Musenyi zone, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, Estella Ndayikeza was injured with a machete by her husband, Déogratias Ndayisenga. According to local witnesses, this woman was accused by her husband of offering him food late. According to the same witnesses, the victim was taken to Mpanda Hospital for treatment, and the alleged perpetrator is in the custody of the judicial police for questioning.

A woman beaten in Tangala commune, Ngozi province

On the night of April 6-7, 2025, on Kigomero hill, Tangala commune, Ngozi province, 25-year-old Nabigo Roselyne was beaten by her husband, 32-year-old Ndimurwanko Elias, following a misunderstanding. According to local witnesses, Elias came home drunk and falsely accused his wife, Nabigo Roselyne, of disrespecting him and of prostitution. The next day, the victim went to Musenyi Hospital for treatment, and the perpetrator was arrested and jailed in Musenyi police cell.

II.3 RIGHT TO LIBERTY

II.3.1. Persons arbitrarily arrested

Arbitrary detention of a CNL member, Bujumbura mairie

On April 7, 2025, at around 3:00 p.m., Eduard Nzambimana, a resident of Musama III quarter, Kanyosha zone, in Muha commune, and a key figure in pro-Rwasa CNL party, was arrested while carrying out his usual duties at Iriho gallery. This incident occurred in front of Star Times offices, near the location frequently referred to as "Vélo Moto."

According to witnesses, Nzambimana was arrested by SNR officers dressed in police uniforms. Before being violently pushed into a double-cabin vehicle with tinted windows, registration number E 0462 A, he was beaten and mistreated. He was then taken to the SNR cells, located near Regina Mundi Cathedral, in Bujumbura mairie.

The family is deeply worried, having been unaware of where he is for several days, despite their unsuccessful searches in various detention centers. Lack-

ing information regarding the reasons for his arrest, the family feels intense anxiety about his safety. They request that, if charges are against him, Eduard Nzambimana be brought before the competent judicial authorities, in accordance with the law. The possibility of him being in a secret location, with no possibility of contact or information about his condition, reinforces fear of never seeing him again, or even of discovering that he has been killed.

Eduard Nzambimana was secretary of the pro-Rwasa CNL party in Mukaza, in Bujumbura mairie. He was also an active trader, selling clothing and offering outfit rental services for festivities such as weddings and dowry ceremonies, operating from his shop at Iriho Gallery.

After several days of uncertainty, it was confirmed that on April 10, Eduard Nzambimana spent his first night in Mpimba Central Prison, after being detained at SNR near Regina Mundi Cathedral.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

Interruption of economic activities during the visit of the Vice President of CNDD-FDD party in Kayanza commune and province

On April 3, 2025, all businesses in Kayanza city, as well as the local market, remained closed from morning until noon. The main reason for this blockade

was the visit of Léonidas Nzohabonayo, vice-president of CNDD-FDD party, to Murima and Kayanza zones. The Imbonerakure were maintaining surveillance throughout the city to ensure that no businesses could open before the end of the official ceremonies. This situation caused discontent among traders, who questioned Burundi's ability to

become an emerging country by 2040 and reach development by 2060, given that the economic activity of an entire city was suspended by the visit of a prominent member of the ruling party.

Disagreements between two public institutions in Kanyanza province

In Kanyanza province, a conflict gradually developed between the management of the Burundian Tea Office (OTB) and the Burundian Revenue Authority (OBR). This misunderstanding arose following a recent instruction from OBR, which requires that the loading of trucks transporting tea to Mombasa be supervised by its own agents. Furthermore, this instruction comes with an unusual requirement: the OTB must pay a prepaid fee of twenty dollars per hour, throughout the loading period. Richard Nahayo, the OTB manager in Rwegura, expressed

concern about the lack of communication from OTB management on the payment modalities for these fees, which have not yet been validated. Time has passed, and two long weeks have now passed since the shipments of tea destined for export have been stuck at Rwegura tea complex. This blockage has caused a real capacity problem, as the factory, normally capable of storing a maximum of 50 tons, is now managing a huge overload of over ten thousand tons. Faced with this storage crisis, Richard denounces the situation: a substantial portion of the production is now stored in meeting rooms and in the factory's outdoor garage, making the situation even more complex. He sounds the alarm for urgent need for decongestion, fearing for the deterioration of tea quality, risking its acceptance by foreign markets. This could lead the factory to bleak prospects, even to bankruptcy.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Disruption in preparation for second-term exams in Makamba province

In Makamba province, an unexpected event disrupted the usual calm of schools. As the second-term exam period approached, schools faced disruptions caused by preparations for a parade to pay tribute to the late Pierre Nkurunziza, scheduled for June. Rehearsals for the parade took place every afternoon, creating a chaotic atmosphere even during the exam period. This situation caused outrage among parents and teachers, who saw it as a political manipulation of the school system, hampering students' concentration and performance. Whispers of fear ran through school hallways, with some students fearing punishment if they chose not to partici-

pate in the parade. Under pressure, school principals received direct instructions to give the names of those who would supervise the event and ensure student supervision. However, this requirement was not based on any official instruction from the Ministry of Education, adding more concern to the situation. Faced with this reality, parents and teachers raised their voices, calling for a clear distinction between political activities and the school environment. They appealed to the Ministry, urging its intervention to protect the fundamental right to education and ensure that study time would never again be diverted for partisan purposes. A simple truth remained in the heart of their concerns: the best interests of the child must always prevail over all other considerations.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

Lack of electricity in Marangara commune, Ngozi province

In Marangara commune, located in Ngozi province, the right to health is seriously threatened by a lack of electricity that has lasted for over a year. Residents of Burenge center, who depend on Marangara communal hospital, are seeing their daily lives disrupted as more than 100 households are plunged into darkness. According to local reports, the poles that were supposed to support the electrical wires are lying on the ground, while cables are trailing everywhere. The population, tired of the despairing

silence, is expressing its discontent without any response. Goreth Nshimirimana, the communal administrator, is sounding the alarm, aware of the dangers this situation poses. The ALOBUCO Company, responsible for the construction of this electrical network, used substandard materials, leading to the collapse of the entire line. Unfortunately, the builders' promises during the false rehabilitation appointments only increase the residents' despair. The installation of this network began in 2019 and was officially completed in 2021, but it has never lived up to citizens' expectations.

Cholera epidemic in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On April 11, 2025, alarming news reached Ligue Iteka. Buganda commune, located in Cibitoke province, was facing a real health emergency. In less than 48 hours, no fewer than eight cases of cholera emerged, affecting patients, five of whom were children, all suffering from worrying symptoms such as persistent vomiting and acute diarrhea. This epidemic had suddenly broken out on the hills of Nyamitanga and Ndava-Village since April 7, 2025, causing deep concern among health authorities, especially since recent rains had seriously affected the region's hygiene conditions.

On the ground, medical teams agreed that the situation was critical and called for immediate intervention. "We are facing a major health emergency. The already precarious infrastructure was seriously damaged by the heavy rains, directly and disastrously impacting the hygiene conditions of the population," said a source from a local health center. A week earlier, the local Red Cross had already

sounded the alarm. The torrential rains not only devastated homes, but also wiped out many community toilets, leaving the residents of Nyamitanga, Ndava, Kansega, and Kaburantwa without access to drinking water and necessary sanitation facilities.

"We live without clean water, without latrines... it's an unbearable situation. We urgently need help: medicine, food, mattresses... Everything is lacking here," emphasized a resident of Ndava, visibly overwhelmed by the gravity of the situation. The head of Cibitoke health district quickly confirmed the appearance of these cholera cases and issued an urgent appeal for a rapid and coordinated response. Awareness campaigns were launched to inform the population about the hygiene measures to adopt and prevent the spread of the disease. He also called on the local administration to provide logistical and material support for the efforts on the ground. The Red Cross is expected in the near future to begin spraying operations in affected areas, an essential step to address the epidemic. Anxious about the worsening circumstances, residents continue to wait for significant assistance.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ligue Iteka strongly denounces the persistent deterioration of human rights in Burundi and condemns the impunity of perpetrators of crimes. It calls on the Burundian authorities to take all possible measures and recommends the following:

To the Government of Burundi to:

- ⇒ Ban intimidation activities carried out by Imbonerakure, especially during elections;
- ⇒ Guarantee the protection of fundamental rights and end violence committed by Imbonerakure;
- ⇒ Work with humanitarian organizations to provide a rapid and effective response to acute malnutrition;
- ⇒ Ensure dignified living conditions in Congolese refugee camps;
- ⇒ Immediately end domestic fuel storage by adopting and enforcing strict measures prohibiting fuel storage in households to prevent fires, domestic accidents, and security risks.