



LBDH/013 /2025

Kampala, 09 June 2025

DECLARATION

Double legislative and communal vote of June 5, 2025 in Burundi: Election observers are required to keep objectivity and impartiality in the face of the flagrant violations of democratic values observed.

Ligue Iteka has closely monitored the electoral process since the establishment of the election structures and the violations around it.

In its publications, Ligue Iteka has regularly denounced the violations that characterized the electoral process, which took place in a context of repression of the opposition, hushed since the 2015 electoral crisis.

Thus, the 2025 elections took place in a climate of intense political repression. The main opposition party, the National Congress for Liberty (CNL), led by Agathon Rwaswa, was excluded from the ballot by the Burundian authorities, with allegations of administrative irregularities and government-orchestrated maneuvers to sideline opponents.

Observers and opponents have denounced irregularities such as multiple voting, forced voting, and intimidation by the Imbonerakure militia, affiliated with CNDD-FDD ruling party.

This is why Ligue Iteka deplores the complacent tone of the preliminary statements by the election observation missions of the African Union¹ and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on the double legislative and communal vote of June 5, 2025, which ignores a context that is far from ensuring a free and democratic vote².

Ligue Iteka takes this opportunity to welcome the decision of Burundi's partners who did not send observers to support CNDD-FDD party regime in this electoral masquerade characterized by exclusion,

¹ <https://ligue-iteka.bi/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/DECLARATION-PRELIMINAIRE-UA.pdf>

² <https://ligue-iteka.bi/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/DECLARATION-PRELIMINAIRE-CIRGL.pdf>



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)

authoritarianism, intimidation, shrinking of civic space, and all other human rights violations such as assassinations, abductions, torture, arbitrary arrests and detentions.

Indeed, on June 5, 2025, the day of the legislative and communal elections, Ligue Iteka, like other organizations and independent media which had followed this electoral process, noted numerous cases of electoral violations and incidents, so much so that the president of CENI himself apologized in the face of irregularities, incidents and violations of human rights while admitting the existence of election disruptors³.

This is why Ligue Iteka denounces the biased statements by observers from some States and foreign institutions such as the AU and the ICGLR, who have not dared report the observed irregularities. Their statements highlight their biased attitudes in failing to address these serious shortcomings.

Ligue Iteka encourages independent local organizations that participated in the electoral observation to publish objective and accurate reports on the performance and shortcomings of the electoral process in all its aspects to propose constructive recommendations for the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law in Burundi.

Awaiting final reports from different electoral stakeholders and final results, Ligue Iteka promises to publish a report on this process to contribute to the consolidation of democratic values in Burundi.

On the behalf of Ligue Iteka

Anschaire Nikoyagize



Président

³ <https://ligue-iteka.bi/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/DISOURS-DU-PRESIDENT-DE-LA-CENI-ELECTIONS-DU-5-JUIN-2025.mp4>