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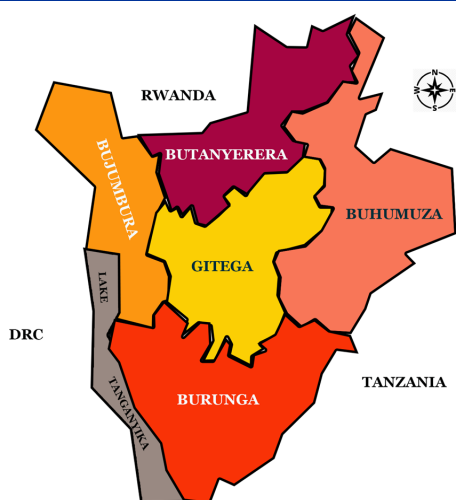
LIGUE BURUNDAISE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME " ITEKA "

BULLETIN HEBDOMADAIRE

"Iteka n'Ijambo"

N°479 from 16 to 22 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 22, 2025, Ligue Iteka has documented at least 741 cases of enforced disappearances.

Ligue ITEKA :

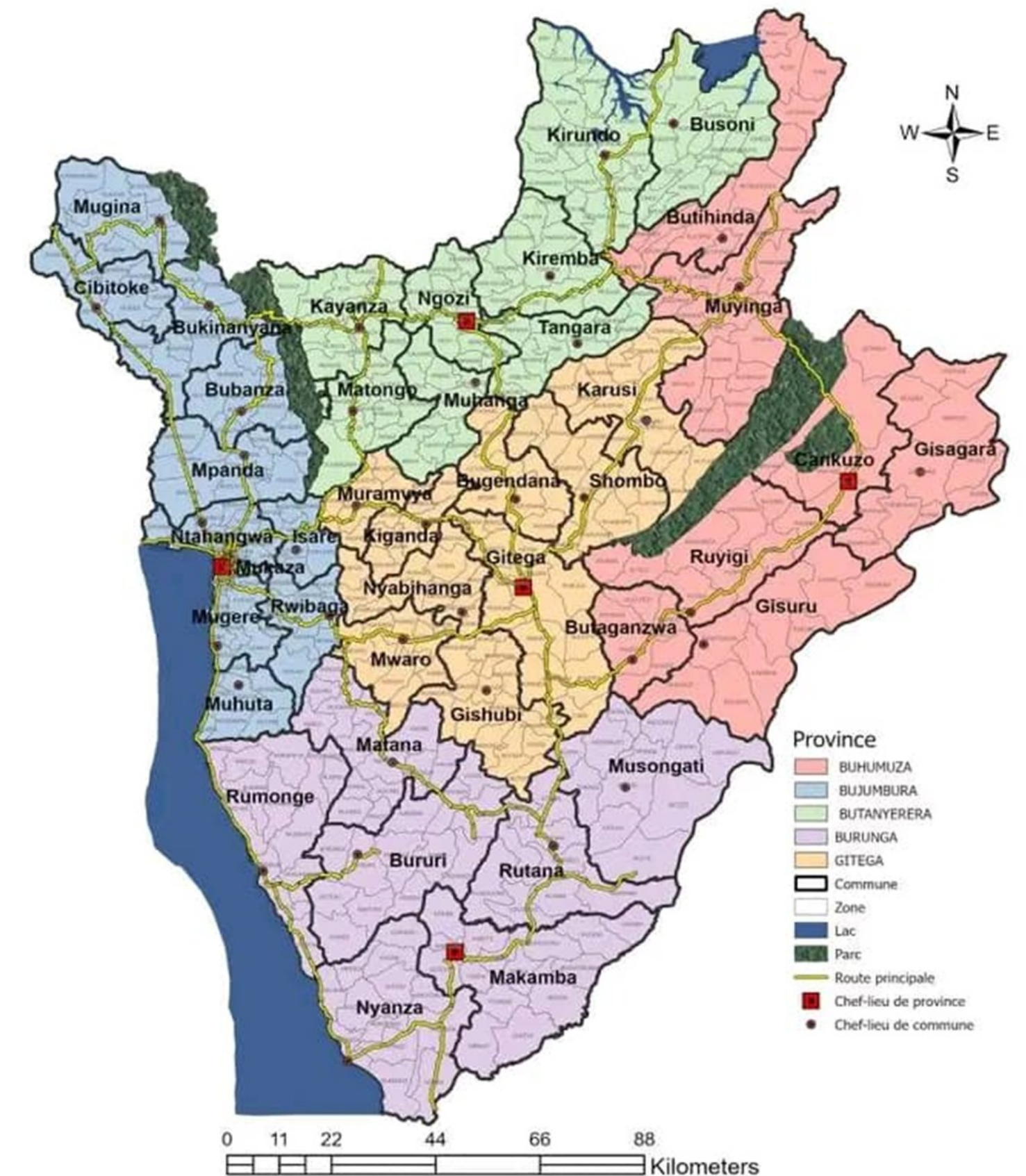
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- ♦ Has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236, and is a member of ECOSOC."
- ♦ Ligue Iteka is decentralized in 17 federations and 32 sections .

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ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF 16 MARCH 2023



ACRONYMS

<i>BSR</i>	<i>: Special Investigation Bureau</i>
<i>CDFC</i>	<i>: Family and Community Development Center</i>
<i>CDP</i>	<i>: Council of Patriots</i>
<i>CDS</i>	<i>: Health Center</i>
<i>CECI</i>	<i>: Independent Communal Electoral Commission</i>
<i>CENI</i>	<i>: Independent National Electoral Commission</i>
<i>CEPI</i>	<i>: Independent Provincial Electoral Commission</i>
<i>CNDD-FDD</i>	<i>: National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy</i>
<i>CNL</i>	<i>: National Congress for Liberty</i>
<i>DRC</i>	<i>: Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
<i>ECOFO</i>	<i>: Fundamental School</i>
<i>FARDC</i>	<i>: Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
<i>FDNB</i>	<i>: Burundi National Defense Force</i>
<i>FRODEBU</i>	<i>: Front for Democracy of Burundi,</i>
<i>GBV</i>	<i>: Gender-Based Violence.</i>
<i>M23</i>	<i>: March 23 Movement</i>
<i>OBUHA</i>	<i>: Burundian Office of Urban Planning, Housing and Construction</i>
<i>OPJ</i>	<i>: Police Officer Judicial</i>
<i>PJP</i>	<i>: Judicial Police of the Public Prosecutors' Office</i>
<i>SNR</i>	<i>: National Intelligence Service</i>
<i>SOSUMO</i>	<i>: Moso Sugar Company</i>
<i>TGI</i>	<i>: High Court</i>
<i>UPRONA</i>	<i>: Union for National Progress</i>

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin provides an overview of the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of 16-22 June 2025. The period was marked by an easing of political tensions, including the celebration of victory by members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party.

The human rights violations observed and recorded by Ligue Iteka are as follows:

At least 7 people were killed, including 2 women. These include the bodies of 2 youths killed on the border between Burundi and Rwanda for coffee trafficking; 1 person abducted near SNR office; and 1 person tortured. Nine people were victims of SGBV. Among the victims were 3 young girls abused in schools.

Ligue Iteka also recorded 1 person, a member of CNL, who was harassed.

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

1. CONTEXT

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

The political context in Burundi during the week of 16-22 June 2025, was marked by an atmosphere of serenity, in contrast to the turmoil of the election campaign. Members of the ruling party celebrated their victory, while the opposition denounced the elections as a masquerade, accusing the State of wasting funds that could have financed essential projects. These criticisms were particularly strong in Buhumuza communes such as Gisagara and Butaganzwa, where the opposition expressed discontent with restrictions on freedom of expression, particularly regarding the right to vote. In Ruyigi and Cankuzo, the opposition felt anxiety in the face of a regime perceived as authoritarian. Acts of intimidation were reported, particularly against an MP elected in Musongati, where a meeting was convened to remove Venant Nyobeye, a protester against illegal actions related to property seizures.

The risk of land appropriation by CNDD-FDD members is looming, with statements by Sylvain Nzikoruriho regarding the recovery of UPRONA properties. This concern is aggravated by threats targeting those who do not support CNDD-FDD.

Despite growing anxiety, Sylvain Nzikoruriho's threats to the safety of citizens and their property remain worrying.

Furthermore, Ligue Iteka was informed of the intimidation of Joselyne Niyongabire, a UPRONA member, facing repeated threats linked to her political affiliation.

These acts of harassment appear to be orchestrated by CNDD-FDD leaders, prompting an urgent request for protection from it.

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 5)

Key facts :

Post-election situation in Buhumuza province

The week of 16-22 June 2025, marked by the post-election period in Buhumuza province, revealed a calm atmosphere in clear contrast to the excitement that prevailed during the election campaign.

According to local reports, ruling party members continue to enthusiastically celebrate their party's victory, while opposition party members maintain that the elections were a farce, accusing the State of wasting funds that should have been invested in national development, such as building hospitals and schools.

These demands are particularly strong in the communes of Gisagara and Butaganzwa, where opposition voices are heard, claiming they have been deprived of their freedom of expression, particularly with regard to the right to vote and to be elected.

On the socio-political level, the Independent Communal Electoral Commissions (CECI) have launched a call for applications for candidates as hill and quarter councilors. Candidates must submit an application including photocopies of their identity card and voter's card.

However, the population seems disillusioned with these hill elections, seeing little value in them. For many, the communal and legislative elections are considered far more significant, as they directly impact decision-making bodies.

In the communes of Ruyigi and Cankuzo, members of the opposition parties live in anxiety and panic, fearing the difficulty of surviving in an environment marked by a dictatorial, authoritarian, and one-party regime.

Acts of intimidation by a MP elected in Musongati commune, Burunga province

On June 14, 2025, on Kibimba hill, in Butezi zone, in Musongati commune, Burunga province, at Mukazyé seed center of DPEAE Rutana, a tense meeting was held. Rénovat Hakizimana, former CNDD-FDD party representative in the former Giharo commune, had summoned all the heads of the commune's four zones, accompanied by a few hill representatives of the

same party. Among those present were Léonard Ruhoranyi from Kibimba hill, Bernard Ntirandekura from Mutwana hill, and Vincent Nemerimana, head of Mutwana hill.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 6)

The purpose of the meeting was the dismissal of Kibimba hill monitor, Venant Nyobeye, who was accused of refusing to illegally retrieve a cow belonging to the herders' association, owned by Paul Ntiragomba, and hand it over to Léonard Ruhoranyi.

According to information on the spot, Rénovat Hakizimana insistently wished to dismiss Nyobeye, arguing that everything he failed to accomplish in the party under his leadership should be corrected now that he an MP.

He added that it was the ideal time to get rid of those he described as non-Bagumyabanga, who had won 100% of the vote across the country.

In this tense climate, Venant Nyobeye and Paul Ntiragomba, plunged into great distress, called for all forms of assistance to protect themselves from the threats and climate of terror created by Rénovat Hakizimana, the newly elected MP in the new Burunga province.

Risk of dispossession of arable land by members of CNDD-FDD party in Musongati commune, Burunga province.

On June 19, 2025, on Kibimba hill, in Butezi zone, in Musongati commune, Burunga province, Sylvain Nzikoruriho, CNDD-FDD party representative in the province, was scheduled to address the residents of Kibimba. He was to announce to them that all the properties located in Mukazye marsh, belonging to members of UPRONA party, would be recovered by the ruling party, CNDD-FDD, because the latter had not voted for them, but rather for UPRONA.

According to local sources, this announcement was postponed due to a meeting with the President of the Republic, which was being held in Gitega, the political capital of Burundi.

After the elections, those not affiliated with CNDD-FDD are scared, prompting them to fear the loss of their hereditary properties following threats from Sylvain Nzikoruriho. These citizens, who feel trapped by this worrying situation, are calling for intervention from the authorities to restore their rights. Sylvain Nzikoruriho is working closely with Rénovat Hakizimana, CNDD-FDD representative in the former Giharo commune, and Cyriaque Komezurugendo, the zonal representative of the same party in Butezi. He is also supported by Zacharie Batungwanayo, head of Kibimba hill and CNDD-FDD representative in this community.

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from 7)

Acts of intimidation against a UPRONA member in Musongati commune, Burunga province

On June 20, 2025, alarming information was reported to Ligue Iteka concerning a woman residing on Giharo hill, in Musongati commune, Burunga province. This woman, named Joselyne Niyongabire, is a UPRONA party member. She faces persistent intimidation from a man named Salvator, who is the head of Nyarubange sub-hill, also located on Giharo hill. Salvator has repeatedly told her that she should be cautious, asserting that she should be prepared to defend herself in any circumstances for choosing to be a UPRONA member in his sub-hill.

According to testimonies on site, he repeats these threats whenever he meets her, including during meetings he organizes in his locality.

It is important to emphasize that these acts of harassment are orchestrated under the authority of several CNDD-FDD party officials, namely Alexis Baraguma, nicknamed Ruganzizindi and represents the party in Giharo zone, as well as Emmanuel Ntahondonkeye, the CTAS (Technical Advisor for Social Affairs) of Giharo, and Désiré Bigirimana, the Giharo zone head. These three individuals, Alexis, Emmanuel, and Désiré, are acting under the influence of Sylvain Nzikoruriho, the CNDD-FDD representative in Burunga province, and Rénovat Hakizimana, the CNDD-FDD representative in Musongati commune. Faced with these serious threats to her safety, Joselyne Niyongabire is requesting urgent intervention to protect her life.

Thanksgiving in Gitega for President Evariste Ndayishimiye's five-year term on power

The thanksgiving prayers held at Ingoma Stadium in Gitega, under the auspices of President Evariste Ndayishimiye, were an opportunity to celebrate his five-year term on power. This event, akin to a thanksgiving crusade, brought together the presidential couple and choirs from various parts of Burundi to pay tribute to God for the successes achieved over the past five years.

The topic for this celebration, "May Burundi become a land of prophets," invites reflection on the country's spiritual and national aspirations.

Several significant points emerged during this ceremony. First, the President took the time to thank God, highlighting the blessings Burundi has received as well as his leadership.

In his speech, he emphasized the achievements of his term while denouncing attempts to oppose his authority. He also celebrated the longevity of CNDD-FDD, in power since 2005, positioning himself as a symbol of national unity.

It should be noted that the economic difficulties faced during his term were not mentioned,

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 8)

raising questions about the projecting of a completely positive image.

Second, a tribute was paid to the President's leadership by Pastor Mbayahaga Isidore, who highlighted the socio-economic transformations achieved under his leadership.

Third, the President expressed his gratitude to the nation's leaders for their continued dedication, emphasizing their role in the country's development.

Fourth, Burundian youth were called upon to play a central role in socio-economic policy, thus affirming their importance within society.

Finally, the prayer for regional peace, expressed by the presidential couple, called upon the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to lead Burundians towards harmonious coexistence. Furthermore, it should be noted that the low attendance observed at the event raises questions about the President's popularity among the population. This prayer of thanksgiving, which began on June 19, ended on June 21, 2025.

I.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

Abuses at the Burundian-Congolese border

On the border between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, in Rugombo locality, in Cibitoke commune of (formerly Rugombo commune), many Congolese refugees fleeing hostilities in the east of their homeland report traumatic experiences. They speak of acts of violence, extortion, and sexual assault attributed to Imbonerakure, as well as to some members of the Burundian armed forces. This situation, alarming in many respects, was recently revealed by local authorities, raising concerns about a possible deterioration in relations between the two nations.

As the armed conflict between the DRC Armed Forces (FARDC) and the M23 rebels has intensified for nearly four months in eastern Congo, thousands of civilians, in their desperate search for safety, cross the borders into neighboring countries.

Many of these refugees attempt to reach the Burundian commune of Cibitoke, particularly in Rugombo zone, after crossing Rusizi River, hoping to reunite with relatives in Bukavu via Kamanyola.

However, once they arrive on Burundian soil, these Congolese find themselves plunged into a true nightmare. The refugees report theft, physical assault, extortion, and, even more unacceptable, sexual violence, primarily committed by members of the Imbonerakure, the ruling party's youth wing, and by some members of the Burundi National Defense Forces (FDNB).

Victims describe these acts as "systematic," provoking growing outrage even among the local population of Rugombo. One resident, who prefers to remain anonymous, emotionally reports: "These are young girls, women who

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (continued from page 9)

are being raped, families who are being robbed of their belongings. They are supposed to seek refuge, not be brutally mistreated."

Furthermore, the situation is worsened by the bad road connecting Kamanyola to Uvira, currently controlled by the M23, thus forcing the Congolese to opt for the river route, which,

although less heavily patrolled, is clearly more dangerous.

Official silence, investigation promised

In response to questions about these statements, Carême Bizoza, the governor of Cibitoke province, expressed his lack of information on the situation of the Congolese crossing Rusizi River from other locations in the DRC. He specified that, according to his information, the Congolese refugees were only present in Rutana camp, where they are currently shel-

tered.

Nevertheless, he announced that an investigation would be launched to examine the accuracy of these allegations. He also acknowledged that such incidents could "endanger friendly relations between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo."

A challenging diplomatic situation

Faced with the humanitarian crisis raging near Burundi, calls for intervention are becoming increasingly urgent. The residents of Rugombo ardently express their wish for an end to the violence and for Congolese to be able to cross the region safely. It would also be possible to call on non-governmental organizations, both local and international, that work for human rights, to document the abuses

committed and provide assistance to the victims. In an already conflict-ridden context between Kinshasa and Gitega, this situation is testing the ability of the two nations to collaborate to ensure the protection of civilians. Because beyond the political stakes, human lives are at risk.

Searches in different communes in Muyinga province.

On June 18, 2025, our source reported that a search was carried out in different localities in Muyinga province. During this operation, a total of 11 individuals were arrested, with the confiscation of nearly 330 kilos of corn and beans.

In addition, that same day, police in the communes of Butihinda, Muyinga, and Giteranyi also seized 120 kilos of coffee. The fraudsters, suspected of transporting these products to Tanzania, are currently being questioned by the Judicial Police.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (continued from page 10)

A woman seriously injured in the head in Bururi

Information received on June 16, 2025, reported that a woman named Nkunuzimana Espérance, 40 years old and a member of CNDD-FDD party, from Rukanda hill in Gasanda zone of Bururi commune, Burunga province, suffered serious head injuries by unknown assailants around 7 p.m. near the chapel of the Sisters of the Congregation of the Disciples of Christ and Bururi Regional Hospital.

According to information reported by the hospital's security guards, Espérance had just left the facility where she had been admitted due to an illness affecting her left leg. Five minutes later, she returned with severe head injuries, shouting, "He's killing me." Passersby tried to

find the perpetrator, but without success. They only discovered a big stone he had used. This blood-stained stone was found at the bottom of the chapel, not far from the hospital.

According to the same sources, Espérance indicated that she had gone to see a person, still unidentified, who had just contacted her by telephone. This woman, in critical condition, was rushed by ambulance to one of Bujumbura hospitals. Police stated that investigations are currently underway.

A man injured in the head in Bururi due to land disputes

An individual named Nkurunziza Basile, aged 55, son of Nijembazi Dismas and Hwihwiri Olive, residing in Nanira on Nyavyamo hill in the new Burunga province, was severely injured in the head and hips on June 16, 2025, by his sister-in-law, Nibimpa Agathe, in complicity with her husband, Nzisabira André, using a machete.

According to local reports, the accident occurred in Jiji River Valley, at the very spot where the victim was farming, with disputes over land being the main cause. Nkurunziza

Basile has been admitted at Bururi Regional Hospital since that day. He claimed that his younger brother and sister-in-law attacked him because they opposed his exploitation of this piece of land left to him by his parents. He is asking the judiciary to fulfill its role.

At the police, it was reported that his younger brother and sister-in-law, allegedly responsible for this attack, have been jailed in Bururi provincial police station cell since Tuesday, June 17, 2025, for investigation purposes.



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1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

A representative of the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition jailed in Bujumbura Central Prison

A man named Frédéric Nzohabonayo has been jailed in Mpimba central prison since June 6, 2025, after the June 5, 2025, elections.

Indeed, Frédéric lives in Gikungu quarter, Gihosha zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura mairie. He was a representative of the Bu-

rundi Bwa Bose coalition on election day at Maroda polling station. After the elections, he reportedly narrated some irregularities that had marred the elections to a group of people. He was arrested and transferred to Mpimba central prison the same day.

Trial in flagrante delicto before Rutana High Court.

On June 20, 2025, the Rutana High Court sentenced Alain Bapfenda, a Congolese refugee residing in Musenyi refugee site in Giharo commune, to a two-year sentence in a flagrante delicto hearing.

Alain is accused of robbery of a goat that he caught grazing in a field. Alain explained that he did this because he was drunk. He was taken to Rutana central prison to serve this sentence.

1.4. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Administrative inspection to verify compliance with Brarudi beverage price regulations in Buhiga commune, Gitega province.

On Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at around 1:00 p.m., an operation took place at Buhiga market, in Buhiga zone and commune. The zone head Sindaruhuka Phocas, instructed by the Governor Nizigiyimana Dévote and in collaboration with the communal administrator Bacebaseme Therence, oversaw a search of restaurants. This action targeted several bars owned by CNDD-FDD members, namely Kwizera Bella, Gérard Muhitira, Verène, and Cadeau.

The purpose of this operation was to verify the veracity of public complaints about the price increases for Brarudi products. During this operation, cleverly hidden Primus drinks

were discovered in the storerooms of these houses, despite the owners' claims that they were out of stock.

In reality, they were taking advantage of this situation to sell these hidden bottles to selected customers at high prices: 5,000 francs for a bottle of Primus, 7,000 francs for a 65 cl Amstel, and 5,000 francs for a small Amstel. The operation resulted in the confiscation of seven crates at Kwizera Bella, four to Cadeau's, five to Gérard's, and three to Verène's. All these crates were taken to the recovery zone, and the bar owners were heavily fined of 100,000 francs each. However, to date, the seized beverages have not yet been returned.

Injustice in the fight against beverage price speculation

On June 14, 2025, on Muremera hill, in Ngozi commune of Butanyerera province, the police from Ngozi communal police station conducted an operation that led to the arrest of several bar managers. The latter were speculating by selling Amstel Bright beer at an exorbitant price of 6,000 Bif, while its normal purchase price is 5,000 Bif. Similarly, the small Amstel was being sold at 5,000 Bif instead of the required 4,000 Bif.

Witnesses from Ngozi commune report that the police mainly arrested employees, including Denise Tuyizere, instead of directly targeting the owners of the houses, who remain the real order-givers.

still according to these witnesses, a crate of small Amstels and 12 bottles of the same drink were seized at Niyorugura Jean Baptiste's bar, while a full crate of small Amstels was also

confiscated at Ntawutangimanakwihebura Céleus's.

It should be noted that these owners, often affiliated with CNDD FDD, sometimes escape prosecution. For their part, arrested employees face various penalties, with some being fined 500,000 Bif, while others must pay a fine of one million, in addition to the confiscation of all drinks on the spot.

Human rights defenders are advocating for the establishment of uniform legislation regarding this offense nationwide.

1.5. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

Refugees denounce violence and abuse in Rugombo commune, Bujumbura province

On the border between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, in Rugombo commune, Bujumbura province, Congolese nationals fleeing fighting in the east of their country report being victims of acts of violence, extortion, and sexual assault. These acts are allegedly attributed to Imbonerakure and some members of the Burundian armed forces. This

alarming situation, which local authorities claim to have discovered, threatens to deteriorate relations between the two countries.

As the armed conflict between the FARDC and the M23 rebels intensifies in eastern Congo for nearly four months, thousands of civilians are seeking refuge by crossing the borders into neighboring countries. Many of them attempt

I.5. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT (continued from page 13)

to cross Rusizi River through the Burundian commune of Rugombo to join their loved ones in Bukavu via Kamanyola.

But once on Burundian soil, the nightmare seems to continue for these Congolese. Several reports describe theft, physical assault, extortion, and, even more seriously, sexual violence.

These acts are allegedly perpetrated by members of the Imbonerakure, the ruling party's youth wing, and some FDNB elements. Victims describe these acts as "systematic," provoking outrage even among the local population of Rugombo.

"These are young girls, women who are being raped, families who are being robbed of their belongings. They are supposed to be seeking passage, not being brutalized," said a resident near the border, speaking on condition of anonymity, testifying to the horror experienced by the refugees.

The situation is reportedly worsened by the bad road linking Kamanyola to Uvira, now controlled by M23. This situation forces the Congolese to use river route, which is less patrolled but clearly more dangerous.

Asked about these allegations, Governor Carême Bizoza stated that he was "unaware" of the presence of Congolese people crossing Rusizi River from other locations. He

specified that, according to his information, the Congolese refugees present on Burundian territory are only in Rutana camp, where they are currently sheltered.

Nevertheless, he promised to open an investigation to verify the accuracy of these accusations, while acknowledging that such acts could "undermine good neighborly relations between Burundi and the DRC."

Faced with this humanitarian crisis on Burundi's entrance, calls for action are growing. The residents of Rugombo are urging that the abuses stop and that the Congolese be allowed to transit safely. Local and international human rights NGOs could also be called upon to document the facts and provide assistance to the victims.

In an already tense situation between Kinshasa and Gitega, this case tests the political will of both States to cooperate to protect civilians. Because beyond borders, human lives are at stake.



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II. CIVILS AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS

Two Imbonerakure killed in a coffee smuggling case in Nyamakarabo, Mugina commune, Bujumbura province

Two severely beaten bodies were discovered in the early morning of June 19 on the banks of Ruhwa River, separating the border between Burundi and Rwanda. The victims, identified as Karenzo Nsanzamahoro and Claude Butoyi, both members of the ruling party's youth wing (Imbonerakure), allegedly attempted to smuggle approximately 80 kilograms of coffee into Rwanda, according to local security sources.

According to initial reports, they were lynched by these accomplices after attempting to smuggle coffee into Rwandan territory. This tragedy has rekindled concerns about security in the border areas and the persistence of smuggling networks.

According to initial investigations, the two young men were arrested by unidentified individuals after crossing the border. They were allegedly brutally stuck to death and then brought back to the Burundian side, where their bodies were found a few hours later.

The news of this double murder sent shockwaves through Mugina commune, particularly on Nyamakarabo hill. The visibly traumatized population is demanding justice. "They certainly attempted an illegal crossing, but did they deserve to die like this?" wondered one resident, speaking on condition of anonymity.

When questioned about this, the communal administrator, Julienne Ndayihaya, denounced a "barbaric act" and assured that investigations would be launched quickly. However, she noted that coffee smuggling is a growing phenomenon in this border region. "More than 800 kilos of coffee have been seized in the past two months. It is time for residents to understand that these practices expose them to serious dangers," she warned, while calling on young people not to be drawn into these illicit activities.

Significantly, several sources suggest possible collaboration between the two victims and some local officials or security agents involved in this cross-border trafficking. This hypothesis, if confirmed, would highlight a broader and more structured smuggling network, with ramifications extending into the local administration.

This tragedy serves as a further reminder of the vulnerability of populations living along the border and the ongoing tensions surrounding strategic agricultural resources such as coffee, as the border has been closed for over a year. Beyond smuggling alone, issues of security, local governance, and respect for human rights are also being raised.

All eyes are now on the judicial and security authorities, who are expected to shed light on this affair, punish the perpetrators, and dis-

II.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS (continued from la page 15)

mantle the networks involved in this deadly trafficking.

One person killed by police in Kiremba commune, Butanyerera province

On June 17, 2025, at around 9:00 p.m., on Nyabikenke hill, Nyamurenza zone of Kiremba commune in Butanyerera province, an 18-year-old youth nicknamed Yoyogo was killed by police officers.

According to local witnesses, the police fired several bullets at a group of people transporting two tons of corn seeds from Burundi to Rwanda via Kanyaru River, precisely on Nyabikenke hill, and the victim died instantly.

The corn transporters dispersed, and the police, supported by young Imbonerakure, arrested five people.

It should be noted that since the beginning of the coffee season and the high corn production, the police and army have been ordered to shoot at point-blank range any fraudsters.

II.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A woman killed in Gihosha, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province

A young woman named Chantal was savagely murdered on Monday, June 16, 2025, in Gikungu, in daytime.

The victim lived in Gikungu, in Gishosha zone of Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province. She worked as a money transfer agent through Lumicash near Maruda reception hall. She was shot dead by a police officer after a shady affair involving a fake deposit.

According to witnesses, the armed man asked her for a transfer before claiming to have forgotten his money at home. He asked the woman to go there together to collect the money.

Arriving in an isolated field, he shot her at point-blank range, stealing her bag and three phones.

Despite the authorities' recovery of the shell casings, residents are impatient to see the police officer arrested. They are demanding a serious investigation, including tracing the last Lumicash transfer and checking local surveillance cameras.

For now, Chantal's body rests in Roi Khaled mortuary, awaiting justice, which has been slow in coming.

II.1.3. BODIES FOUND

A body found in Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province

On the morning of June 22, 2025, a mutilated and already decomposing body was found on the edge of Kibira forest, on the border between Bukinanyana and Kabarore communes. The circumstances of this death remain mysterious, but several signs point to a settling of scores linked to illegal gold mining in this unstable region.

According to information from security agents deployed in Kibira Nature Reserve, the victim had many deep stab wounds, particularly on the chest and sides.

The advanced state of decomposition of the body made initial findings difficult, preventing immediate identification of the victim. "The body was found early in the morning by forest surveillance officers. It was roped and had several stab wounds. "He had already begun to decompose," a security source confided on condition of anonymity.

Some local administrators, particularly in Ndora zone, confirmed that they had been alerted several days ago by security officials operating in the forest regarding the presence of armed individuals suspected of illegally mining gold. These groups are often identified as being linked to the Rwandan FLN rebels, operating secretly in this dense forest.

Hypotheses are already circulating; according to some sources close to the administration, the victim could be an individual caught in possession of gold and summarily killed by Burundian soldiers or armed elements operating in the area. "This wouldn't be the first time a bo-

dy has been found in this area, under similar circumstances," emphasized a visibly worried resident of Ndora zone.

Faced with the shock caused by this discovery, the administrator of Bukinanyana commune confirmed the information, stating that, given the condition of the body, it was quickly buried to avoid any health risks for local residents. "It was unrecognizable, we decided to proceed with the burial after verification by the competent authorities," he stated.

Awaiting results from the investigations, the local residents are calling for in-depth investigations to shed light on the exact circumstances of this crime, which they describe as "barbaric." The administrator of Bukinanyana commune announced the establishment of a collaboration between his administration, that of Kabarore neighboring commune, as well as the judicial police services, in order to shed full light on this case.

"We cannot tolerate Kibira forest becoming a lawless zone," he insisted, calling for increased security and vigilance among local populations.

II.1.3. BODIES FOUND (continued from page 17)

A body found in Busoni commune, Butanyerera province

On June 18, 2025, on Karambo hill, Busoni commune, Butanyerera province, the body of Lypicie Butoyi, aged 55, a native of Kididiri hill, was discovered in the house.

According to local witnesses, she was strangled to death by as yet unidentified individuals who entered her bedroom through the window and committed the crime.

According to the same witnesses, the alleged perpetrators first locked her husband in his bedroom, and the victim was sleeping alone in her room.

The administrator of Busoni commune, Richard Ngabonziza, indicated that three people have already been arrested for investigation purposes.

On June 19, 2025, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, near Gatete hill and zone, Rumonge com-

On June 19, 2025, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, near Gatete hill and zone, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, the body of Samuel Kanonzi, a 28-year-old fisherman, was found. According to local witnesses, Samuel Kanonzi resided in the same Gatete zone

where he lived with his wife and their two children. According to the same witnesses, everything that happened to him while he was fishing was described. He was buried by his family on the same day, Thursday.

II.1.4. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

A person was abducted in Mukaza commune in Bujumbura province.

On June 18, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., near the SNR headquarters, a 37-year-old lawyer named Bonfils Kaneza, residing in Musaga and the father of two, was abducted. He was in a taxi when he crossed Ngozi Avenue, near Regina Mundi Cathedral. A military pickup truck con-

taining soldiers intercepted the taxi, and the soldiers forced Bonfils into the pickup truck. He has not been found since 4:00 p.m.



Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

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

A man beaten in Gitega province

On the night of Wednesday, June 18, 2025, around 10 p.m., a man suffered severe physical injuries, in front of the police station located in Bugendana center. The incident occurred ten meters from the police officers' home and in front of the shops of the locality.

The victim, Sayumwe Bruno, aged 75, a resident of Bugendana IDP site (located 200 meters from the police station), was found lying on the ground, unconscious, with visible signs of beatings all over his body, including injuries above the foot, on the back (stab wound), and on the head (probably a club wound). The alleged perpetrators then moved him to the middle of the road to simulate a traffic accident.

According to Ndayisenga Joseph, one of the site managers, after giving him milk, the victim regained consciousness around 8 a.m. He then claimed that he had been captured around 10 p.m. while returning home, before being forcibly taken by police officers to their home, where they severely beat him without any charges. He cried for help, but no one intervened. The officer named Thérance quickly reacted by telling him "reka kudedemba."

The site manager immediately alerted OPJ Mahinja Antoine, who replied that only the communal commissioner could respond to these acts committed by the police.

The administrator was also informed, and he too replied that it was none of his business.

Around 10:00 a.m., the communal commissioner, Ndayikeza Arnaud, arrived at the scene and ordered that the victim be immediately transferred to Bugendana Health Center, promising to conduct inquiries with the police officers and security guards in the area.

Witnesses who arrived first confirmed the presence of traces of blood in front of the police officers' house, traces that were then allegedly covered up with ashes to distort the investigation.

II.2.2. RAPE/GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Three 16-year-old girls raped in Muhanga

Information received on June 17, 2025, reports that on June 3, 2025, on Kanyundo hill, located in Muhanga zone and commune, a 16-year-old girl named D. C., daughter of N. J., whose father is deceased, was raped by her employer, Nkunuzimana Josué, a 31-year-old married

man. This act took place in the absence of her boss, and the alleged perpetrator fled, having disappeared since that day. The case is currently before the prosecutor's office. The girl received medical treatment at Muhanga CDS.

II.2.2. RAPE/GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (continued from page 19)

The same source states that on May 28, 2025, on Masama II hill in Muhanga zone, in the new Butanyerera province, a 16-year-old girl named N.E., a student at ECOFO Masanze, from Rugamba hill, was raped by a 51-year-old man, Emmanuel Ntirujinama, a farmer from the same hill.

According to local reports, police officers on patrol entrusted the victim to this man to take her to the hill head's house, but he took the opportunity to abuse her in a bean field. The alleged perpetrator escaped and is nowhere to

be found, according to Benoît Ndayizeye, the communal administrator of Muhanga.

This information also indicates that on the same date, a girl named I.I., from Mbogwe hill, was raped by Roger Irambona, a 48-year-old resident of Musama hill. The victim was attacked while searching for firewood. The alleged assailant was arrested and jailed in Muhanga communal cell, while the victim was taken to Musema hospital for treatment.

A girl raped in Kayanza, Butanyerera province

Information received by Ligue Iteka indicates that on June 3, 2025, a girl named Nsabimana Marcelline from Karunyinya hill in Kayanza commune was raped by a 27-year-old man named Niyonkuru Vianney.

Information provided by the victim indicates that the alleged perpetrator attacked her as she was returning to Munini to buy food. Since the alleged perpetrator denies the facts, he has

not been arrested, pretexting that he is a member of Imbonerakure youth Ligue and is protected by Nzobonimpa, deputy secretary of the party in Kayanza commune. Ntakarutimana Léonidas and Nduwimana Venantie, the victim's parents, demand that justice be done and that the perpetrator of the rape of their child be punished according to the law.

A 16-year-old girl raped by a pastor in Muhanga, Butanyerera Province

Information received from local sources on June 18, 2025, indicates that a girl named Uwimana Nadège from Murambi sub-hill on Masanze hill was raped on June 1, 2025, by Nduwimana Éric, a pastor of Vyizigiro Church.

Local reports indicate that the victim was invited by this pastor when he told her he had a message for her from God. The victim was taken to Gahombo Hospital for treatment, and the alleged perpetrator was taken to Muhanga communal cell.

II.2.2. RAPE/GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (continued from page 20)

A girl raped with the complicity of local authorities in Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province

On Mugozi hill, in Cankuzo zone and commune, Buhumuza province, 16-year-old N.G., daughter of 47-year-old M.D. and 38-year-old N.C., was raped by Misago Marc, 39, a father of five, a farmer, a drummer, and one of the community organizers at Mugozi Catholic Church branch.

The incident occurred in the bush while the victim was working in her field for a salary of 5,000 Bif per day on February 13, 2025. The imbonerakure, who were monitoring them, reportedly witnessed the act. These Imbonerakure, including Nyetereye Christophe, Nzeye Gédéon, Bukatari Sylvestre, Cyprien Bironka, and Ndaruzaniye, in collaboration with Mugozi hill head, Hakizimana Ezéchiél, demanded a bribe of 160,000 Bif from the attacker to avoid prosecution. This leader and the Imbonerakure intimidated the victim to remain silent or be killed. To avoid arrest, Marc Misago contacted his friend Batakanwa Sylvestre to bring the 160,000 Bif for him.

However, the news started spreading among community organizers as a rumor. The victim's mother, accompanied by these organizers, took her daughter to Cankuzo Hospital for a medical examination on April 21, 2025. Tests revealed that the victim was pregnant.

Faced with the situation, Marc Misago, worried, fled to Kumoso village, on Nyamugari hill, in Cendajuru commune. However, he received a call from Mugozi hill head and the Imbonerakure, who promised to protect him

from any prosecution, assuring him that no danger would come without their approval.

Nevertheless, the case was brought to the attention of the Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Development (formerly CDFC). An advisor from this institution, Samuel, alerted OPJ Abel. Together, they went to Mugozi hill to arrest Marc Misago, who has since spent a month in Cankuzo provincial police station cell. The case is progressing slowly, still in the hands of this OPJ, which is causing concern.

Since Marc Misago's imprisonment, the victim's family has been subjected to repeated threats from the hill head and the Imbonerakure, who even accuse them of sorcery on the hill, of wanting to disrupt the elections, of destroying Mugozi drummers' group, and of humiliating the community organizers at Mugozi Health Center. They are demanding that the victim's mother's presence on Mugozi hill be ended, or even that she be physically eliminated.

On Wednesday, June 18, 2025, Mugozi hill head organized a meeting with all the women in the community. Among the participants was the victim's mother, along with the other women. The meeting began at 4:00 p.m. A single topic was on the agenda: the public accusations against the victim's mother to justify why Marc Misago should not be imprisoned. Godeberthe, Bakenyerarugamba women's representative in the commune, was also present.

After 6:00 p.m., amidst threats, N.C. managed to escape in the darkness by crossing a euca-

II.2.2. RAPE/GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (continued from page 21)

lyptus wooded area. She was found by her husband, hiding in the bush, thanks to a phone call.

The next day, Thursday, June 19, 2025, the couple, accompanied by their victimized daughter, went to the province authority to report the threats they were receiving from the hill head. They were received by several officials, including the Governor's legal advisor, and were escorted to the public prosecutor's office by Samuel, advisor to the CDFC, to defend Marc Misago's case before the judicial authorities.

Rape at school in Busiga zone, Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province

Since June 13, 2025, Maniragaba Joseph, the secretary of Busiga High School, has been jailed, accused of distributing third-term exams (by telephone) to Ch. L. I, N. L, and N. D, three young girls from the same school.

According to witnesses, he gave these exams in exchange for sex. The three students have been definitely expelled from school. Jean Pierre Ndikuryayo, DPE Ngozi, confirms this information, specifying that he is continuing the related investigations.

A woman beaten by her husband in Kiganda commune, Gitega province.

On June 17, 2025, on Bupfunda hill, Kiganda commune, Gitega province, K. E. aged 22, daughter of B. and N., was seriously beaten by her husband, B. Ph., aged 29, a farmer and member of Imbonerakure.

Just six months into their marriage, the couple started suspecting each other, accusing the other of having a partner. Thus, on June 17, around 7 p.m., the wife surprised her husband sharing a drink with a young woman and began insulting her in front of everyone.

He immediately picked up a stool and threw it forcefully at his wife. She suffered a serious injury to her forehead and fainted. She was taken to Kiganda hospital.

According to local sources, her husband left the next morning and remains missing.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

A CNL party member harassed by Imbonerakure in Kayanza

In Murima zone, on Murima hill in Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, Nimbona Gérard is facing intimidation from CNDD FDD party members because of his vote for CNL.

Indeed, passing to the polling station, as in other polling stations, there was an order to vote in complete transparency, and Gérard expressed his choice for CNL by saying: "I am known as a member of CNL party, so I vote for CNL in front of all of you."

After the election results were announced, the Imbonerakure in Murima zone began to attack Gérard.

Currently, he lives under death threats and no longer sleeps at home. His wife is regularly questioned about her husband's whereabouts, and she too is scared in the face of these threats.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Muyogo tourist hub diverted by authorities in Makamba commune

In the new Burunga province, Muyogo site, officially intended to become a key tourist hub, is being transformed into a private housing estate for senior administrative and police officials of the same province.

Inaugurated in late 2024 by the governor of the former Makamba province, Tantine Ncutinamagara, the site was to shelter historical monuments in tribute to Burundi's independence, national unity, Prince Louis Rwagasore, President Melchior Ndadaye, as well as emblematic Burundian kings such as Ntare Rushatsi Cambarantama and Mwezi Gisabo.

A multi-purpose sports field was also planned to relieve the pressure on the only existing sports space in this province. But today, the situation is desolate: the urbanization plan established by the Burundian Office of Urban Planning, Housing, and Construction

(OBUHA) and the communal technical services has been deliberately violated. Several local authorities, including the governor, his advisors, communal administrators, regional and provincial commissioners, and CNDD-FDD party officials, have divided up a large portion of the site to build private homes.

Internal sources claim that these authorities justified their actions to the President arguing that their term is ending and that it is unacceptable for them to go "empty-handed."

This decision has angered Makamba residents, who point out that many already developed quarters have never benefited from public infrastructure: no playgrounds, no health centers, no markets, or even public dumps.

Each time, these lands are diverted to private interests. Citizens are calling for urgent intervention from the Head of State to stop these

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (continued from page 23)

land grabs and preserve the few remaining public spaces for the benefit of the entire population of Burunga province.

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMY

Laments linked to fertilizer shortages in Butanyerera province

As early as the growing season, the population of Kirundo and Busoni commune, Butanyerera province, started purchasing chemical fertilizer (FOMI: Imbura, totahaza, and bagara).

But the distribution was not perfect, or it was delivered in small quantities, arrived too late, and the yield was not good. Even in season, the quantity distributed is not equitable compared to the orders placed and paid for. Sea-

son C begins with undelivered vouchers from Season B. FOMI distributors in the zones organized the collection of vouchers owned by farmers.

Requisitions were made at the governor's office but nothing was done. Some refused to hand over their vouchers fearing for potential fraud.

Discrimination in the distribution of SOSUMO sugar

The trader, Bompanokira Severin, provincial sugar manager, CNDD-FDD member, aged 62, distributed sugar from Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 5 p.m., and Friday, June 20, 2025, at 11 a.m.

What greatly worries us is that he asks customers to bring their voter's cards and gives

them to those who have voted. He doesn't give them to those who don't have one, but for the Imbonerakure and other known CNDD-FDD members, he doesn't ask for these cards.

Price rise of necessities in Gisuru and Mishiha communes, Buhumuza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka dated June 20, 2025, indicates that residents of Gisuru and Gisagara communes, Buhumuza province, are concerned about price rise of necessities.

According to local sources, the harvest period is usually characterized by a significant drop in the prices of necessities, which was not the case this year. Instead of dropping, they continue to

rise, especially in the markets of Gisuru, Gisagara, Cendajuru, and Mishiha zones. The main cause is the high exchange rate of the Tanzanian currency (the shilling), and the population prefers to sell their products in Tanzania.

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMY (continued from page 24)

Price speculation in Buhiga commune, Gitega province

Since June 18, 2025, around 1 p.m., at Buhiga market, Buhiga zone, Karuzi commune, Gitega province, zone head Sindaruhuka Phocas, under the orders of Governor Nizigiyimana Dévotte, with the support of communal administrator Bacebaseme Therence, zone head, accompanied by a judicial police officer and police officers, searched the bars of the following people: Kwizera Bella, Gérard Muhitira, Véréne, and Cadeau, all members of CNDD-FDD. According to local witnesses, the purpose of this search was to investigate complaints about

the price increase of BRARUDI products. They found hidden Primus drinks in their stocks, while they say they have nothing left, while selling them to intimate customers at 5,000 Bif per bottle of Primus, 7,000 Bif for a 65 cl Amstel, 5,000 Bif for a small Amstel. 7 crates were taken from Bella, 4 from Cadeau, 5 from Gérard and 3 from Véréne, they were taken to the zone office and these bar owners were fined 100,000 Bif each, but the drinks have not yet been handed over.

IV. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS

IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

A child beaten by his employer in Kabezi, Bujumbura province

On June 15, 2025, a 13-year-old boy named Irishura Divin was assaulted, injuring his left eye.

In Kabezi commune, Bujumbura province, on Kabezi hill, a farmer named Kibido had assigned the child to oversee a tomato plantation. When the child felt hungry, he picked a

tomato to eat, but was seen by his alleged employer.

The employer brutally beat him with a stick, injuring the child's left eye, which risks partial blindness if no action is taken. The accused remains unpunished, while the child's eye continues to deteriorate.



Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ligue Iteka expresses its deep disagreement with the persistent deterioration of human rights in Burundi, while highlighting the impunity enjoyed by those responsible for criminal acts. The organization calls on the Burundian authorities to take concrete action to correct this alarming situation. In this context, several recommendations are addressed:

To the Government of Gitega:

- ◆ Protect 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.
- ◆ Ensure that existing laws are effectively enforced and that penalties are sufficiently severe to deter perpetrators of sexual violence.
- ◆ Implement education and awareness programs for youth, families, and the community on children's rights, the consequences of sexual violence, and the importance of protecting minors.
- ◆ Collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on child protection and combating sexual violence to strengthen prevention and victim support efforts.
- ◆ Guarantee and protect the rights of its citizens to express themselves freely on the country's socio-political life.

To the ruling party CNDD-FDD:

- Recognize that criticism and opposition are key elements of democracy and agree to engage in dialogue with opposition parties.
- Accept diversity of opinion and promote democratic principles as the basis for sustainable development.