



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/ 007 /2026

Kampala, March 8th , 2026

ITEKA LEAGUE DECLARATION ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS DAY: WOMEN'S RIGHTS MUST BE A PRIORITY FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED.

On March 8th each year, the whole world celebrates International Women's Rights Day, highlighting the fight for women's rights and especially for the end of gender inequalities. International Women's Rights Day is said to have originated from women's demonstrations at the beginning of the 20th century in Europe and the United States requesting better working conditions and the right to vote.

This year, 2026, the chosen theme is “Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls.” In Burundi, this day comes after almost eight months since the country received new elected officials from the commune to the parliament, and the ruling party claimed 96.7% of the results; it would not be an exaggeration to say that this party controls everything.

Thus, the Iteka League has followed with interest the evolution of the human rights situation to observe what the new blood in the institutions brings for Burundians who had just spent an entire decade in despair following assassinations, GBV, kidnappings, torture, and abusive arrests and imprisonments.

Indeed, hope is dimmed because despite the challenges related to monitoring human rights violations in Burundi, the Iteka League, for the eight months following the communal and parliamentary elections, documented at least 267 people assassinated, whom 167, or 63%, were bodies found dumped in various localities across the country, 114 victims of gender-based violence, including 80 victims of sexual violence, 34 people kidnapped and missing, 23 people tortured, and 74 arbitrarily arrested and jailed.

On this occasion, Burundi joins the rest of the world in commemorating this symbolic day.

However, the situation of women's rights in Burundi remains concerning because, without claiming to have documented all cases of violations of women's rights committed in Burundi during the eight months post-municipal and parliamentary elections, from July 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026, the Iteka League was able to record 66 women and girls killed, 8 women and girls kidnapped and/or missing, 114 women and girls victims of gender-based violence, including 80 sexual assaults, 1 woman tortured, and 10 women and girls arbitrarily arrested. Regarding sexual violence, out of the 80 victims, 74 are minors.

4, Avenue des Euphorbes, B.P.177 Bujumbura-Burundi, Tél. :(257) 22228636, Fax :(257)22220004

E-mail :info@ligue-iteka.bi, Website : <https://www.ligue-iteka.bi>

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Faced with this situation, the Iteka League recommends to the government of Burundi and to the elected representatives:

- Ensure the protection of women against human rights violations;
- Respect women's rights and put an end to the recurring violations in the country;
- Respect and implement the instruments related to the protection and promotion of human rights that Burundi has ratified;
- Urgently establish an operational plan to eradicate sexual violence against minors, which has become widespread in the country.

To the technical and financial partners of the government of Burundi, including the UN, EU, and the diplomatic missions accredited to Burundi:

- Support the efforts of the Iteka League and other human rights organizations in monitoring human rights violations in Burundi.
- Use their influence to pressure the Burundian authorities to respect human rights and put an end to impunity.

For the Ligue Iteka



Anschaire NIKOYAGIZE

President