



# 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)

LBDH/012 /2025

Kampala, 02 May 2025

## DECLARATION

**Facing the Burundian Parliament and the Executive, which are undermining the credibility of the CNIDH**

**May 2, 2025**

Ligue ITEKA expresses its outrage on the threats to the National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH) from authorities supposedly supporting this institution, such as the Speaker of the National Assembly, Gélase Ndabirabe.

According to media reports, Gélase Ndabirabe is initiating rapid action, before the end of the legislative term in June, to amend Law<sup>1</sup> No. 1/04 of January 5, 2011, governing the CNIDH, while this law is deemed to guarantee the independence of CNIDH and its commissioners.

It is in this pernicious climate that the President of the CNIDH, Dr. Vigny Nimuraba, fled abroad.

Without prejudging its alleged responsibility in the mismanagement of CNIDH resources, recently reported by the media, Ligue Iteka recalls the intimidation faced by the President of CNIDH, Dr. Vigny Nimuraba, by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Gélase Ndabirabe, during the presentations of the 2021<sup>2</sup> and 2024<sup>3</sup> annual reports.

Dr. Sixte Vigny Nimuraba also suffered repeated acts of harassment and humiliation from the Executive, including:

1. *The withdrawal of the CNIDH President's security guard late December 2021, for a week, following his confrontation with the SNR services at Clinique Prince Louis hospital, while he was visiting Augustin MATATA, a CNL party member, who had been tortured by these same services. Ligue Iteka recalls that the victim subsequently succumbed to his injuries;*
2. *The sequestration of the president of CNIDH by the institution of the President of the Republic following a message X from the commission dated October 12, 2023 denouncing the arrest and arbitrary imprisonment of more than 322 men and 38 women with children under 3 years in the BSR cell with a capacity of 46 people. Deplorable hygienic conditions of these people in this BSR cell were also mentioned in this tweet<sup>4</sup>;*

<sup>1</sup> <file:///C:/Users/HP/Downloads/temp.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/live/dLsdXc3ZF8>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8081JHapSk>

<sup>4</sup> [https://x.com/CNIDH\\_Bdi](https://x.com/CNIDH_Bdi)



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3. *The search of the CNIDH president's home, in violation of the law, on April 13, 2025, allegedly linked to the 2024 annual report, which had been criticized and unwelcome by both parliament and the executive. Several concordant sources within Ligue Iteka indicate that this illegal search may have been one of the factors leading to the CNIDH president's flight.*

Finally, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the CNIDH president's flight abroad, on April 30, 2025, Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye gave an interview to France 24, where he announced that the president was traveling and had transited through the country's airport.

Ligue Iteka assumes that the President's institution has sufficiently competent services to provide him with true information.

However, according to Ligue Iteka well-informed sources from the Air and Border Police, Dr. Vigny Nimuraba did not pass through Melchior Ndadaye International Airport or any of Burundi's known land border posts, as no exit log shows where he allegedly passed to exit the country.

For this reason, Ligue Iteka recommends that national institutions, including that of the President of the Republic, refrain from unreliable communications in the face of the reality that emerges over time.

**Anschaire Nikoyagize**



**President of Ligue Iteka**