



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/ 008 /2026

Kampala, March 19, 2026

Statement by the Iteka League on the abduction and disappearance of Mrs. Chadia Mukaremera, employee of the CNIDH

Since February 25, 2026, Mrs. Chadia Mukaremera, housewife at the National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH), residing in the Nyakabiga I quarter, on 13th Avenue, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, has been reported missing. According to various sources of information, the victim reportedly spoke on the phone with Chantal Batamuriza, the Secretary General of the CNIDH, on the morning of the day of her disappearance, and this was her last communication according to phone records. The Iteka League is concerned about the slowness or inaction of the CNIDH regarding the disappearance of a member of its staff and wonders what happens in the case of an ordinary citizen.

Indeed, since the disappearance of Mrs. Chadia, the Iteka League has sought to communicate with the CNIDH to exchange information and undertake urgent actions regarding this kidnapping and even contacted Bishop Blaise Nyaboho, president of the CNIDH, who requested communication via audio or messaging. The Iteka League wonders why an institution responsible for promoting and protecting human rights for a country stands idly by faced with the disappearance of one of its staff members to the point of sabotaging the efforts initiated by the victim's family or partner organization.

Furthermore, consistent information proves that the tensions experienced by the CNIDH the previous year remain active, which would also limit initiatives regarding Ms. Chadia's search, and her family becomes a victim of this situation at a time when they most needed their support and compassion. Thus, immediately after her disappearance, the CNIDH had information on the last person who called Ms. Chadia and the district in which the victim's phone was located, but it did not want to provide the name of the person to the family, and no investigation was conducted in the area where the phone was located. The family managed to get this information themselves, but unfortunately, their influence was limited in requesting an investigation against an institution responsible for human rights that claimed to be in control.

For all the above, the Iteka League recommends:

- ❖ Urges the CNIDH to break its silence and communicate the results of the steps taken to seek the truth about the disappearance of Mrs. Chadia, as the kidnapping of a member of a national human rights institution and the inaction of the latter are revealing elements of the complexity of the field of human rights in Burundi;
- ❖ Urges the police and the Mukaza prosecutor's office to conduct investigations and prosecute anyone involved in this kidnapping;
- ❖ Urges the Government of Burundi to commit to the fight against impunity that fuels these crimes against humanity.

For the Ligue Iteka

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N° 008 /2026