



LIGUE BURUNDAISE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME " ITEKA "

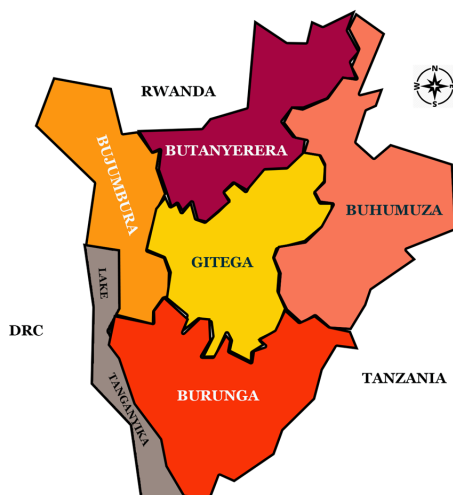
BULLETIN HEBDOMADAIRE

"Iteka n'Ijambo"

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A SPECIAL WEEK FOR A DOUBLE LEGISLATIVE AND COMMUNAL VOTE IN BURUNDI



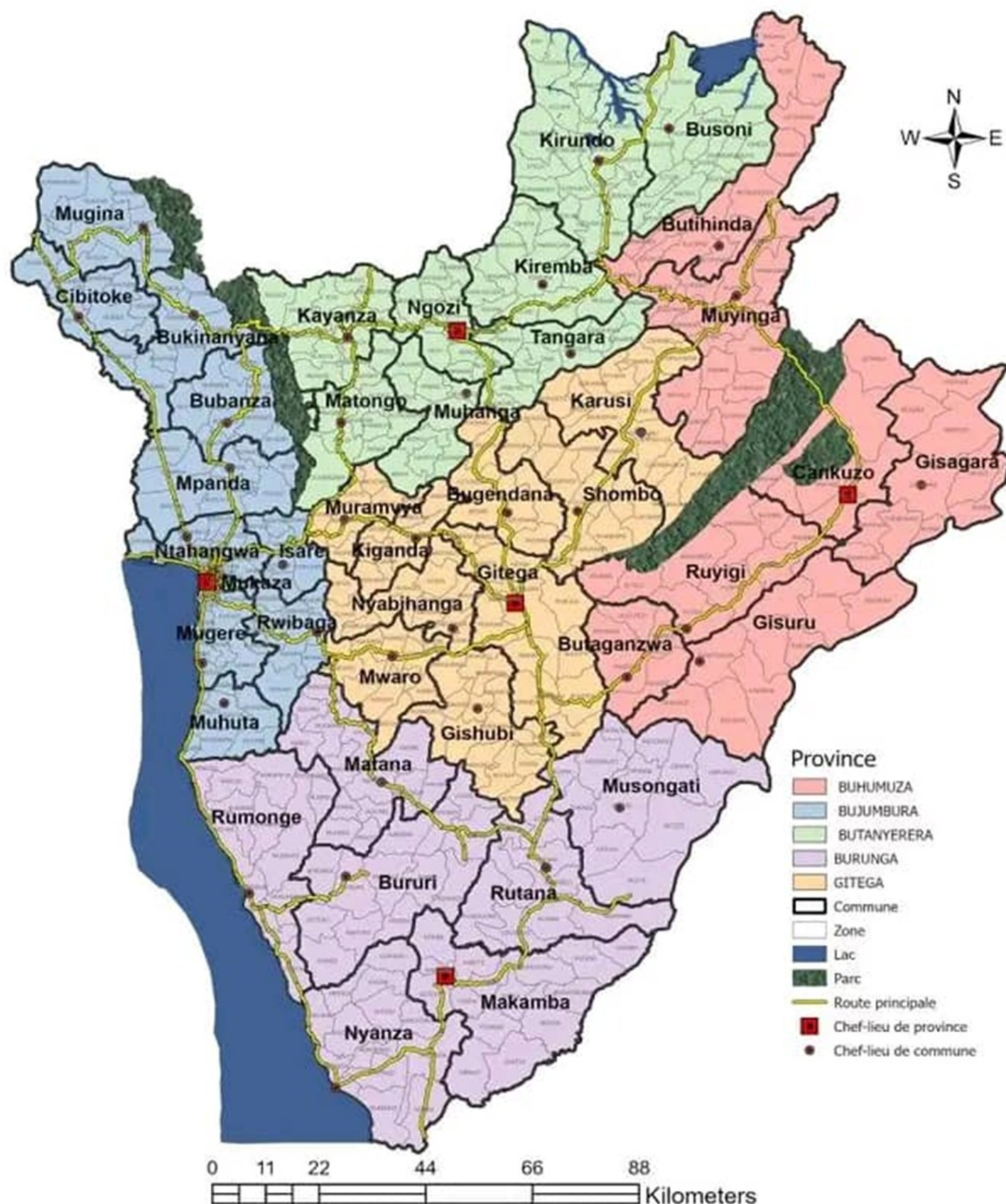
In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 8 June 2025, Iteka has documented at least 737 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF 16 MARCH 2023



ACRONYMS

<i>CDP</i>	: Council of Patriots
<i>CDS</i>	: Health Center
<i>CECI</i>	: Independent Communal Electoral Commission
<i>CEJP</i>	: Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace
<i>CENI</i>	: Independent National Electoral Commission
<i>CEPI</i>	: Independent Provincial Electoral Commission
<i>CNDD-FDD</i>	: National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Defense Forces of Democracy
<i>CNIDH</i>	: Independent National Human Rights Commission
<i>CNL</i>	: National Congress for Liberty
<i>DPEAE</i>	: Provincial Directorate of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock
<i>DRC</i>	: Democratic Republic of Congo
<i>ECOFO</i>	: Fundamental School
<i>GBV</i>	: Gender-Based Violence
<i>M23</i>	: March 23 Movement
<i>OPJ</i>	: Judicial Police Officer
<i>RANAC</i>	: National Rally for Change
<i>SNR</i>	: National Intelligence Service
<i>TGI</i>	: High Court
<i>UPRONA</i>	: Union for National Progress

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin provides an overview of the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of 2-8 June 2025. The period was dominated by heightened political tension due to elections, marred by irregularities from the ruling CNDD-FDD party and its members.

Highlights of this week include: at least 10 people killed, including 9 found dead, including 6 bodies recovered from Kanyaru River, border of Burundi and Rwanda; 2 people abducted, all members of CNL party; and 3 people tortured, including a CNL member.

Ligue Iteka also recorded 7 people arbitrarily arrested, including 2 CDP members and a member of the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition, including a female RANAC member. It should also be noted that during this reporting period, Imbonerakure attacks on opposition members (CNL) and denials of voting rights to 15 soldiers were recorded.

The main alleged perpetrators of these violations are administrative officials, police officers, and young Imbonerakure members affiliated with the ruling party.

I. CONTEXT.

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

The political context of last week's elections in Burundi was illustrated by various events highlighting an alarming situation. Meetings took place on June 3, 2025, convened by local leaders, to organize electoral fraud. These gatherings targeted polling station presidents and included instructions to manipulate the vote, such as stuffing ballot boxes in advance, intimidating voters, and discouraging voting for other parties.

During the June 5 elections in Burunga, shocking practices were revealed. Polling stations opened an hour before the official time, and voters were seen voting many times. Observers, including those from the Catholic Church, were

systematically excluded under threat of violence. Political representatives were arrested for refusing to sign polling reports earlier. In Buruhukiro, opposition members were threatened to dissuade them from voting against CNDD-FDD.

Similar irregularities were observed in Buhumuza, where elections were marred by violence and intimidation, excluding many opposition members. Voting mobilization was also characterized by systematic manipulation of results, with opposition observers and representatives excluded or intimidated. Bujumbura was not spared these same irregularities.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 5)

Other cases of fraud were reported in the communes of Gitega province, with ballots found in ballot boxes before polling stations opened and voters forced to vote for CNDD-FDD. In schools, students were forced to vote under the surveillance of ruling party members.

In Butanyerera, attacks were reported against CNL members, and unauthorized voter registrations took place. UPRONA members were also targeted by Imbonerakure, causing inju-

ries and property damage. Voter participation figures are also suspect, amid a climate of fear and repression.

Key facts :

Eve meetings organized for electoral fraud

On the afternoon of June 3, 2025, the country witnessed multiple meetings, almost globally across the hills. Information gathered by Ligue Iteka from members of the ruling party reveals that these meetings were convened by the leaders of the ruling CNDD-FDD party at the hill level.

The purpose of these meetings was to bring together the presidents of the polling centers and stations to instruct them on the behavior to be strictly adopted during the election. The instructions were clear and included the following actions: arriving at polling stations as early as 3

a.m. to fill ballot boxes with ballots in their possession, intimidating other polling station officials and preventing them from accessing vote counting operations, buying votes on behalf of voters suspected of belonging to the opposition, threatening anyone wishing to vote for a party other than CNDD-FDD, forcing polling station officials to sign the minutes quickly, and excluding all observers and polling station officials deemed non-compliant with their organized manipulation.

A. CONDUCT OF THE JUNE 5, 2025 ELECTIONS IN THE COMMUNES OF THE NEW PROVINCE OF BURUNGA

The conduct of the elections in the communes of Rumonge and Bururi was marked by serious irregularities. These elections started at 4 a.m., an hour before the official opening. Though generally transparent, the ballot boxes were hidden by cardboard, preventing their contents to be

seen. Many voters were reported voting many times, while polling station staff were seen filling out ballots and putting them secretly into the ballot boxes. Observers, particularly those from the Catholic Church, were denied access to several polling stations, often under threat

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 6)

of violence in the event of protest. Some political officials were arrested for refusing to sign ballot reports before the end of the elections. The situation only stabilized after the prosecutor intervened, ordering the vote count to continue.

Illustrative cases:

On June 4, 2025, the day before the general elections in Burundi, acts of intimidation and threats were observed in the locality of Buruhukiro, in Rumonge commune, Burunga province. According to several local reports, these actions primarily target individuals suspected of being affiliated with or sympathetic to the opposition, with the purpose of discouraging them from voting against CNDD-FDD ruling party.

***Palm plantation guards** in the locality of Rumonge were particularly targeted. Field reports indicate that local CNDD-FDD officials have warned them that they risk being fired if they choose to vote for another party. **"We will cross-check the lists of CNDD-FDD meeting attendees with the election results to identify those who voted against the party,"** a local official reportedly declared in a threatening manner.*

***This climate of fear is not unique.** The previous week, six dockworkers who had attended a UPRONA party meeting in Rumonge were denied access to their jobs at the city's commercial port. A Maritime Company manager reportedly told them, **"You will return to work when UPRONA party will be back to power,"** before firing them, according to UPRONA party reports, denouncing clear political persecution.*

***Furthermore,** allegations of preparation for electoral fraud also weigh on the ongoing process. A polling station member, who is also a CNDD-FDD member, revealed that secret meetings were held on Wednesday, June 4, across the hills and quarters of Rumonge. These meetings were intended to give specific instructions to polling station members, directly supervised by ruling party officials.*

***In Buruhukiro zone,** opposition members are threatened to lose their jobs as palm plantation guards if they vote against CNDD. They have even been informed that a verification would be carried out, meaning that a list of voters entering polling stations would be drawn up to compare the votes obtained with people who attended meetings, thus identifying the origin of the votes. These individuals would subsequently be fired.*

Exclusion, fraud and intimidation in Makamba

The communal and legislative elections in Makamba revealed serious irregularities in several zones of Makamba commune, including Kayogoro, Makamba, Vugizo, Nyanza-Lac, Kibago, and Mabanda. It has been reported that intentional practices aimed at systematically excluding opposition parties and religious denominations have been observed, which has provoked outrage and anger among the population.

Before election day, many opposition members did not receive their voter's cards, creating a climate of anxiety within local political and religious organizations.

On election day itself, accredited polling station representatives and observers, including those from the Catholic Church, were systematically excluded from polling stations. The atmosphere was also marked by constant threats and uncertainty, as polling station representatives were often denied time or right to sign the polling reports. These actions raised serious questions about the legitimacy of the electoral process.

On May 21, 2025, members of the ruling party reported that a CNDD-FDD meeting was held to discuss the organization of the election. Strategies and instructions were discussed, including the goal of achieving 98% of the results, regardless of the circumstances.

On election day, the necessary equipment, including furniture and classrooms, was ready the day before, and by 5:30 a.m. on June 5,

some polling stations were already open, while the CENI had scheduled voting to start at 6:00 a.m. According to procedural standards, the CENI requires all polling station presidents to inform voters and present empty and sealed ballot boxes, but in some stations, voting started before the scheduled time, demonstrating a failure to comply with CENI instructions.

That morning, voters and civil society observers present at the scene noted that despite the polling station presidents having opened the polls, some observers, including those from CECAB, the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace, and MAC, were refused access to the polling process. In addition, interventions by administrative authorities influenced approximately 80% of the political representatives present. Other irregularities included the presence of groups of uniformed Imbonerakure youths armed with sticks to intimidate voters in Rubindi and Mukungu hills.

Representatives of opposition parties, such as UPRONA, FRODEBU, and CDP, were deprived of their votes during the vote count, earning the election the label of an electoral masquerade. Public voting also took place without voting booths in the same hills, and some polling station officials voted many times.

Polling station officials accompanied voters, pretending to assist them in the process, but in reality, they were forcing them to vote for CNDD-FDD. During the count, the polling station presidents immediately declared all votes

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 8)

in favor of CNDD-FDD. In some polling stations, political representatives were unable to find their votes despite having voted for their parties. Meetings and consultations between polling station presidents created an atmosphere of fear among observers and political representatives. Attempts were made to force the signing of the polling reports around 10:00 a.m., but some representatives refused. Finally, civil society observers were expelled during the counting.

While local and legislative elections in Burundi have just ended, serious irregularities are impacting the electoral process in various zones of Burunga province, including Kayogoro, Makamba, Vugizo, Nyanza, Kibago, and Mabanda. Many polling station officials and observers report a series of practices designed to systematically exclude opposition parties and religious denominations from the election, provoking outrage and anger.

Some irregularities and orchestrated errors marred this event, particularly through the behavior of some polling station officials. The persistent presence of individuals without clear responsibilities in the electoral organization was also noted, as was their informal interactions with voters and some polling station staff, particularly the presiding officers. Among the worrying examples, there were incidents at the polling stations of ECOFO GATWARO, ECOFO KAYOGORO III-B, ECOFO KABIZI I, ECOFO MUKINGO, ECOFO BUHEMA, ECOFO KIBARA, ECOFO RWOMA, ECOFO MUGEREGERE, ECOFO NARAMANYENYE, ECOFO KIYANGE VI, and ECOFO NYANTA-

KARA, all located in the former commune of KAYOGORO. Similarly, irregularities were reported at ECOFO MUNYWERO and KAGUNGA, former territories of MUSONGATI, as well as at ECOFO RUSHUNGURA and KARINDO in the former commune of RUTANA.

It should be noted that at some polling stations, the presence of Catholic Church observers was perceived as a nuisance. For example, in KAYOGORO, at ECOFO GATWARO polling station BV1, a clear violation of ballot secrecy was observed, apparently with the complicity of election organizers.

Indeed, an individual, apparently unknown to the polling station members and political party representatives, followed a voter to the voting booth to ensure that he voted for CNDD-FDD. During the counting, the polling station president appointed the scrutineers, who deliberately excluded the votes of other parties during the count.

At ECOFO KAYOGORO III.B, CNDD-FDD representatives acted as if they held the position of polling station president. For example, at BV2, a representative of this party asked a voter to show him his national identity card and voter's card, which the person refused to do. At ECOFO KABIZI I polling station, BV1, a soldier attempted to enter the polling station while armed, but was refused by the polling station members and the voters present. He even assaulted some voters, causing disorder until other soldiers intervened. Similarly, at ECOFO MUKINGO polling station, BV2, discrepancies were noted between the number of votes for

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 9)

communal councilors and MPs, with a score of 413 votes for the councilors compared to 411 for MPs.

It was also reported at the same polling station that a person voted for four others twice without a proxy even though the law stipulates that a proxy is unique. Additionally, a voter was seen walking toward the polling booth without voting, folding ballots to place them in the ballot box.

Curiously, during the counting, no abstentions were recorded. At ECOFO BUHEMA, observers from the Catholic Church refused to attend the observation due to a deletion on the polling station number. Similarly, at ECOFO KIBARA polling station, the president of the polling station justified the refusal of access to observers by the absence of the local number on the accreditations.

At ECOFO RWOMA polling station, BV1, before the count, a member of the polling station completed the remaining ballots in favor of CNDD-FDD by declaring: "Murigumya uwufise umutima uhuha uramucamwo" (Keep courage for those who are weak hearted, otherwise there is danger).

CNDD-FDD representatives at ECOFO MUGEREGERE and KIYANGE IV polling stations, as well as at NKARAMANYENYE, accompanied voters to the polling booths to ensure they vote for their party. Finally, at ECOFO NYANTAKARA polling station, access to observers from the Catholic Church was not granted only one hour after voting

started, with the president citing a reason related to role sharing among the polling station members.

At ECOFO RUSHUNGURA polling station, a man attempted to use a proxy to vote for a son who had not been in Burundi for three months. A member of UPRONA party opposed this proxy, but it was finally validated.

As for ECOFO KARINDO polling station, BV1 in Rutana, after the count, a five-vote shortfall was noted. To fill this gap, the polling station members supplemented the ballots in favor of CNDD-FDD.

Finally, at ECOFO MUNYWERO polling station, BV2 in Musongati, an unidentified person introduced himself as a representative of the Catholic Church, while at ECOFO KAGUNGA polling station, BV1, a voter voted for five people without any proxy.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 10)

Before election day: selective distribution of voter's cards

In the days before the election, many opposition party members did not receive their voter's cards, particularly in the communes of Kayogoro and Makamba. This targeted exclusion raised serious concerns, particularly among local party and religious representatives, who perceived it as a tactic to reduce their participation.

On election day: systematic exclusion of political representatives and observers

When polling stations opened, party representatives and authorized observers, including those from Catholic churches, were denied access to several locations. Polling station presidents barred them from entering, arguing that they were not on the official observer lists, even though they had presented accreditation letters issued by the CENI.

Concrete examples are reported: *observers from Makamba Catholic parish, were sent to the CECI (Independent Communal Electoral Commission), were directed to the CEPI of Burunga, where they were told that the person authorized to handle their situation was "unavailable." Finally, they had to return without having been able to complete their observation mission.*

The Counting: The Imbonerakure in command

The few independent CNDD-FDD representatives who had been able to attend the voting operations were forced to leave during the count, allowing the Imbonerakure (CNDD-FDD youth wing) and polling station officials, all affiliated with the same party, to announce the results without outside supervision.

Several witnesses reported that polling station presidents disclosed inconsistent figures and chaotically changed the results, sowing confusion and doubt about their veracity.

"Reka reka, ryari ibara... Hageze guharura ho ho haje Imbonerakure, twebe baca batwigizayo. Even the representatives ntibashobora kumenya ivyo iyo mbonesi iriko ira proclama, kuko yaradidinganya akaza arivuguruza...", declared an observer present on the ground. It was horrible. During the vote counting, Imbonerakure came and we were pushed aside."

A vote manipulated without any transparency in Giharo-Rutana

Testimonies from the field reveal that, despite announcements of a tremendous victory for CNDD-FDD in the 2025 general elections, the reality on the ground was marked by fear, exclusion, threats, and open vote manipulation. In

several polling centers, opposition representatives were removed, and those expected to be observers were presented as accomplices of the ruling party.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 11)

While officials proclaimed an "overwhelming victory" for CNDD-FDD party in the 2025 national elections, in the commune of Giharo, Rutana province, reliable statements from UPRONA party representatives reveal a far

more worrying situation: a vote marked by fear, exclusion, intimidation, falsification, and of a violent presence of Imbonerakure. A real electoral farce.

A widespread campaign of intimidation

According to local sources, UPRONA party representatives reported an atmosphere of repression, dominated by the youth of the ruling party, the Imbonerakure.

From the beginning of the electoral process, opposition delegates, particularly those from UPRONA, were forced to leave polling stations, often under threat or following fabricated arrests. In Ecofo Kabingo I, voters were escorted by the Imbonerakure with a clear warning: "Wihende utore nabi, wibuke ivyo twakubwiye" (Beware! Don't be mistaken when vo-

ting, remember what we told you). This was a thinly disguised threat.

In Giharo, Gakungu, and Muzye zones, UPRONA representatives were denied access to polling stations. The polling stations were completely dominated by CNDD-FDD, and individuals not designated as observers at the designated polling stations were introduced as CNDD-FDD representatives and observers.

Manipulation during the count

At Mura polling station, testimonies show CNDD-FDD's complete control of the electoral process. UPRONA representatives, despite being legally designated, were forcibly removed.

At ECOFO Mwogo, the vote was managed from start to finish by local officials of the ruling party: Ciza Bosco, Rubaho Jean-Baptiste, Nahishakiye Olivier, Nsanzurwimo Venant, and Ndaye-

gamiye Exavella. All demanded that only CNDD-FDD votes be counted, while those of other parties were ignored. At this polling station, during the legislative elections, there were no spoiled ballots, no abstentions, and no votes for parties other than CNDD-FDD.

Targeted repression against UPRONA members.

UPRONA representatives were specifically targeted. On Mutwana hill, a young UPRONA member linked to JRR (the party youth) was accused of indoctrination and forced by the hill leader Nemerimana Vincent to pay 50,000 Bif to avoid imprisonment. He was followed all day by Imbonerakure, on the leader's direct orders.

The case of Kagoma Elias, arrested after being

beaten to death in front of the police by CNDD-FDD officials (Baraguma Alexis, Bigirimana Désiré, and Ntahondonye Emmanuel). His photo was shown in front of other UPRONA representatives to encourage them to leave the polling stations. Those who opposed this pressure were intimidated with death threats. In Nyaburiri, a UPRONA representative named Bosco

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 12)

was threatened by Nkurunziza Cassien, a CNDD-FDD member.

In Bayaga, Nyamweru Nicodème was forced to flee after receiving assassination threats at night.

At Giharo Communal High School, Niyongabire Joselyne, a member of UPRONA women's party,

A complete electoral featuring

At Giharo Communal High School, Niyongabire Joselyne, a member of UPRONA women's party, was seen by Imbonerakure as she headed to the polling station. Following orders from CNDD-FDD officials, she was followed and forced to flee without voting. In Nyamatteke, no

assumed opposition person was allowed to approach the polling stations. "Fictitious" observers were integrated to hide the manipulation, and all voters not identified as CNDD-FDD members were expelled.

A deafening silence after the fraud

What is most puzzling is the absence of words. "Ntawumva uwirata ngo twatsinze!" (No one boasts of winning), says one observer. Even in public institutions, the topic of victory is now

avoided. The atmosphere is filled with fear and exasperation. One witness sums up the situation: "Ntatumwe afise umunezero!" (No one is celebrating).

B. ELECTIONS MARKED BY IRREGULARITIES IN THE COMMUNES OF BUTANYERE-RA PROVINCE

Assaults and intimidation in Kayanza commune

On June 4, 2025, an assault was reported on Mutana hill in Kayanza commune, where CNL members were attacked by Imbonerakure militias. The attack, led by known individuals, resulted in injuries and property damage. Com-

plaints filed by the victims with local authorities did not have the expected effect, and an atmosphere of terror continues to pervade the locality.

Illustration:

On June 4, 2025, information was received indicating that on May 31, 2025, on Mutana hill in Kayanza commune, CNL members who had come from Jene zone for a meeting were attacked by imbonerakure militias, including Nzimenya alias Warumumba, Louis, Bucumi, and another known as Bunyoni, under the orders of an advisor to the administrator of the former Kabarore commune, named Samson. These Imbonerakure spit in their faces and hit them with tree branches, even breaking the windshield of the van transporting these CNL members.

Bigirimana Salvator alerted the governor of Kayanza province, and on June 3 of this year, some of

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 13)

these Imbonerakure, including Louis, Bucumi, and Warumumba, were arrested by Isaac Ningabira, the public prosecutor, who took them to Kayanza police station for judicial investigations.

Although the ballot boxes were ready and available, they remained unused in many polling stations. At Ntarambo polling stations, in Kayanza commune, ***I witnessed a disturbing scene: a voter was forced to vote on a table, in the eyes of CECI agents, making his choice visible to all. This practice was justified by a supposed need to monitor and prevent votes deemed erroneous, that is, for a party other than the ruling one. This situation was repeated at various polling stations across the province.***

Furthermore, in some locations, a representative of the ruling party accompanied the voter to the polls throughout the process. Another alarming finding was that anyone suspected of not voting for the ruling party was denied the right to vote, having to give their voter's card so that someone else could vote for him.

In Kayanza urban center, in Kirema, a voter arrived in tears, claiming that his wishes had not been respected because he had not been given the opportunity to vote; someone had voted for him.

Among other irregularities, it was reported that some people were going around homes threatening those who did not attend the polls, warning them of the consequences, such as the loss of their rights to State services. The absence of independent observers or representatives of parties other than the ruling party was evident.

Reliable sources reported that bottles of alcohol had been set aside, ready to be consumed after the results were announced, and that a celebration was already planned in front of the homes of political opponents.

On the streets and in urban centers, nothing unusual appeared to be evident, although discussion of the elections was rare. People feared being accused of campaigning before the polls closed, especially given the heightened vigilance against anyone from a different party.

As for boarding schools, they had become strongholds of electoral control. Students were forced to vote in groups from dawn until 6 a.m., under the attention of CNDD-FDD members.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 14)

Clear instructions required that their ballots be kept separate from those of other voters. Many reports stated that school officials, in complicity with ruling party leaders, did not hesitate to intimidate students, threatening reprisals if CNDD-FDD did not win the elections

in these schools. "We were clearly told that if CNDD-FDD does not win a majority here, we will know who is opposing it and we will know what to do," revealed one student on condition of anonymity, thus testifying to a climate of pressure and fear.

Intimidation of CNL members in Gitobe zone of Busoni commune

On the night of June 2, 2025, on Santunda sub-hill, Shore hill, Gitobe zone, Busoni commune, Butanyerera province, 10 households of CNL members, including their communal representative, Ndururutse Dieudonné, were invaded by Imbonerakure members who threw stones at the roofs and windows. According to local witnesses, they were intimidating them

into joining CNDD-FDD party, but they claimed they no longer did so. The same witnesses added that some roofs were torn, and two households had their glass windows broken. The administration did nothing, even the joint security committee did nothing to protect them.

Electoral irregularities:

In all the polling stations in Vumbi, Kirundo, and Busoni, two Imbonerakure were at the door of each polling station, lining up and selecting voters to allow CNDD-FDD members to enter. Upon arrival at the polling station, the registered voters were all CNDD-FDD members.

At Gakana polling station, two Imbonerakure, including Juvénal Kimenyi, were in each station, escorting voters to the voting booths. These Imbonerakure accompanied them and forced them to vote number 1, and they themselves folded the ballot paper and showed them where to put it.

A home attacked in Busoni commune, Butanyerera province.

On June 3, 2025, on the hills of Santunda, Shore zone, Busoni commune, Butanyerera province (formerly Gitobe commune in Kirundo province), civilians were attacked at night of June 2-3, 2025, at 5:00 a.m. by unidentified individuals.

Dieudonné, one of the local leaders, was hit by stones thrown at its roof. More than ten homes were destroyed during this attack.

Their homes were destroyed, starting with those of Agathon RWASA's CNL party leaders. The house of Mubereza Jubril was destroyed the previous night, along with many other homes. In addition, the house of Ndururukse

According to local residents, Imbonerakure belonging to the ruling party are believed to be behind this offensive, which was orchestrated to intimidate and threaten members of other political movements.

C. IRREGULARITIES IN THE COMMUNES OF BUHUMUZA PROVINCE

The collection of voter's cards to vote for citizens in Buhumuza province has raised concerns. Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 8, 2025, indicates that a campaign to collect voter's cards took place primarily in the communes of Gisuru, Gisagara, and Cankuzo, targeting people not affiliated with CNDD-FDD party. These cards were collected so that these people could vote for the party members. Among those targeted by this initiative were new CNDD-FDD members, as well as members of UPRONA and CNL parties, who were pressured into signing proxies.

In Gisuru commune, formerly Nyabitsinda, witnesses report acts of intimidation against observers deployed by the Catholic Church's Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace (CEJP).

For example, on June 1, 2025, during a meeting at CNDD-FDD communal office, a zone head expressed his desire not to see observers in his zone, particularly on some hills such as Rusange and Ruyaga. Further threats were made, implying that the observers would soon know what awaited them after the elections, thus implying their absence from the electoral process.

After the observer training, CNDD-FDD leaders wanted details on the content of the training, as was the case in the former Nyabitsinda commune. In some localities, observers were ordered to have their reports censored by CNDD-FDD leaders before any transmission. These signals suggest that the conduct of the elections would be marred by a lack of serenity and transparency.

On June 5, 2025, polling stations in Buhumuza province opened almost everywhere on time, except Kayongozi Communal High School, in the former Bweru commune, now Ruyigi commune, where they opened at 6:30 a.m., awaiting clear instructions from the CECI regarding voter marking. Efforts to mobilize the population to vote early were visible at ECOFO Mubira, formerly Butezi commune, where voters were already queuing as early as 3:00 a.m. The sound of drums and shouts of the Imbonerakure echoed across the communes of Butaganzwa and Gisagara, urging residents to vote.

At ECOFO Ruyigi, Sanzu, and Gasanda, citizens were already lined up as early as 6 a.m. However, acts of intimidation also occurred from the Imbonerakure and administrative officials, not to mention cases of widespread fraud using voter's cards.

On election day, at ECOFO Batye, in Butaganzwa commune, Imbonerakure armed with sticks frightened voters. At ECOFO Nyaburondwe, these young Imbonerakure, pretexting to be providing security, controlled the premises instead of maintaining order. Reports also indicated the distribution of voter's cards by political figures, including the former commune administrator and a councilor, which increased fraud. At ECOFO Nyakiga polling station, two women discovered that their votes had already been recorded without their consent, while at ECOFO Nyaruganda, youth members of the ruling party prevented members of another party from voting.

Muhwazi Communal High School and other

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 16)

centers, such as ECOFO Nyagutoha, also experienced cases where CNDD-FDD representatives had Motorola phones in polling stations, defying the rules on possessing phones for observers.

At ECOFO Kinyinya, an Imbonerakure was present in a voting booth to urge voters to vote for CNDD-FDD. Observers were pressured to modify their counting, illustrating systematic attempts of electoral dysfunctions.

A particularly notable case was that of a man at ECOFO Cankuzo II who, while voting, tore CNDD-FDD symbol, entailing police intervention. Sources report that at ECOFO Nyakerera, a soldier was also arrested for a similar act. This climate of tension also led to acts of fraud, with individuals voting many times, taking advantage of the situation by sending relatives with voter's cards.

In summary, the June 5, 2025, election in Buhumuza province was marked by a series of irregularities: intimidation, massive fraud, and voting without a proxy, creating an atmosphere of mistrust and anxiety among the population.

Electoral irregularities and fraud during the election in Muyinga commune, Buhumuza province

The legislative and communal elections held this Thursday, June 5, 2025, were also marked by several irregularities, including intimidation, multiple voting by a single individual by the Imbonerakure, the escorting of voters to the polling booths where some people were forced to vote for CNDD-FDD, and the opening of the polls too early before the normal time of 6:00 a.m., when the Imbo-

nerakure had spent the night of Wednesday, the 4th, the day before the elections, in the polling stations to vote with multiple voter's cards.

In different WhatsApp groups, CNDD-FDD members ordered members of other political parties to vote for the Eagle Party, supposedly the one that brought peace to Burundi.

D. IRREGULARITIES WERE OBSERVED DURING THE JUNE 5, 2025, ELECTIONS IN SOME COMMUNES OF GITEGA PROVINCE.

Irregularities were observed during the June 5, 2025, elections in several communes of Gitega province, which, according to the new administrative division, also includes the communes of the former provinces of Mwaro, Muramvya, and Karusi, each subdivided into two communes added to Gitega province.

1. At Mugera polling station, located in Bugendana commune, many voters noticed that ballots were already in the ballot boxes as soon as the polls opened, before the official start time of voting. Furthermore, some signatures appeared on the voting lists, indicating that people had voted without going to the polling booth.

2. Vote secrecy was not ensured in some polling stations. For example, at polling station 1 at Bugendana Communal High School, the voting booths were poorly positioned, allowing a clear view of voters' choices from outside. When this issue was raised, the polling station president, Adrien Niyonkuru, minimized the concerns, claiming that the complaints came from people seeking to disrupt the vote.

3. Despite the CENI president's statement authorizing the use of receipts for voters without ID cards, cases were reported where the names of these voters already appeared checked on the lists, suggesting that a vote had been recorded in their name before they could vote. Anyone reporting these irregularities was quickly suspected of wanting to disrupt the election.

4. A general climate of fear was observed in several polling stations. The primary schools of Bwoga (Gitega commune), Ntunda (formerly Ryansoro commune, now part of Gishubi), BUBU (Giheta commune), Mugera I (Bugendana commune), and polling station number 3 at Mutaho school (Mutaho commune, now part of Bugendana) were particularly affected. Observers from organizations such as CEJP, DUSHIRE-HAMWE, and BEL BURUNDI reported intimidation of voters while going to the polls.

5. Journalists also reported being followed and monitored by Imbonerakure or the police throughout the day. One journalist stated that he and his colleagues, particularly those from the Media Synergy, were systematically escorted by these groups, restricting their freedom of expression. Threats were openly made in the queues, with the Imbonerakure claiming they would know who would not vote for CNDD-FDD, thus increasing pressure on voters.

This climate of fear likely impacted voters' free choice, with abstainers facing pressure. At the BUBU polling station in Giheta commune, on Musama hill, officials were ordered to compile a list of absentee voters, which was supposed to be forwarded to the hill heads, which was perceived as a threat to those who did not wish to vote.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 18)

Finally, significant discrepancies were observed between the attendance on the ground and the official figures. For example, at ECO-FO Rweza polling station in Buraza commune (now part of Gishubi), actual attendance appeared low, while the declared results indicated a very high attendance, suggesting possible manipulation of the results.

The facts mentioned in this report were corroborated by several sources, including a journalist who is a member of the Media Synergy and election observers from the organizations DUSHIREHAMWE, CEJP, and BEL BURUNDI. A journalist from a radio station that was burned down in 2015 mentioned that this was the first time they had been prohibited from reporting irregularities on election day.

Regarding political intimidation in Buraza commune (now part of Gishubi commune), repeated cases of intimidation were reported beginning on June 2, 2025, particularly targeting citizens not affiliated with CNDD-FDD. According to sources, several residents report living under pressure, fearing for their safety because of their political opinions.

The perpetrators identified in these acts of intimidation include Ntakarutimana Joseph, CNDD-FDD leader on Rweza hill, and Ndayahoze Jean Marie, deputy of CNDD-FDD communal leader. They are accused of conducting home visits to verbally threaten people they suspect of not supporting CNDD-FDD. The threats reportedly included statements that those refusing to vote for the party would be considered enemies of the country and could be deported to Mahama refugee camp in Rwanda.

Furthermore, Burundian law stipulates that electoral campaigning should end at 6 p.m. on June 2, 2025, but field observations indicate that CNDD-FDD continued its mobilization activities beyond this deadline. On June 4, 2025, the day before the elections, a political meeting disguised as food aid was held at Petit Séminaire de Mugera, forcing students and teachers to participate. Political speeches quickly followed the distribution of the aid, and students were invited to repeatedly shout "We will vote for CNDD-FDD," an initiative welcomed by the seminary principal, known for his influence within CNDD-FDD. The organizers of this session included several influential officials affiliated with this party.

One teacher who witnessed this manipulation said he had never seen such a degree of political interference in his 20-year career and was threatened after expressing his doubts. This situation created an unhealthy climate within the school.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 19)

Electoral fraud in Muramvya commune in Gitega province.

In Muramvya commune, the legislative and communal elections held on Thursday, June 5, 2025, were marked by significant electoral anomalies and violations.

It all started the day before, June 4, when CNDD-FDD representatives and polling station presidents held a clandestine meeting to discuss the fraud. According to reliable sources,

they met at their respective polling stations at 3:00 a.m., fulfilling this commitment.

According to these same sources, they began marking the ballots. Therefore, when the polls opened, they failed to inform voters that the ballot boxes were empty, even though this was required.

For example :

- At ECOFO Muramvya II polling station, which has eight polling stations, students whose voter's cards had been withheld from the direction were not seen in the voting booths, suggesting that someone had voted for them. Their number is estimated at 120 students.
- At ECOFO Biganda polling station, which has six polling stations, Imbonerakure were observed voting several times without a proxy. One of them was seen with a bundle of voter's cards in the eyes of polling station representatives and officials.
- At ECOFO Buruhukiro polling station, polling station staff informed voters present around 2:00 p.m. that the ballots were finished. According to information co on site, CNDD-FDD party had ordered its members to vote very early in the morning, implying that those present at that time were affiliated with other parties.
- Finally, in several polling stations such as ECOFO Murambi, ECOFO Kabonobono, and others, representatives of opposition parties were expelled during the vote count.

E. IRREGULARITIES ALSO REPORTED IN BUJUMBURA PROVINCE

Irregularities also reported in the former Bujumbura Rural province

Information gathered in the communes of the former Bujumbura Rural province indicated that what was happening during these elections was shameful. In Mutambu commune, at ECO-

FO Gomvyi, there were no polling stations; voters vote on a table. If you worry, you will be beaten by Imbonerakure.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 20)

At Mwinjiro ECOFO, voter's cards are forcibly confiscated by Imbinerakure, and if you refuse, you will also be beaten. At Burima 1 polling station, in Gomvyi zone of the same commune, all the lists were checked.

Upon your arrival, one of them would check the list and ask you to give him your voter's card,

and you would see him running to stamp it, saying "ALREADY VOTED." That's it!

The same case was reported in the communes of Mukike, Mugongo Manga, Kabezi, Mutimbuzi, and Nyabiraba.

Techniques used in this former province of Bujumbura Rural to fraud the June 5, 2025, elections:

1. In the polling stations of Kabezi hill, Mugère commune, more than half of the ballots scheduled for each polling station, already voted on by polling station members, were placed in the ballot boxes very early in the morning;
2. Ballots voted by CNDD-FDD were distributed to voters in Ruziba polling stations;
3. The instructions recommended by CNDD-FDD representative in Mugere commune obliged the presiding of the polling station to read the votes instead of the scrutineers, and he had no room for error.
4. In each polling station, there were four representatives, all from CNDD-FDD. They were divided into two groups. Only two of them had CNDD-FDD accreditations; the others were from CNL and the non-profit organization ONELOP. They had an agreement with the ruling party to do so.

June 5 Elections in the communes of Cibitoke and Bukinanyana: violence and ballot manipulation.

During the night of June 4-5 2025, scenes of horror were seen in several zones of the communes of Cibitoke and Bukinanyana, where Imbonerakure groups intimidated residents. Physical attacks were reported, particularly targeting CNL members. These disturbing acts of systematic violence illustrate a meticulous organization in the application of terror to influence electoral decisions. The CNDD-FDD

and the CENI appeared to have little need for observers.

Although the media reported on the activities of African and Russian observation missions in Burundi on June 5, 2025, it is clear that these missions were subject to bias or were arranged, as observed by other observers scattered across Burundian communes.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 21)

Indeed, the Catholic Church, through its Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace, along with the national NGO BEL-BURUNDI, dispatched more than 5,000 observers across the country. Although these observers lacked experience in such missions, the manner in which they were treated indicates that the regime and the CENI did not really need their presence, suggesting suspicious preparations.

In Mugina commune, observers from BEL-BURUNDI and CEJP were initially denied access, receiving permission to observe on the condition not to take notes or photographs. In the same commune, two observers from BEL-BURUNDI were threatened and closely monitored by the Imbonerakure until the polls closed. An observer from this organization was also threatened, her cell phone having been damaged by a polling station president who did not want her present.

In Cibitoke, another observer was threatened and retained against her will by Imbonerakure along with the zone head. In Bukinanyana, observers from BEL-BURUNDI chose to stay home, fearing potential reprisals, having had their voter's cards taken away by Imbonerakure who voted for them. Whether from CEJP or BEL-BURUNDI, several observers were forced to sign polling reports before the elections were even officially over. While some had the courage to refuse, others, particularly those from CEJP, suffered mistreatment while remaining silent, fearing for reprisals after the elections.

CONCLUSION

The June 5, 2025 elections in Burundi, marred by repeated violations of electoral rights, is evidence of carefully orchestrated manipulation. Reports of electoral fraud, the exclusion of observers, and violence against opposition members, open-air voting, ballot stuffing before the vote, the ticking of ballot lists before voting, escorting people into the polling booth, and the withdrawal of voter's cards, all raise crucial questions about the country's democratic future. Voices are united in calling for the restoration of electoral integrity and the protection of voters' rights. This situation challenges both internal and external actors on the need for an appropriate response to restore fairness and justice to Burundi's democratic practice.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

Increase in household robbery cases in Rutana province.

Since the eve of the legislative and communal elections, there has been an increase in home thefts committed by criminals at night. On June 2, 2025, a source informed us that a computer, a welding machine, and a grinding machine, along with various items such as clothing, were stolen by thieves who broke into the home of a trader in Birongozi quarter in Rutana urban center.

This incident occurred on the night of Saturday, May 31, 2025. This type of robbery is becoming increasingly worrying, given that this is the third incident noted in a one-week time.

The community of Bene Tereziya sisters in MA-JAMBERE quarter has already been affected twice, specifically during the nights of Wednesday and Thursday.

Residents of the quarters affected by these criminal acts suspect the former detainees who are now free, especially since some of them were caught red-handed stealing. They call on the relevant authorities to severely punish these criminals once they are arrested.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT.

Flagrance trial related to electoral fraud in Rutana commune by the High Court

On June 5, 2025, a man was caught in possession of several voter's cards. His name is YAMUREMYE Gilbert, from Matutu hill, Gitaba zone of Rutana commune. He was immediately arrested and taken to the communal

cell. Afterwards, the High Court convened a flagrante delicto trial and sentenced him to five years. It should be noted that Gilbert is a member of the ruling party (CNDD-FDD).

Flagrant trial against 3 CNL members by Ngozi High Court

Penal servitude ranging from one to two years and a fine of 100,000 to 400,000 Burundian francs is the sentence imposed by Ngozi High Court against three members of CNL party accused of destabilizing the elections this Thursday, June 5. Nzeyimana Seconde and Ahishakiye Romain will each serve two years in prison and a fine of 100,000 Burundian francs. The third, Olynca Kababanda, accused of tearing up ballots, was sentenced to one year of penal servitude and a fine of 400,000 Burundian francs.

Her family and defense lawyer reject this sentence. They say they provided evidence of this young woman's mental disability, but the court did not consider it. Therefore, they plan to appeal immediately.

The three convicted offenders will be sentenced to one year of imprisonment if they fail to pay these fines.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (continued from page 23)

The flagrante delicto trial in Kayanza by the High Court against a UPRONA member

On June 6, 2025, Kayanza High Court heard a flagrante delicto trial and fined a thirty-six-year-old man from Kayanza city, Cishahayo Célestin, 800,000 Burundian francs, after accusing him of campaigning for UPRONA party at the polling station located at Access School. The public prosecutor in Kayanza who was in charge of the case indicated that he had a fraudulent accreditation letter for UPRONA party

and that he did not even have a voter's card. The defendant pleaded not guilty, but the High Court dismissed his charges. UPRONA party members, for their part, are accusing him of a political trial to intimidate them.

A flagrante delicto trial in Kayanza commune by the High Court against CNDD-FDD members

On June 4, 2025, the Kayanza High Court sentenced two CNDD-FDD party members to a fine of 400,000 Burundian francs each, including Warumumba and Samson, the advisor to the administrator of the former Kabarore commune, now one of the three communes that make up the new Kayanza commune.

According to eyewitnesses, they were found guilty of insulting and physically assaulting members of the opposition CNL party. According to the same eyewitnesses, the events occurred the previous Saturday, when CNL members were traveling to Kabarore commune to invite their supporters to participate in the closing of the election campaign in Bujumbura.

The court rejected CNL plaintiffs' claim for compensation for moral and material damages, particularly regarding the damage to their vehicle. Emelyne Ndashinze, CNL representative in this case, expressed her dissatisfaction with the verdict.

It should be noted that at the time of the disputes, several people suspected of involvement were arrested, including an advisor to Kabarore commune administrator.

1.4. GOUVERNAN CECONTEXT

Embezzlement of 10,000 liters of fuel by the Governor of Cibitoke

In Mugina, on Rugajo hill, the situation in this region had been problematic since April 2025, as the only gas station had been completely out of fuel for over a month. On Monday, June 2, 2025, there was hope for many vehicles, parti-

cularly trucks and buses, in need of diesel, as the gas station had just received a shipment of 10,000 liters of this precious fuel. However, the next day, a decision by the governor raised concerns, banning the distribution of fuel arguing

I.4. GOUVERNANCE CONTEXT (continued from page 24)

that it was intended exclusively for vehicles monitoring the elections scheduled for June 5, 2025.

To everyone's surprise, cans and drums started pouring in from all sides, with those bringing them claiming to be acting on the governor's orders. Concerns grew as even private transporters benefited from the governor's favor, leaving those waiting to leave empty-handed. Members of different political parties, as well as owners of trucks and other diesel-guzzling vehicles, were forced to support the ruling party, often through contributions or availing their vehicles

for election campaign. Whether for or against, many owners abstained from voting, while the Imbonerakure and polling station staff maintained their partisan bias by voting for registered voters who were absent.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE.

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE .

II.1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED FOR SETTLING SCORES

On the night of Wednesday to Thursday, around 11:00 PM on June 4, 2025, on Cuba hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, a man named Kwizera was killed with machete by his neighbor Ndayiziga, both CNDD-FDD members. The reason behind this attack was that Kwizera's wife was suspected of being a sorcerer and that she allegedly killed Ndayiziga's child, who had been poisoned last week. NDAYIZIGA planned to revenge before being arrested on Thursday

morning while fleeing on KARUNYINYA hill in Buhiga commune. He found him at home at night when he called him, asleep, and got up to see the caller, unaware that the machete was waiting for him outside.

For now, the alleged perpetrator is jailed in Bugenyuzi police cell while the case is being prepared.

II.1.1. 2. BODIES FOUND.

A body found in Ntega zone of Kirundo commune in Butanyerera province.

On June 2, 2025, Ligue Iteka was informed that the body of a man was found in Ntega commune, on Gasave hill, on the night of June 1, 2025. This man's name was Sugabo. He was

found by the children who were herding cows. The victim was accused of breaking into the house.

It is important to note that the deceased had

II.1.1. 2. BODIES FOUND *(continued from page 25)*

been released from Ngozi Central Prison just six months earlier by presidential pardon. The surrounding population is celebrating. This thief threatened and swore to kill anyone who might reveal the secret once something was stolen.

A body found in Gitega commune and province.

Early in the morning of Sunday, January 1, 2025, a body was discovered in the Muslim cemetery located in Shatanya quarter, Gitega commune and province. The body was first seen by those going to mass.

According to our source in Gitega town, he was an adult man of approximately 35 years old, whose identity remains unknown as no identification was found on him. The body had a wound on the head, suggesting that the man had been violently struck on the cranium with an object, probably a club.

The same source specifies that coagulated blood was present at the nose, but no blood flow was

observed on the ground, suggesting that the victim had been killed elsewhere before being dumped there. This assumption was supported by the head of Shatanya quarter, Manirakiza Eugène. He asserts that it is likely that the murder took place elsewhere.

A judicial police officer (the name is not specified) who went to the scene to assess the situation immediately ordered the body to be taken to the mortuary of Gitega Regional Hospital while awaiting his family to be identified.

Six bodies found in Nyamurenza zone, Kiremba commune, Butanyerera province.

Our source revealed that from Monday, June 2, 2025, to June 4, 2025, six bodies were recovered from Akanyaru River, located between Nyamurenza zone (Burundi) and Nyamagabe locality in Nyaruguru district, southern Rwanda. All the victims were men aged between 20 and 40.

According to estimates by residents of Nyabikenke hill in Nyamurenza zone, bullet marks were found on their bodies.

Nyabikenke administration specifies that these men have not been identified. Investigations provided by the police indicate that these bodies are believed to be from Rwanda. Investigations are continuing, according to the police. These bodies were buried by the residents of Nyabikenke under the orders of the authorities and the police.

A body found in Cibitoke commune near Rusizi River on the border with the DRC.

Information received on June 3, 2025, indicates that on June 1, 2025, the body of Joseph Kariyo, a 38-year-old farmer who had been missing for over a week, was discovered near Rusizi River, mar-

II.1.1. 2. BODIES FOUND (continued from page 26)

king the natural border between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. According to initial reports, particularly from local fishermen, the advanced state of decomposition of the body left little room for doubt regarding the victim's identity.

A resident of Mparambo I hill, who wished to remain anonymous, expressed his anger by stating: "It's Joseph, a discreet man who cultivated his fields near Rusizi River." A security source in the region confirmed that he was indeed a resident of Mparambo I, known for its agricultural activities near the border. Shortly after the body was discovered, suspicions began to fall on young members of Imbonerakure Ligue, often suspected of engaging in illicit trafficking of goods between Burundi and the DRC.

Several sources on the ground suggested that Joseph Kariyo had witnessed illegal activities,

which would have turned him into a threat to these young people. "He was a nuisance. He knew too much," said a source close to the investigation, raising the possibility of assassination to silence an inconvenient witness. The shocked and outraged population did not hide their discontent.

More and more voices were demanding a thorough and impartial investigation to clarify the circumstances of this suspicious death and reveal those responsible for this crime. As rumors intensified, attention turned to the authorities, who were called upon to demonstrate their determination to ensure justice and transparency in a region historically troubled by cross-border tensions.

II.1.1.3. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES.

CNL member abducted in Bujumbura downtown

On June 2, 2025, we received information indicating that a young CNL member of RWASA had disappeared on May 30, 2025, at around 9:00 a.m. in the city center.

This young man lived in Kajiji quarter, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province. Alain Jules BIZIMANA, a young man aged around 31, from rural Kanyosha, was reported missing on Friday, May 30, 2025, after he left for town in the morning to work to support his family in Kiyenzi. According

to a secret source, he was abducted just outside the place known as BATA by armed men, one in civilian clothes and the other in Burundian police uniform, who were in a double-cabin van with tinted windows.

II.1.1.3. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES. (continued from page 27)

A CNL member abducted in Mabayi zone, Mugina commune, Bujumbura province

On June 3, 2025, Théophile Niyimbona, former principal of Ruseseka communal high school, member and former MP for Agathon Rwasa's CNL party, was abducted from the school grounds.

According to witnesses, a Jeep-type vehicle without license plates arrived, and men got out and forcibly seized him and took him away. His family and CNL party members still do not know where he was taken. Although Théophile Niyimbona recently joined CNDD-FDD party, the reasons for his arrest remain unknown.

What is particularly worrying is that former CNL members appear to be targeted, especially those who apply for voter's cards without being members of CNDD-FDD.

The former CNL Secretary General, loyal to Agathon Rwasa, strongly denounced these arbitrary arrests and intimidation. He called for respect for the right of every citizen to vote freely, without fear or pressure, and demanded an end to these intimidation practices against Burundians

II.1.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.1.2.1. TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

A man was beaten by Imbonerakure in Musongati commune, Burunga province.

On Mutwana hill, Butezi zone, in Musongati commune, Burunga province, Bacanamwo Ezé-chiel was tortured on election day, June 5, 2025, at 10 a.m.

As he was going to the polling station like the others, he was arrested by the Mutwana/Butezi hill head, Nemerimana Vincent, with his Imbonerakure entourage. They severely beat him and detained him, accusing him of teaching people to vote for his party. However, the latter had no party documents with him.

During his custody, the hill head, Nemerimana Vincent, put him in one of the rooms of the same fundamental school, guarded by the Imbonerakure to prevent him from escaping. Ruling party members led by the hill head threatened him, telling him to pay 50,000 Burundian francs for his release, or he would be transferred to Rutana prison.

A person tortured in Mpanda commune, Bujumbura province

On June 7, 2025, on Kibuye hill, Rugazi zone, Mpanda commune, Bujumbura province, Elysée NKURUNZIZA, aged 18, was beaten by Im-

bonerakure members including Samson Ndikumwami, Jérôme Ndikumasabo, the leader of Nyamirenda cell, Jean Claude Nimbona, and

II.1.2.1. TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (continued from page 28)

a man named Evariste. According to local sources, the victim was accused of voting for UPRONA party during the legislative and communal elections held on June 5, 2025. The same witnesses added that Elysé Nkurunziza

was injured and then taken to Rugazi health center for treatment.

The residents of Rugazi demand that the alleged perpetrators of this crime be brought to justice and punished according to the law.

A person tortured in Matongo commune, Butanyerera province

On June 2, around 8:00 a.m., at Munini hill in Banga zone of Matongo commune, Butanyerera province, a woman named Nyandwi Marie, a member of CNL party, had her voter's card confiscated by Imbonerakure on that hill, led by Eric Niyonzima, leader of the ruling party on that hill. Her husband, Céléus, demanded

his wife's voter card and was severely beaten by Imbonerakure, including Ndayishimiye Shabani, Bimenyimana Claude, Dieudonné, and Gratien from the same hill.

II.2. RIGHT TO LIBERTY

II.2.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS.

A man arrested by the police during the double vote in Vumbi zone, Kirundo commune.

On 5 June 2025 during the election, a man named NSABIMANA, IDP since 1993 from Gasura hill, Vumbi zone, Kirundo commune, was arrested by the police. He is accused of tearing up ballots in front of the public, claiming that the

elections were already stolen. He was taken to the prosecutor's office. According to our latest information, Prosecutor Ndemeye was already at the door of his office, calling the judges.

One person arrested in Mukaza commune, Kinindo quarter, and Kinindo zone, Bujumbura mairie

On June 5, 2025, at around 1:00 p.m., at polling station No. 4 of Kinindo Primary School (Kinindo Communal High School), Olivier Sota, a resident of Kibenga, was caught tearing

up his ballot. He was arrested by the police. Sota is currently transferred to the prosecutor's office for flagrante delicto for processing.

II.2.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS. (continued from page 29)

Arrest of a man accused of cheating during the vote in Karusi commune, Gitega province.

On Thursday, June 5, 2025, during the election, on Buhinyuza hill and zone of Karusi commune, specifically in polling station number 1 of KARUSI 3 polling center, a man named Nsananiye Selemani, a 48-year-old CNDD-FDD member, was arrested by polling station officials. He was holding two pieces of dried election papers, where he had torn off the part

containing the CNDD-FDD party emblem on the ballot papers for MPs and communal councilors. The police providing security at this location arrested him and took him to the provincial police station cell, where he is being jailed.

A member of the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition arrested in Bururi commune, Burunga province

On June 5, 2025, at Muzenga polling station, Marc Ndabicamwo, a representative of the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition, from Ndava locality on Kiremba hill in Bururi commune, Burunga province, was arrested and taken by police officers first to the provincial police station cell in Bururi in a vehicle belonging to communal administrator Félix Niyongabo, before entering Bururi prison on the evening of that same day.

According to witnesses, he was accused by the president of the polling station of campaigning in the voting lines, a decision made by Bururi prosecutor, Frédéric Ndayikeza. Marc Ndabicamwo denies these charges, saying he did not even leave the room.

A woman arrested in Bubanza zone and commune of Bujumbura province

On June 5, 2025, at polling station number 3, Bubanza 2 polling center, Bubanza commune, Diane Bigirimana, wife of the president of RANAC party in Bubanza commune, was arrested on the orders of Imbonerakure and taken to Bubanza police station cell.

According to local witnesses, the victim arrived around 10:00 a.m. to vote, and one of the Imbonerakure in charge of the station accompanied the woman to instruct her to vote for CNDD-FDD.

According to the same witnesses, the victim refused this order, and this Imbonerakure called nearby police officers and accused Diane Bigirimana of teaching RANAC party ideology at the polling stations. She was taken to Bubanza police station cell. She was released around noon when her baby was brought to her for breastfeeding.

II.2.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS (continued from page 30)

A CDP member arrested in Mpanda commune, Bujumbura province

On June 5, 2025, between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., on Rugenge hill, Mpanda commune, Joas Niyonkuru, a member of CDP party, was arrested by a group of Imbonerakure Emmanuel and Eric from Rugenge zone on the night of June 5, 2025.

According to local witnesses, they arrested him as he was returning home and accused him of teaching CDP party during prohibited hours. Joas Niyonkuru was beaten up, then put in a Probox car and taken to Mpanda police station cell.

A CDP member arrested in Musaga zone of Mugere commune, Bujumbura mairie

On June 5, 2025, in Musaga zone, Mugere commune, Bujumbura mairie, Eric Ngabire, a member of CDP party, was arrested in Musaga zone.

According to local witnesses, the victim is on the list of MP candidates for CDP party in Bujumbura province.

The same witnesses added that the victim was arrested while visiting different polling stations to verify whether CDP party representatives and observers were authorized to enter the polling stations to monitor the election.

II.3 RIGHT TO VOTE AND TO BE ELECTED

Refusal of 15 soldiers to participate in elections in Nyanza commune, Burunga province

On June 5, 2025, on Kabondo hill, Nyanza commune, Burunga province, 15 soldiers from the 522nd Commando Battalion were denied the right to participate in the civic and historical activity of June 5, 2025, because they were on

an operational mission against the M23 rebels during the registration. State organizations such as CNIDH and some civil society organizations advocated for them, but to no avail.



Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE.

Lack of cash in financial institutions in the commune of Muyinga.

As of June 9, 2025, Ligue Iteka was informed that all financial institutions operating in Muyinga province are experiencing limited access to financial services, whether in local currency or foreign currency. This has been the case since the beginning of the election campaign. This lack has already had serious consequences, particularly for companies and individuals to access their funds.

For example, if a customer (individual or organization) of one of the banks goes to the counter to withdraw money from his account, they are told to wait for a deposit from another customer.

Similarly, civil servants needing their salaries receive an amount not exceeding 200,000 Burundian francs. Bank officials or other institutions tell them to return after a few days for

the balance. Those who want loans are told they will receive the money in installments.

However, this reflects the context and circumstances of the country. The government and financial institutions have a responsibility to ensure access to financial services and maintain economic stability.

In summary, it is important to emphasize that all of this constitutes a serious violation of human rights in general and the right of access to banking services in particular.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION.

Campaigning in schools in Bugendana, Gitega province

In accordance with Burundian electoral law, the election campaign was supposed to end on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. across the country. However, field observations reveal that CNDD-FDD party continued its electoral mobilization activities after this legal deadline.

On June 4, 2025, the day before the elections, a political meeting was held in the main hall of Petit Seminaire Mugera, located in Mugera zone, in Bugendana commune, Gitega province.

Pretexting a food aid visit, this event finally turned out to be a concealed campaigning activity, according to a teacher at the school. All the seminary's students and teachers, as well as some priests working to this Catholic institution, were forced to attend the meeting.

The organizers arrived on site with ten bags of rice, pretexting it was a delivery to support the boarding school.

After the distribution, the speeches quickly turned political. One student took the floor to

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION *(continued from page 32)*

ask the reason for the arrival of this donation just before the elections. The MP Denis Karera, present at the meeting, reacted arrogantly, ordering him to shut up and claiming that he was trying to incite an uprising.

Following this intervention, the students were asked to repeat the sentence "*We will vote for the CNDD-FDD*" five times, with applause.

This initiative was publicly praised by Father Venant Nimpagaritse, director of this seminary and known in the region for his influence within the CNDD-FDD.

The organizers of this session included:

1. Bukuru Béatrice, communal administrator of Bugendana;
2. Mbazumutima Anatole, DCE Mutaho and communal leader of CNDD-FDD (Bugendana + Mutaho);
3. Denis Karera, MP for the commune of Mutaho and national leader of Imbonerakure;
4. Manirambona Emmanuel, director of the boarding school at Gitega Paramedical School, from Bugendana commune and leader of Imbonerakure in the same commune (Bugendana + Mutaho);

5. Nimukuze Nelly, head of Bugendana CDS and president of CNDD-FDD women's Ligue in Bugendana commune (Bugendana + Mutaho).

The teacher, our source, indicated that in his two decades of career, he had never witnessed such a level of political manipulation in a school.

He himself was directly threatened after expressing concerns about the nature of the meeting. The organizers told him: "*We know your affiliation, go and inform your allies.*" Since then, according to this source, an unhealthy climate has reigned within the school.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the above-detailed information from the country's five provinces, Ligue Iteka lists the irregularities in three main categories:

IV. CONCLUSIONS ET RECOMMANDATIONS (to be continued)

1. Instruction for polling station presidents to open before the scheduled time in order to rig ballot boxes safely.
2. CENI agents at polling stations were carefully selected to support the ruling party, CNDD-FDD, and this was evident in their actions, particularly in the distribution of ballots already completed in favor of the ruling party; influence of polling station staff on voters' choices; escorting voters to the polling booths; distribution of voter's cards to CNDD-FDD members well-known for their party's cause; polling booths improperly installed; etc.
3. Observation by representatives and observers who are not from the ruling CNDD-FDD party, systematically banned by CENI agents at every stage of the election, namely the official opening of the elections at the polling station, the election, and the counting of votes, through actions such as denying them access to polling stations; expelling them from polling stations; making them sign the polling reports even before the election; threats and intimidation; expelling them at the start of the counting process; failure to verify the results read on the ballots by the polling station president, etc.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (to be continued)

Ligue Iteka therefore strongly condemns the continuing deterioration of human rights in Burundi and denounces the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of crimes. It urges the Burundian authorities to take factual measures to remedy this situation.

The following recommendations are made:

To the government:

- To end to and compel the Imbonerakure to stop any acts of violence, under penalty of criminal liability.
- To open independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of violence and intimidation, and bring those responsible to justice, regardless of their affiliation, to end impunity.
- To immediately arrest the alleged perpetrators of the arrests, torture, and other intimidation observed, particularly against opponents during the campaign and the ongoing elections.
- To the Supreme/Constitutional Court of Burundi: not to validate the results of this electoral masquerade.

To the political parties:

- To set aside any differences of opinion or partisan interests to fully participate in an open dialogue with all stakeholders on all issues related to the crisis to finding a quick, consensual, and lasting solution.
- Strictly stop any actions or statements that could lead to the crystallization of positions and political and security-related violence.

To the international community:

- Convince President Ndayishimiye and his government to fully and unconditionally open up to social dialogue for inclusive society project;
- To respect the Arusha Accords and the 2005 Constitution by all Burundian political actors, and to promote lasting peace and social cohesion among Burundians.