



LBDH/010/2026

Kampala, May 3, 2026

## DECLARATION

### ALARMING SECURITY SITUATION OF THE BORDER POPULATION BETWEEN RWANDA AND BURUNDI

**The Government of Burundi must put an end to the threats of summary execution and open the border with Rwanda.**

The Burundian League for Human Rights Iteka is deeply concerned about the harmful effects of the border closure between Rwanda and Burundi. The consequences of this government decision, which restricts the movement of goods and people between the two countries, are particularly felt in the localities of Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, as well as in other localities in the province and those in Bujumbura province bordering the northern neighbor.

In Kayanza, human security is severely compromised to the detriment of the surrounding communities. These populations, whose existence and social cohesion largely depend on intercultural and commercial exchanges, are seeing their vulnerabilities worsen in the face of ongoing threats of summary execution to anyone who maintains commercial relations with Rwanda's neighbours, conveyed by the provincial authority and relayed by some services security measures. This climate of fear is exacerbated by the threats made by the head of the post to Mparamirundi Major Franck NTAYAGABIRI who said he would kill any alleged fraudster going to Rwanda.

Indeed, on April 29, 2026, around 2:00 a.m., the named Claude NSHEMEZIMANA and Moise NSABIMANA, all apprehended by the police for alleged coffee fraud with Rwanda, endured a brutal interrogation where, under pressure and torture, they identified the named Salvator Bigirima as their accomplice, which led to his arrest that same morning. The alerted population, gathered in front of the police station in a desperate attempt to oppose theirs from being arbitrarily executed.

In front of a worried crowd gathered at the police office to inquire about the news of their arrested relatives, the head of police station NTAYAGABIRI Franck feigned a deterrent against any protest, by taking away the detainees behind the police station, firing shots, and then returning to the crowd to announce that he executed them according to the decision received and known for such cases. The information immediately spread on social networks but was paradoxically followed by a denial from the Ministry of home affairs, Public Security and Community Development, at the end of the day on its account @MininterInfosBi.



# 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)*

ITEKA League deplores this type of contradictions within the same public institution, especially when it is responsible for maintaining order and security, which tarnishes the image of the government apparatus and undermines the credibility of the media and civil society organizations that echo it in their publications without thorough verification.

It is important to emphasize that on the same day, April 29, 2026, the prosecutor of the Butanyerera Court of Appeal visited the site, and these three detainees were transferred to Kayanza police station at night for a judicial investigation. Two days after, the High Court of Kayanza ruled on the case in a flagrante summary trial. During the hearing, Claude and Moise were sentenced to one year of imprisonment and a fine of 500,000 Fbu each. As for Salvator, he was released. A fourth person, a pastor of the FECABU Church, where Salvator worked, named Jean Marie Nkurunziza, was apprehended and arrested during the hearing for recording the trial with his phone.

Based on facts and other well-informed sources, the Iteka League draws the attention of civil society organizations, the media, and the national and international community to a manipulation and disinformation orchestrated by the security services in complicity with the youth of the ruling party, aimed at discrediting Burundian civil society, which uses these public sources of information in the context of their struggle for the defense of human rights and the establishment of the rule of law in Burundi.

The Iteka League also recommends that the Government of Burundi put an end to the manipulation of public information and open the Rwanda-Burundi border to relieve the suffering of the two communities sharing the same cultural realities and to severely punish anyone resorting to a death penalty abolished by Burundi in 2009.

**For the Iteka League**

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