

## **BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"**

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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°470 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 14-20 April 2025**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 20 April 2025, Iteka has documented at least 726 cases of enforced disappearances*

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## **ACRONYMS**

<b>CNDD-FDD</b>	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy</i>
<b>CNL</b>	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
<b>DCE</b>	: <i>Communal Directorate of Education</i>
<b>DRC</b>	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
<b>EAC</b>	: <i>East African Community</i>
<b>FDNB</b>	: <i>Burundi National Defense Force</i>
<b>M23</b>	: <i>March 23 Movement</i>
<b>OTB</b>	: <i>Burundi Tea Board</i>
<b>PRODEFI</b>	: <i>Sector Development Program</i>
<b>PRODER</b>	: <i>Rural Entrepreneurship Development Program</i>
<b>PSR</b>	: <i>Special Traffic Police</i>
<b>RN</b>	: <i>National Road</i>
<b>SNR</b>	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
<b>UPRONA</b>	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>

## 0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents an alarming human rights and security situation in Burundi. Three persons died, including two found dead, one person was abducted, and two persons were arbitrarily arrested.

Civil and political rights, socioeconomic rights, and

cultural rights are also covered in this bulletin. The political and security context is 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

The week in Burundi was marked by various events in the political landscape. On April 15, 2025, a public meeting took place on Kigaza hill, in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province. This meeting, led by the zone head, Decho Nyandwi with the assistance of Bayubahe, a local CNDD-FDD official, was apparently aimed at intimidating supporters of the opposition CNL party. The zone head's statements were particularly alarming, notably when he declared: "*Mwese abakiri muri CNL, turabamenya. Bose ni ukubica vuba na bwango, igihugu kibone gutekana.*" This statement proves an explicit desire to silence political opponents, without regard for human rights, according to CNL officials. Tensions remain high in this commune, with security forces actively involved in a hunt for CNL members. Simultaneously, an incident involving a robbery at a shop belonging to Isidonie Ntirabampa, a member of UPRONA party, was reported in Vyanda commune, Bururi province, on the night of April 17, 2025. The stolen goods, including loincloths worth over 25 million Burundian francs, were stolen under cover of darkness by unidentified individuals, raising suspicions that the acts may have been perpetrated by Imbonerakure, potentially due to resentment against a female opponent.

In Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province, the walls of CNL office were damaged during the night of April 18-19, 2025. Witnesses report that the attackers expressed a refusal to allow other parties to

establish themselves in their commune, highlighting a clear hostility towards any form of opposition. This break-in took place just before the inauguration of the CNL office, whose opening had been banned a few days earlier.

On April 20, 2025, mandatory contributions were imposed to support a show of force by Imbonerakure in Cankuzo province, scheduled for April 26. Residents were compelled to contribute financially or materially to this event, regardless of their political affiliation, raising concerns about individual freedom and the fair use of resources.

A CNDD-FDD rally was also mentioned, with food and money collection activities that, according to local sources, created an atmosphere of fear among members of opposition parties. Night patrols, perceived as a form of coercive surveillance, exacerbated this concern. Political partners demonstrated strong mobilization, with reminders to remain vigilant against opponents, they consider as a threat to peace and security.

These events illustrate a climate of political intimidation and violations of fundamental rights, providing a worrying overview of the socio-political situation in Burundi. Public actors, while justifying their actions by the need for security, appear to ignore the basic principles of democracy and the right to dissent, raising critical questions about the future of political dialogue in the country.

## 1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

Over the past week, Burundi has been the scene of several significant incidents that have affected the country's security. On April 14, 2025, a young man, Ndayishimiye Elias, known as Chauno, was abducted by Imbonerakure in Mukungu locality, in Nyanza-Lac commune, located in Makamba province. Forced to go to Bujumbura, he was released at night after a moment of anguish.

Chauno reported that he received a phone call from an alleged friend named Egide, who had set a trap for him. Upon arriving at the scene, he was captured by two men, one wearing a police uniform and claiming to have an arrest warrant. The abduction involved the use of two vehicles, and he was forced into a car with tinted windows, with no opportunity to resist. During the trip, his abductors extorted money from him while threatening his safety, initially demanding 6 million BIF, before reducing this amount to 500,000 BIF. "I told them I had nothing," he said. One of the uniformed individuals reportedly left the vehicle before reaching Nyengwe River, a natural border between Makamba and Rumonge provinces. Two of the abductors also reportedly stopped in Gitaza, while the other three continued on to Bujumbura, where they abandoned Chauno around 9 p.m. somewhere in the city.

An unknown person subsequently took care of him and offered him overnight accommodation. Eyewitnesses to the abduction photographed one of the vehicles used, a TI car with registration number IA 7675, and alerted Rumonge police. The latter intercepted the vehicle shortly afterward and managed to arrest one of the suspects. Although Chauno was released unharmed in Bujumbura, he was stolen his possessions. With several abductors identified, the citizens of Nyanza-Lac are demanding action from the authorities to apprehend the rest of the group, hoping to restore security to their region. The Nyanza-Lac police stated that a thorough investigation is underway and that those responsible will be brought to justice. Furthermore, night patrols by Imbonerakure have been reported, in addition to cases of theft and the presence of Interahamwe in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province.

On April 14, 2025, a report by Ligue Iteka documented an incident that occurred on April 7, 2025, when Emmanuel Simbonama, from Kagoma hill,

and his companions, Gilbert, Melchiade, and Léonard, were robbed of their personal belongings while returning from Tanzania. Upon arriving at Nyagahengeri hill, in Camazi zone of Gisagara commune, they met a patrol of young Imbonerakure who wrongfully accused them of embezzlement and then took all their belongings, including 500,000 Tanzanian shillings, a radio, a bicycle, and clothing. Among the Imbonerakure arrested were Mélance, the group leader in the zone, and Nahimana Philippe, along with Jean Claude, accompanied by three other Kinyarwanda-speaking individuals. Despite calls for justice from the victims, the alleged thieves appear to be enjoying impunity. Furthermore, night patrols by youth affiliated with the ruling CNDD-FDD party have been observed in the communes of Cendajuru, Gisagara, and Mishiha, raising growing concerns among residents about their safety. The presence of Kinyarwanda-speaking individuals has also been noted in Gisagara commune, more specifically in Bumba zone, close to the Tanzanian border.

Finally, the situation on the border between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo is of serious concern, particularly due to increased fuel trafficking orchestrated by senior military and police officers. Since the M23 attack on Goma and Bukavu, movements of former rebels as well as young Imbonerakure have been observed. Although their movements are evident in the communes of Rugombo and Buganda, this situation echoes allegations of corruption within the security forces. Recently, a manhunt was launched to track down those involved in fuel trafficking, illustrating the authorities' desire to curb this lucrative activity. This context is further exacerbated by a recent drop in fuel prices, which are now set at 12,000 BIF, after previous fluctuations ranging from 20,000 to 30,000 BIF since January 2025.

Meanwhile, a call for violence was reported in Kirundo province, where the regional police commissioner, in coordination with other officials, launched an intimidating campaign against those attempting to cross the border into Rwanda, creating a climate of terror. On the ground, residents who used to move freely between the two countries are now finding themselves constrained by this worsening tension.

Violent incidents were also reported in Ngozi province, where two individuals were injured following land disputes.

### ***1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT***

#### **A young man sentenced in Makamba commune and province**

On April 16, 2025, the Makamba High Court sentenced a young man, Désiré Nduwimana, who identified himself as a member of Imbonerakure League, to a sentence of attacking the dignity of the Head of State, the personality of the Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD, Révérien Ndikuriyo, and State security.

This trial was conducted in flagrante delicto and behind closed doors, in accordance with judicial authorities' instructions, for "reasons of national security." These statements were deemed dangerous, according to information from police and judicial sources. It was reported that the young man claimed to know the people behind the alleged poisoning of the Secretary General of the ruling party, Révérien Ndikuriyo, and he implied that President Évariste Ndayishimiye might be involved in this case. Arrested in early April 2025, this individual

from Rumonge province considers himself a sorcerer, a skill from his grandfather, supplemented by practices acquired during a stay in Nigeria. The trial took place without a lawyer or witnesses. The young man appeared without legal support, a situation criticized by some human rights defenders. In tears before the court, he attempted to justify himself by stating that he had simply "revealed a vision received during his mystical practices," but his explanations were rejected. The court deemed his comments defamatory, destabilizing, and threatening to the country's institutional order.

#### **Reactions and gray areas**

The case remains unclear. No evidence has been made public. None of the officials mentioned by the young man have reacted officially to this point. Voices are being raised to demand more transparency regarding judicial proceedings, especially when they involve high-level political figures and serious accusations.

### ***1.4. ECONOMIC CONTEXT***

#### **Current economic challenges as seen by Burundi's key partners**

The contemporary economic challenges identified by Burundi's major partners reveal significant concerns.

Recently, an assessment mission was conducted by the IMF and the World Bank to review the projects they have financed. On April 17, 2025, Albert G. Zeufack, World Bank Country Director for the region including Burundi, met with President Evariste Ndayishimiye at Kiriri Palace in Bujumbura.

Discussions focused on reviewing the activities supported by the World Bank over the past three years and the program of activities planned for the next six years, particularly in the agricultural processing, energy, and mining sectors. On the eve of this meeting, the Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca led a joint review meeting of the World Bank portfolio. This meeting highlighted that the slow implementation of funded projects represents a major obstacle.

As the 2024-2025 fiscal year approaches, the disbursement rate of the World Bank portfolio in Burundi reached only 13.3%, a figure below the initial target of 25%. This assessment follows an IMF mission to Burundi from March 17 to 28, 2025, whose objective was to examine the country's economic health and encourage officials to adopt stricter measures.

In a statement dated April 15, 2025, the IMF warned of the negative consequences of the dual exchange rate regime and the high exchange premium, which are generating distortions within the economy. This situation leads to fuel shortages, disruptions in supply chains, and boosts practices such as illegal exports, informality, and tax evasion.

According to the IMF, resolving these imbalances requires harmonizing official and parallel exchange rates, liberalizing the foreign exchange market, and transitioning to a more flexible exchange rate regime.



This economic deterioration paints a bleak picture for the Burundian population: the poorest are becoming poorer, and the value of the local currency is melting like snow in the sun<sup>1</sup>.

## **II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

### **II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE**

#### **II.1.1. Persons killed following settling of scores**

##### **A woman killed in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

On April 15, 2025, at around 10:00 p.m., on Nyempundu hill, located in Nyamakarabo zone, in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, Venancia Ndikumamasabo, aged 65, was found sleeping after being killed by a grenade thrown through the window of her home.

Information gathered in the region indicates that the perpetrators of this crime, still unidentified, thrown the explosive device in the victim's home, causing her instant death. A reliable source suggests that property disputes may have been the cause of this murder.

Indeed, the victim had just won a case from the Burujumbura Supreme Court against some members of her in-laws, which granted her a 4-hectare plot of land. This dispute, which had been pending before the courts for over twenty years, was a source of

tension with her brothers-in-laws.

According to the same source, the latter allegedly handed over this case to young Imbonerakure. According to a security source, serious suspicions hang over these Imbonerakure, who are systematically armed and conduct frequent patrols along Ruhwa River, bordering with Rwanda.

A victim's relative clearly expressed his anger, directly accusing these Imbonerakure of having planned this crime. Local residents contacted are calling for immediate investigations so that those responsible are punished according to the law.

Mugina's administrator, Julienne Ndayihaya, confirmed the events and stated that ongoing investigations had already led to the arrest of two individuals, currently jailed. They are Fidèle Karorero, aged 32, and Jérémy Minani, aged 30. However, this authority firmly refuses to attribute responsibility to the Imbonerakure.

#### **II.1.2. Bodies found**

##### **A body found in Giheta commune, Gitega province**

On April 19, 2025, a tragic event occurred near the banks of Ruvyironza River, located in Giheta commune, Gitega province. The body of Nadine Bukuru was discovered there under particularly upsetting circumstances.

This married woman, resident of Nyabisindu quarter, located in Gitega center, was found dead on the banks of the river. Her body was then carefully transported to Saint Joseph Clinic in Giheta before being respectfully taken to the mortuary in the center of Gitega. According to eyewitnesses in the region, it was reported that Nadine had just given birth to a premature baby, who was in an incubator at Gitega Regional Hospital.

The testimonies of those present also imply that she left her room announcing her intention to breastfeed her newborn, but tragically, she never returned. In fact, she also did not go to the incubator to feed her child, causing deep concern among her family and friends.

From Bururi commune and province, Nadine was married in Gitega in 2024, and her untimely passing has left a huge void in the lives of those who knew her.

##### **A body found in Ngozi commune and province**

On April 19, 2025, at around 5 a.m., on Rusuguti hill, Ngozi zone, commune and province, the body of a man nicknamed Sandugu, at least 35 years old, was found lying on the side of the road, face down, with blood on the side of the road. According

<sup>1</sup>The IMF paints a picture of a Burundian economy running out of oxygen - IRIS NEWS

to local eyewitnesses, the police went to the scene and made a report.

The victim had wounds on his right leg and on the head. Some indicated that a vehicle had struck him, but no traces of the accident were visible on the suspected vehicle. Two people, Nduwimana Augustin and Nzoyizana Félicien, were arrested for inves-

tigation following traces of blood found across the road where they lived, and the blood was close to their home. The government doctor arrived at the scene for expert assessment. The victim's body was taken to the mortuary at Ngozi Autonomous Hospital while awaiting identification of his family for burial preparations.

### ***III.1.3. Abductions and/or enforced disappearances***

#### **A CNL Party member abducted in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura mairie**

On the afternoon of April 15, 2025, Aimable Nkunuzumwami, a CNL party member and an executive at the Ministry of Sports, Economic and Cultural Affairs (EAC), and Culture, residing in Gisyo quarter, Kanyosha zone, Mugere commune, was arrested in Bujumbura mairie city center. Men in police uniform took him to an unknown destination in a double-cabin vehicle with tinted windows, as he was on his way to work. His relatives, unaware of Aimable's whereabouts, reported that his phone sent

messages on Wednesday to some of Rwasa's loyalists, including MPs. These messages claimed that he would show them how to fight against CNDD-FDD. His relatives believe that these messages were written by SNR agents who arrested this member of Agathon Rwasa.

Aimable Nkunuzumwami was the national youth representative of the pro-Rwasa CNL party. MP Simon Bizimungu, Rwasa's secretary, is demanding that the arbitrarily arrested CNL party members be released or brought before the courts, rather than being arrested for abduction.

## ***II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY***

### ***II.2.1. RIGHT TO FREEDOM***

#### ***III.2.1.1. Arbitrary arrests***

#### **Two CNL party members arrested in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

On April 14, 2025, Gatore Thierry and Ndayishimiye Thierry, both CNL party members from Kigaza hill, Dunga zone, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, were arrested and taken to Kayogoro communal police station cell by Imbonerakure members in collaboration with Kayogoro commu-

nal police commissioner after the discovery of anonymous leaflets in several locations, including Rutana, the city of the neighboring province. According to CNL party members in Kayogoro commune, in the same province, they are shaken by a wave of intimidation and repression targeting members of this opposition CNL party. The victims were accused by these Imbonerakure members of dropping leaflets in this location.

## ***III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS***

### ***III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE***

#### **Price standoff between traders and the government**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 19, 2025, indicates that in Cibitoke province, the recent government decision setting the prices of necessities was unanimously rejected by traders. They denounce the measure as disconnected from local economic realities, while the authorities point the finger at speculative practices. This difference of opinion maintains a palpable climate of tension wi-

thin the province's markets.

Across the six communes of Cibitoke, traders are strongly expressing their opposition to the Ministry of Commerce's order imposing price ceilings on basic agricultural products. According to these economic stakeholders, the government measure is proving unrealistic and difficult to implement on the ground. "*How can we sell meat for 20,000 Bif while our purchase price already exceeds 30,000 Bif?*" exclaims a trader at the modern market in



Cibitoke. Indeed, regulations set the price of a kilogram of meat at 20,000 Bif, rice at 4,000 Bif, and potatoes at 1,800 Bif, while on the market stalls, these same products are selling for 30,000, 5,500, and 2,800 Bif, respectively.

Traders highlight several factors explaining this price surge. First and foremost, they cite the persistent fuel shortage, which significantly increases transportation costs. Added to this are taxes deemed excessive and police harassment, which hinder the smooth flow of goods. *"Between the bribes demanded at each roadblock and the tax burden, it's becoming impossible to cover our expenses without passing these charges on to our selling prices,"* explains a clearly angry representative of the traders met at Rugombo commune city.

For his part, the governor of Cibitoke, Carême Bizozza, refutes these arguments, calling the situation a speculative maneuver orchestrated by the traders. He warns that any failure to respect the set prices will expose violators to heavy penalties, in accordance with the current law.

Faced with this impasse, voices from the academic world are calling for a more structural approach. A retired macroeconomics professor living in Cibitoke urges the government to strengthen domestic production and diversify its import sources. *"The law of supply and demand remains the main regulator of markets." As long as low supply persists in the face of constant demand, prices will inevitably continue to rise,"* he analyzes.

As this economic crisis continues to weigh heavily on household purchasing power, the search for a viable compromise between government measures and the economic realities on the ground appears more necessary than ever.

### **Burundian Prime Minister's control of new gold mines discovered within OTB area**

The company AJENITEKA, owned by Gervais Ndirakobuca, the current Prime Minister of Burundi, completely controls the exploitation of the recently discovered sites within OTB Buhoro plantations. According to reliable sources, Gervais Ndirakobuca, through well-known intermediaries such as Colonel Eugène Bizindavyi, former PSR com-

mander and current coordinator of military recruitment and training for Imbonerakure militia operating in the DRC, and civilians Elias Nahayo and Pascal Vyagizimana, both known gold traffickers in Mabayi, filed a lawsuit against OTB via civilians presenting themselves as landowners.

Following this quick trial, which caused the OTB lose, all the operators present at these various sites were forced to collaborate with AJENITEKA MINING and sell to this company all the gold extracted there. Those who attempted to oppose received death threats.

OTB employees, as well as the many families whose survival depends on this company, are deeply concerned about this exploitation, which jeopardizes their main source of income. Philippe Bakundukize, manager of OTB, is absent and seems indifferent to the growing complaints from employees and families. It is important to remember that he was appointed to this position by the Prime Minister. According to the same sources, Gervais Ndirakobuca was aware of the probable presence of gold in these areas before appointing a relative who would not oppose him.

### **The population denounces money collection for obscure purposes in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

Since early April 2025, the communal authorities of Mugina, Cibitoke province, through the hill heads and their collaborators, have initiated a collection of 2,000 BIF per household. According to these authorities, this sum will be used for the construction of the irrigation dam on Nyakagunda River. However, the population, who do not have access to this dam, who do not own irrigable land nearby, or even those who do, denounce what they consider to be organized theft. Their main grievance is that no receipts or other documents justifying this collection are being issued. It is important to note that the work on this dam was initially funded by PRODEFI, but this contract recently ended, and PRODER took over.

### **Forced contribution in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka dated April 20, 2025, indicates that in Mugina commune,

Cibitoke province, civil servants' assessments, which are normally a right, have become a source of income for the DCE. From now on, each teacher must pay 10,000 BIF to be graded, by April 30, 2025. This decision comes at a time when salary increases following the 2024 grades have still not been implemented in Cibitoke province. This situation contrasts with the rest of the country, where most of teachers have already benefited from these salary adjustments.

These money collections, which are increasing in the run-up to the elections, appear aimed at generating funds for those who anticipate losing their jobs following the planned merger of the current provinces and communes under the new administration.

Regarding this requirement to pay for grades, some teachers are already opposing it and are considering taking legal action if this measure were to be imposed.

### **Tea production drop due to a shortage of pickers in Tora, Bururi province**

In Bururi province, a worrying situation is looming due to tea production drop in Tora. The vast plantations, once bustling with the hard work of over 120 pickers, are now seeing their numbers gradually dwindle.

Indeed, according to revelations from the field, only 32 persons continue to work in the green fields of Tora tea complex, located in Mugamba commune. This bitter observation is also confirmed by Ir Eric Nduwayezu, the company manager, who notes that,

### ***III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION***

#### **School results are being hampered by the non-payment of volunteers in Mugina commune, located in Cibitoke province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 19, 2025, reveals that, although the Easter holidays were scheduled to begin on April 18, 2025 across the country, several public schools may encounter obstacles in communicating second-term exam results due to the non-payment of volunteers.

Indeed, faced with a teacher shortage in public schools, an agreement had been reached between

since June 2022, many pickers have deserted their posts.

The reason for this mass departure lies in the Burundi Tea Board's abandonment of its food aid program, a support program intended to keep workers in their workplaces. The consequences of this departure are painful: the tea harvest, once completed on time, is now a distant memory, and production has already fallen by half, as Eric Nduwayezu points out. He finds himself at an impasse, trying to recruit new workers, but his efforts are met with resounding failure.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that the Director General of the Burundi Tea Board, Ir Gilles Mukundwa, highlights another problem: the workers were demanding a wage increase to meet their food needs autonomously.

The OTB recently responded by increasing the pickers' pay from 90 to 150 Burundian francs per kilogram of leaves. Gilles Mukundwa, a behavioral expert at OTB, points out that those still there could potentially earn up to 10,000 Burundian francs per day to meet their daily needs.

Yet achieving such a figure appears to be a daunting challenge; the pickers themselves share how exhausting the task is and how it is carried out at a pace that hinders productivity. Faced with this fiasco, Gilles Mukundwa also announced that OTB is considering recruiting new pickers with a salary that, although less attractive, would be received on credit, a solution that raises even more questions about the future of Tora tea plantations.

these schools and parent-teacher associations to pay volunteer educators. However, since the beginning of the second term, the funds collected by parents have reportedly been embezzled by the DCE, in association with CNDD-FDD party members. Although school principals report having received full annual fees to pay volunteer teachers, the DCE is reluctant to make payments, seeming to intend to withhold the funds from January to July.

The pretext given is apparently to centralize all the sums collected before redistributing them to the

beneficiaries, whereas the latter were accustomed to receiving monthly payments. Since the beginning of the second quarter, volunteers have received only a single payment, leading some of them to suspend the communication of exam results until they have received their full amount. Students and their parents, suffering the repercussions of this worrying situation, are urging the Burundian government to initiate the recruitment of teachers in zones where the need is most urgent.

In the absence of this initiative, they are demanding that the payment to volunteers be organized in a coordinated manner by the administrations of their respective schools.

### **A principal accused of exam cheating at Mugara fundamental school jailed in Rumonge**

The principal of Mugara fundamental school is jailed for a week in Rumonge provincial police station cell. He is suspected of facilitating cheating during exams organized by the communal education direction in Rumonge commune.

According to sources familiar with the case, the school official allegedly gave his cell phone to a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade fundamental school student enrolled in a

communal lycée in Rumonge urban center. The phone contained some exams that were allegedly leaked before their official administration.

This case has sparked outrage among several parents, who are surprised that no action to cancel the exams in question has been taken by school officials at the communal education direction in Rumonge, despite suspicions of cheating. Fundamental school teachers have expressed their surprise. They say they were shocked to learn that this principal had had some exams photographed with his phone, even though it is the communal direction that is supposed to type, reproduce, and distribute these tests to the school direction.

Parents are denouncing a serious breach of school regulations. How could a manager, who is supposed to ensure rigor and ethics in the educational environment, have given his personal phone to a student, knowing that this violates school regulations? They are demanding the intervention of the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research. They are calling for the opening of an independent and objective investigation to identify all the perpetrators and accomplices of this fraud and to punish them in accordance with the law.

### ***III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH***

#### **Kayanza province livestock market without toilets, sellers and buyers cry for help**

The Kayanza province livestock market is held every Friday and welcomes approximately 500 people who sell or buy domestic animals such as cows, goats, sheep, and pigs.

Indeed, this market has no toilets for sellers and buyers when needed. They say they go in the open air in bushes and behind houses near the market.

They grumble that the situation is this way while they are forced to pay taxes: 5,000 Bif for a cow, 1,500 Bif for a goat or sheep, and 2,000 Bif for each pig that enters the market. Those who come to Kayanza livestock market every Friday, as well as residents living near the market, are sounding the alarm about the construction of toilet blocks, fearing diseases linked to poor hygiene, which are often common during the rainy season.

#### ***IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS***

Ligue Iteka strongly condemns the persistent and alarming deterioration of human rights in Burundi. It unreservedly condemns the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of crimes. In this regard, it strongly calls on the Burundian authorities to take all possible measures to stop this unacceptable situation.

Furthermore, it recommends a series of key and urgent measures, including the following:

**To the Government of Burundi to:**

Immediately stop intimidation activities carried out by Imbonerakure, by taking urgent and concrete measures to suspend all demonstrations of force organized by the Imbonerakure;

Conduct independent, transparent, and impartial investigations into the numerous reported cases of assassinations and enforced disappearances, which raise serious concerns;

Stop the involvement of high-ranking State officials in activities of a sectarian or partisan nature. To this end, it is imperative to formally prohibit them from participating in any sectarian activity that could harm the general interest of the population and social cohesion.

Ensure that all political decisions are made in the best interest of society as a whole, without the influence of sectarian groups or partisan interests that could jeopardize social balance and lasting peace.