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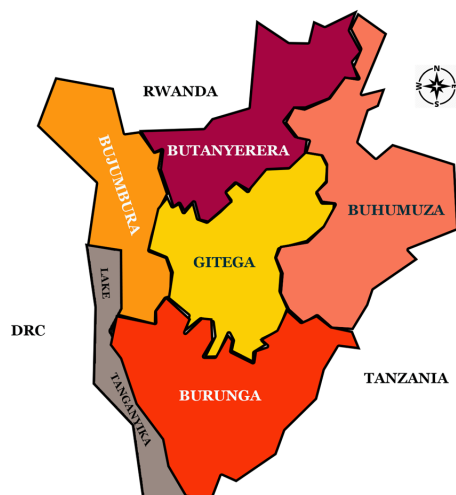
LIGUE BURUNDAISE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME " ITEKA "

# BULLETIN HEBDOMADAIRE

*"Iteka n'Ijambo"*

**N°478 from 09 to 15 june 2025**

Approved by Ministerial Order No. 530/0273 of November 10, 1994, revising Order No. 550/029 of February 6, 1991



***In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of Ligue Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to June 15, 2025, Ligue Iteka has documented at least 740 cases of enforced disappearances .***

## Ligue ITEKA :

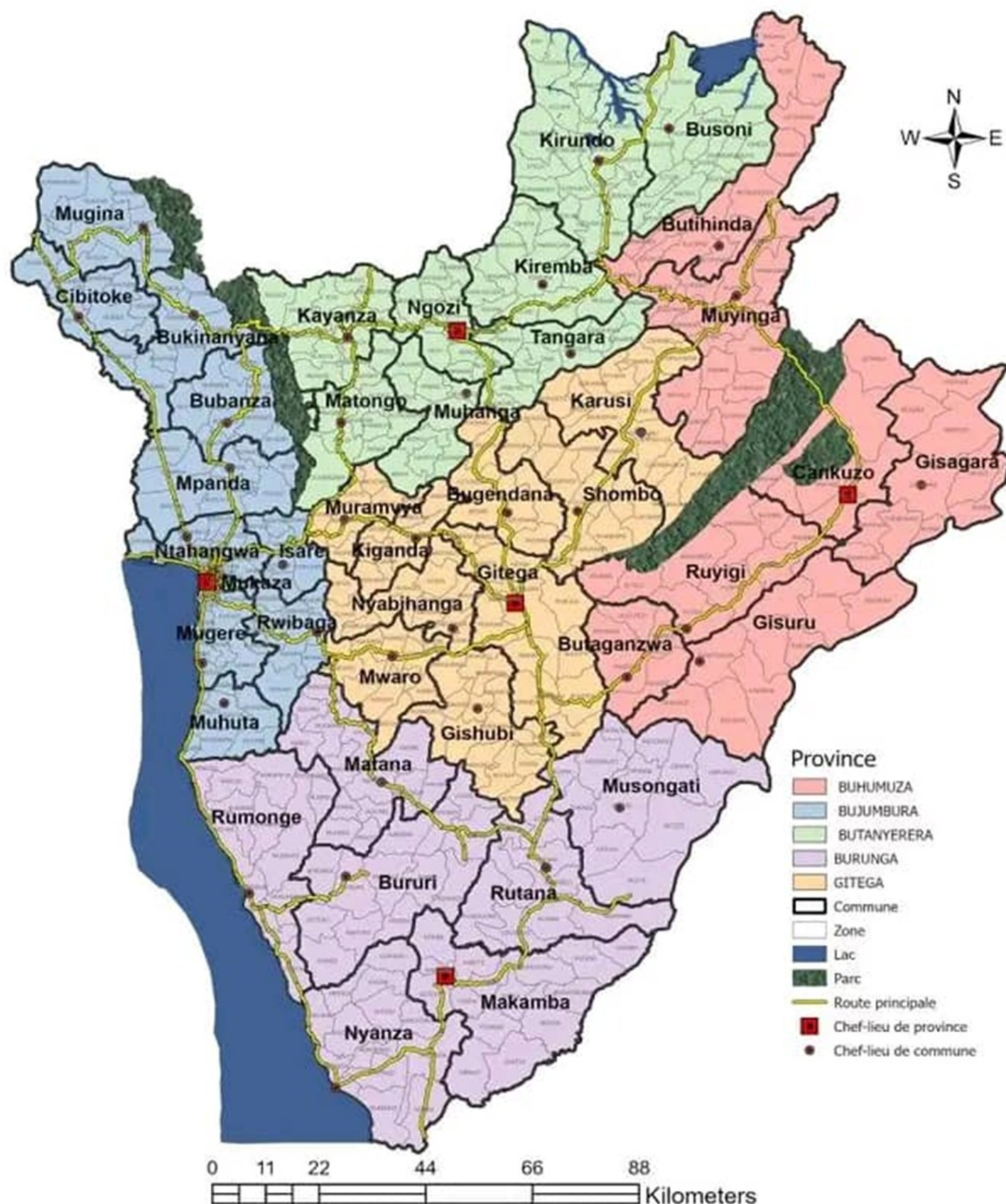
- ♦ « Is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH),
- ♦ Has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236, and is a member of ECOSOC."
- ♦ Ligue Iteka is decentralized in 17 federations and 32 sections .

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# ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF 16 MARCH 2023



## *SIGLES ET ABBREVIATIONS*

ALM Buta	: Buta Light of the World Association
BSR	: Special Investigation Office
BV	: Polling Station
CDP	: Council of Patriots
CDS	: Health Center
CECI	: Independent Communal Electoral Commission
CENI	: Independent National Electoral Commission
CEPI	: Independent Provincial Electoral Commission
CNDD-FDD of Democracy	: National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense
CNL	: National Congress for Liberty
DRC	: Democratic Republic of Congo
ECOFO	: Fundamental School
FRODEBU	: Front for Democracy of Burundi
M23	: March 23 Movement
OPJ	: Judicial Police Officer
PJP	: Judicial Police of the Prosecutors' Office
SGBV	: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SNR	: National Intelligence Service
TGI	: High Court
UPRONA	: Union for National Progress

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin provides an overview of human rights situation in Burundi during the week of June 9-15, 2025. The period was dominated by heightened political tension due to elections marred by irregularities from the ruling CNDD-FDD party and its members.

The highlights of this week include: (a) at least 12 people killed, including 10 found dead, including five bodies of young people killed at the Burundi-Tanzania border; (b) three people abducted, all members of CNL party; (c) three people tortured, including a woman; and (d) four people victims of SGBV.

Ligue Iteka also recorded 10 people arbitrarily arrested, including six members of the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition and two members of CNL. The main alleged perpetrators of these violations are administrative officials, police officers and young Imbonerakure affiliated with CNDD-FDD ruling party.

## I. CONTEXT.

### 1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

The political context of the previous week in Burundi was marked by the provisional announcement of the results of the legislative and communal elections scheduled for June 5, 2025. During this period, the emergence of a true electoral masquerade was observed.

According to the results compiled by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), CNDD-FDD, the ruling party, received more than 5.5 million votes, representing an impressive 96.51% of the vote. Other parties, such as UPRONA, received only 80,639 votes, or 1.38%, while CNL came in third with 34,267 votes, equivalent to 0.58%. Among the independent candidates, Nzeyimana Thomas stood out, garnering nearly 17,000 votes, or 0.29%. The total number of registered voters

was 5,945,869. From this election, 100 MPs were elected, all from presidential party, while the eight co-opted MPs are also affiliated with CNDD-FDD.

Moreover, the Parliament includes three deputies from the Batwa ethnic group, totaling number of 111 MPs for the 2025-2030 Parliament's term. CNDD-FDD established a one-party political system, presaging a significant setback of democratic principles in Burundi. The collapse of democracy in Burundi is evident in the fact that the newly elected National Assembly is composed entirely of CNDD-FDD MPs, and the very existence of the democratic opposition is undermined. UPRONA, the CNL, and the Burundi bwa Bose coalition clearly rejected the results, asserting that recognizing these elections would constitute a

## ***1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 5)***

betrayal of the country and the Burundian people. On June 11, 2025, Prosper Ntahorwamiye, president of CENI, announced that all 100 MPs elected in the June 5 polls are from CNDD-FDD. Official announcements revealed that no other party, coalition, or independent candidate had reached the 2% required for representation in the National Assembly. "No grouping passed this threshold, leaving CNDD-FDD as the sole beneficiary of the seats," Ntahorwamiye stated.

The detailed results per province illustrate this overwhelming dominance: in Buhumuza province, 16 out of 16 seats went to CNDD-FDD; Bujumbura awarded 23 out of 23 seats; Burunga gave 17 out of 17; Butanyerera, 23 out of 23; and Gitega, 21 out of 21. In addition to these directly elected representatives, CENI also co-opted 8 Hutu MPs, for the respect of the constitutional distribution (60% Hutu, 40% Tutsi), as well as three Batwa MPS, totaling 111 MPs. Except the three co-opted Batwa, all of these

MPs are from CNDD-FDD.

UPRONA strongly objected these results through its president Olivier Nkurunziza. In a communique, he stressed that "recognizing these elections would be a betrayal," denouncing an electoral process that he considered marred by numerous irregularities. Nkurunziza asserted that their participation in these elections was synonymous with loss and once again rejected the results.

The Burundi bwa Bose coalition joined UPRONA in its request to CENI to cancel this election in order to organize new elections that are transparent, free, democratic and inclusive.

## ***HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DETAILS OF THE RESULTS IN THE PROVINCES.***

### ***A. Announcement of the provisional results of the legislative and communal elections in Butanyerera province.***

On June 10, 2025, the Independent National Electoral Commission officially announced the provisional results of the elections for communal council seats, following the new division of provinces and communes of the Republic of Burundi. It is clear that CNDD-FDD party won an overwhelming victory across almost the entire national territory.

Examining Butanyerera province more specifically, the following results are noted:

In Busoni commune, CNDD-FDD obtained an impressive 99% majority of the vote, followed by UPRONA with 0.2% and CNL with 0.11%. In Kayanza, CNDD-FDD won 99.6% of the vote, with UPRONA at 0.19% and CNL at 0.09%, while FNL recorded 0.04%.

In Kiremba, CNDD-FDD also dominated with 99.2% of the vote, while UPRONA obtained 0.38% and CNL 0.34%.

## ***1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 6)***

In Kirundo, the ruling party posted an impressive score of 99.7%, with UPRONA at 0.13% and CNL at 0.17%.

In Matongo, CNDD-FDD again broke all records with 99.8% of the vote, while UPRONA recorded 0.1% and CNL 0.06%.

In Muhanga, CNDD-FDD obtained 99.5%. In Ngozi, the trend continued with 96.7% for CNDD-FDD, 1.7% for UPRONA, and 1.5% for CNL.

Finally, in Tangara commune, the party achieved 98% of the vote, compared to 1.48%

for UPRONA and 0.32% for CNL, not to mention a 0.14% for Viateur.

In total, in Butanyerera province, of the 200 seats available, CNDD-FDD party won all the seats, plus one additional seat co-opted from a Mutwa, bringing the total to 201 seats.

## ***B. Announcement of the provisional results of the legislative and communal elections in Gitega province***

The results of the legislative elections of June 5, 2025, have been announced. On June 11, 2025, the Independent National Electoral Commission released the provisional results of the seats distributed among different political parties. In summary, CNDD-FDD party performed exceptionally well, achieving 100% of

the seats nationwide, before the co-optation process. In Gitega province, the party continued its triumphant run by capturing the 21 seats provided:

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1. Bugendana commune: CNDD-FDD: 24 out of 25; UPRONA: 1 in 25; Palipe Agakiza: 0 out of 25.
2. Gishubi commune: CNDD-FDD: 25 out of 25; UPRONA: 0 out of 25.
3. Gitega commune: CNDD-FDD: 22 out of 25; UPRONA: 2 out of 25; CNL: 1 in 25.
4. Karusi commune: CNDD-FDD: 25 out of 25; UPRONA: 0 out of 25; CNL: 0 out of 25.
5. Kiganda commune: CNDD-FDD: 24 out of 25; UPRONA: 1 in 25; Radebu: 0.
6. Muramvya commune: CNDD-FDD: 24 out of 25; UPRONA: 1 out of 25; CNL: 0; ADR: 0.

## ***1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 7)***

7. Mwaro commune: CNDD-FDD: 24 out of 25; UPRONA: 1 out of 25; CNL: 0 out of 25.

8. Nyabihanga commune: CNDD-FDD: 24 out of 25; UPRONA: 1 out of 25.

9. Shombo commune: CNDD-FDD: 25 out of 25.

In total, in Gitega province as a whole, out of a total of 225 seats, CNDD-FDD party managed to capture 217 seats, while UPRONA received 7 seats and CNL obtained

one only. Despite this announcement, strong criticism is emerging from both political actors, particularly those from opposition parties, and independent observers, including civil society organizations. These critics highlight that, from the beginning of the election campaign until election day, preparations for the elections were marred by irregularities and intimidation by Imbonerakure (CNDD-FDD) against members of other political parties.

### ***Acts of intimidation by Imbonerakure against members of other political parties in Karusi province.***

According to information collected by Ligue Iteka, since the day of the double vote, several members of opposition parties and other independent candidates have faced acts of intimidation and threats from CNDD-FDD members, particularly the Imbonerakure. The most recent case is that of CNDD-FDD zonal secretary, Alexis Bandyatuyaga. He threatened Vubi Baptiste, who had no political affiliation.

This occurred on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, around 3:00 p.m., on Buhiga hill, zone and commune. He intimidated him that he had not voted for CNDD-FDD. He added that he and others (whose anonymity he preferred to remain) are known for not voting for the ruling party and will be given a proper lesson for this behavior.

### ***C. Announcement of the provisional results of the legislative and communal elections in Burunga province***

In Burunga province, the distribution of seats per commune is as follows:

- ♦ In Bururi commune, CNDD-FDD party won all 25 seats.
- ♦ In Makamba commune, the same party also triumphed, capturing all 25 seats.
- ♦ In Matana, CNDD-FDD once again achieved this feat, winning 25 out of 25 seats.
- ♦ In Musongati commune, CNDD-FDD retained all 25 seats.
- ♦ In Nyanza commune, CNDD-FDD again won 25 seats. In Rumonge, CNDD-FDD won all 25 available seats. In Rutana commune, CNDD-FDD holds 24 seats out of a total of 26, including one co-opted seat for a Twa representative, while UPRONA and CNL parties each share one seat out of the 26.

In total, CNDD-FDD obtained 174 seats out of the 176 provided in Burunga province.



## ***1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 8)***

It should be noted that the turnout reached 96.61%, and that CNDD-FDD achieved a remarkable score of 96.80% in this region.

Philémon Nahabandi, the president of the Provincial Electoral Commission (CEPI) of Burunga, expressed his disappointment at the delays of some political party representatives and noted that even those present had not always signed the polling reports. However, he insisted that the legislative and communal elections were held in a free, fair, and transparent manner. The deadlines for appeals were set for June 11 and 12, according to Philémon Nahabandi.

Opposition party leaders, for their part, were not surprised by these results, given the numerous irregularities and massive fraud that marred the electoral process.

In Burunga province, of the 176 communal councilors, 174 are from CNDD-FDD party, representing 96.80% of the vote. UPRONA and CNL parties shared the two remaining seats in Rutana commune.

Among these two councilors was a Mutwa, co-opted for this position. Barely had the election results been published in Burunga province than an intense controversy arose surrounding the conduct of the electoral process, which was accused of having been rigged in advance for the ruling party, CNDD-FDD.

Several opposition parties and their alliances deplore a "pretended election," marked by serious irregularities and a biased organization

put in place by the Independent Provincial Electoral Commission (CEPI). There have been numerous allegations of fraud orchestrated by the CEPI in Burunga. According to opponents, a well-organized fraudulent system was established. The CEPI is accused of preventing other political parties from appointing their representatives to polling stations and of failing to disclose the list of accredited members to the polling stations.

On election day, observers noted that almost all the election supervisors in the polling stations were devoted members of Imbonerakure, often civil servants or their partners, and sometimes even CNDD-FDD candidates. The substitutes on the lists were veritable surveillance agents, tasked with both manipulating the ballot boxes and intimidating voters.

According to Ligue Iteka sources, some reports even suggest that these agents stuffed ballot boxes for CNDD-FDD before the polls closed, directly pressuring voters to opt for the ruling party. Several independent observers or opposition party representatives were excluded for "delay" reasons or false accusations, preventing them from remaining for the count.

Unprecedentedly, and despite the announcement of the results, CNDD-FDD members showed indifference. Many of them revealed to Ligue Iteka, confessing that this victory had caused no enthusiasm, in contrast to past elections, which had been marked by moments of collective happiness. "No one celebrated, neither in the quarters nor in the cafe as before. It was like a victory imposed from above," con-

## **1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT** *(continued from page 9)*

fided a local party member. Another added: "Even we no longer know how to respond to the critics, because we don't feel this victory in our hearts." This disturbing silence testifies, according to some observers, to a deep unease within the ruling party itself, and to a growing disapproval among the population of electoral practices deemed increasingly opaque and manipulative. These criticisms are not only from opponents.

Many CNDD-FDD members and supporters in Burunga also express their unease, not hesitating to speak of "ridiculous fraud." They question the credibility of the results, which give CNDD-FDD a 100% victory in all the communes, even though the socio-economic context is marked by growing poverty and palpable discontent. Internal voices also express concern about the party's total control over communal councils, questioning the legitimacy of institutions lacking political diversity. Philémon Nahabandi, president of the CEPI, rejected these accusations while remaining vague. He praised the smooth running of the elections, while acknowledging that several observers arrived late or did not sign the polling reports.

However, for the denouncing parties, this is not enough. They are demanding that Nahabandi publish the full list of polling station staff to prove that they do not all have ties to CNDD-FDD. Philémon Nahabandi's figure also sparks controversy. Appointed head of the CEPI in 2020 by the Pentecostal Church, he was imprisoned in 2015 on charges of electoral fraud, including forcing students at his school

to vote for CNDD-FDD and illegal possession of voter's cards.

Despite his religious role, Nahabandi is often accused of "double-dealing," mixing spiritual commitment with partisan electoral maneuvering. For the opposition, his continued leadership of the CEPI is seen as a disguised political reward. This scheme, criticized in Burunga, appears to be part of a broader CNDD-FDD strategy, which places its members in electoral bodies pretexting of religious organizations or little-known associations.

This method would allow the party to maintain complete control over the electoral process while projecting an image of decorative pluralism. Some residents go so far as to speak of an "institutionalization of electoral theft," where even children are learning that fraud is an honorable means of accessing power.

In conclusion, although the official results give CNDD-FDD an uncontested victory in all Burunga communes, these elections leave a bitter taste among many national observers, citizens, and even among ruling party members. Due to the lack of public evidence provided by the CEPI, doubts persist. In a context of acute social crisis, the credibility of democratic institutions in Burundi is more tested than ever.

***A climate of fear and electoral exclusion resulted in arbitrary arrests in Burunga***

According to reliable sources, most of those arrested were representatives of opposition parties such as Burundi Bwa Bose, FRODEBU, and CNL. The latter claim that they were responsible for supervising the voting process, which angered members of CNDD-FDD-

dominating polling stations. Faced with this situation, families and representatives of political parties are demanding the immediate release of the detainees arbitrarily arrested in Makamba, Rutana, and Bururi.

***Seven opposition party members arrested and imprisoned in Burunga province***

*Seven people arrested, two already sentenced: the June 5, 2025 election day in Burunga province resulted in a wave of arrests targeting almost exclusively opposition party representatives. Behind the official accusations of electoral fraud lies, according to numerous witnesses and local sources, a well-orchestrated maneuver by members of the polling stations affiliated with CNDD-FDD aimed at excluding any independent monitoring of the electoral process.*

***A Pastor arrested in Kibara, Kayogoro zone, Makamba commune***

*It was at 2:00 p.m., at Kibara polling center, polling station 3, Kibara hill (Bigina zone), that Bizimana Julias, aged 57, a pastor of the Pentecostal Church, was accused of tearing up ballots. According to witnesses, he mainly criticized openly the voting process. He is currently jailed in Makamba prosecutor's cell for investigation.*

***Two opposition representatives arrested in Kibago zone, Makamba commune***

*At 4:30 p.m., at Kiyange 1 polling station, Ruzocimana Gérard, aged 27, a representative of the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition, was arrested after being falsely accused of appearing on the behalf of*

## ***1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 11)***

*his brother Nduwimana Lionel, allegedly by presenting fraudulent documents. He is jailed in Makamba prosecutor's cell.*

*In the same commune, around 11:00 a.m., at ECOFO Nyarubanga polling station on Nyarubanga hill, Nahimana Éric, also a representative of Burundi Bwa Bose, was arrested for "intruding" and using forged documents. He is believed to have attempted to report irregularities. He is also jailed in Makamba.*

### ***One person arrested in Nyanza zone and commune of Burunga province***

*Around 9:30 a.m., at Mugerama Communal High School polling station, Nyabenda Elie, aged 64, was arrested for tearing up his voter's card. He denied the charges, arguing that he had no intention of committing an electoral offense but believed that only the chosen card should be placed in the ballot box. He explained that he had not been taught how to vote because he had recently returned from the DRC. The Makamba High Court sentenced him to two years in prison, although he appealed. He is jailed in Makamba prosecutor's cell.*

*At 11:00 a.m., at Nyanza-Lac technical high school, Hussein Ismaël, aged 43, was accused of tearing up ballots and attempting to hide them in his pockets. He is also jailed in Makamba prosecutor's cell.*

### ***FRODEBU member arrested on Rwankona hill, Bururi commune***

*Marc Ndarucamwo, also a FRODEBU member and representative of the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition, was arrested at the polling station of Rwankona Vocational Training Center, Rwankona hill, Muzenga zone, Bururi commune. He reportedly simply asked, "Why don't you ink the voters after the vote?" This question led to his immediate arrest, and although he was acquitted after a flagrant trial by Bururi High Court, he remains unjustly jailed. In the same commune, a Burundi Bwa Bose member was fined 400,000 BIF, and failing to pay, will be sentenced to two years in prison.*

*Another CNL member in the same commune was sentenced to one year in prison and a fine of 800,000 BIF, also accused of electoral offenses by the same court.*

### ***In Rutana commune – A 5-Year sentence for card possession***

*At Matutu Primary School, Kivoga zone, a voter was arrested with four voter's cards on election day. Tried in flagrante delicto at Rutana High Court, he admitted the offense but explained that he*

## ***1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 12)***

*was carrying them for relatives. He was sentenced to five years in prison for obstructing voting and aggravated theft. He is currently serving his sentence in Rutana prison.*

*These cases demonstrate discriminatory treatment, as no CNDD-FDD member has been prosecuted for similar acts.*

### ***Two UPRONA members manhandled in Musongati commune, Burunga province***

*On April 10, 2025, on Kibimba hill, Butezi zone, Musongati commune, Burunga province, Imbonerakure, including Ntezahorirwa Eliudi and Ndarizi, manhandled Bigirimana Josaphat and Josué Ntiharirizwa, demanding that the latter abandon UPRONA party.*

*According to local sources, these Imbonerakure even told Josué Ntiharirizwa to stop wearing UPRONA party sweater or he would be killed and thrown into Malagarazi River. These UPRONA members are often followed by these Imbonerakure who wanted to kill them. These Imbonerakure are supported by Sylvain Nzikoruriho, the provincial leader of CNDD-FDD party in Burunga province and Renovat Hakizimana, the leader of CNDD-FDD party in Musongati commune, telling Zacharie Batungwanayo, the hill leader of Kibimba and Léonard Ruhoranyi, the leader of CNDD-FDD party on this hill, that they support them and that even the one they are going to kill, they will not be worried and that they do not want another political party on Kibimba hill. This is how the Imbonerakure Eliudi Ntezahorirwa and Ndarizi, brother of Léonard Ruhoranyi, are the first to threaten to death UPRONA party members.*

### ***A woman UPRONA party member manhandled in Musongati commune, Burunga province***

*On April 18, 2025, in Musongati commune, Burunga province, Bakenyererarugamba, female members of CNDD-FDD party, including Ndaribamare, manhandled Nyankuri, a female UPRONA party member. According to local sources, she was manhandled because of her political affiliation, and CNDD-FDD party members were supported by Sylvain Nzikoruriho, the provincial leader of CNDD-FDD party in Burunga province, and Renovat Hakizimana, the CNDD-FDD party leader in Musongati commune, as well as CNDD-FDD party officials at the hill and sub-hill levels, telling them that even if they kill someone, they will not be prosecuted.*

### ***Death threats against opposition party members in Musongati commune, Burunga province***

*On the morning of May 2, 2025, on Kibimba hill, Butezi zone, in Musongati commune, Burunga province, Zacharie, Ruhoranyi, Ntezahorirwa, and Ndarizi went to the homes of Justin Ciza and Daniel Barutwanayo to threaten them to leave the political party or be killed, as they did not want*



## ***1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 13)***

*other political parties in their zone where they rule. However, they resisted these threats, saying they would not leave their political party.*

### ***Young people from UPRONA party manhandled by Imbonerakure in Musongati commune, Burunga province***

*On May 2, 2025, on Nkurye hill, Giharo zone, Musongati commune, Burunga province, Imbonerakure including Gervais Ntariho, the Imbonerakure hill leader; Isaac Gikere and Kiyuzi, CNDD-FDD party leader in Ngemwe sub-hill, in collaboration with Désiré Bigirimana, Giharo zone head, and Alexis Baraguma, alias Ruganzizidi, CNDD-FDD party leader in Giharo zone, mistreated UPRONA youths by refusing to allow them to play football. According to local sources, these youths wanted to start playing before holding a scheduled meeting.*

*These Imbonerakure are supported by Sylvain Nzikoruriho, the CNDD-FDD provincial leader in Burunga province, and Renovat Hakizimana, the CNDD-FDD party leader in Musongati commune, as well as CNDD-FDD party leaders at the hill and sub-hill levels.*

### ***A polling station member almost replaced in Musongati commune, Burunga province***

*On June 5, 2025, at the polling station center on Muzye I hill, Musongati commune, Burunga province, on election day, Sylvane Niyukuri, a native of the hill, was almost replaced by Léo on the orders of Euphrème, the CNDD-FDD party leader on Muzye hill.*

*According to local sources, Sylvane was among the polling station members and arrived at 5:20 a.m., finding herself replaced. She appealed by telephone to the CECI official, who told her that it was not possible to replace someone who had completed training with an agent who had not, and that anyone who did so would be punished according to the law. Thus, Léo was undressed his uniform and given to Sylvane.*

## ***D. Announcement of the provisional results of the legislative and communal elections in Buhumuza province***

In Buhumuza province, CNDD-FDD party largely dominated the political landscape, capturing all the seats, a total of 17. This phenomenon is not isolated to this province, as across Burundi, CNDD-FDD also managed to win all the seats, totaling 111 seats in the Parliament,

108 of which were for its own account and 3 reserved for Batwa representatives. In addition, there were 8 co-opted positions and one seat allocated to the Batwa, while the number of elected MPs is 100.

## ***1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 14)***

On June 10, 2025, following the communal and legislative elections, the Independent Provincial Electoral Commission (CEPI) published the results for Buhumuza province. Of the 175 seats on the province's communal councils,

CNDD-FDD won 168, while UPRONA won 6, and CNL won only 1.

To further break down the results for each of the communes in Buhumuza province, the following distributions are observed:

1. Butaganzwa commune: CNDD-FDD: 24 out of 25; UPRONA: 1 out of 25
2. Butihinda commune: CNDD-FDD: 25 out of 25; UPRONA: 1 out of 25
3. Cankuzo commune: CNDD-FDD: 22 out of 25; UPRONA: 2 out of 25; CNL: 1 out of 25
4. Gisagara commune: CNDD-FDD: 24 out of 25; UPRONA: 1 out of 25
5. Gisuru commune: CNDD-FDD: 25 out of 25; UPRONA did not participate.
6. Muyinga commune: CNDD-FDD: 25 out of 25; UPRONA: 0 out of 25
7. Ruyigi commune: CNDD-FDD: 23 out of 25; UPRONA: 2 out of 25

thus, the final results of the elections in Buhumuza province show that out of 175 seats, CNDD-FDD triumphed with 168, while UPRONA held 6 and CNL won only one.

## ***E. Announcement of the provisional results of the legislative and communal elections in Bujumbura province***

Out of a total of 275 seats, CNDD-FDD party won all the communal council seats in different communes of the new Bujumbura province, except the commune of Mukaza, where it obtained 22 out of a total of 25 available seats.

In the same commune, UPRONA won only two seats, while CNL managed to secure one. Simultaneously with the announcement of the provisional results of the June 5 election, Juvé-

nal Habineza, president of Bujumbura Provincial Electoral Commission, made a statement on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. In his remarks, he called on those contesting these results to submit their complaints to the provincial commission, ensuring that they comply with a deadline of no more than two days.

***Techniques used to defraud elections in Mugere commune, Bujumbura province.***

Information reported on June 9, 2025, reveals that in Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, CNDD-FDD implemented sophisticated methods to by-pass the legitimacy of the elections:

1. At polling stations on Kabezi hill, in Mugere commune, more than half of the ballots intended for each station were reportedly pre-voted by the members responsible for managing the stations and inserted into the ballot boxes in the early hours of the morning.
2. In Ruziba, ballots already stamped in favor of CNDD-FDD were reportedly distributed to voters present at the polling stations.
3. In Mugere commune, CNDD-FDD representative allegedly instructed polling station presidents to announce the results themselves, without involving scrutineers, and warned them against making any mistakes.
4. At each polling station, four representatives were present, all affiliated with CNDD-FDD.

However, only two of them held official CNDD-FDD credentials. The remaining two were accredited under the banners of CNL and the non-profit organization ONELOP, following a complex arrangement brokered with the ruling party.

Allegations of systematic fraud have surfaced following the June 5, 2025 elections, which are widely believed to have been marred by large-scale manipulation.

Testimonies from multiple sources point to a range of controversial practices highlighted:

- Early ballot stuffing in Kabezi: polling station officials allegedly pre-voted for more than half of the ballots intended for each station, inserting them into the ballot boxes before the polling stations opened.
- Distribution of pre-filled ballots in Ruziba: In the polling stations of the locality, ballots already marked in favor of CNDD-FDD were reportedly handed directly to voters.
- Strict control during the count in Mugere: Instructions from CNDD-FDD representative reportedly forced the station presidents to announce the results themselves, thus defying the intervention of the scrutineers, with no room for error.
- Infiltration of representatives: In each polling station, all four representatives were associated with CNDD-FDD.

However, only two of them had official accreditations, while the others, accredited by CNL and the non-profit organization ONELOP, reportedly operated under an agreement with the party.

***Contrasting reactions following the announcement of the June 2025 election results***

Contrasting reactions emerged following the results of the legislative and communal elections of June 5, 2025. The results announced by Ntahorwamiye Prosper, President of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), sparked considerable surprise.

A significant disparity is observed between the results announced by the CENI and the actual situation on the ground. Indeed, the ruling party, CNDD-FDD, obtained 96.51% of the vote nationwide, according to the results, which is equivalent to 100 seats in the National Assembly. In addition, eight co-opted members and three representatives of the Batwa community have been added, bringing the total to 111 members of parliament. This tally, comparable to those of the Soviet or Bolshevik regimes, provoked strong emotions and impassioned reactions among the various stakeholders.

The Minister of Interior Martin Ninteretse warned the opposition that any protest to the election results could lead to legal sanctions. However, this statement only heightened tensions, and several political parties expressed criticism not only of the results but also of the Minister.

Opposition parties such as the National Congress for Liberty (CNL), the Council of Patriots (CDP), and the Union for National Progress (UPRONA), which received only 1.38% of the vote, denounced blatant irregularities during the election and claimed they were deprived of a fair contest. They declared they had the right

to protest what they considered to be erroneous results, asserting that they had evidence to support their allegations. The Burundi Bwa Bose Coalition, through its spokesperson Keifa Nibizi, announced its intention to take the matter to the Constitutional Court, stating that it was preparing the necessary appeals within the legally prescribed timeframe.

For his part, the president of UPRONA also confirmed the filing of a complaint with the same court, referring to the irregularities and incidents that occurred during this double vote.

Human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch also criticized the electoral process, highlighting severe restrictions on freedom of expression and intimidation by the Imbonerakure, the youth wing of the ruling party.

Regarding election observation, the Catholic Church, which deployed observers to nearly 2,400 polling stations, or almost 30% of the total, expressed concerns about irregularities, transparency, and the credibility of the electoral process.

In a statement dated June 10, 2025, the Church emphasized the need for collective reflection and called for the strengthening of democratic fundamentals, suggesting that future elections should be marked by fairness, truth, and peace.

In response to these denunciations, the President of the Republic sought to reassure, stating that the alleged irregularities should not taint

## ***1.1. CONTEXTE POLITIQUE (continued from page 17)***

perceptions of the results as a whole. He promised open dialogue to adequately address all concerns expressed, stating that "the irregularities raised must be investigated by the competent authorities." He also emphasized the importance of respecting the law to maintain confidence in the democratic process and proposed that the parties meet to find constructive solutions to the conflicts raised.

## ***1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT***

### ***Attack on a family by criminals in Mutumba zone of Karusi commune.***

On the night of Thursday to Friday, June 12, 2025, at around 11 p.m., a tragic incident occurred on Bibara hill in Mutumba zone of Karusi commune. A family belonging to Bavumiragiye J. Berchmans, aged 32 and a member of CNDD-FDD, was attacked by criminals who threw a grenade through a window of their home.

As a result of the explosion, Berchmans and his two children sustained serious injuries, while his wife, Ngabiyimana Sylvie, aged 31 and also a member of CNDD-FDD, along with two of their children, INEZA and Elissa, died instantly.

The injured were rushed to the Cinquantenaire Hospital in Karusi for emergency treatment.

## ***1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT.***

### ***Trial in flagrante delicto before the High Court in Rutana commune.***

On Tuesday evening, June 10, 2025, the High Court of Rutana sentenced Jean Nduwimana, from Kabingo hill in Butezi zone of Giharo commune, to five years for undermining the country's economy. He was caught red-handed with a 400 kg bag of coffee. According to our sources, he was said to be going to sell this coffee in Tanzania.

Another man named Aloys Ndayizeye was sentenced to two and a half years in prison for complicity in this case.

Because he was the one who was supposed to help ferry this bag of coffee across Maragarazi River using his canoe (river ferryman). Boaz NIYONZIMA and Samuel NDAYIRAGIJE will each pay a fine of 500,000 Burundian francs. The two had kept this coffee at the border while waiting for Aloys. It should be noted that this coffee comes from MUSONGATI commune.



### ***1.3. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 18)***

#### ***The flagrante delicto judgment in Bururi commune against three men accused of disrupting legislative and communal elections***

On June 14, 2025, a public hearing was held in Bururi on flagrante delicto cases. The prosecutor accused Juvénal Kabura, a member of CNL party from Songa hill and commune for unduly influencing voters on June 5, election day, by distributing money to them at Matana center. The accused firmly denied these accusations, stating that he had simply handed over funds to ten members of their association, "Twiyungunganye," each receiving 80,000 BIF.

Another accused, Manirakiza Ernest, an ADR party representative at ECOFO Gashinyira polling station on his native Bitezi hill, was also accused of campaigning in front of voters. He defended himself by claiming that he had left the polling station to hand over a voter's his wife had left at home.

The third to be called to defend himself was Marc Ndabcamwo, from Kiremba hill, also in Bururi province. A representative of Burundi Bwa Bose Coalition at Muzenga polling station, he was accused of preventing a voter, Ndayishimiye Redithe, from voting. Marc strongly rejected the accusations, maintaining that Salvador Nibaruta, a member of CNDD-FDD party and president of the polling station, had ordered him to leave while he wanted to de-

nounce the behavior of the woman, who had left the station without dipping her finger in indelible ink.

The cases were deliberated, and an hour later, the court delivered its verdict. Juvénal Kabura was fined 800,000 BIF for committing what the court deemed to be conscience-buying during the election. Manirakiza Ernest, found guilty of inappropriate campaigning outside polling stations on election day, was fined 400,000 BIF. As for Marc Ndabcamwo, he was acquitted of all charges. Yet, despite his release, he had not yet received a release notice.

All three had been jailed in Bururi prison since the day of the legislative and communal elections, June 5, 2025, awaiting a resolution to their respective cases.



***Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa***

## II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

### II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

#### II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

##### II.1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS AND/OR IMBONERAKURE

***One person killed by his son following a discussion about elections, in Butaganzwa commune, Buhumuza province.***

On the night of June 13, 2025, around 9:00 p.m., on Mpungwe hill, Mugege zone, a 65-year-old man named Mudohoko lost his life in the hands of his son Egide. According to local sources, while returning from a bar, they disputing about the communal and legislative elections held on June 5, 2025. Their conversation intensified, and tensions between them grew; Egide grabbed a stick and hit his father on the head, killing him instantly. Egide was arrested the next day, June 14, 2025, by the communal administrator of Butaganzwa, Rémy Ndarufatiye, accompanied by the commu-

nal OPJ of Butaganzwa. The young man is currently jailed in the the provincial police station in Ruyigi.

According to family information, Egide had always hated his father, who was a member of CNL party and, until his dying day, accused him of not voting for CNDD-FDD party.

***A woman killed in Kiganda commune, Gitega province.***

On June 12, 2025, on Murambi hill, Kiganda commune, Gitega province, a woman was killed around 4 a.m. Mvuyekure Renilde, aged 62, was accused of being a sorceress.

According to our sources on this hill, neighbors heard brief screams around the early hours (4 a.m.). When they went to investigate, they

found her lying on the ground in a pool of blood, having been strangled.

Two suspects were arrested: Laurent Ntibagengeza, aged 43, and Joachim Bavakure, aged 35, both from Murambi hill and members of CNDD-FDD. They were taken to Kiganda communal police station and are awaiting interrogation.

##### II.1.1.2. BODIES FOUND.

***A body of a man found dead in Gitega rovince .***

***Suspicious death: suicide or homicide? This is the question many people are asking.***

On June 12, 2025, Ligue Iteka was informed of the death of Maniratunga Jean, aged 36, married and father of three children. This man was found on the evening of Sunday, June 8, around

### ***II.1.1.2. BODIES FOUND (continued from page 20)***

5:30 p.m., hanging from a rope in front of the door of his house located on Masango hill (formerly Mutaho commune), currently in Gitondo zone of the new Bugendana commune.

Our source, who visited the scene, stated that the body had minor injuries to the arms and back, suggesting residents to wonder if he might have been killed elsewhere and then hanged to simulate suicide. Denis Nshimirimana, police commissioner in Mutaho, and Pierre Nyecumi, head of Masango hill, called an am-

bulance from Mutaho Hospital around 7 p.m. to transport the body to the mortuary.

Our source stated that the deceased was buried Tuesday morning without any investigation because the doctor said an autopsy was unnecessary.

According to the same source, the victim had no family conflict and was not visible to any political party.

### ***Another body was found in Gitega province.***

On June 6, 2025, at around 7 a.m., the body of an unidentified man was found roped along one of the roads in Karera III quarter, in Gitega commune and province.

According to our source residing in Magarama quarter bordering with Karera, the body showed signs of violence, his hands were tied behind his back and his cranium was visibly deformed, having been killed by stones and sticks. This was confirmed by Butoyi Hussein, the head of Gitega urban zone.

This authority states that although the perpetrators of this crime have not yet been identified, the victim is suspected of being a thief from the city center. Therefore, it appears to be a case of mob justice. The body was transported to the mortuary of Gitega Regional Hospital awaiting identification his family to be identified.

Our source and member of the Child Protection Committee, who requested anonymity, described this case as mob justice, stating that such acts are increasing against people suspected of theft, caught in the act by the population.

### ***Five bodies found near the Tanzanian border in Muyinga commune.***

On June 15, 2025, our source revealed that 5 Burundians from Murama zone in Muyinga commune were killed by Tanzanians. These Burundians crossed the Tanzanian border illegally. Their bodies were found just at the border. They are between 18 and 25 years old. They are all farmers, according to Amédée Mi-

sago, administrator of Muyinga commune. This authority authorized proper burial of each body found. Amédée Misago advised the residents of this locality to no longer go into Tanzania without crossing the well-known border.

### ***II.1.1.2. BODIES FOUND (continued from page 21)***

#### ***A body found in Bururi commune, Burunga province***

A 62-year-old man named Cyprien Barandaje, nicknamed Gapfumu, died on the night of June 9, 2025, in his home on Mututu sub-hill, Muguzi hill, Bururi commune, Burunga province.

According to neighbors, this farmer, whose wife is mentally disabled and has been missing for over a year, lived alone in his house where his body was discovered hanging from a rope.

#### ***Two bodies found on the banks of Rusizi River, Ndava zone, Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province***

On the morning of June 14, 2025, two bodies were found on the banks of Rusizi River, on the border between Burundi and the DRC, in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province. The circumstances of their death remain unclear and are causing serious concern among the local population. According to residents of the street 4, Nyamitanga hill, in Ndava zone, Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province, two bodies lay on the banks of Rusizi River, marking the border between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

According to initial information from security authorities, the bodies were people who had attempted to cross into the DRC during the previous night. The bodies showed obvious signs of violence, and large quantities of blood were found approximately 500 meters from the river, suggesting they were killed before being moved.

Other local sources claim a darker version: the victims were allegedly taken from another location to be killed near the river. Suspicions are turning, and the residents of Nyamitanga are

While some of his neighbors say he was strangled and hung by unknown assailants to falsify the investigation, police sources say he committed suicide using this rope. The victim was a member of FRODEBU party.

demanding a serious and transparent investigation to shed full light on these murders. Buganda's communal administrator, Pamphile Hakizimana, ordered the transfer of the bodies to the mortuary awaiting the outcomes of the investigation. He called on the population to collaborate closely with the judicial police to identify the perpetrators of this double murder. "It is crucial that justice be done and that the perpetrators be brought to justice," he said, promising to strengthen security measures in the zone.

### ***II.1.1.2. BODIES FOUND (continued from page 22)***

#### ***A body found in Swahili quarter of Rumonge town***

On June 9, 2025, a body was discovered in Swahili quarter of Rumonge town early in the morning. The victim, a 27-year-old fisherman known as Asmani, was stabbed to death by unidentified individuals.

According to local administrative sources, Asmani was married and the father of two children. The tragedy occurred while he was in his usual quarter. He died instantly from the stab wounds he received. The reason for this murder remains unknown at this time.

Administrative authorities indicate that the police have opened an investigation to identify the perpetrators of this tragic act and the possible motives behind it.

The victim's relatives are demanding justice, while the authorities are calling for calm awaiting the outcomes of the investigation.

### ***II.1.1.3. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES.***

#### ***A person abducted in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province***

Gamaliel Niyonsavye, from Butaganzwa zone in Kayanza commune (formerly Butaganzwa commune), is a laboratory technician employed at Cibitoke CDS, located in Bujumbura mairie. He is married and father of three children. He currently lives in Gasenyi, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province.

His relatives reported that he left on the morning of June 1, 2025, heading for Masanganzira (Ngozi-Kirundo-Muyinga junction). He returned the same evening. After crossing into Bujumbura province, he called his family to inform them of his imminent arrival.

This call was unfortunately the last contact with him. His family and loved ones are extremely concerned for his safety and fate.

#### ***A young man abducted in Bujumbura by armed men***

On June 11, 2025, around 6:00 p.m., a man named Fogo, approximately 25 years old, was the victim of a violent abduction. The incident occurred while he was at ITEKA Hotel, where he worked, at Gare du Nord station, in Kamenge zone of Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province. According to reports, armed men wearing police uniforms arrested the victim, a

young man identified as FOGO. Before forcibly removing him, they struck him on the head with the barrel of their rifle, injuring him. He was then taken away in a black double-cab pickup truck with the license plate B9710A.



### ***II.1.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES. (continued from page 23)***

#### ***A teacher, CNDD-FDD member, abducted in Mabayi zone, Mugina commune, Bujumbura province***

On June 3, 2025, Théophile, a teacher at Ruse-seka communal High School in Buhoro hill, Mabayi zone, was abducted by Imbonerakure of this locality.

According to local sources, this teacher had joined the ruling party when his former party, CNL, split in two. Two days before the recent elections, Imbonerakure, in collaboration with

the police, hunted him down after being seen with a FRODEBU member. He was suspected of campaigning for the Burundi Bwa Bose Coalition. On Thursday evening, at the end of the vote, he was released and his voter's card was returned to him with the words "VOTED," indicating that he had been voted for.

### ***II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY***

#### ***II.2.1. TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT***

##### ***A man beaten in Cirambo zone of Karusi commune.***

Ligue Iteka was informed of a case of torture that occurred over the weekend of last week. It was Saturday, June 7, 2025, around 7 p.m. in a bar on Butamenwa hill, Maramvya zone, Cirambo zone, (former Nyabikere commune) where a man named NDIHOKUBWAYO Thérence, from the BURUNDI BWA BOSE coalition, was tortured by Imbonerakure commanded by the leader of CNDD-FDD party on the hill, named Isaac. He found him in the bar drinking beer and told him that although

he did not vote for CNDD-FDD, the party won. Hearing these words, Thérence preferred to leave and go home. But Isaac with three Imbonerakure chased him including Sylvestre, Guillaume and Jean Marie; who subsequently beat him and robbed him of a sum of 30,000 Bif after injuring his head and arms. His family took him to NYABIKERE CDS the next day, and his detractors remain free.

##### ***A person tortured in Bugarama zone, Muhuta commune, Bujumbura province***

On June 4, 2025, Ildephonse Mpawenimana, a teacher at Magara Communal High School and a member of CNDD-FDD party, was the target of a brutal and near-fatal attack by a group of Imbonerakure from Magara I hill, Bugarama zone, Muhuta commune, Bujumbura province.

The incident occurred around 8 p.m. While returning home, Mpawenimana was reportedly ambushed in front of Saint Georges Hospital by Imbonerakure, led by their local representative, Sadiki. They allegedly tied him up and severely beat him. During the assault, comments were reportedly made involving his principal, Anne Marie Nicizanye, as the mastermind behind the attack.

## ***II.2.1. TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT*** *(continued from page 24)*

### ***A woman injured in Mutimbuzi zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province***

Jeannette Irakoze, a beverage trader, was injured in the head with a hammer by Vincent Mpfayokurera, also a beverage trader and member of CNDD-FDD. The incident occurred on June 8, 2025, around 9:00 p.m., at 14th Avenue, Maramvya hill (Kirekura), Mutimbuzi zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province.

According to information collected, Vincent Mpfayokurera allegedly struck Jeannette Irakoze four times on the head with a hammer. The reason for the attack appears to have been a dispute over customers. As the two traders are neighbors and sell the same products, they share the same customers. That evening, some

of Vincent's customers reportedly came to Jeannette's shop, which allegedly angered Vincent. He then allegedly ordered Jeannette to close her business, claiming it was "Gukizura" patrol time. When she refused, Vincent allegedly grabbed a hammer and hit her.

Jeannette IRAKOZE was injured in the head and received the necessary treatment at Maramvya CDS. As for the assailant, Vincent Mpfayokurera, he reportedly spent only one night in Maramvya zone cell before being released on June 9, 2025.

## ***II.2.2. RAPE***

### ***A girl raped in Rutegama zone of Kiganda commune in Gitega province***

On June 6, 2025, on Nyarunazi hill, Rutegama zone, a 17-year-old girl N. A, 8th-grade student at ECOFO Nyarunazi, was raped by a motorcycle taxi driver named Barekebavuge Raymond, aged 23, a CNDD-FDD Imbone-rakure.

It was around 7 p.m. when the victim was returning from her schoolmate's to handed over some notebooks. She met Raymond, and he offered her a beer at Nyarunazi trading center, about 500 meters from her home. He then offered her a ride, but instead of taking her home, he diverted the route.

Arriving near a bush, he threatened to have sex with her and raped her.

Afterward, he dropped her off near her home, and she told her parents what happened. They took her to Kiganda Hospital the next day, and medical tests confirmed the act.

Local sources report that when the alleged perpetrator learned he was being sought, he fled and remains unaccounted for to this day.

## ***II.2.2. RAPE (continued from page 25)***

### ***A girl raped in Rumonge commune, Burunga province***

On June 12, 2025, on Mugomere hill, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, E. I, aged 5, was raped by 16-year-old Niyonyishu Isaac. The victim was taken to Humura center for holistic care. The perpetrator was arrested on June 13,

2025, at 6 p.m., and taken to Rumonge police station cell. He is said to be epileptic but confessed to the incident.

### ***A girl raped by a member of CNDD-FDD party in Muhuta commune, Bujumbura province***

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 14, 2025, indicates that on June 4, 2025, on Buyenzi hill, Muhuta commune, Bujumbura province, A.M., a 5-year-old girl was raped by Kizosi Jean Marie, a 35-year-old member of CNDD-FDD party.

According to witnesses, the survivor was taken to Kaneza hospital for medical treatment, and the alleged perpetrator was arrested by the local Joint Security Committee and taken to Gitaza zone cell on June 9, 2025, around 6:00 p.m.

### ***A girl raped in Isare commune, Bujumbura province***

Information received by Ligue Iteka indicates that on June 3, 2025, a 7th-grade student at ECOFO Gishingano was raped on Gishingano hill in Isare commune, Bujumbura province. M. A, aged 14, whose parents were N. J and N. V, was raped by a 42-year-old married shopkeeper and father of three children named Baragerageza Celeus. The victim was a customer at the perpetrator's shop, and when the victim's pa-

rents were not at home, the alleged perpetrator came to visit her and raped her. The victim's mother filed a complaint with the judicial police officer at Isare commune police station to prosecute the perpetrator, but to no avail, as he had already fled.

## ***II.3. RIGHT TO LIBERTY***

### ***II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS.***

#### ***Arrest of three individuals at Melchior Ndadaye Airport in Bujumbura***

On June 13, 2025, at approximately 8:00 p.m., three individuals were arbitrarily arrested at Melchior Ndadaye Airport in Bujumbura. According to information collected, the individuals arrested and detained include Florence Rutamucero, President of the Association of

Survivors of Victims of students burned alive at Kibimba gas station; André Bizoza, President of the Association of Survivors of Victims of ALM Buta; and Elvis Nshimirimana, a technical agent and psychologist working for ALM Buta association. These individuals

were arrested while traveling to Nairobi for a work mission.

Currently, Rutamucero is jailed at the Special Investigation Brigade (BSR), while Bizoza and Nshimirimana spent their first night at the Judicial Police in Jabe. The reasons for their

arrest are believed to be linked to the activities of their associations, defending the rights of Buta survivors. The families and friends of the detainees are denouncing the incident and calling for their unconditional release.

***A priest arrested after his homily on June 15, 2025, in Gitaza, Muhuta commune.***

A Catholic priest, known as Butoyi Paul, was arrested this Sunday, June 15, 2025, in Gitaza, Muhuta commune, Bujumbura province, by agents of the National Intelligence Service. Father Butoyi Paul was arrested shortly after celebrating mass, during which he expressed his criticism of some irregularities observed during the elections, while calling on all Burundians to maintain their unity.

According to Father Butoyi Paul, any form of division among Burundians is considered a defilement, with which God's children should absolutely avoid participating. Father Butoyi Paul's message quickly spread on social media, where it was republished and modified. Following this, Father Butoyi was arrested and is currently under investigation in Bujumbura. It should be noted that the priest was released on June 16, 2025.

***A pastor arrested in Kibara, Kayogoro zone, Makamba commune***

It was at 2:00 p.m., at Kibara polling center, polling station 3, Kibara hill (Bigina zone), that Bizimana Julias, aged 57, a pastor of the Pentecostal Church, was accused of tearing up ballots. According to witnesses, he mainly criticized openly the voting process. He is currently jailed in Makamba prosecutor's cell for

investigation.

***Two opposition representatives arrested in Kibago zone, Makamba commune***

At 4:30 p.m., at Kiyange 1 polling station, Ruzocimana Gérard, aged 27, a representative of the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition, was arrested after being falsely accused of appearing on the

behalf of his brother Nduwimana Lionel, allegedly by presenting fraudulent documents. He is jailed in Makamba prosecutor's cell.

### ***II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS. (continued from page 27)***

In the same commune, around 11:00 a.m., at ECOFO Nyarubanga polling station on Nyarubanga hill, Nahimana Éric, also a representative of Burundi Bwa Bose, was ar-

rested for "intruding" and using forged documents. He is believed to have attempted to report irregularities. He is also jailed in Makamba.

#### ***One person arrested in Nyanza zone and commune of Burunga province***

Around 9:30 a.m., at Mugerama Communal High School polling station, Nyabenda Elie, aged 64, was arrested for tearing up his voter's card. He denied the charges, arguing that he had no intention of committing an electoral offense but believed that only the chosen card should be placed in the ballot box. He explained that he had not been taught how to vote because he had recently returned from the DRC. The Makamba High Court sentenced

him to two years in prison, although he appealed. He is jailed in Makamba prosecutor's cell.

At 11:00 a.m., at Nyanza-Lac technical high school, Hussein Ismaël, aged 43, was accused of tearing up ballots and attempting to hide them in his pockets. He is also jailed in Makamba prosecutor's cell.

#### ***Deux personnes dont une du FRODEBU et une autre du CNL arrêtées à Rwankona, zone Muzenga de la Commune Bururi***

FRODEBU member arrested on Rwankona hill, Bururi commune

Marc Ndarucamwo, also a FRODEBU member and representative of the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition, was arrested at the polling station of Rwankona Vocational Training Center, Rwankona hill, Muzenga zone, Bururi commune. He reportedly simply asked, "Why don't you ink the voters after the vote?" This question led to his immediate arrest, and although he was acquitted after a flagrant trial

by Bururi High Court, he remains unjustly jailed. In the same commune, a Burundi Bwa Bose member was fined 400,000 BIF, and failing to pay, will be sentenced to two years in prison.

Another CNL member in the same commune was sentenced to one year in prison and a fine of 800,000 BIF, also accused of electoral offenses by the same court.



*Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa*



### **III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Ligue Iteka is deeply opposed to the persistent deterioration of human rights in Burundi, while highlighting the impunity enjoyed by those responsible for crimes. The organization calls on the Burundian authorities to take concrete action to correct this alarming situation. In this context, several recommendations are directed:

#### **To the Government off Gitega:**

- Provide protection and prevent all forms of harassment for the physical safety of human rights defenders and their families. Any threat against them must be taken seriously and addressed immediately by the authorities.
- Guarantee and protect the rights of citizens to express freely their opinion on the socio-political life of the country.
- Stop all intimidation or harassment against civil society associations and human rights defenders and allow them to carry out their legitimate activities without fear of reprisals.
- Religious leaders play an important role in society. Their freedom to preach and speak on issues of public interest must be guaranteed, unless they directly incite violence or hatred.
- Accept diversity of opinion and promote democratic principles as the basis for sustainable development.

#### **To the international community :**

- Regional and international partners should continue to closely monitor the situation, press for respect for human rights, and offer technical support for judicial and police capacity building.