



BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

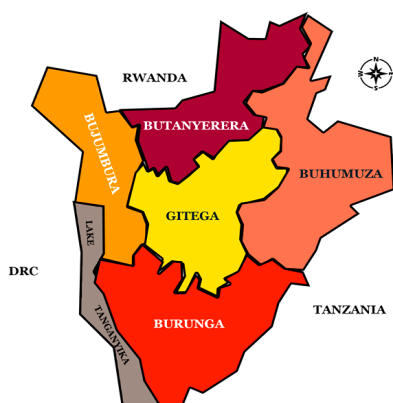
MONTHLY REPORT

"Iteka n'Ijambo"

Anyone should be respected

*Approved by Ministerial Statutory Instrument N°. 530/0273 of November 10th, 1994
revising Order N°. 550/029 of February 6th, 1991*

REPORT OF THE BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA" ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURUNDI IN JULY 2025.



In memory of Mrs. Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10th, 2015. From December 2015 to July 31st, 2025, at least 748 cases of enforced disappearances have been reported to the Iteka League.

: The ITEKA League:

- ♦ Is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human Rights and Peoples (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH),
- ♦ Has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236 and is a member of Ecosoc
- ♦ The Iteka League is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections.

TABLE OF CONTENT

ACCRONYMS ABBREVIATIONS	ii
0. INTRODUCTION	1
I. CONTEXT	2
I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT	2
I.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT	3
I.3. GOUVERNANCE CONTEXT	4
I.4. ÉCONOMIC CONTEXT	5
I.5. SECURITY CONTEXT	7
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL	8
II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE	8
II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES	8
II.1.2. KIDNAPPED AND DESAPPEARED PERSONS	9
II.2. MENTAL AND/OR PHYSICAL INTEGRITY RIGHTS	10
II.2.1 ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT	10
II.2.2. RAPE/VBG	12
II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM	13
II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS	13
III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS	14
III.1. DISTURBANCE OF ECONOMIC LIFE	14
III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION	16
III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH	16
IV. CATEGORIAL RIGHTS	17
IV.1. RIGHT OF THE CHILD	17
VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	19

ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

UNGA	: <i>United Nations General Assembly</i>
BRARUDI	: <i>Brasseries and Limonade of Burundi</i>
CDP	: <i>Council of Patriots</i>
CECI	: <i>Independent Communal Electoral Commission</i>
CENI	: <i>Independent National Electoral Commission</i>
CEPI	: <i>Independent Provincial Electoral Commission</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy - Defense Forces</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Freedom</i>
DESC	: <i>Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
FDLR	: <i>Democratic Liberation Front of Rwanda</i>
FRODEBU	: <i>Front for Democracy in Burundi</i>
ITABU	: <i>Burundi Agricultural Technical Institute</i>
OBR	: <i>Burundian Revenue Office</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
PNB	: <i>National Police of Burundi</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>
SNR	: <i>National Inquiry Service</i>
TGI	: <i>High Court</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>
VB	: <i>Polling Station</i>
GBV	: <i>Gender- Based Violence</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

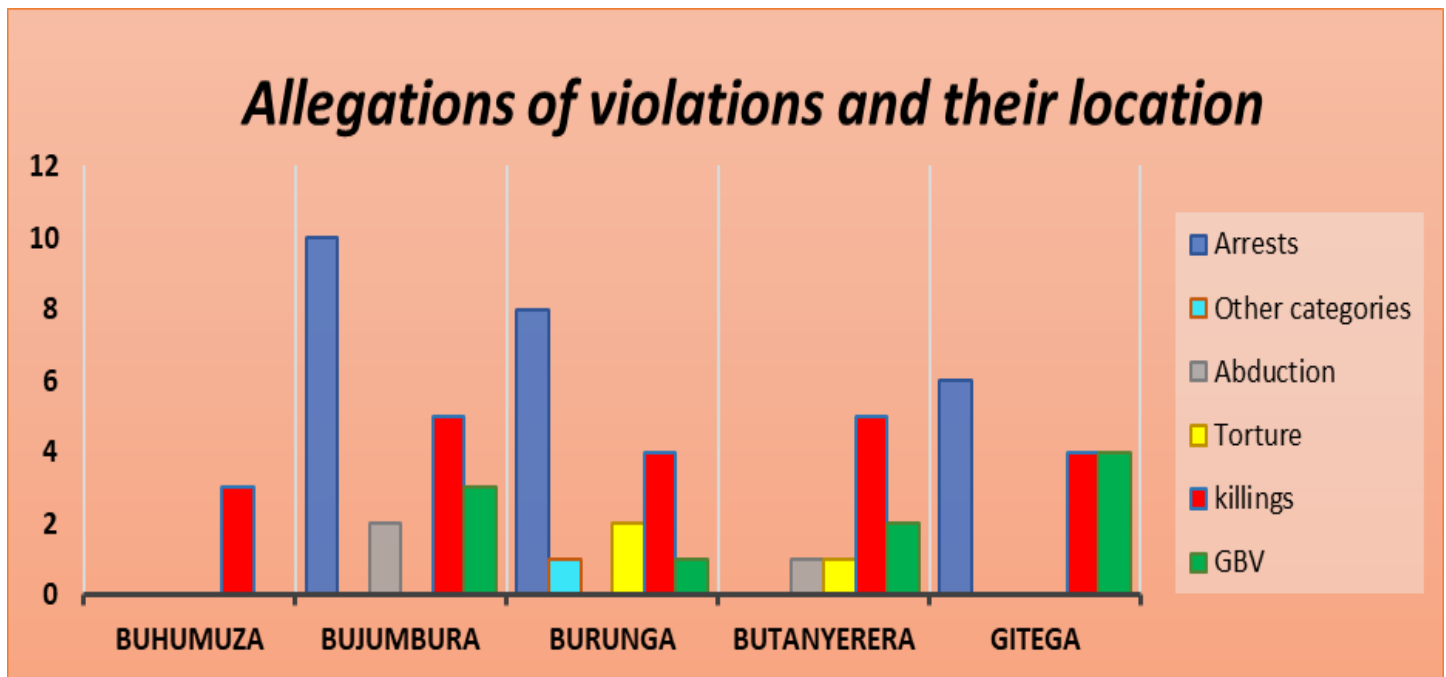
This monthly report for July 2025 is a summary of the Iteka and Ijambo weekly bulletins from issue numbers 481 to 485. This report addresses the political, judicial, governance, economic, and security contexts that characterized this period. It also covers civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights. The report concludes with findings and recommendations.

Therefore, the situation regarding civil and political rights during this reporting period was marked by: 21 people killed, 3 tortured, 3 abducted, 10 victims of gender-based violence, including 4 minor girls raped. 24 people were arbitrarily arrested and detained. It should be noted that during July, cases of mass arrests were reported, with over 230 people identified and arrested “commission agents for their work,” as well as followers of Eusébie in the Butanyerera province and 50 faithful from the Church. Pentecost in Burunga province.

Imbonerakure members, police officers, civil servants, and agents of the SNR are pointed out as presumed authors of most of these human rights violations and murders.

0.1 Mapping of the reported violations and their alleged perpetrators

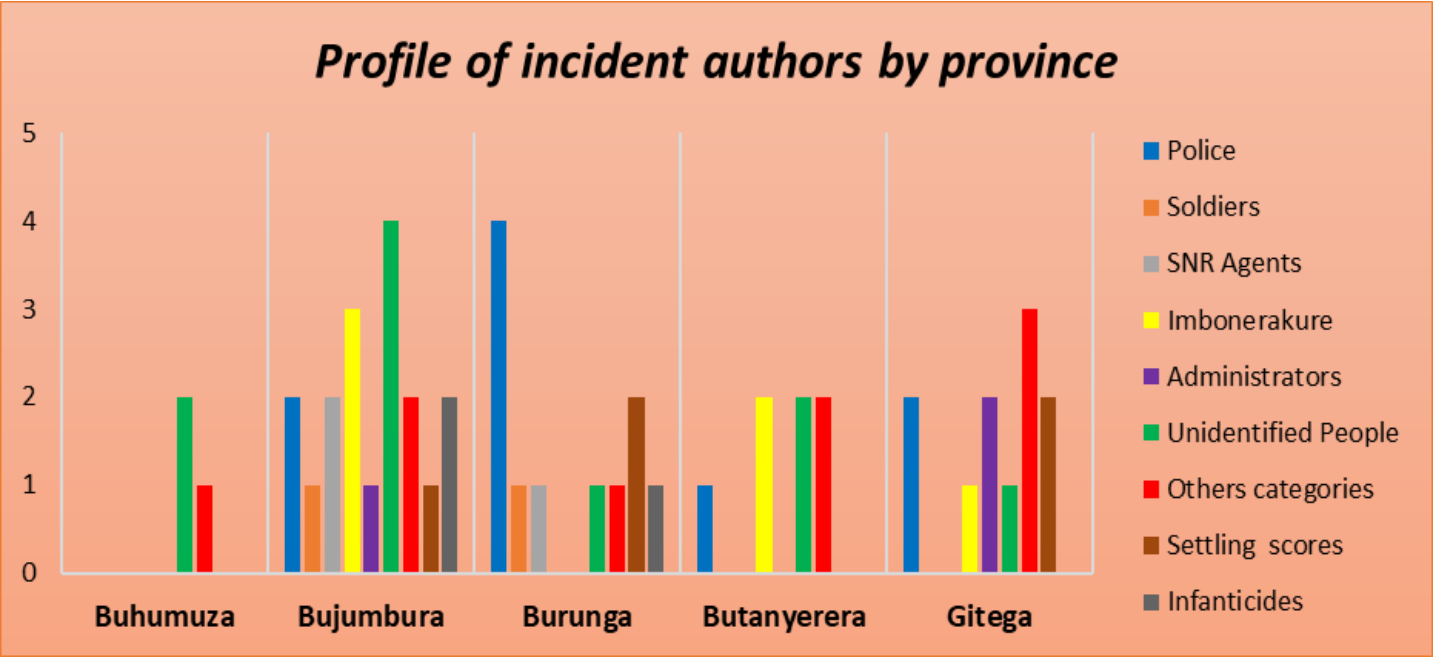
Figure 1 : Graph illustrating key cases of the human rights situation observed in Burundi during the month of July 2025



The graph above illustrates the 5 categories of violations in the 5 different provinces of the country, with Bujumbura having experienced the most allegations of human rights violations, totaling 20 cases, followed by Burunga with 16 cases, Gitega with 14 cases, Butanyerera with 9 cases, and finally Buhumuza with 3 cases. Thus, during the month of July 2025 covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded 62 cases of allegations of civil and political rights violations across the national territory. These allegations of human rights violations are divided into five main categories: 21 cases of voluntary homicide, 24 cases of individuals arbitrarily arrested, 10 cases of victims of VBG, including 6 victims of rape, 3 cases of individuals tortured, 3 cases of individuals kidnapped, and 1 case of an abandoned newborn. The province of Bujumbura stands out as the most affected, with a total of 20 cases (including 10 arrests, 5 homicides, 3 incidents of gender-based violence, 2 cases of abduction) alleged human rights violations, followed by the province of Burunga with 16 alleged human rights

violation cases of human rights (8 arrests, 4 homicides, 2 cases of torture, 1 case of GBV, and 1 case of child abandonment).

Figure 2 : Graph illustrating the main alleged authors of civil and political rights violations observed in Burundi during the month of July 2025



According to the graph, out of 42 cases of violations resulting in 62 victims (graph 1): 9 cases of violations were committed by police officers, 2 by the military, 3 cases by SNR agents, 6 by young Imbonerakure, 3 cases by administrative agents, 10 cases by unidentified individuals; 5 cases were related to settling scores and 3 cases of infanticide, and 9 cases fall into the category of others, involving private individuals, traders, domestic violence including gender-based violence (GBV).

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

The key events in the Burundian political context in July 2025 highlight complex and concerning dynamics. Notably, on July 31, the election of the new bureau of the National Assembly took place in the Kigobe chamber in Bujumbura. Daniel Gélase Ndabirabe was re-elected as president of the National Assembly, having received a large majority with 109 votes out of 111. Fabrice Nkurunziza, previously the second vice-president of the Senate, was elected first vice-president, while Nkezimana Bousessia was unanimously elected second vice-president. It is important to highlight that these elections took place without opponents, as the candidates were the only contenders. This situation was exacerbated by a session postponement decided on July 28, intended to revise internal regulations, without disrupting the planned election of the bureau on July 31.

In parallel, on July 26, the province of Buhumuza during a campaign against bushfires, initiated by the CNDD-FDD in response to a period of drought. The authorities, led by Governor Denise Ndarusehere, urged the population to get involved in the fight against various issues, while reminding citizens of the importance of respecting regulated prices. However, MP Shabani Nimubona delivered an alarming speech advocating for the physical elimination of individuals suspected of fraud or bushfires, a statement that, without reaction from the Public

Prosecutor, raises doubts about the independence of the judicial system in relation to the CNDD-FDD.

On another side, the population of Muyinga, like elsewhere in other municipalities, has faced a deterioration of its administration. Since the elections of June 2025, the prolonged absence of elected officials has plunged citizens into a state of uncertainty, making it difficult to obtain essential administrative documents. This accumulation of complaints illustrates distress in the face of a system meant to ensure the rights of citizens.

Regarding the administrative elections in Bujumbura province, unexpectedly, the communal administrator of Muhuta, Consolateur Nitunga, was replaced on July 28, 2025. This change raised questions about the controversial past of Philémon Ngoroyimana, the newly elected official, indicating internal destabilization within the CNDD-FDD. Furthermore, the province of Gitega has seen an increase in tensions following the emergence of dissenting pamphlets, creating an atmosphere of fear and mistrust. Concerns regarding the absence of administrators in many communes of Bujumbura reinforce this tension, as citizens face the inability to access vital administrative services, calling for a swift resolution of appointments.

Overall, the situation goes beyond administrative disputes; it reflects a suffering democracy, where equal treatment and the right to vote seem to be gradually dissolving. In the province of Burunga, a festive climate followed the ousting of an old governor perceived as repressive, highlighting local aspirations in the face of a reality that is often disappointing. Despite the joy of having a new governor, the paths to democracy seem to be narrowing, revealing an urgent need for collective awareness and action to claim fundamental rights.

The dysfunctions within municipal administrations and a failure to respect electoral promises raise questions about the transparency and inclusiveness of electoral processes at the national level. Doubts are emerging regarding the ability of the existing systems to meet the expectations of the population, thereby amplifying social, economic, and political issues. Voices are calling for significant change, where every citizen could reclaim their place in local governance, free from intolerance and exclusion.

1.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

The judicial context of Burundi in July 2025 is marked by several notable events. First, the High Court of Rutana delivered a significant verdict during a flagrant trial, sentencing Havyarimana Emmanuel and Eric Irankunda to 15 years of hard labor for armed robbery. These individuals, residents of Gihofi in the Bukemba area, were apprehended while stealing goods from a merchant in the Kigwati neighborhood. In addition, Melchiade Ndayisenga and Léonidas Niragira, from the Rongerero hill in the Rutana commune, were sentenced to seven years of incarceration for their involvement in the same type of crime. It is important to note that these four defendants had recently served time in prison for similar offenses or serious crimes such as murder. The financial impact of their acts includes compensation of 400,000 francs to be paid to the merchant who was the victim of the incidents.

Furthermore, a tragic case of infanticide has been brought before the judicial system. An octogenarian woman, a resident of Nyamurunga was arrested for the alleged poisoning of her child, following an incident that occurred on June 17. The prosecutor's office in Rumonge must now handle this case, and residents are demanding harsh sanctions.

The High Court of Bujumbura issued a verdict regarding a massacre that took place in Gasarara, where six people were killed by alleged members of the ruling party, CNDD-FDD. The circumstances surrounding this massacre raise questions about the independence of the Burundian justice system as well as the respect for human rights issues, considering that the victims suffered extreme violence. This context of impunity and allegations of complicity from the authorities paints a troubling picture of the state's capacity to hold accountable those responsible for such acts.

On July 10, a 22-year-old man, Pascal Hakizimana, was sentenced to five years in prison for human trafficking, in a case that underscores the persistence of this phenomenon in Burundi. He was apprehended with minors while attempting to transport them illegally to Tanzania.

Regarding particularly violent cases, Ndayikengurukiye Béatrice was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing her husband, while three individuals, including police officers, have been incarcerated in Ngozi for the death of Donatien Nduwimana. This latter case highlights the potential abuse of power within security forces and the need to ensure fair and transparent trials.

Another evident case of severity is that of Eddy Émile Nkurunziza, sentenced to ten years in prison for the rape of a minor, a crime that the court treated with the utmost severity. Justice seems to be striving to address these violations while effectively managing the underlying social and economic consequences.

In conclusion, the key events of this month reveal not only the ongoing challenges within the Burundian judicial system but also its efforts to address serious crimes. The cases discussed here highlight the urgent need for systemic reforms to ensure not only justice but also the protection of human rights in Burundi.

1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

The governance context in Burundi in July 2025 is marked by significant events. The residents of Rumonyi, in Bururi, express an emergency need for electricity for their safety. complaints come from people who have requested an electrical supply for over a decade, with no concrete results, leading to consequences such as children abandoning night studies and an increase in crime. Many development projects are stalled due to this lack of electricity, and requests for the installation of electric meters remain unanswered, leaving residents feeling cheated. They urge REGIDESO to deal with their situation, particularly noting that other regions are benefiting from improvements in this area.

At the same time, rising tensions are felt between the police and the Burundian Revenue Office (OBR) in the south. On July 21, an incident occurs during a security meeting led by Governor Parfait Mboninyibuka, aimed at combating tax fraud. Commissioner Jérôme

Ntibibogora accuses the OBR of irregularities, claiming that nearly 45 million Burundian francs have gone missing. He accuses the tax organization of not cooperating with the police and obstructing investigations, raising concerns about its transparency. The OBR, through the voice of Florian Bukeyeneza, refutes these accusations and claims that it does not possess the necessary information.

Two days later, the regional head of the OBR denies the rumors of missing funds. At the same time, traders from Rumonge and Makamba denounce complicit police officers in fraudulent activities involving the passage of goods. These accusations create divisions within the police, with some officers criticizing the commissioner for his public remarks.

In this crisis, the governor calls for accountability from all parties involved. He warns against any illicit collusion and promises sanctions for those who violate the law. This climate of distrust threatens to exacerbate the fight against tax fraud, and the lack of clarity and accountability from the authorities intensifies suspicions.

Entrepreneurs in Burunga are also facing discontent due to banking restrictions on withdrawals, with amounts exceeding one million Burundian francs being systematically refused, and withdrawals at COOPEC being even more limited. These restrictions have significant economic consequences, such as hoarding, reducing bank deposits, and threatening the viability of certain banks. Customers have deemed this situation problematic for four months, hindering development projects and complicating financial transactions. The reasons for this crisis remain unclear, but the potential impacts already indicate a significant stagnation in activities and a decline in tax revenues.

1.4. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The month of July 2025 experienced a tumultuous economic atmosphere in Burundi, illustrated by a poignant incident that took place in the streets of Bujumbura. On July 10, an infant was abandoned in the Gahahe neighborhood of the Ntahangwa commune. This notable event reveals a troubling reality: a young girl is slightly surprised when a stranger entrusts her with the baby before disappearing into the night. Odette Niyonkuru, a resident of Gahahe, reports that a mysterious figure entered her home around 6 PM and asked her daughter to take the baby. This case of abandonment cannot be reduced to a mere news item; it is symptomatic of alarming poverty and both economic and social distress that compel young mothers to part with their children for survival.

Simultaneously, between July 14 and 20, the government is intensifying its efforts to raise the necessary funds for the implementation of the 2025-2026 finance law. The Honorable Nestor Ntahontuye, Minister of Finance, has initiated several ordinances aimed at mitigating a budget deficit exceeding 436 billion Burundian francs. These new provisions, validated by the National Assembly, foresee an increase in the state budget to 5,227.06 billion BIF, representing a 10.5% increase compared to the previous year. However, the Court of Auditors expresses concerns about an excessive dependence on domestic financing, warning that this could harm the private sector by holding crucial resources for its development.

The enacted ordinances address various aspects of administrative and economic management, among which some establish reporting standards on public assets and others regulate property taxes in urban areas, while reflecting a desire for oversight. However, one ordinance of particular attention concerns the establishment of a special contribution to fund initiatives in the educational and health sectors. Although it appears to offer solutions to address shortages of school supplies, this measure raises questions about its implementation, oscillating between voluntary participation and compulsory levies, raising concerns about potential forced collections by entities of civil society.

Meanwhile, concerns are emerging from the municipality of Butihinda, where illegal gold mining is disrupting public order. The hot nights of July 17 are marked by the arrest of groups of individuals supposedly enforcing the law, who seem to be akin to bandits, in association with military personnel tasked with securing the mining sites. The latter, caught off guard by vigilant citizen intervention, find themselves incarcerated along with their accomplices, while the authorities investigate the ramifications of this case.

A particularly disturbing decision for road users was made on July 23, when the new governor of the Buhumuza province decreed the prohibition of fuel sales on the black market. This unexpected measure hits hard a population dependent on this practice to cope with a fuel shortage, making daily life increasingly difficult for many residents. The price increases combined with journeys made difficult by this crisis are exacerbating collective anxiety.

An alarming situation is becoming even clearer with the announcement of a tax increase on the sale of pets in the province of Gitega, where costs are reaching new heights, severely affecting households' purchasing power. While citizens are struggling against this rising inflation, a feeling of despair is settling across the country.

Moreover, this announcement in July regarding the tax increase has worsened the situation, as since July 28, the fuel shortage has caused an unprecedented slowdown in economic activities. Travelers find themselves trapped, desperately waiting for a means of transport, while their businesses and daily lives are threatened with collapse. Complaints are multiplying and stories of an existence that has become a nightmare are intensifying around bus stations/bus parking lots, painting a picture of desolation and urgency. The struggle to restore some normalcy is beginning to emerge, as a variety of actors attempt to respond to this widespread economic paralysis affecting Burundi.

1.5. SECURITY CONTEXT

In July 2025, Burundi experiences a series of tragic and concerning events that deeply mark its security landscape. The story begins on June 30, in the municipality of Ngozi, in the lively neighborhood of Kigarama. On that day, unpredictably, a wall under construction abruptly collapses, crushing two neighboring houses and causing devastating loss of life. Among the victims, an infant under one year old loses their life, while a man, displaying extraordinary courage, tries to rescue his two children from the rubble but sustains serious injuries. Emergency services quickly respond, transporting the injured to Ngozi Hospital for urgent care. This tragic event leaves an indelible mark on the community, now grieving.

In an equally troubling context, the actions of the government of Evariste Ndayishimiye raise concerns and despair in the Democratic Republic of Congo: in Masisi-South Kivu, the lives of many Burundian civilians seem compromised due to gold mining activities. For more than a year, the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo has been the scene of an armed conflict where the Burundian army stands alongside the Imbonerakure militias. Over 100,000 refugees are fleeing this chaos, finding refuge in Burundi, Rwanda, Zambia, and Uganda. Figures such as Prime Niyongabo and Ildephonse Habarurema are associating with Evariste to intensify the recruitment of Burundian gold miners, hoping to gather a thousand workers for the trafficking of minerals, particularly gold in Misisi. This recruitment support, orchestrated with the help of the FDLR, raises serious concerns about human rights violations in an already deteriorated context.

The account of events continues on July 10, where in Gashanga in the commune of Karusi, the anger of a group of villagers is expressed violently. Accused of witchcraft, Perpétue and Euphrasie are attacked in reaction to the tragic death of Evariste, a young man belonging to the CNDD FDD, who died the day before. Despite the intervention of authorities and reporting to the police, this explosion of violence reveals deep-seated tensions within the community, exacerbated by superstitious beliefs and a desire for popular justice. On July 11, in Rusororo-Mugina, the situation becomes more alarming with armed clashes related to gold panning. Rumors circulate about armed men, allegedly belonging to the FDLR, crossing the Ruhwa River towards the Kibira forest. An undeniable escalation of violence looms, reinforced by the increasing involvement of members of Evariste's regime in gold mining, transforming this once civil activity into a real state operation. On July 18, the tragic death of Ndikumana, which occurred during an extraction accident, sparked outrage over the dangers associated with gold panning.

In response to this spiral of violence, a peace and security awareness session was organized on July 17 in the commune of Gisagara, to raise awareness among the population about the importance of peace, following the recent murders. On the same day, the return of Mateso, a man accused of a murder dating back to 2007, raises concerns. His return, orchestrated by a member of the CNDD-FDD, is seen as an intimidation tactic ahead of the local elections.

On July 23, a new tragic incident struck in Cibitoke: a grenade attack resulted in one fatality and seriously wounded three others, highlighting the sharp rise in security tensions. Investigations are underway, But the atmosphere remains tense.

These events stand out as a turbulent chapter, marking a climate of increasing insecurity in Burundi, where calls for justice and protection are becoming more emergency.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

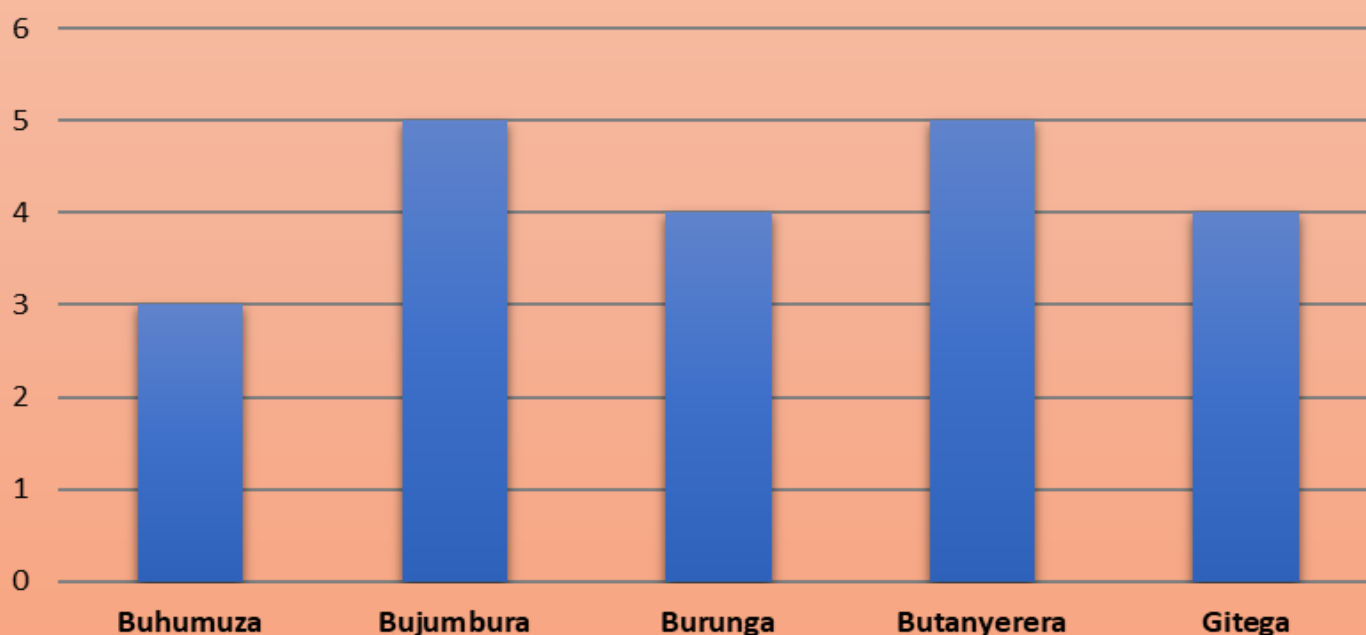
Burundi is one of the countries that adhere to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1965) and its Optional Protocol (1976) without any reservations on May 9, 1990. In the context of its implementation, Burundi has taken measures in its domestic legislation, mainly in its constitution of June 7, 2018 (Main Law), in Article 19, which guarantees that all rights proclaimed and guaranteed by regularly ratified international texts are an integral part of this constitution. Implementation texts have been established, including the Penal Code of December 29, 2017, and the Code of Criminal Procedure of May 11, 2018, and other institutions for the protection of human rights in Burundi have been created.

II.1. RIGHTS TO LIFE

II.1.1. Murder

During the period covered by this report, a total of 21 cases of intentional homicides were recorded by the Iteka League across the entire territory, among which 15 are men and 6 are women. Of these cases, eight people were killed by unidentified individuals and/or found dead; five were attributed to police officers and one case to administrators; one case to Imbonerakures; four cases occurred in the context of settling scores, and two cases were infanticides. The provinces most affected are Bujumbura and Gitega with 5 and 4 cases respectively, while Buhumuza and Burunga come in third with 3 cases each. Regarding the victims, Bujumbura and Butanyerera are equal with 5 killed, then Gitega and Burunga with 4 killed each. In third place is Buhumuza with 3 victims.

Persons killed by province



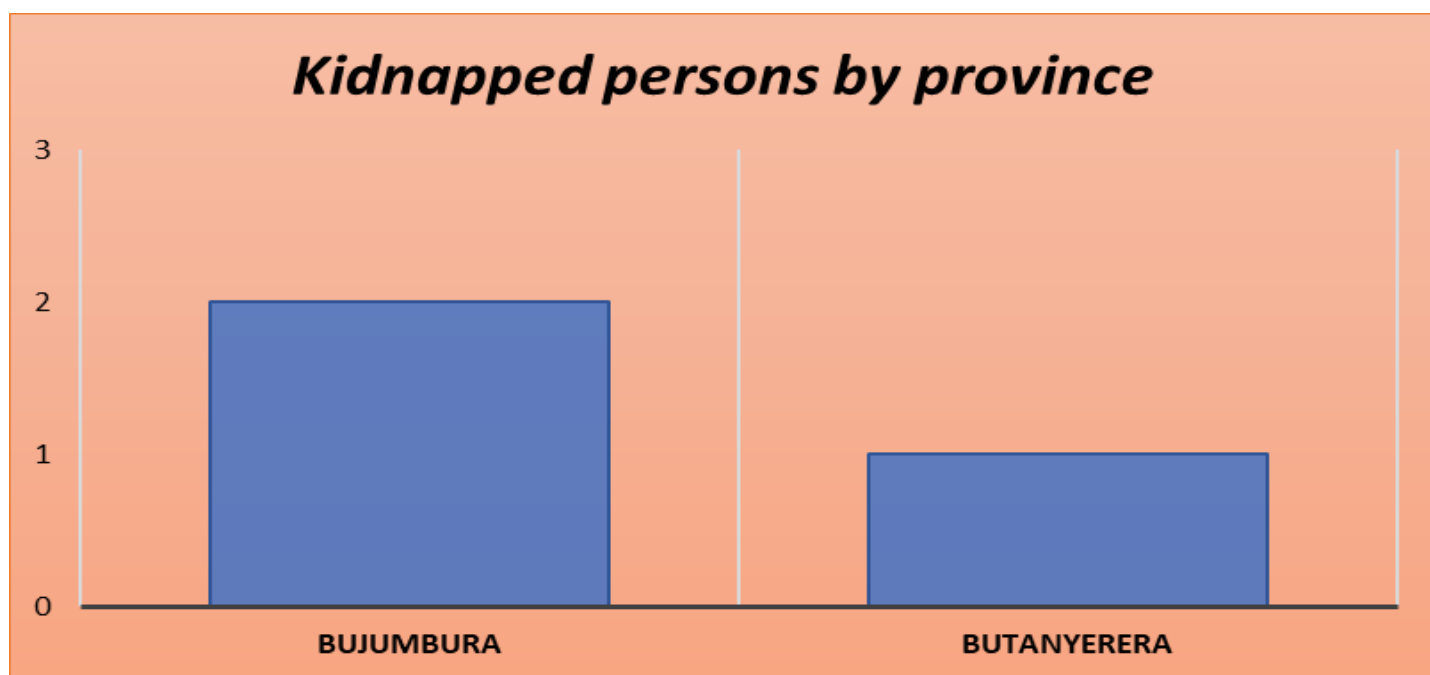
Illustrative examples:

Ex 1: As of July 31, 2025, at 9 a.m., in the kanyaru marshes, on Nyakarama hill, Kiyonza zone and Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province, four Rwandans were killed by police officers. According to witnesses, Rwandans liked to cross the borders through the kagera to look for grass for their cattle and police officers went there without uniforms but with rifles. The latter shot at these Rwandans who were cutting the grass for the cattle and three died on the spot. The other was captured alive and had his legs amputated. The bodies of these victims were thrown into the Kagera River and the bodies were recovered by the Rwandans at the place called Kw'ibuye about a hundred meters from where they were dumped. The bodies were moved by the Rwandan ambulance

Ex 2: On July 29, 2025, on the Kigabwe hill, Nyamugari hill, Gitara area, Nyanza commune, Burunga province, the lifeless bodies of Georgette NISHIMWE and Jeanine NYABENDA were found in a ditch located on this hill. According to local witnesses, they were searching for firewood in the Rubungo nature reserve and were chased by the guards of this forest, including Ndikumana Luc, Ndayikeza Eric, and Hasharizimana Jean Claude, all members of the Imbonerakure and active in monitoring the natural forests of the region. The same sources indicate that these young women died after falling into a ditch while fleeing from these environmental protection personnel who were pursuing them in order to catch them. Serge NIBAYUBAYE, head of the Gitara zone, specified that two people are already in the hands of the judicial police of Mabanda for investigative reasons. The remains of the two women have been transferred to the health center of Musenyi, still in the Gitara area, for a medical examination to determine the exact causes of their death.

II.1.2. PEOPLE KIDNAPPED AND/OR MISSING

The Constitution of Burundi guarantees all individuals a fair trial, as well as a hearing and judgment within a reasonable time, as stipulated in Article 38. The Iteka League has recorded 3 abductions, including a lawyer who was abducted and then released, a policeman, and a retired former soldier, with all cases recorded in the province of Bujumbura and Butanyerera.



Illustrative examples:

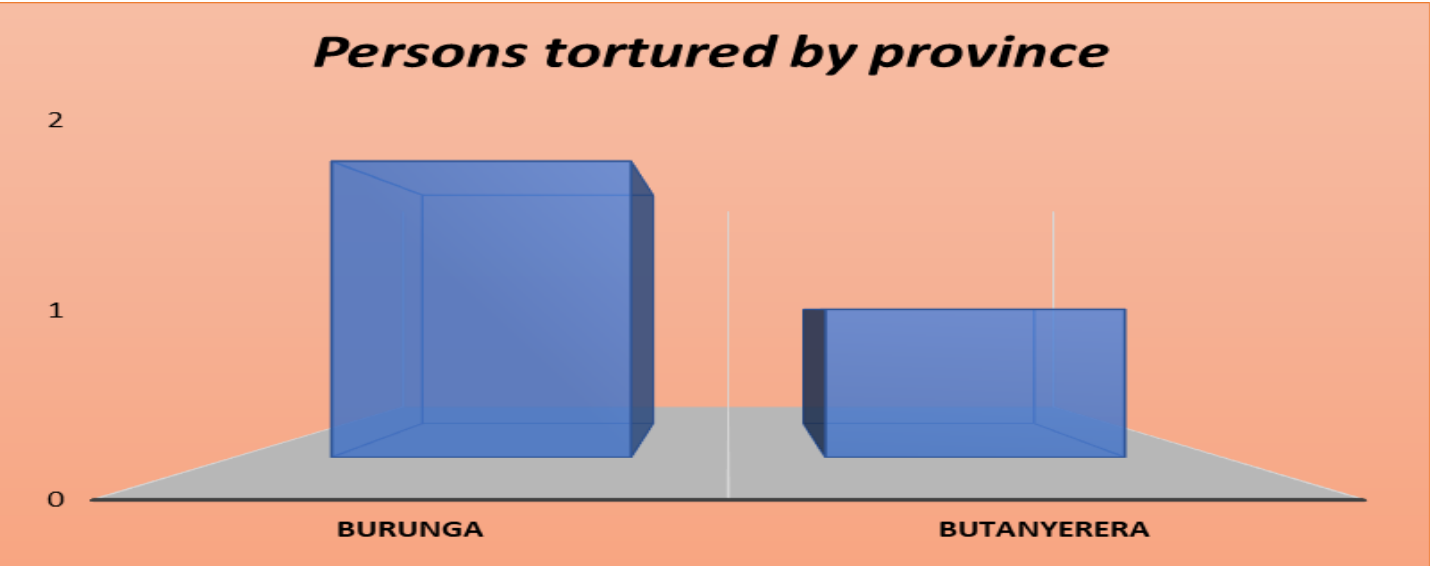
Ex1: The Iteka League was alerted to the disappearance of a man named Désiré NDAYISENGA on July 27, 2025, a retired soldier who was living peacefully on Kirema Hill. In the evening, while Mr. NDAYISENGA was talking with friends at a place called Kwi Barrière, he reportedly received a phone call, which led him to take his motorcycle, his usual means of transport. Before leaving, he is said to have informed one of his friends that he was going to visit another friend, according to what our source claims. Since that fateful moment, there has been no news of him, and his family and loved ones are in anguish over the uncertainty. No sign of life has been found, and even his motorcycle remains missing. The family has therefore made an emergency request to the relevant authorities for a thorough investigation to be conducted to uncover what happened to their loved one. Furthermore, some are suggesting a troubling theory, suggesting that Désiré may have been the victim of a scheme orchestrated by the National Inquiry Service (SNR).

Ex2: On July 24, 2025, the Iteka League received information regarding the disappearance of Claver BAKUNDUKIZE, a 42-year-old police officer assigned to the General Inspectorate of the National Police, located in Ngagara. He disappeared on July 9, 2025. Originally from the Ndagó hill, Buraza commune, within the province of Gitega, he lived in Buyenzi camp, also known as 1st GMIR. A former member of the Ex-FAB, had joined the ranks of the police following the reforms made. At the beginning of July, Claver had taken a week off to return to his native hill. He was scheduled to return to Bujumbura on July 9 to resume his duties. On that day, Claver left Gitega, but he never arrived at his destination. His attempts to contact by phone went unanswered. On July 10, the family, increasingly alarmed by the situation, tried to reach him numerous times, but without success. The anxiety is growing within Claver BAKUNDUKIZE's family, who fear he may have been the victim of a criminal act on the road connecting Gitega to Bujumbura.

II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

The Burundian Constitution in its article 21 states that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment." In addition, Law No. 1/04 of June 27, 2016 on the protection of victims defines the rights of victims and provides measures to protect their physical and mental integrity. This clearly shows the country's commitment to protecting the physical integrity of its citizens.

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



A total of 3 cases of torture were recorded by the Iteka League throughout the country during the period covered by this report. Of these cases, one case was attributed to members of the Imbonerakure, one case to SNR agents and 1 case attributable to police officers. The cases were reported in Burunga and Butanyerera provinces.

Illustrative examples:

Ex1: A 12-year-old schoolboy tortured by an intelligence agent in Nyanza, Nyanza commune of Burunga province

On July 15, 2025, a serious incident occurred in the urban center of Kabondo, in the commune of Nyanza, province of Burunga. Indeed, a 12-year-old student, named Steve, was the victim of intentional assault and battery inflicted publicly by Janvier, an agent of the National Inquiry Service (SNR) assigned to the Nyanza area.

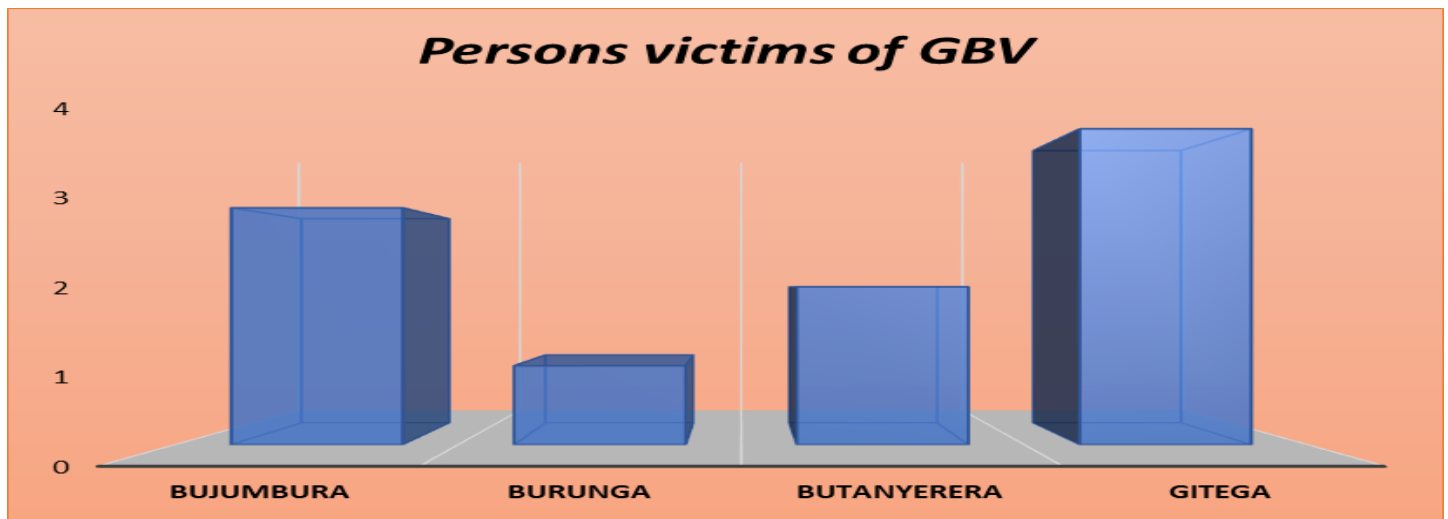
The facts took place when the child was asked to go and buy an item in a shop, an order placed by agent Janvier himself. The student was unable to find the requested item for reasons beyond his control and was violently physically assaulted by this officer on his return. Worse still, the child was forcibly taken to the dungeon, where he was illegally detained for several hours.

This act has sparked outrage among the local population, who see it as an alarming illustration of a regime based on force, fear, repression and disregard for basic human rights. Residents denounce abusive practices that recall the impunity enjoyed by some representatives of the security services, to the detriment of the dignity of citizens, including children.

Voices are beginning to be raised to call for an independent investigation, as well as exemplary sanctions against the perpetrator. The local organisations of fighting for children's rights reminds the security officer to take care to the security and the childrens protection against any kind of violence, included the state's agents.

Ex:2: On July 30, 2025, around 7 PM, Charles Niyomwungere, a 32-year-old trader working in the capital of the Bururi commune in Burunga province, originally from Gitwaro hill (formerly Vyanda commune) in Bururi, who currently resides in the Gisuru neighborhood, was beaten up by police corporal Déo Niyomwungere aka Mwarabu A T of lieutenant-colonel Mazuru, deputy commissioner of the Bururi and Matana communes. According to this young man, the incident took place at the old parking lot for public transport cars. While he was counting the money in his car, this police officer jumped on him and stole a total of 2,600,000 Burundian francs that he was about to deposit into his account at COOPEC Bururi. Groaning in pain, the victim was taken to the regional hospital of Bururi by a motorcyclist known by the nickname Wandani, who confirms having witnessed part of the scene. Charles is currently receiving medical care at this hospital. At the moment when the alleged perpetrator was even reported by this motorcyclist, it did not cause any concern. His family is asking for justice to be served.

II.2.2. RAPE/VBG



Among the 10 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) recorded nationwide, there are 4 victims of rape involving young girls under 18 years old. As for the perpetrators, 2 cases were committed by members of the Imbonerakure, the other seven cases were committed by individuals (notably merchants, domestic workers, neighbors of the victims, and domestic violence between spouses); while another case was committed by a police officer. Gitega province is at the top with 4 cases, followed by Butanyerera with 3 cases, Butanyerera in third place with 2 cases, and in last position Burunga with 1 case.

Illustrative examples:

Ex1: On July 16, 2025, a 15-year-old child was raped on Nyakibande hill, Isare commune, Bujumbura province around 3 p.m. The named N.I, 15 years old, is a daughter of N. J.D and N.M G, a student at Ecofo Mpinga in the 9th grade. On that day, she was looking for feed for the cattle when the alleged perpetrator, known as Harerimana Egide, came and raped her. The child did not hide what happened to him and told his parents everything. The victim received all the necessary care at the Rushubi hospital. As for the alleged perpetrator, he was arrested by the police and is currently detained in the communal dungeon of Isare.

Ex2: On July 24, 2025, information that reached the Human Rights League indicated that a girl named I. A.N from Ruziba, Kizingwe neighborhood, Mugere commune of Bujumbura province was raped by a 36-year-old man from the same locality who was arrested in Ruziba Kizingwe neighborhood Mugere commune in Bujumbura province was raped by a 36-year-old man from the same locality who was arrested in Ruziba kizingwe district in Mugere commune, Bujumbura province on July 21, 2025. The victim is a 9th grade student at RUZIBA fundamental school.

Indeed, Estella HABONIMANA and Ildephonse NIHOREHO , parents of this child, indicate that their child was invited by this man to his home without their knowledge and spent two days with him, from July 18 to 19, 2025. When he returned home on July 20, 2025, he was asked where he was, and she told everything that had happened. The child had all the necessary care at the Seruka Center and as for the alleged perpetrator, he is detained in the dungeon of the Kanyosha area.

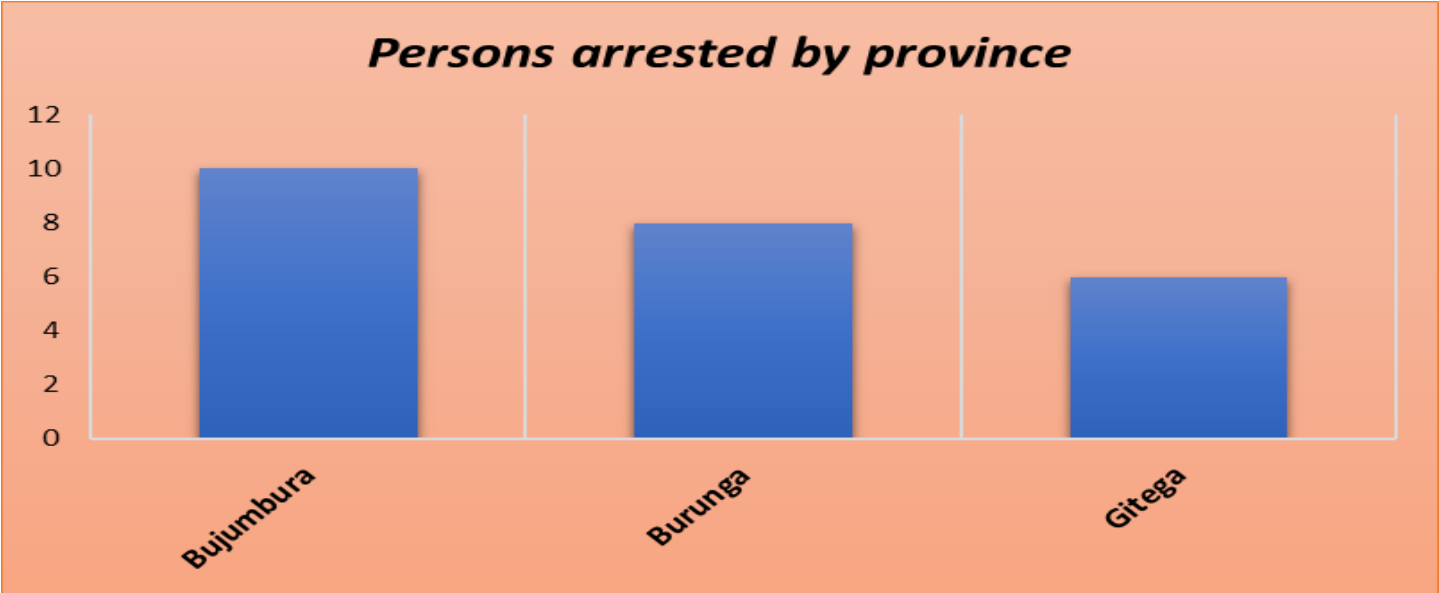
Ex3: Mrs. Fidès Nshimirimana , who is 34 years old and lives on Mwumba hill in the Gitondo area, Bugendana commune in the province of Gitega, was injured by her husband on the night of Monday, July 22, 2025. According to the neighbors, her husband Nibaruta Jean Marie hit her very violently, and her left eye is seriously injured. People who saw the scene say that the

violence occurred while Nibaruta was drunk, which they say often happens when he comes home drunk. In these moments, Fides often has to sleep elsewhere to protect himself.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

Article 21 of the Burundian Constitution guarantees the right to freedom and personal security. It states that 'No one may be arbitrarily arrested or detained.' The Burundian Penal Code regulates the conditions of preventive detention and provides safeguards to prevent arbitrary arrests and detentions.

II.3.1. ARRESTS AND ARBITRARY DETENTIONS



In total, 8 cases of arrests resulting in 24 victims were recorded across the country during the period covered by this report. Out of these cases, 10 were recorded in Bujumbura, 8 in Burunga, and 6 in Gitega. These acts are attributed to police in 4 cases and SNR agents in 1 case. The provinces of Bujumbura and Burunga lead with 4 cases and 3 cases respectively. In terms of the number of victims, Bujumbura is most affected with 10 people arrested, and Burunga has 8 victims. It should be noted that during this month of July, mass arrests have also been reported in Butanyerera involving more than 230 people, some of whom are commission agents and others are faithful of the Eusebie church in Businde, Kayanza commune. In Burunga province, in the Kayogoro area, 50 faithful of the Pentecostal Church were arrested in a group.

Illustrative examples:

Ex1: On July 29, 2025, the Burundian League for Human Rights Iteka received information indicating that on July 27, 2025, Laurent Ruboneka Musabwa, an employee of the DRC embassy, was arrested by agents of the National Intelligence Service, accompanied by police and military personnel.

This information indicates that on July 27, around 5 a.m., Burundian soldiers and police officers, some in civilian clothes, went to the residence of Laurent Ruboneka Musabwa, located in the Rohero area, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, and at 7 a.m., they entered and conducted a search but found nothing.

Laurent Ruboneka Musabwa then contacted his superiors at the embassy, who advised him not to comply until they arrived on the scene. Despite this, the inquiry agents forcibly took him away, in violation of international law concerning diplomatic representatives.

This arrest raised serious concerns within the Banyamulenge community as well as among international diplomatic circles.

On July 28, 2025, at around 4 a.m., in the Rohero neighborhood, Mukaza municipality, Bujumbura province, Félix Mweza, an employee of the embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo (RDC) In Bujumbura and a member of the Bashu community, he has been arrested at his home located in Rohero by Burundian intelligence services. Félix Mweza has been directly and discreetly handed over to Congolese authorities and is suspected of having collaborated with the rebel movement M23 and the Congo River Alliance (AFC). The two embassy agents were arrested and then transferred to Kinshasa on a special flight chartered by the Congolese government.

Example 2: Six arbitrarily detained individuals in Bubanza commune, Bujumbura province. On July 20, 2025, information reached the Iteka League, mentioning the detention of six individuals at the Mudubugu military camp, located in the Gihanga zone, Bubanza commune. Among them were three men, two women, and a young girl, all accused of illegally encroaching upon land recently annexed by the army to establish a military zone. Administrative sources and testimonies from the local population revealed that these individuals, some of whom were busy harvesting cassava while others were collecting firewood on land they had cultivated for generations, They would have been severely beaten by soldiers before their arrest.

Reactions were swift: residents and some local authorities expressed their shock at such mistreatment, especially since these lands had always been traditionally used by the community. The arrival of the military camp in Mudubugu has created considerable tensions, with residents reporting that more than ten civilians had already lost their lives, killed by the military since their installation. Despite numerous meetings to try to negotiate compensation for the loss of their lands, it seems that the compensations have not been distributed fairly. Many citizens denounce forced expropriation, without fair compensation or clear process, with compensations being allocated to a few administrative officials and high-ranking officials, leaving the majority of residents without compensation.

In this tumultuous context, a former local administrator of Gihanga, Mr. Léopold Ndayisaba, acknowledged that the lands originally belonged to the residents and stated that the state had requisitioned them with the promise of compensation. The Minister of National Defense, Mr. Alain Tribert Mutabazi, called for calm among the population, assuring that the steps for compensation were underway, while warning that any violation of the established agreements would lead to severe sanctions. Thus, the situation remains delicate and raises crucial questions about respect for human rights and land justice in this region. .

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

In July 2025, various elements highlight violations of economic rights in Burundi. The closing of the borders with Rwanda has led to an unprecedented economic decline. Residents of the localities of Ruhororo, Butahana, Nyamakarabo, and Rubona are feeling devastating effects, both socially and economically. This situation has led to the erosion of family ties between Burundians and Rwandans, complicating any form of communication with relatives on the other side of the border. Economically, access to the Rwandan market has been severely restricted, leaving these populations deprived of crucial supplies of various goods, including fuel, the scarcity of which is being felt, as well as cattle and SIM cards from the MTN and Tigo operators that provide reliable phone connectivity in these areas. Moreover, human rights abuses are increasing, with reported cases of kidnappings and ransom demands against those

attempting to cross the border. Among the tragic incidents is the murder of two imbonerakure, young men from the Nyamakarabo hill, that occurred on June 19, 2025, after they were falsely accused of selling coffee in Rwanda. This crime, Eluded by the administrative authorities, this seems to be the result of a maneuver orchestrated by intelligence agents, the governor of the former Cibitoke province, as well as by officials of the CNDD-FDD and local leaders, who only favor their allies or those who provide them with benefits. The underlying reasons for this murder seem to stem from the victims' opposition to the repression faced by the rest of the population. Likewise, individuals visiting their relatives are also arrested, while in Rwanda, authorities allow the passage of Burundians without hindrance.

Meanwhile, the economy is undergoing a severe crisis, caused by the closing of borders. In addition, a mystery surrounds the BRARUDI beverage market, disrupting the national economic balance. A marked shortage of items like Amstel and Royal is affecting the market, while Primus is being sold at a high price, causing concern among consumers. The price of a bottle of Primus fluctuates between 5,000 and 6,000 francs in places like Musaga, Kinanira II, and Kanyosha, while other brands display exorbitant prices, such as Amstel, at 15,000 francs in a bar in Kinanira II, often under opaque sales conditions. Resellers mention supplies coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo, fueling rumors that the brewery is maintaining production and export abroad, leading to prohibitive prices upon their return. This phenomenon only worsens the already precarious economic situation marked by extreme poverty.

In the province of Bururi, farmers express their concerns regarding the vaccination of their livestock against serious diseases. Despite apparent vaccination efforts, many farmers report that they have not been informed about the campaigns, leaving their animals vulnerable to serious diseases. Gloriose Niyubahwe, director of the provincial agricultural and livestock environmental office in Bururi, emphasizes that the shortage of vaccines has caused tragic losses in livestock.

As for the province of Buhumuza, the rising prices of foodstuffs, little affected by the harvest season, weigh heavily on households. Even in times that should be abundant, prices struggle to meet this favorable reality. Speculative practices on BRARUDI products, especially Primus beer, amplify concerns. Administrative procedures, although present, face resistance from some traders. Inspections have led to the closure of establishments involved in illicit sales practices, illustrating the growing tensions in the market.

In the commune of Kirundo, the governor's decisions regarding the demolition of traders' kiosks have sparked intense frustration. These owners, who had invested significant amounts in their location, now find themselves deprived of their source of income, leaving their finances in a concerning uncertainty.

The commune of Karusi, for its part, is facing a fuel shortage, thereby affecting the prices of consumer goods and worsening the living conditions of residents. The price increase extends to all sectors, complicating transportation and daily purchases. Complaints are emerging regarding a growing dissatisfaction with the administrative authorities, accused of mismanaging the situation.

Finally, the banking sector is also criticized by entrepreneurs in Burunga, who denounce restrictions on bank withdrawals, hindering their activities. The limitations imposed by certain institutions could push traders to turn away from banking services, thus threatening their ability to carry out their projects. The situation in Burundi, marked by violations of economic rights, signals an uncertain future for its population, which continues to face significant challenges.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The events that occurred in Burundi in July 2025 severely disrupted the right to education. The end of the school year was compromised by a political meeting of the CNDD-FDD in Makamba, which prevented the exams scheduled for July 3rd. The event, led by Révérien Ndikuriyo and focused on patriotism, mobilized many students, leaving teachers puzzled by the absence of students and the progress of the school year. Some students, attracted by material incentives, chose to participate in this political meeting. Teachers fear pressure to reschedule the exams, while parents condemn political interference in education. This situation raises questions about the independence of educational institutions in Burundi.

Another incident occurred at ECOFO Rukina, where a teacher withheld class results due to unpaid debts by the school, leading to widespread dissatisfaction. Meanwhile, a tragic event struck a student who, after failing her exams, was found in a ditch, requiring emergency care.

At the Fundamental School of Ruhengeri, conditions are disastrous, with over 400 students for only six classrooms and very few sanitary facilities, threatening the health and dignity of the students. These issues have been acknowledged by officials, who are planning improvements, such as the construction of additional latrines. Calls for community and partner mobilization to support these initiatives are also being made.

Finally, the overuse of volunteers in the educational sector, particularly at the ITABU school in Mutambu, where the majority of teachers are volunteers, highlights the crisis in education. The situation is exacerbated by abnormal practices in the management of human and economic resources in the educational sector. Parents are often forced to pay these volunteers, which affects their ability to educate their children. The political dynamics and the effects on the right to education present a major challenge for the future of young people in Burundi.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

Access to drinking water problem in Burundi and risk of diseases due to lack of hygiene in July 2025: The residents of Muyinga are very worried about diseases related to poor hand hygiene, worsened by the water shortage. Some neighborhoods suffer from precarious situations, sometimes without access to drinking water for more than a month due to the uneven distribution by Regideso. Corruption is often blamed, and water vendors take advantage of the situation, raising prices during shortages. Each household consumes an average of three jerrycans of water per day, leading to expenses of 6000 Fbu, a major burden for families living in poverty.

Cibitoke commune is also facing a drinking water crisis marked by a lack of supply for several weeks. Residents are turning to untreated rivers, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases, such as cholera, especially during the rainy season. Authorities are calling on Regideso to restore the supply as suspected cases arise in localities like Mparambo. A Regideso official admits that the dry season is affecting water reserves and promises improvements.

Furthermore, on July 16, 2025, the Iteka League revealed a serious shortage of rabies vaccines in the Burunga province, where fourteen people were bitten by a stray dog. The victims received only two of the five necessary doses, due to a lack of resources in Burunga. Dr. Jérémie Ndayizeye highlighted this shortage, calling for help for the victims. A dog was euthanized in the commune of Bururi, prompting calls for vaccination and animal control. The Buhiga commune in the Gitega province is also suffering from a severe water shortage due to agricultural work on President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE's land. Since the beginning of July, access to drinking water has considerably decreased, except in the GATARE neighborhood. Residents have to walk more than three kilometers to fetch water, denouncing the silence of local authorities on this crisis.

Finally, in Muyinga, Regideso agents observe corrupt practices that complicate access to water. Residents are paying significant amounts for water access, with exorbitant bills while some households go weeks without water. A call is made to Chief Egide to put an end to this corruption and to ensure that the local administration takes action against these abuses.

IV. CATEGORY RIGHTS

IV.1. RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The respect for children's rights is a fundamental priority to ensure the harmonious and equitable development of Burundian society. Despite progressive advances, the situation regarding children's rights remains concerning due to various socio-economic, historical, and political factors that hinder their full development. The recognition of these rights is enshrined in several national and international instruments, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, which Burundi has ratified. However, the effective implementation of these commitments faces multiple challenges. Poverty affects a large part of the population.

The trafficking of children to Tanzania is a concerning phenomenon, especially in southern Burundi.

Recently, four children were intercepted in the Rutana commune, specifically on Kinzanza hill, while they were being illegally transferred to Tanzania. They were on board a Hiace-type vehicle, heading towards the capital of Burunga province. According to local sources, these children had allegedly been abducted in Gitega province. This incident occurred during a security meeting chaired by the governor of Burunga, Parfait Mboninyibuka.

As soon as he was informed of the situation, emergency measures were put in place to put an end to this child trafficking operation. Mboninyibuka emphasized that no form of betrayal against Burundian children, who are treated inhumanely in the United Republic of Tanzania, should be tolerated. He gave clear instructions for those responsible to be arrested without delay. Defense and security forces were called to dismantle these trafficking networks. Five men were arrested, among whom three were drivers. One of them was recognized by the community for similar activities in the past.

An investigation is currently underway, and the suspects could face charges of human trafficking, a crime heavily sanctioned by Burundian legislation.

Exploitation of minor children in construction work in Mwaro Commune.

Since the beginning of the current holidays, young children from modest or underprivileged families have been observed trying to earn some income, although in particularly difficult conditions for some. In various construction sites located in the capital of Mwaro Commune, in the expanded Province of Gitega, long lines of children can be seen, carrying bricks in plastic bags or baskets. Each brick they move earns them 20 BIF. Some of these children, still minors, are between 9 and 10 years old. Many of them report the possibility of earning around 1000 BIF per day. They also emphasize that they find it difficult to find something to eat during the day. while this work requires some physical strength.



Anyone should be respected

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the period covered by this report, the deterioration of the human rights situation continues to be observed in various parts of the country.

This report highlights cases of violations of the right to life; physical integrity and freedom; economic, social and cultural rights, as well as categorical rights, particularly children's rights.

This report also lists issues related to security facts and the prevailing context in the country. Thus, in this report, the Iteka League also revisits the major events that have marked the political, judicial, governance, economic, and security contexts during this period. It also addresses civil and political rights and economic and socio-cultural rights with regard to their disruption and expresses its concern for children's rights. The Iteka League denounces the impunity of the observed crimes and makes the following recommendations:

To the Burundian authorities:

1. To guarantee the respect of human rights, notably the right to life, physical integrity, and freedom.
2. To take measures to end the impunity of crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.
3. To ensure the protection of children and severely punish those involved in trafficking, exploitation, and sending children to Tanzania for agricultural work and others.
4. To promote economic development to improve citizens' living conditions and reduce inequalities.
5. To guarantee access to basic services, including water, health, education, and justice, for all citizens.

To the international community:

1. To support the efforts of the Iteka League and other human rights organizations in monitoring human rights violations in Burundi.
2. To use their influence to compel the Burundian authorities to respect human rights and put an end to impunity.

To human rights organizations:

1. To continue monitoring the human rights situation in Burundi and advocate for the protection of human rights.
2. To provide support to victims of human rights violations and work to ensure their access to justice.