

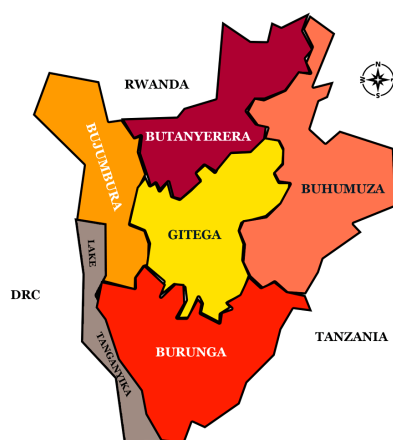


BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS “ITEKA”

Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa

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

REPORT OF THE BURUNDI LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS “ITEKA” ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of Ligue Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to June 30, 2025, Ligue Iteka has documented at least 745 cases of enforced disappearances.

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

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ACRONYMS

BANCOBU: Commercial Bank of Burundi

CDP : Council of Patriots

CECI : Independent Communal Electoral Commission

CENI : Independent National Electoral Commission

CEPI : Independent Provincial Electoral Commission

CGM : General Commission for Migration

CNDD-FDD: National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy

CNL : National Congress for Liberty

DESC : Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

DRC : Democratic Republic of the Congo

ECOFO : Fundamental School

FARDC : Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo

FRODEBU: Front for Democracy in Burundi

GBV : Gender-Based Violence

OPJ : Judicial Police Officer

PAFE : Air, Border, and Foreigners Police

PNB : Burundi National Police

POLYCEB : Central Polyclinic of Bujumbura

SGBV : Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

SNR : National Intelligence Service

TGI : High Court

UNGA : United Nations General Assembly

UPRONA : Union for National Progress

VB : Polling Station

This monthly report for June 2025 is a summary of the weekly Iteka n'Ijambo bulletins from 477 to 480. This report covers the political, judicial, governance, and security contexts that marked this period. It also examines civil and political rights and economic, social, and cultural rights. This report concludes with a conclusion and recommendations.

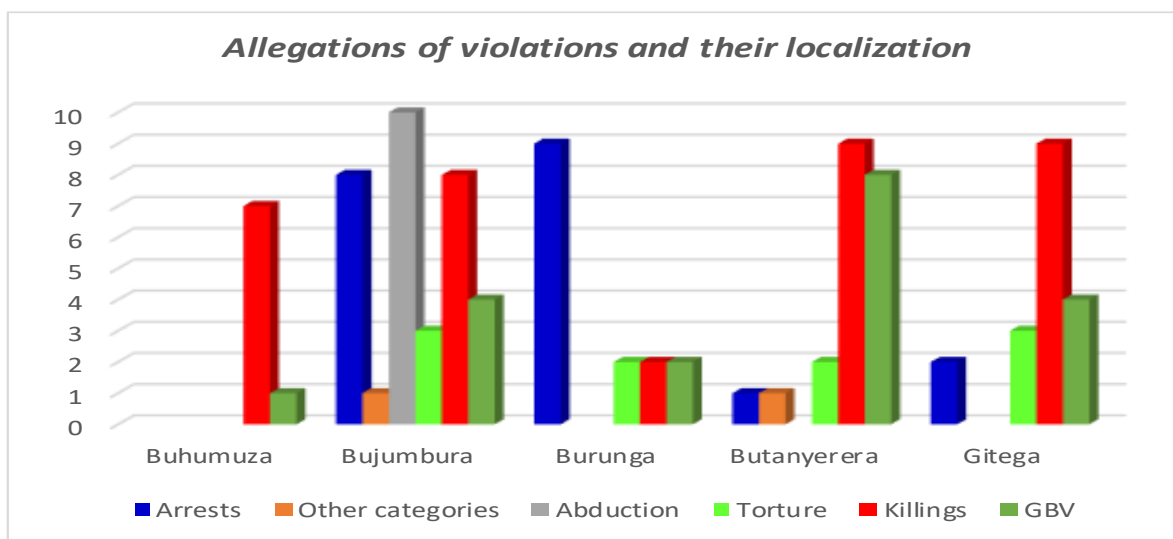
Thus, the civil and political rights situation during this reporting period was marked by:

- “ at least **35** people killed, including 25 found dead in various locations,
- “ **10** people abducted and/or missing,
- “ **10** people tortured, including 1 CNL member
- “ **19** victims of SGBV, including 4 minors and 3 schoolgirls,
- “ as well as **20** people arbitrarily arrested, including 17 political party members (7 members of CDP, 1 RANAC, 2 CNL, and 6 members of the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition),
- “ In addition, there were **2** victims of assault and battery and harassment.

Imbonerakure, police officers, administrators, and SNR agents are accused of being the alleged perpetrators of most of these human rights violations and murders.

0.1. MAPPING OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

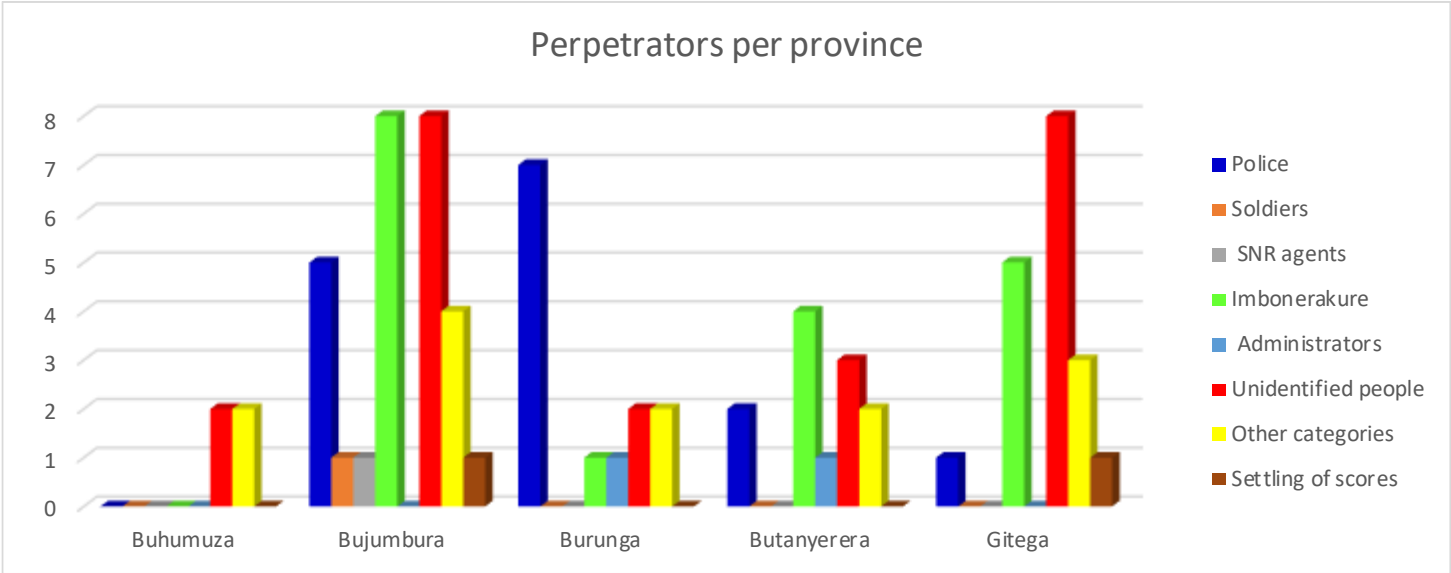
Figure 1: Chart illustrating the main cases of alleged violations of civil and political rights observed in Burundi during the month of June 2025



The Chart above illustrates the five categories of violations in the country's five different provinces. Bujumbura experienced the most allegations of human rights violations with 34 cases, followed by Butanyerera and Gitega with 21 and 18 cases, respectively. Thus, during the month of June 2025 covered by this report, Ligue Iteka recorded 96 cases of alleged violations of civil and political rights across the national territory. These allegations of human rights violations fall into five main categories: 35 cases of intentional homicide,

20 cases of persons arbitrarily arrested, and 19 cases of victims of gender-based sexual violence. 10 cases of tortured persons and 10 cases of abducted persons. Bujumbura province stands out as the most affected, with a total of 34 allegations of human rights violations, including 8 people killed, followed by Butanyerera province with 21 cases of alleged human rights violations, including 9 people killed.

Figure 2 : Chart illustrating the main alleged perpetrators of alleged civil and political rights violations observed in Burundi during the month of June 2025



According to the Chart, out of 75 cases of violations resulting in 96 victims (Chart 1), several cases of violations were committed by unidentified people with 23 cases, and the young Imbonerakure of the ruling party with 18 cases, in third place came police officers with 15 cases. Other cases are attributed to soldiers (1), National Intelligence Service agents (1), score-settling (1), and others (13) involving individuals, traders, and domestic violence, including GBV.



I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

During the month of June 2025, the political context in Burundi was dominated by election preparations, the election itself, the announcement of the results of the legislative and communal elections, and their management. The political climate during this month revealed a series of significant events illustrating an alarming and highly problematic situation. The elections were marked by questionable practices. On the eve of the elections, on June 3, 2025, meetings held by local leaders aimed to orchestrate electoral fraud, including strategies such as early ballot stuffing, voter intimidation, and discouraging voters from voting for parties other than CNDD-FDD. During the June 5 elections in Burunga, irregularities were highlighted, with polling stations opening before the scheduled time, ballot boxes being stacked and voters casting multiple ballots.

The presence of observers, particularly those from the Catholic Church, was systematically limited, often amid acts of violence. Political representatives were arrested for refusing to sign official reports before the polls closed.

In Buruhukiro, Nyanza commune, Burunga province, opposition members were threatened to discourage them from voting against CNDD-FDD, while in Buhumuza, similar incidents were reported, detailing a climate of violence and intimidation that largely excluded opposition members. The vote count was also marred by clear manipulation of the results, with opposition observers and representatives often intimidated or excluded. In Gitega province, cases of fraud were observed, including ballots found in ballot boxes before polling stations opened and voters pressured to vote exclusively for the ruling party. Within the schools, students were forced to vote under the surveillance of CNDD-FDD members.

The preliminary results of the legislative and communal elections dated June 5, 2025, revealing an electoral masquerade, were published by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), stating that CNDD-FDD had won 5.5 million votes, or 96.51% of the vote, while other parties, such as UPRONA and CNL, recorded very low results. The distribution of seats in the National Assembly reflects the total dominance of CNDD-FDD, with all 100 elected MPs from this party, while other entities failed to reach the 2% threshold required for representation. The CENI's announcement of an assembly composed entirely of CNDD-FDD members is part of a regressive political dynamic, compromising the country's democratic foundations. The refusal to accept these results by UPRONA, CNL, and the Burundi Bwa Bose Coalition, which denounce the legitimacy of this election, reveals strong opposition to a system perceived as authoritarian.

From June 16 to 22, 2025, the political climate was seemingly calm, in contrast to previous electoral turbulence. While CNDD-FDD members celebrated their victory, the opposition

persisted in describing the elections as a sham, citing the misuse of public funds. Persistent acts of intimidation and threats against opposition members were reported, illustrating an environment of fear and repression. Intimidation of Catholic Church observers in some dioceses across the country was reported on the eve of the elections.

In addition, statements on the appropriation of agricultural land by CNDD-FDD members, as well as threats against public opposition figures, demonstrate the urgent need for a political response to protect the fundamental rights of Burundian citizens.

1.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

The judicial landscape in Burundi in June 2025 reveals a series of remarkable and flagrant incidents. For example, three soldiers were jailed in Bururi prison, charged with robbery and embezzlement. On June 23, 2025, among them was Corporal Niyonzima Serges, aged 46, son of Minani André and Nziguheba Suzanne, from Nyambuye hill in the new commune of Gishubi, Gitega province. He was assigned to the construction of Jiji-Murembwe hydroelectric power station, located in the new commune of Matana in Burunga province.

The same goes for Warrant Officer Manirakiza Désiré, also from Rusama hill, the latter being the commander of the company responsible for security at the dam site. The Bururi prosecutor's office filed charges against them, specifying that they had embezzled 203 bags of cement belonging to ORASCOM company, responsible for the work, in May of this year. On June 18, 2025, they were arrested and transferred to Bururi provincial police station cell. A civilian accomplice named Hagerimana Jean Marie, aged 23, was also arrested on June 20, 2025 for his role in this theft. He was arrested on June 17, 2025. The stolen bags of cement were seized on the same day of the crime by the police in a Fuso vehicle. Some of Matana population expressed concerns, calling for a thorough investigation within the company concerned.

In Rutana (southern Burundi), the High Court heard a case on June 5, 2025, involving electoral offenses. An individual, Yamurye Gilbert, was arrested for illegal possession of voter's cards, with a five-year sentence. It should be noted that he was a member of the ruling CNDD-FDD party. In the north, the Ngozi High Court sentenced three CNL members to prison terms ranging from one to two years, along with fines of 100,000 to 400,000 Bif, in connection with attempts to destabilize the elections. Appeals consider these decisions unfair, particularly for one of the accused, Olynca Kababanda.

Another case of significant fines was reported during a trial in Kayanza, where Cishahayo Célestin was convicted of illegal electoral campaigning associated with UPRONA. The prosecution noted the lack of a legitimate electoral card or accreditation letter.

As far as physical violence is concerned, two CNDD-FDD members were convicted following riots against CNL members, with the court rejecting any claim for compensation of the victims. Cases

of economic damage were also dealt with; for example, on June 10, 2025, Jean Nduwimana was sentenced to five years for illegal possession of coffee intended for sale in Tanzania. In short, the various trials that took place in this month reveal complex dynamics surrounding electoral issues and public security in Burundi, with aspects related to corruption, political violence, and resource management.

1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

In June 2025, several significant events occurred in the area of governance in Burundi, particularly in Cibitoke. The Governor of Cibitoke, Carême Bizoza, suspended a decision deemed arbitrary by the administrator of Rugombo commune. On June 27, 2025, he canceled a letter by Gilbert Manirakiza, which stipulated the expulsion of Jeannine Uwizeyimana, a resident of Rugombo although from Bugabira. This expulsion had been justified by the administrator on charges of "disturbing public order," citing Uwizeyimana's cohabitation with Alfred Ntahimpera, the partner of a migrant woman.

Considering this expulsion a violation of fundamental rights, the provincial authorities opposed it. Governor Bizoza then initiated corrective measures, emphasizing the right of movement enshrined in the Burundian Constitution. His intervention entailed significant support within civil society and among Rugombo residents, who saw it as a victory against abuses of power. A human rights defender reported similar cases in other communes where non-local women were excluded from some positions, practices that were subsequently reversed due to their incompatibility with national values. The Governor insisted on the legality of his decision and recommended that local authorities seek legal redress in the event of a dispute, warning that they would be subject to disciplinary action if they adopted illegal practices. It is crucial to ensure respect for the fundamental rights of every Burundian citizen, regardless of their geographic origin. Local administrators are required to comply with legal procedures and promote awareness of the importance of human rights. At the same time, an alarming situation emerged in Mugina, where the Governor was accused of embezzling 10,000 liters of diesel. Since April 2025, the region has been experiencing a fuel shortage. On June 2, a long-awaited shipment of diesel arrived, but the next day, the Governor banned its distribution, reserving the fuel for vehicles on election duty.

This decision sparked tensions, highlighting the Governor's favoritism toward some private transporters, while others, dissatisfied, forced to comply with political demands. As a result, many vehicle owners decided not to vote, while members of the ruling party continued to faithfully cast absentee ballots.

1.4. SECURITY CONTEXT

The security situation in Burundi in June 2025 was marked by a few isolated tragic events. A suicide attempt was reported in Buhiga commune, where Citegetse Onésime, a 22-year-old member of the Imbonerakure, attempted suicide but was rescued thanks to the intervention of her mother and neighbors. This incident occurred while his aunts were discussing a family inheritance. Although the distribution of property was peaceful, the young man's distress remains unexplained.

On June 25, 2025, in Bujumbura, a man named Léonard was assaulted by a police officer in front of BANCOBU bank. Léonard, carrying a printer after repairs, was mistreated by a police officer following the device's origin. Although he attempted to explain the situation, the police officer reacted violently, transferring Léonard to POLYCEB Hospital for treatment, raising concerns about abuse of power.

In Gitega province, Jean Rushigaje is being harassed by family members over a disputed land. Threats were made by Simon Mukoma, his paternal uncle. Jean escaped an ambush, fueling his fears. Local authorities are encouraging peaceful conflict resolution.

In Kirundo, a rise in thefts is worrying residents after several burglaries were reported. The local official has called for vigilance. Thefts of fields and animals are on the rise, with residents suspecting the involvement of the Imbonerakure.

On the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, Congolese refugees report violence, extortion, and assaults, often attributed to the Imbonerakure and some members of the Burundian police. Thousands of civilians fleeing the conflict between the FARDC and the M23 are seeking refuge but are suffering abuses, fueling outrage among the residents of Rugombo.

The governor of Cibitoke has promised an investigation into the refugee situation, which requires urgent attention. Reports of rape and mass looting are causing anger and suffering among the population, raising diplomatic issues between Gitega and Kinshasa.

Finally, on June 18, in Muyinga, several arrests were made for fraudulent activities, with seizures of products destined for Tanzania. Meanwhile, tragic incidents related to land conflicts have been reported in Burunga province, highlighting the need for effective justice to protect citizens in the face of growing violence.



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II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Burundi has been a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1965) and its Optional Protocol (1976) without reservation since May 9, 1990.

As part of its implementation, Burundi has taken measures in its domestic legislation, notably in its Constitution of June 7, 2018 (Main Law), Article 19 guaranteeing that all rights proclaimed and guaranteed by duly ratified international instruments are an integral part of this Constitution. Implementing legislation has been established, notably the Criminal Code of December 29, 2017, and the Code of Criminal Procedure of May 11, 2018. Other institutions for the protection of human rights in Burundi have been created.

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

During the reporting period, a total of thirty-five (35) cases of intentional homicide were recorded by Ligue Iteka across the country. Among the victims, 32 were men and two were women. Of these cases, twenty-nine (29) people were killed by unidentified people or were found dead; three (3) were attributed to members of the Imbonerakure, and one (1) occurred as part of a settling of scores. One (1) case was attributed to national police officers, and one (1) case by the military. The most affected provinces are Butanyerera and Gitega, with nine cases each, and Bujumbura comes third with eight cases.

Figure 3 : Chart illustrating the number of people killed per province during the month of June 2025

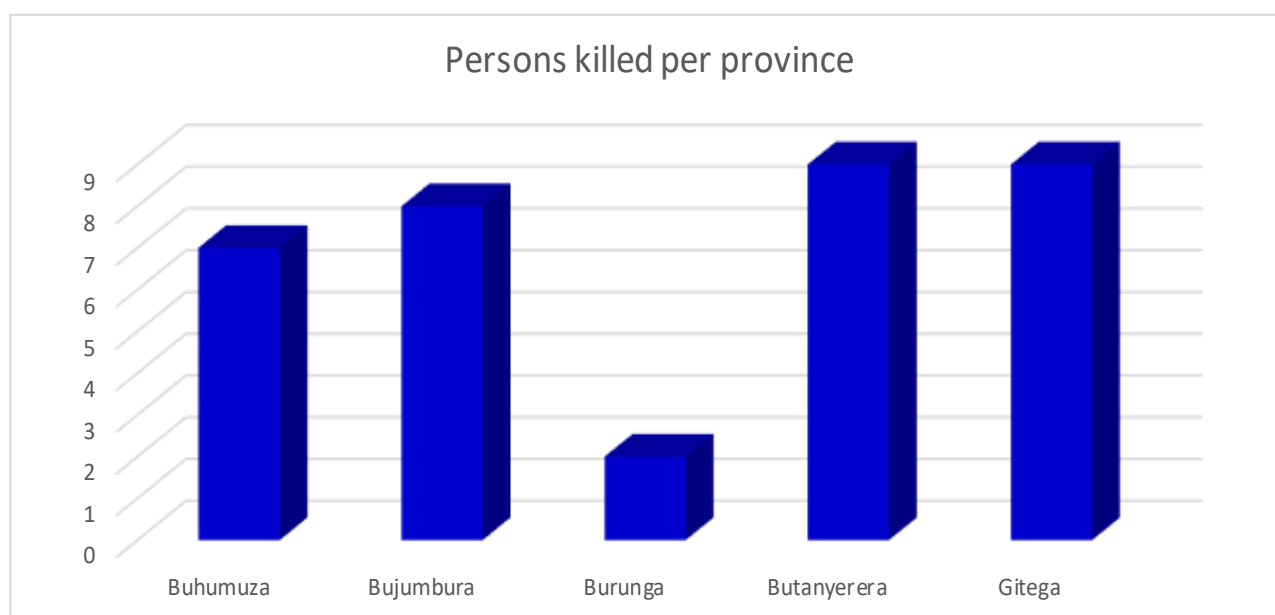


Illustration:

Ex. 1: On June 12, 2025, on Murambi hill, Kiganda commune, Gitega province, a woman was killed around 4:00 a.m. Muuyekure Renilde, aged 62, accused of sorcery.

According to our sources on this hill, neighbors heard brief screams around early morning (4:00 a.m.); when they went to investigate, they found her lying on the ground in a pool of blood, having been strangled. Two suspects were arrested: Ntibagengeza Laurent, aged 43, and Bavakure Joachim, aged 35, both from Murambi hill and members of CNDD-FDD. They were taken to Kiganda communal police station and are awaiting interrogation.

Ex.2: On June 19, 2025, on Nyamakarabo hill and zone, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province. Bujumbura, two bodies of Claude Butoyi and the Karenzo, both imbonerakure were found. According to initial information, they were lynched by these accomplices after having attempted to illegally smuggle about 80 kilograms of coffee into Rwandan territory. This tragedy revives concerns about security in the border areas and the persistence of smuggling networks.

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 dismantle the networks involved in this deadly trafficking.

II.1.2. ABDUCTED AND/OR MISSING PERSONS

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.

Ligue Iteka recorded 10 persons abducted, including one member of CNL party, during the reporting period, and all cases were recorded in Bujumbura province alone.

Figure 4 : Chart illustrating the number of abducted persons per province during the month of June 2025

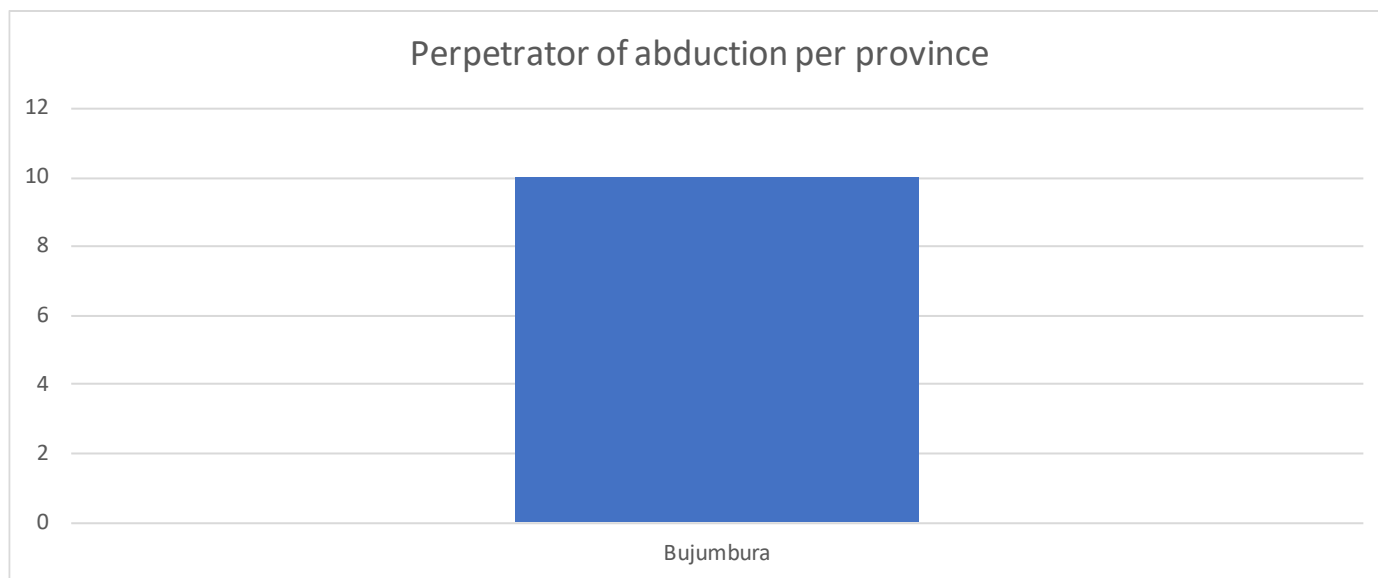


Illustration:

Ex. 1: On June 11, 2025, around 6:00 p.m., a man named Fogo, approximately 25 years old, was the victim of a violent abduction. The incident occurred while he was at ITEKA Hotel, where he worked, at Gare du Nord station, in Kamenge zone of Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province. According to reports, armed men wearing police uniforms arrested the victim, a young man identified as FOGO. Before forcibly removing him, they struck him on the head with the barrel of their rifle, injuring him. He was then taken away in a black double-cab pickup truck with the license plate B9710A.

Ex. 2: On June 3, 2025, Théophile Niyimbona, former principal of Ruseseka communal high school, member, and former MP for Agathon Rwasa's CNL party, was abducted from the school.

According to witnesses, a Jeep-type vehicle without license plates arrived, and men got out to forcibly catch him and took him away. His family and CNL party members still do not know where he was taken. Although Théophile Niyimbona recently joined CNDD-FDD party, the reasons for his arrest remain unknown. Of particular concern is that former CNL members appear to be targeted, especially those applying for voter's registration cards without being CNDD

-FDD members. The former secretary-general of CNL, a member of Agathon Rwasa, strongly denounced these arbitrary arrests and intimidation. He called for respect for the right of every citizen to vote freely, without fear or pressure, and demanded an end to these intimidation practices against Burundians.

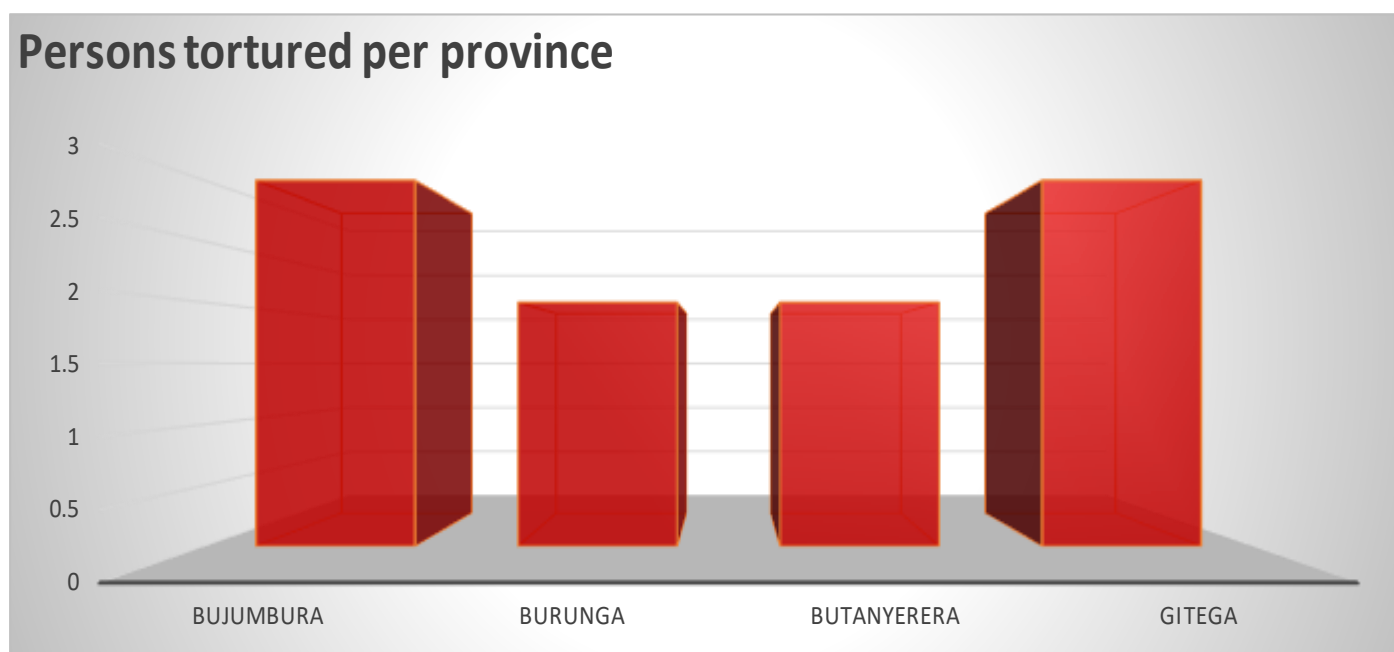
II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

Article 21 of the Burundian Constitution stipulates that "No one may be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, 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 demonstrates the country's commitment to protecting the physical integrity of its citizens.

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

Figure 5 : Chart illustrating the number of persons tortured during the month of June 2025



A total of ten (10) cases of torture were recorded by Ligue Iteka across the country during the reporting period. Of these cases, seven (7) were attributed to members of Imbonerakure, two (2) to national police officers, and one case attributable to administrative officials. The most affected provinces are Gitega and Bujumbura, with three cases each, and Burunga and Butanyerera, with two cases each.

Illustration :

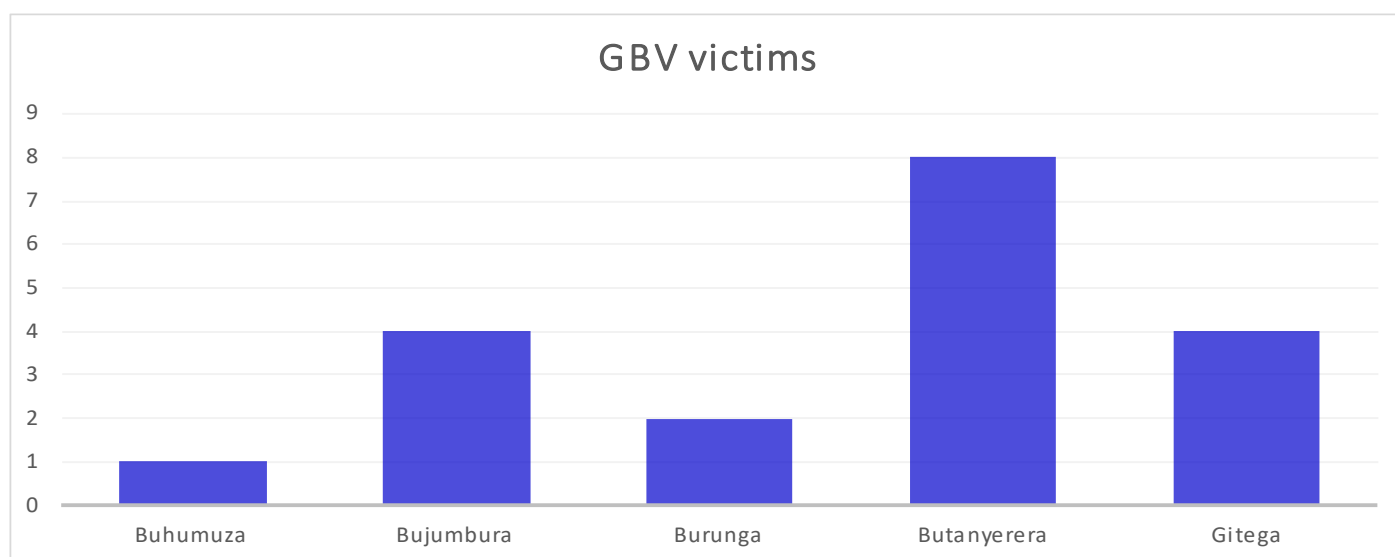
Ex. 1: Ligue Iteka was informed of a case of torture that occurred over the weekend of last week. It was Saturday, June 7, 2025, around 7 p.m. in a bar on Butamenwa hill, Maramvya zone, Cirambo zone, (former Nyabikere commune) where a man named NDIHOKUBWAYO Thérance, from the BURUNDI BWA BOSE coalition, was tortured by Imbonerakure commanded by the leader of CNDD-FDD party on the hill, named Isaac. He found him in the bar drinking beer and told him that although he did not vote for CNDD-FDD, the party won. Hearing these words, Thérance preferred to leave and go home. But Isaac with three Imbonerakure chased him including Sylvestre, Guillaume and Jean Marie; who subsequently beat him and robbed him of a sum of 30,000 Bif after injuring his head and arms. His family took him to NYABIKERE CDS the next day, and his detractors remain free.

Ex. 2: The Human Rights Ligue ITEKA received information dated June 24, 2025, indicating that on June 20, 2025, a resident named Adrien Nshimirimana was seriously tortured by a group of two police officers from the police station. According to this information, it was around 9 p.m. at the bar located on the road to Rumonge, when Adrien was sharing a drink with his friend, a mason. The two police officers who were next to them realized that they had received their salaries and left the place.

After drinking, they were returning home, but along the way, they were intercepted by these two police officers who forced them to stop and drop on the ground all the money they had in their pockets. Adrien's friend fled, and the two police officers attacked him with Kalashnikovs and punched him for several hours. The victim was taken to Nyanza Lac District Health Hospital for emergency treatment. So far, there has been no response from Commissioner J. Claude Nduwimana, and the perpetrators of this incident remain unafraid. The local population demands justice.

II.2.2. RAPE/GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Figure 6 : Chart illustrating the number of GBV victims



Among the nineteen (19) cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) recorded nationwide, three (3) cases were committed by members of the Imbonerakure, while fifteen (15) other cases involve various perpetrators, including traders, house workers, the victims' neighbors, as well as their own children and husbands; and one (1) case is attributed to an administrative official. The nineteen victims are girls (17) and two (2) women. Butanyerera province leads with 9 victims, and Bujumbura and Gitega provinces come in second with 4 cases each.

Illustration :

Example 1: On June 23, 2025, in Kajiji quarter of Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, a 16-years-old girl named I.A.L, with N.J.B. and M.G. as parents, a 8th-grade student at ECOFO KANYOSHA, was raped by a motorcyclist named Bigirimana Melchiade, 37 years old, who drove her to school every day. That day, he picked the girl from school as usual and then suggested they come over to his home to share lunch. The girl agreed but didn't realize she was trapped. Arriving at the motorcyclist's home, he immediately closed the door and raped her. She came home crying and reported what had happened to her to her parents. For the time being, she is at Seruka Center for care. As for the perpetrator, he has disappeared.

Example 2: Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 14, 2025, indicates that on June 4, 2025, on Buyenzi hill, Muhuta commune, Bujumbura province, A.M., a 5-year-old girl was raped by Kizosi Jean Marie, a 35-year-old member of CNDD-FDD party.

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

Ex.3: 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. 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.

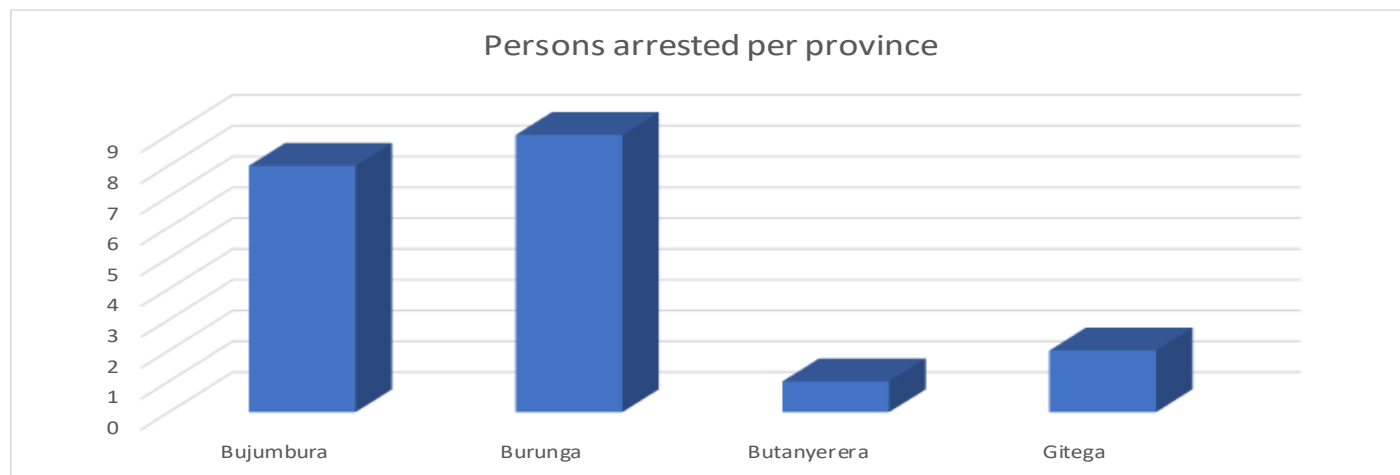
According to local reports, police officers on patrol entrusted the victim to this man to take her to the hill head's house, but he took the opportunity to abuse her in a bean field. The alleged perpetrator escaped and is nowhere to be found, according to Benoît Ndayizeye, the communal administrator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

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

Article 21 of the Burundian Constitution guarantees the right to freedom and security of person. It stipulates that "*No one may be arbitrarily arrested or detained.*" The Burundian Penal Code governs the conditions of pretrial detention and provides safeguards to prevent arbitrary arrest and detention.

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS

Figure 7 : Chart illustrating the number of persons arrested in June 2025



A total of fourteen (20) cases of arbitrary arrests and/or detentions were recorded across the country during this reporting period. Of these cases, three (3) were attributed to members of the Imbonerakure, fifteen (15) to national police officers, one (1) perpetrated by administrative officials, and one (1) to SNR officers. Burunga province leads with nine cases, followed by Bujumbura province with eight.

Illustration :

Ex. 1: On June 5, 2025, at Muzenga polling station, Marc Ndabicomwo, a representative of the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition, from Ndava locality on Kiremba hill in Bururi commune, Burunga province, was arrested and taken by police officers first to the provincial police station cell in Bururi in a vehicle belonging to communal administrator Félix Niyongabo, before entering Bururi prison on the evening of that same day. According to witnesses, he was accused by the president of the polling station of campaigning in the voting lines, a decision made by Bururi prosecutor, Frédéric Ndayikeza. Marc Ndabicomwo denies these charges, saying he did not even leave the room.

Ex 2: On June 5, 2025, in Musaga zone, Mugere commune, Bujumbura mairie, Eric Ngabire, a member of CDP party, was arrested in Musaga zone. According to local witnesses, the victim is on the list of MP candidates for CDP party in Bujumbura province. The same witnesses added that the victim was arrested while visiting different polling stations to verify whether CDP party representatives and observers were authorized to enter the polling stations to monitor the election.

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

The significant events of June 2025 in Burundi were manifested by a shortage of cash in financial institutions in Muyinga. On June 9, Ligue Iteka was informed of the difficulties users are experiencing to access financial services in the province. This has severe consequences for businesses and individuals, who must wait for deposits before withdrawing their funds. Government officials also receive salaries limited to 200,000 Bif, with reports of installment payments for loans.

These circumstances demonstrate a shared responsibility between the government and institutions to ensure adequate access to financial services, impacting human rights, particularly the right to access banking services. Furthermore, in Butanyerera province, malfunctions in fertilizer distribution are affecting agricultural yields. Residents of Kirundo and Busoni communes are having difficulty obtaining the necessary chemical fertilizers, and complaints indicate inequitable distribution compared to orders. Some farmers are refusing to return their receipts to prevent fraud.

A case of discrimination during sugar distribution by SOSUMO was also noted, where the official imposed a requirement to present a voter's card, penalizing those who did not vote. The rising prices of essential commodities in Gisuru and Mishiha communes raise concerns, with reports indicating an increase in prices despite the usual downward trend. This is attributed to the high exchange rate of the Tanzanian shilling, favoring exports to Tanzania.

In Buhiga commune, checks done on June 18 revealed price inflation, leading to the seizure of Brarudi beverage stocks by authorities, revealing sales at excessive prices despite claims of shortages. Although these actions are aimed at regulating speculative practices, the fines were not accompanied by the return of the seized products.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

In June 2025, the right to education in Burundi was seriously threatened by worrying incidents, including the refusal of secondary school volunteers to submit student reports due to non-payment in Cibitoke region. This phenomenon is occurring in various public secondary schools in this province, where young volunteer graduates are expressing their frustration at the State's failure to meet its financial commitments. School principals, awaiting government support, are facing escalating tensions, jeopardizing the continuity of the school year.

In this tense context, young volunteers, who were assigned to compensate for the teacher shortage, are making the submission of report cards conditional on receiving the bonus promised by the State. A testimony from a public school volunteer highlights the precarious situation faced by these young people, having experienced a payment delay of more than eight months.

At institutions such as Lycée Cibitoke and Lycée Technique Communal de Cibitoke, volunteers, facing threats of eviction due to unpaid rent, are also uniting to refuse to hand out report cards.

In response to this crisis, some school principals have suspended report card distribution due to this obstruction. School leaders say they are still waiting for government funds to pay these volunteers. Joseph Nyandwi, the provincial director of education in Cibitoke, acknowledges that volunteers' bonuses remain unpaid and warns that blackmail over grades is not a viable solution, as it risks severe disciplinary repercussions. An education expert, meanwhile, emphasizes the legitimacy of the volunteers' demands, arguing that it is unacceptable to demand constant work without compensation, calling on the State to act quickly to resolve this situation instead of resorting to threats.

Furthermore, a conflict arose between the principal and teachers at Mukungu communal high school following the theft of exams, escalating tensions within the school. The Human Rights Ligue (ITEKA) was informed of an incident of theft in the classroom, leading to growing disagreements over whether to hold a new exam session or keep the results tainted by fraud. Despite attempts to reach a meeting, no consensual solution was reached, and the situation is now under review by the communal director of education. Furthermore, previous irregularities by the principal regarding questionable administrative behavior are fueling criticism of him.

In another province, Gitega, a political campaign has been perceptible in the school environment. Although electoral legislation stipulates a closure of campaigns, mobilization activities by CNDD-FDD party continue. On June 4, 2025, a gathering disguised as a food distribution quickly escalated into a political maneuver, with participants forced to attend. The interaction between a student and a member of parliament illustrates the political intimidation at work, with students encouraged to proclaim their support for the party. The gathering involved influential political figures, and staff members reported unprecedented levels of political manipulation. Following a teacher's concerns, threats were made, creating a climate of mistrust and anxiety within the school.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

In Makombe transit camp, located on Mutambara hill, in commune Rumonge and Burunga province, in southwestern Burundi, a tragedy is unfolding. A measles epidemic, reported to the human rights organization ITEKA on June 24, 2025, is particularly affecting Congolese refugee children. These young, escaping the worsened violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, are in a precarious and threatening situation.

Currently, more than 1,090 Congolese refugees live at the center, which is experiencing a continuous influx. Every day, new families, mostly women and children, cross the waters of Lake Tanganyika to reach Rumonge from territories such as Fizi and its surroundings in South Kivu.

Their flight was motivated by increasingly brutal conflicts between the Congolese army, which benefits from the support of local "Wazalendo" and Burundian militias, and the M23 armed group.

Living conditions in this camp are alarming: overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and overcrowding create fertile ground for the spread of measles, a disease particularly dangerous for young children. Cases of measles have been detected among the new arrivals, particularly during their stay at the General Commissariat for Migration (CGM), formerly the Air, Border, and Foreigners Police (PAFE) in Rumonge.

Faced with this health crisis, Burundian health authorities responded quickly. They organized a vaccination campaign within the camp to protect uninfected children and treat those already ill. Officials at Makombe center emphasize that this site is only a temporary stop; the refugees stayed there briefly before being transferred to Giharo refugee camp, located in Musongati commune of Burunga province.



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IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During this reporting period, the deterioration of the human rights situation continued to be observed in various parts of the country. This report highlights cases of violations of the right to life; to physical integrity and liberty; and to economic, social, and cultural rights. This report also lists issues related to security events as well as the prevailing context in the country.

Thus, in this report, Ligue Iteka also reviews the major events that marked the political, judicial, governance, and security context as of June 2025. It also reviews civil and political rights and economic, social, and cultural rights in terms of their disruption.

Subsequently, Ligue Iteka protests against the impunity for the crimes observed and recommends the following:

To the Burundian authorities:

1. To rule the country democratically while respecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens,
2. To demonstrate democratic leadership by integrating democratic principles into governance decisions and actions,
3. To guarantee respect for human rights, including the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty,
4. To take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable.

To the international community :

- 1) To support Ligue Iteka efforts 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 end impunity.

To human rights organizations:

- i) To continue monitoring the human rights situation in Burundi and advocating for the protection of human rights,
- ii) To provide support to victims of human rights violations and work to ensure their access to justice.



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