



Association Burundaise pour la Protection des Droits Humains et des Personnes Détenues, « APRODH »

CONDENSED MONTHLY REPORT: MARCH 2022

I. INTRODUCTION

This report gives an account of the human rights situation in Burundi, noting in particular the various human rights violations committed in different localities during the month of March 2022.

- Our report begins with a contextual analysis of the security, political, judicial and social situation in our country.
- Secondly, our report pays particular attention to cases of violations of the right to life and physical integrity of persons, by dealing with cases of people killed and injured, highlighting as far as possible the categories of perpetrators, cases of torture, inhuman, cruel and degrading treatment, cases of SGBV in general and those of rape in particular.
- Finally, we will analyse the prison situation in March 2022 before concluding with a proposal for some ways to improve the human rights situation in Burundi.

II. THE SECURITY, POLITICAL, JUDICIAL AND SOCIAL CONTEXT.

II.1 The security context.

In terms of security, the main factors that disrupted the peace and tranquillity of the population were, in some places, essentially linked to:

- armed robberies, atrocities by the Imbonerakure characterised by attacks on peaceful people and vicious destruction of the fields of CNL party members, repeated suicides that denote social anomaly, a fire that swept away a large number of means of transport and travel, and heavy rains that took human lives.

1- BUJUMBURA TOWN HALL PROVINCE: Twenty-nine motorbikes, ten Tuk Tuk tricycles and a bus burnt in Ntahangwa commune.

On 6 March 2022, at night, at the fourth avenue n° 56, Cibitoke zone, 1 Coaster bus, 29 motorbikes, 10 tricycles called Tuk Tuk and a bicycle were burnt in a household fire.

The cause of the fire was not known but the police indicated that a short-circuit in the electrical wires of REGIDESO was the cause.

2-BURURI PROVINCE: Armed robbery in Bururi commune.

On 2 March 2022, at around 8 pm, on Nyavyamo hill, unidentified people armed with machetes and clubs ambushed Diane Niyonsaba and stole her watch and mobile phone.

3- CIBITOKÉ PROVINCE:

- Two people killed and others injured in Bukinanyana commune's accident

On 13 March 2022 in the afternoon, in the Ndora area, Cedric Uwimana, 15 years-old, a pupil, and Jean Nzokirantevye, a volunteer at ECOFO Shembati in Butaganzwa commune, died, and twenty-seven other pupils were injured in an accident with a Dyna vehicle belonging to Musema high school, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province. These people from the school of KAYANZA province were returning from Cibitoke at the end of a football event called "Hope". The injured were evacuated, some to Cibitoke hospital and others to Kayanza hospital.

- *A house burnt down in Rugombo commune*

During the night of 21-22 March 2022, on Rusororo hill, a house belonging to Apollinaire Sinabajje was burnt down by unidentified persons and all the goods inside were burnt. Apollinaire was accused of witchcraft by his neighbours. Apollinaire had almost been killed two months before this incident.

4-KARUSI PROVINCE: *One person electrocuted in Bugenyuzi commune*

On 22 March 2022, at around 10 a.m., in the Bugenyuzi hill and zone, a man known as Kaposho, 34years-old, was killed by electrocution. Kaposho was installing a solar panel on the roof of a house belonging to one Eric. Above this house was a REGIDESO power line that had already been damaged by bad weather.

5-KAYANZA PROVINCE: *Two suicide cases in Kayanza commune*

- On 5 March 2022, at around 5 p.m., on Mihigo Hill, 56 years-old Janvier Minani committed suicide. According to sources at the scene, since October 2021, the man had been suffering from an unidentified illness and was taking drugs.
- On 6 March 2022, at around 6 a.m., on Musave Hill, Célestin Niyubahwe, 30years-old, committed suicide. The causes of his suicide are believed to be related to family conflicts between the man and his wife.

Four months before this incident, his wife had abandoned the family, taking all the family's possessions with her. Célestin Niyubahwe left a will to his family members in which he indicated the reason for his suicide.

6-MAKAMBA PROVINCE: *Abuses by the Imbonerakure in Nyanza-lac commune*

A member of the CNDD-FDD party was injured on 4 March 2022: from 9 to 11 pm, on the hill of Mugerama, Hussein Ciza, 60 years-old, a member of the CNDD-FDD party, resident on the same hill since 1991, and father of 8 children, was attacked and injured in the legs by members of the Imbonerakure militia led by their hill leader, Seti. Police officers intervened by firing into the air to disperse these young Imbonerakure who wanted to lynch Hussein Ciza by accusing him of witchcraft. These Imbonerakure burnt down his house after the police intervention. The victim was taken to the Nyanza-lac district hospital for medical treatment.

7-MUYINGA PROVINCE: Abuses by Imbonerakure in Muyinga commune

On 17 March 2022, the fields of CNL party members were devastated on Burima hill: CNL party members, including Ephrem Nkeraguhiga, who work in a cooperative for their development and who were busy reaping the rice fields of Nkeraguhiga, were attacked by a group of Imbonerakure led by Karenzo Amadi, the leader of this hill. They were beaten and the telephone of the leader of the CNL party members was taken away.

8- PROVINCE RUMONGE :

- One person died in Muhuta commune: on the night of 21 March 2022, in Rutongo zone, one person was killed and another injured following torrential rains which, moreover, destroyed 300 hectares of crops, about sixty households, churches, a hill office and killed a cow. Domitille Ntunzwenimana, administrator of this commune called on the population to help each other and the victims.
- One person drowned in Muhuta commune: on 22 March 2022, in the afternoon, on Gitaza hill, one person was killed by drowning in the Rutunga river following heavy rains. The rains destroyed 25 houses and flooded 19 on this hill. On Mubone hill, the rains also destroyed 4 houses and flooded 13 others.

II.2. The political context.

1-BURURI PROVINCE:

Dismissal of the zone chief in Bururi commune: on 8 March 2022, Levis Ndayitwayeko, a member of the CNDD-FDD party, chief of Bamba zone, Bururi commune and province, was suspended from his duties for having gone to a 1st year sewing class at the Bamba Centre for Teaching Trades (Centre d'Enseignement des Métiers de Bamba) in CNDD-FDD party clothing and having ordered the students to repeat CNDD-FDD party slogans. The teacher who was teaching the class and the students complained to the authorities.

2-KARUSI PROVINCE :

- Order to monitor demobilised and pensioners in Buhiga commune: On 21 March 2022, in the commune's meeting room, the administrator, Thérence Bacebaseme, asked the hill chiefs to

collaborate with police officers to make an inventory of demobilised persons and pensioners from the FDN and the police, and to closely monitor their movements or activities because, according to him, they are the ones who can disrupt security. According to him, in case of an incident, the chief of the hill calls the mentor police officer who intervenes directly on the scene.

- Acts of intimidation in Buhiga commune: on 25 March 2022, members of the Imbonerakure militia went through the centre of Buhiga wearing CNDD-FDD T-shirts. They ran through the streets singing that they already have their 2025 victory and that no party will dare to compete with their party and threatened non-members of this party.

3-NGOZI PROVINCE:

The meeting suspension of the CNL party's hill committees' members in Kirembe commune: On 22 March 2022, at the CNL party headquarters, a meeting of the members of the CNL party's hill committees attended by the CNL party president, Honorable Agathon Rwasa, a native of this commune, was suspended by police officers on the orders of the administrator of Kirembe commune, Pascal Sebigo. They were accused of holding a meeting without permission. However, Jonas Nahimana, the provincial secretary of the CNL party, said that meetings of members of hill committees held in the headquarters do not require a request for permission.

4-KIRUNDO PROVINCE:

Dismissal of the Busoni commune administrator and the ideology officer of the CNDD-FDD party at national level: On 25 March 2022, during a meeting of CNDD-FDD party leaders in Kirundo province in the meeting room of Kanyinya parish, Dismas Nsabimana, administrator of Busoni commune, was suspended from his duties and was forced to leave the room, remove his CNDD-FDD party T-shirt and hand over his Toyota pick-up truck to Jovith Butoyi, the provincial SNR leader, by the Honourable Gélase Ndabirabe, President of the National Assembly.

The administrator was accused by the communal secretary of the said party to have appointed the head of the Murore zone by refusing the one that the party had already sent him. In the same meeting, Colonel Anastase Manirambona, in charge of the party's ideology at the national level, a native of the same commune, was also dismissed from his post and was accused of sowing hatred, division and disorder within the CNDD-FDD party members.

II.3. The judicial context

II.3.1. People arbitrarily arrested by Imbonerakure, SNR agents and administrative staff

DATE	LOCALITY	VICTIM	REASON GIVEN	COMMENTS
27th February 2022	Kurubaho, Giharo commune, Rutana province	Raphaël, a member of the CNL party, living on Mugondo hill, Mpinga-Kayove commune	Accused of wearing a CNL party knitwear	He was arrested and roughed up by Imbonerakure on the Violette Niyukuri's order, the CNDD-FDD party head on the Musenyi sub-hill, Butezi hill. Having refused the order to remove the knitwear, these Imbonerakure told him that they did not need to see CNL party members on Butezi hill. Raphael had to pay for two cans of banana beer to be released.
10th March 2022, morning	In the Cankuzo Provincial Capital	Anatole Karabumba, head of the CDFC in Cankuzo	He was accused of not having participated in the rehabilitation of RN 13 and in a meeting led by the 1st Vice-President of the Senate, Hon. Denise Ndadaye, who was visiting Cankuzo	He was arrested and detained at the Cankuzo police station by the local police commissioner on the order of the Cankuzo province governor. However, at the time of this visit, Anatole Karabumba was conducting a training session for the beneficiaries of the SOPRAD project at Kabeza Motel. Anatole was released on the morning of 11 March 2022.
14th March 2022	NYANZA-LAC zone and commune	Twenty members of the EUSEBU Church	Protests against the investiture by the first pastor, Laban Barankunda, of 64 new pastors to replace those who had been dismissed from their responsibilities the day before	They were arrested by the administrator of Nyanza-lac commune, Goreth Irankunda, in collaboration with the provincial police commissioner in Makamba. They were taken directly to the police station in Nyanza-lac. The administrator of the Nyanza-lac commune, who is a member of the church, took part in these investiture ceremonies

17th March 2022	On Gataka hill, vyuya zone of Mugamba commune, Bururi province	Alexis Nduwamungu	He was accused to insult the CNDD-FDD party head in Mugamba commune.	He was arrested by Imbonerakure. He was taken to the police lock-up in Mugamba and a search followed, but no weapons or other suspicious objects were found at his home, according to his relatives.
18th March 2022	In the Commercial quarter, at the level of the RN 13, in the Cankuzo province capital.	Vital Ntawumbabayé, trader in the Cankuzo urban centre.	Accused to dig a hole in front of his cabaret as a septic tank	He was arrested at his home and taken to the provincial police station by Désiré, the Cankuzo communal police commissioner. Vital lives in a house that is twinned with the cabaret. The commissioner had required a sum of 100,000 FBU from Vital to be released. Vital appealed to the Public Prosecutor in Cankuzo, Ferdinand Bazikwankana, who released him on 21 March 2022, in return for the closure of the hole and payment of a fine of 10,000 FBU to the commune.
20th March 2022	On Gihofi hill and area, Bukemba commune, Rutana province	Arnauld Gakiza, 26years-old , one Congera and 20 other CNL party members	Accused to belong to a rebel movement.	He was arrested in Gihofi and was taken to the dungeon of the Bukemba communal police station by the communal administrator. All were taken to the Bukemba communal police station dungeon. On 24 March 2022, Gakiza and Congera were transferred to a cell in Bujumbura Mairie by SNR agents.
24 March 2022	On Kinyinya hill III, Rukaramu area, Mutimbuzi commune,	Ramadhan Ndayiziga	The reason for his arrest has not been disclosed	He was arrested by Bernard Mbonimpa alias Menge, an SNR agent. The victim was taken on board a double-cabin vehicle. The victim was taken to the SNR prison in Bujumbura town hall, close to the Regina Mundi Cathedral.

II.3.2. Abducted and/or disappeared persons.

One person was reported missing in Rutana commune and province: On 21 March 2022, at around 7 am, on Kibinzi hill, Rutana zone, Emile Horugavye, 24years-old, agent of a security company PSG and working at Christian Aid office in Rutana, was reported missing. According to local sources, his family searched high and low for him without success. The family asked the local administration to help but he has not been found.

In short, at least 52 people were arbitrarily arrested and illegally detained and at least 1 person was abducted and disappeared throughout March 2022.

II.3.3. A judgment in flagrante delicto proceedings

A police officer was sentenced to 27 years of penal servitude in Rutana province: On 1 March 2022, in the capital of Rutana province, Thacien Minani, 44years-old, a police officer from the Rutana communal police station, was heard by the Rutana High Court in a flagrante delicto trial. This policeman had just been caught in flagrante delicto raping a 14-year-old girl.

II.4. The social context.

From a social point of view, our report focuses mainly on the management of Covid-19 as well as the material and human destruction caused by the heavy rains that fell on various localities in the country.

II.4.1. On the management of the Covid-19

In Bujumbura and the rest of the country, cases of covid-19 have considerably decreased. This prompted the Minister of internal affairs, chairman of the national committee for the fight against covid-19, to announce that covid-19 was under control and to authorise the reopening of sauna rooms and karaoke bars on 11 March 2022, but only on Fridays and Saturdays and not after 10 pm.

II.4.2. Damage due to bad weather

1- RUMONGE PROVINCE :

- On 28 February 2022, heavy rains and hail in the Murago and Ngogo hills of Muhuta commune damaged 140 hectares of maize, 120 hectares of potatoes, 2.4 hectares of wheat, 2 hectares of beans and 1 hectare of sweet potatoes. A total of 140 households with over 900 people were affected.
- On 2 March 2022, between 3pm and 4pm, strong winds destroyed fifty-five pirogues on the beaches of Gitaza, Magara and Kagongo. No loss of life was recorded. This incident took place when fishermen were preparing to enter Lake Tanganyika to fish.

2- CIBITOKÉ PROVINCE

- On 8 March 2022, around midday, at ECOFO Butaramuka, Mugina commune, the three classrooms' roofs were blown off by rain mixed with strong winds. Eight students were injured and fields of tomatoes, bananas and beans were also damaged.

- On 16 March 2022, in the afternoon, on some hills in the Murwi, more than 180 houses were destroyed, more than 80 hectares of cassava, banana, beans, maize and other fields were damaged by torrential rains.

III. VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

III.1. General overview.

Here, we will deal with cases of violations of the right to life and physical integrity in terms of people killed and injured. The cases of people killed are dominated by those of corpses found in various places, which are mainly attributed by the population to the Imbonerakure and SNR agents.

In short, and without being exhaustive, at least 33 people were killed and 13 others wounded during the month of March 2022.

III.2. The distribution summary table of violations' cases of the right to life and physical integrity of persons by province and by categories of perpetrators.

Categories of perpetrators Locality	Militaries		Police officers		Civilians		Armed groups		Unidentified		Totals	
	K	I	K	I	K	I	K	I	K	I	K	I
Bubanza	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	2
Bujumbura Mairie	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	6	0
Bujumbura Rurale	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Bururi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Cankuzo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Cibitoke	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	7	0
Gitega	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Karusi	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	3
Kayanza	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	5
Kirundo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Makamba	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	3	1
Muramvya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Muyinga	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Mwaro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ngozi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Rumonge	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rutana	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Ruyigi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Totals	0	0	1	0	10	12	0	0	22	1	33	13

IV. CASES OF TORTURE, INHUMAN, CRUEL AND DEGRADING TREATMENT.

During the month of March 2022, several cases of torture, inhuman, cruel and degrading treatment were identified in several localities in the country. Most of these acts are not identified, as they are committed in clandestine dungeons set up by SNR officials in various localities of the country and at the headquarters in Bujumbura town hall.

One case was identified in March 2022, that of a member of the CNDD-FDD party who was tortured in Shombo commune, Karuzi province: On 28 February 2022 at around 10pm, on Butwe hill, Nyarurambi zone, Shombo commune, Karuzi province, a 48-year-old CNDD-FDD party member named Elie was with Désiré Havyarimana in a cabaret quenching their thirst when Elie was attacked by Gérard Ndayisenga and Emmanuel Ngendakubwayo, all of them are members of the Imbonerakure militia.

According to sources on the spot, Elie said: "Here come the red berets". These Imbonerakure then jumped on him and beat him with sticks before confiscating a sum of 42,600 FBU. The next day, 1 March 2022, Elie complained to an OPJ who summoned the two attackers and the cabaret owner. The two Imbonerakure militiamen were fined 50,000 FBU and detained in cell for two days. The cabaret owner, for his part, was fined 100,000 FBU.

V. SGBV CASES.

Children, women and men continue to suffer inhuman and degrading treatment, often under the cover of corrupt administrative authorities who do not hesitate to engage in amicable settlements between perpetrators and victims, and sometimes even to shield the offenders from justice.

Eleven (11) illustrative cases were noted in March 2022. These included 5 cases of rape and 6 domestic violence cases - assault and injury on a spouse.

Locality	Date	Nature and Victim of SGBV	Perpetrator of SGBV	Circumstances and outcome
RUTANA in the county seat of Rutana	28th, February 2022	RAPE OF A MINOR D.I. 14 years-old , domestic worker at the home of a woman named Chantal, OPJ of Rutana commune police station	Thacien Minani, 44 years-old, a police officer from Rutana police station.	Thacien M. was caught in the act and arrested. The victim was taken to Rutana Hospital for medical treatment.
RUTANA on Nyarubere hill, zone, Rutana commune	15th March 2022, at around 9 am	RAPE E. N., 14 years-old,	Léonard Nibizi, 43 years-old, neighbour, member of the CNDD-FDD party	Leonard used his craftiness and led E.N. into a maize field close to the house to rape her. The victim screamed for help but when the neighbours intervened the rapist had escaped. The victim was taken to Rutana hospital.
KARUSI On Kiranda hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune.	2 march 2022 at around 9pm	Assault His wife, teacher, 49 years-old, named Ngeso	Edouard Nkunuzumukama, 62 years-old, teacher.	He beat up his wife, accusing her of prostitution. In a drunken state, he drove his wife and daughter out. He even broke down the doors of the family house, messed up all the belongings in the house and dumped the maize crop in the mud. The woman complained to the chief of the hill and even to the commune administrator. The latter was content to reconcile them, but this reconciliation was only of short-lived.
KARUSI On Shanga hill, Rutonganikwa zone, Buhiga commune.	Le 12 mars 2022, vers 19 heures	ASSAULT AND BATTERY A woman named Lucia, 29 years-old, member of the CNDD-FDD	Her husband, Jean Claude Muhimpundu, 32 years-old, member of the CNDD-FDD party	She was beaten up and injured in the face. The victim was taken to Rudaraza health centre, where she received medical attention. The husband, on the other hand, was arrested and taken to the police lock-up in Buhiga.
KAYANZA On Mudusi hill, Gatara commune	4th March 2022	ASSAULT AND BATTERY Béatrice Barakamfitye	Her husband Havyarimana	She was thrashed by her husband. The victim came from the women's forum representatives' hill elections and was accused of participating in unimportant activities
KAYANZA		ASSAULT AND BATTERY	His wife Marie Ndoricimpa in	He was beaten and injured in the foot The victim is often beaten by his wife, who sometimes also withholds food from him. He may even be driven out of the house by the same wife.

On Marabe sub-hill, Kivuruga hill, Gatara commune	On the night of 6 to 7 March 2022	Frédéric Nahimana, 60 years- old	complicity with his son Hungu, aged 20	
KAYANZA On Mikuba hill, Muruta commune	14 March 2022	RAPE E. N., 20 years-old	Ernest Nibimpaye of the same locality	E.N. had gone to fetch fodder for the cattle when the offender jumped on her and raped her. A few days before the incident, Ernest had asked the girl to be his second wife but she refused. The assailant was arrested by the police and taken to the Muruta commune jail. The victim was taken to Kayanza hospital for medical treatment.
KAYANZA On Gitwe sub-hill, Remera hill, Muruta commune	15 March 2022, evening	ASSAULT AND BATTERY Lamberte Habonimana, 57 years-old	Her husband Marc Ndikumana, aged 58	She was beaten and injured in the head. The incident took place when the said wife was coming from the fields. Lamberte was accused of having cultivated the field that her husband was planning to rent the next day. On the orders of the local administrator, the husband was arrested by the police and taken directly to the local jail in Muruta. The victim was taken to Kayanza hospital for medical treatment.
KAYANZA On Manini hill, Muruta Commune	16 March 2022	ASSAULT AND BATTERY Agnès Miburo	Her husband Côme Ndagijimana, a 60-year-old.	She was beaten up by her husband who punched and kicked her several times in the back. On 13 March 2022, Côme had injured his wife with an axe on her feet. He was required to give the notables two cans of local beer. The victim was taken to Kayanza Hospital for medical treatment.
BUBANZA on the Shari 2 hill commonly known as Ruvumvu	In the afternoon of 22 March 2022 at around 4 pm	V.N., a 15-year-old girl,	François Vyamungu, a married man with six children.	He called her into his house and forcibly raped her. He was quickly arrested and the victim was taken to Bubanza Hospital for medical treatment the next morning.
BUBANZA In the locality of Kinywanuma in the Muzinda zone, Rugazi commune, Bubanza province		RAPE N.N. 16 years-old	Rénovât Niyonsenga, married, 20 years old	The offender is alleged to have repeatedly raped the girl without her parents' knowledge. It was after she discovered that she was pregnant that she denounced the perpetrator in March 2022. After investigations, the author was arrested and brought to justice on file RMP 24602/N.JMV.

VI. THE PRISON SITUATION IN BURUNDI: Table summarising the prison situation on 1 April 2022

Prison	accommodation capacity	Prison population	Number of defendants		Number of sentenced people		Minors defendants		Minors sentenced		Escapes	Deaths	Infants		Occupancy rate
			M	W	M	W	B	G	B	G			B	G	
Bubanza	200	571	272	19	260	20							3	4	285,50%
Bururi	250	263	130	11	109	13							1	1	105,20%
Gitega	400	1 275	430	44	732	69							6	7	318,75%
Mpimba	800	4 612	2 893	180	1 455	84							20	15	576,50%
Muramvya	100	701	368	31	294	8							4	4	701,00%
Muyinga	300	459	97	8	325	29								1	153,00%
Ngozi (F)	250	193		74		98		1		20			17	17	77,20%
Ngozi (H)	400	1 788	785		1 003										447,00%
Rumonge	800	1 164	370	24	748	22							3	4	465,60%
Rutana	350	595	213	7	354	21							1	1	170,00%
Ruyigi	300	932	333	34	532	33							3	3	310,67%
CMCL Ruyigi	72	54					1		53						75,00%
CMCL Rumonge	72	76					10		66						105,56%
TOTALS	4 294	12 683	5 891	432	5 812	397	11	1	119	20	-	-	58	57	295,36%
			5 891+432=6 323		5 812+397=6 209		11+1=12		119+20=139				58+57=115		

The prison population is 12,683 prisoners + 115 infants = 12,798

The total number of remand prisoners is 6,323 adults + 12 minors = 6,335

The total number of convicted prisoners is 6,209 adults + 139 minors = 6,348

The monitoring of the detainees' rights violations during the month of March 2022, completed by the table of the overall prison situation above, shows that the population has only increased from month to month (295.36% at the end of March compared to the capacity) since the beginning of this year. The small table below shows this clearly:

Comparative table of the past three (3) months

Categories Months	Prison population	Occupancy rate	Defendants	Sentenced
January 2022	12.571	290.17%	6.486	5.974
February 2022	12.667	292.13%	6.198	6.346
March 2022	12.798	295.36%	6.335	6.348

While there is a decrease in the number of detainees at the end of January 2022 (12,460) compared to December 2021 (1,3002), the number of detainees rises from February 2022 with an increase of 96 in February and 131 in March.

The promiscuity, the deterioration of prison conditions as well as the risks in case of epidemics or disasters remain obvious.

Despite this, there is progress in the prison administration and a glimmer of hope on the prisoners' faces of Gitega, with the lifting of the refusal measure of visits to these prisoners taken two years ago: the families and friends of these prisoners will now be able to visit them on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays between 12 noon and 2pm.

VII. CONCLUSION

In view of the human rights situation as summarised in this report, and anxious to see the human rights situation in the country redressed, APRODH once again sounds the alarm and recommends the following:

- **To the government of Burundi, to:**
 - ✓ Take suitable measures to stop any kind of human rights violations,
 - ✓ Conduct prompt and conclusive investigations to identify the perpetrators of human rights violations so that they can be brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law,

✓ End arbitrary arrests and unlawful detentions in order to reduce the number of prisoners in Burundi.

• **To the population, to :**

✓ Remain serene and united, maintain peaceful cohabitation and pursue development activities and turn their back on political manipulation.

***** **END** *****