



## DECLARATION OF THE BURUNDIAN COALITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (CBDDH)

### In Memory of Butoyi Arcade, Kidnapped on 28/4/2020

**"Any act of enforced disappearance constitutes an offense to human dignity (...) No circumstance, whether it be a threat of war, a state of war, internal political instability, or any other state of emergency, may be invoked to justify disappearances." Extract from the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 18, 1992.**

The Burundian Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (CBDDH) demands transparency and justice for the abduction of Butoyi Arcade, provincial representative of the Syndicat des Travailleurs de l'Enseignement du Burundi (STEB) and OLUCOME in Cankuzo, on the occasion of the 4<sup>th</sup> commemoration of his disappearance on April 28, 2024.

Arcade Butoyi was abducted with his friend by individuals dressed in police uniform, aboard a vehicle well known for its macabre uses on April 28, 2020, at the "Ku Kayaga" bar-Cankuzo Province, when he had just installed sound systems in an event room on behalf of the CNL political party, which had awarded him a contract during the 2020 electoral campaign. A tireless trade unionist, Arcade Butoyi had just been reinstated to his post after 4 years of fighting against his arbitrary and illegal dismissal following his union commitment to defending teachers against repeated abuses as well at the provincial education directorate in Cankuzo and at the national.

The intolerance against his trade union activism was exacerbated by his fight against the double shift of teachers and the redeployment under untenable conditions that were carried out in the province of Cankuzo in violation of teachers rights and against official instructions. He subsequently became himself a victim and worked in total insecurity aimed at discouraging his commitment. Despite his dismissal, Arcade Butoyi continued his union duties with the same energy.

Since his abduction, State services have never wanted to cooperate. The individuals contacted reacted with barely veiled warnings in order to impose silence on his family and the organizations he represented.

On this day commemorating his abduction,

**CBDDH**

- Pays tribute to the memory of this great trade unionist victim of his work;
- Deplores that the Burundian justice system has done nothing to trace him;
- Encourages his family for her resilience despite the hardships;
- Encourages workers to remain vigilant in respecting the principles of good governance and to provide constructive criticism to safeguard development and the sustainability of services;
- Calls on the Government of Burundi to protect the exercise of trade union freedom as prescribed by national and international instruments;
- Retiterates its call for justice for Butoyi Arcade.

Signed on April 28, 2024

**Eulalie Nibizi**



**Executive Director of CBDDH**