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Kampala, 06 May 2025

DECLARATION

Urgent political dialogue to end political instability in Burundi since 2015

6 May 2025

Ligue Iteka expresses its concern on the violence and political tension that have persisted¹ in Burundi since 2015, which are linked to the third term of the late Pierre Nkurunziza, deemed illegal by a judgment² handed down by the East African Court of Justice on November 25, 2021 in Bujumbura. This ruling reaffirmed that the late Pierre Nkurunziza's third term violated the Burundian Constitution and the 2000 Arusha Agreement.

Ligue Iteka, while welcoming this decision, which it considers a key element for stability in Burundi, deplores the fact that the international community and the EAC in particular, remain inactive and are not using their influence sufficiently to persuade the Government of Burundi to implement this ruling through the national political dialogue, which has been suspended since 2016.

Ligue Iteka notes with regret that the Burundian political crisis seems to have been forgotten, as democratic reality and the rule of law have continually deteriorated, although before legislative elections, different candidates, including those from the "opposition," are being invited by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) to parade before the President of the Republic while launching electoral campaign scheduled for May 9, 2025³.

Ligue Iteka recalls that for 10 years, the leaders of the political opposition, independent civil society organizations and the media have been in exile and recalls the importance of the decision of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) for peace in Burundi, highlighting the need to restore the constitutional legality of 2005 and the rehabilitation of the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi signed in 2000 which had ensured stability and democracy in the country after a decade of a murderous civil war. Following these democratic and constitutional principles, Burundi could avoid political crises and conflicts with devastating effects on its population, as was the case with the crisis surrounding Nkurunziza's third term in 2015.

¹ <https://ligue-iteka.bi/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/RAPPORT-BILAN-DE-10-ANS.pdf>

² <https://ealaw.eastafricalaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/THE-EAST-AFRICAN-CIVIL-SOCIETY-ORGANISATIONS-FORUM-EACSOV.-THE-ATTORNEY-GENERAL-OF-THE-REPUBLIC-OF-BURUNDI-2-OTHERS.pdf>

³ <https://www.iwacu-burundi.org/elections-2025-un-defile-pour-lancer-la-campagne>



LIGUE BURUNDAISE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

"ITEKA" association sans but lucratif

Agréée par l'ordonnance ministérielle n°530/0273 du 10 novembre 1994 revoyant l'ordonnance 550/029 du 6 février 1991

Membre affilié de la fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme (F.I.D.H)

At the regional level, Ligue Iteka is concerned about the alerts issued by Burundian and international organizations regarding the hidden links between CNDD-FDD and FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) and emphasizes that this situation represents a threat to the Burundian population, particularly to the Tutsi minority, due to the ideology of this group. The recent Congolese crisis, which highlighted Burundi's involvement, and the relations between CNDD-FDD and FDLR, could exacerbate ethnic tensions and lead to targeted violence against the Tutsi. The presence of the FDLR in Kibira forest and the town quarters, frequently denounced by Ligue Iteka, could contribute to political instability and identity-based violence in the region, particularly in Burundi.

Faced with this worrying situation, which requires preventive measures to ensure regional security and stability, Ligue Iteka recommends:

To the Burundian Government:

1. Take measures, including inclusive political dialogue, to implement the EACJ decision by reintroducing the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi, including the democratic and constitutional principles it provides.
2. Respect its own regional and international commitments to protect human rights.

To the international community:

1. Closely monitor the socio-political and security situation in Burundi, using its influence to urge the Burundian Government to implement the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) decision on Pierre Nkurunziza's term and to respect its human rights commitments.
2. Support efforts to ensure stability and security in the Great Lakes region and encourage the CNDD-FDD to end its covert links with the FDLR for the benefit of regional security and stability.

Anschaire Nikoyagize



President of Ligue Iteka