

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

*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 FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL TO JUNE 2025



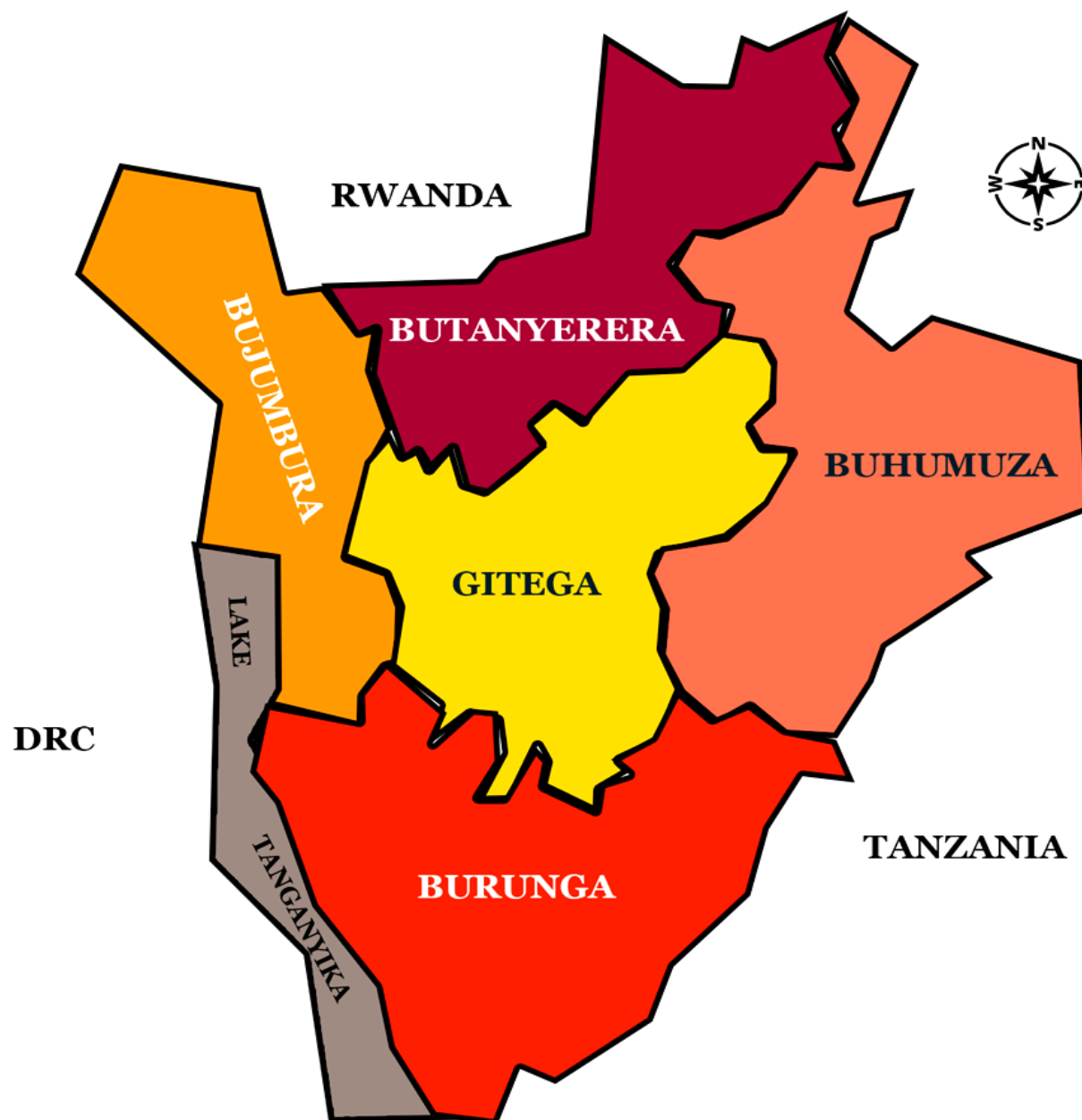
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In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of Ligue Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to June 30, 2025, Ligue Iteka has documented at least 745 cases of enforced disappearances.

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 .

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI



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ACRONYMS

<i>CDP</i>	<i>: Council of Patriots</i>
<i>CECI</i>	<i>: Independent Commuanl Electoral Commission</i>
<i>CENI</i>	<i>: Independent National Electoral Commission</i>
<i>CEPI</i>	<i>: Independent Provincial Electoral Commission</i>
<i>CNDD-FDD</i>	<i>: National Council for the Defense of Democracy - Forces for the Defense of Democracy</i>
<i>CNL</i>	<i>: National Congress for Liberty</i>
<i>DESC</i>	<i>: Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights</i>
<i>DRC</i>	<i>: Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
<i>ECOFO</i>	<i>: Fundamental School</i>
<i>FRODEBU</i>	<i>: Front for Democracy in Burundi</i>
<i>GBV</i>	<i>: Gender-Based Violence</i>
<i>OPJ</i>	<i>: Judicial Police Officer</i>
<i>PNB</i>	<i>: Burundi National Police</i>
<i>SNR</i>	<i>: National Intelligence Service</i>
<i>TGI</i>	<i>: High Court</i>
<i>UNGA</i>	<i>: United Nations General Assembly</i>
<i>UPRONA</i>	<i>: Union for National Progress</i>
<i>VB</i>	<i>: Polling Station</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

This report on the human rights situation in Burundi for April to June 2025, examines the political, judicial, governance, security, and human rights contexts. It also reviews civil and political rights, as well as categorical rights. This report ends with a conclusion and recommendations.

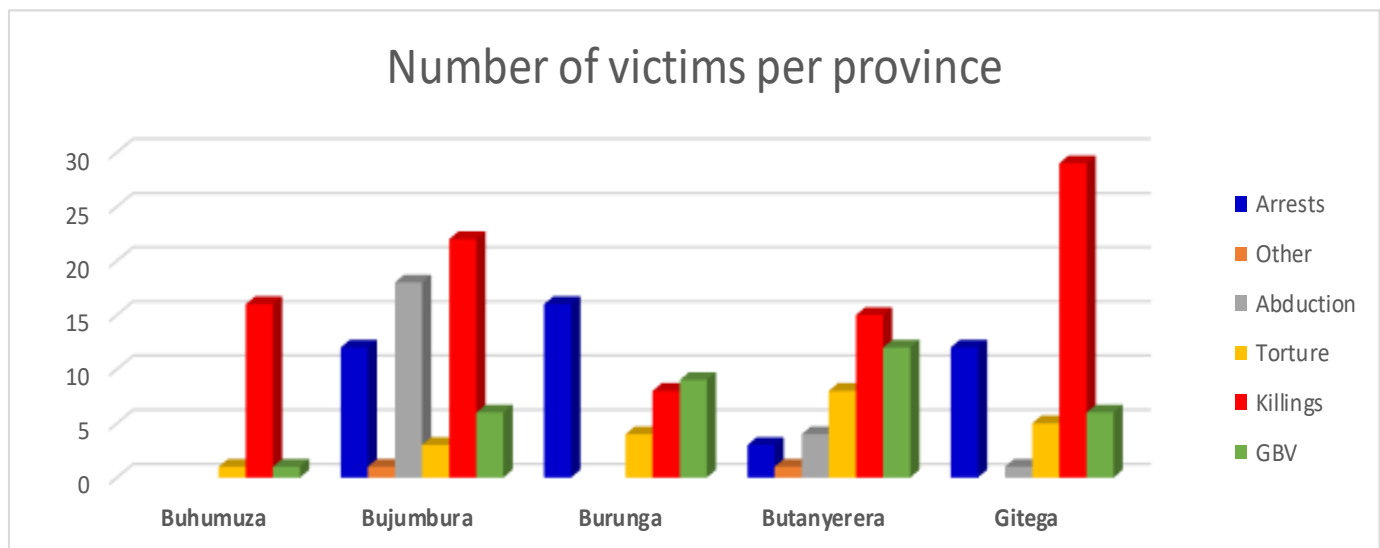
The human rights situation was reported as follows: at least 91 people killed, including 59 bodies found, 34 victims of GBV, including 22 cases of SGBV perpetrated against minors, 21 people tortured, 23 people abducted and/or missing, and 43 people arbitrarily arrested.

Among the 213 victims, 145 were men, 32 women, 30 girls, and 6 boys, including 22 minor girls raped.

Members of political parties were not spared, as were seven members of the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition, victims of torture (3) and arrest (4). Two CDP party members and one RANAC member were arrested. Twenty members of CNL party, Rwasas's wing, and three UPRONA members were arrested (2) and tortured (1). Twenty CNDD-FDD members were arrested and tortured. It should be noted that the latter are known to be former members of FNL (currently the CNL).

Members of the Imbonerakure militia, administrators, SNR agents, military personnel, and police officers are being singled out as the alleged perpetrators of most of these allegations of human rights violations and murders.

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



Out of a total of 213 victims of alleged violations documented during this second quarter of 2025, Bujumbura ranks first with 62 allegations, including 12 people arrested, 18 people detained, 3 cases of torture, 22 people killed, and 6 victims of gender-based sexual violence. Gitega province follows, with 53 cases, including 29 people killed and 12 people arrested, 6 victims of GBV, and 5 cases of victims of torture.

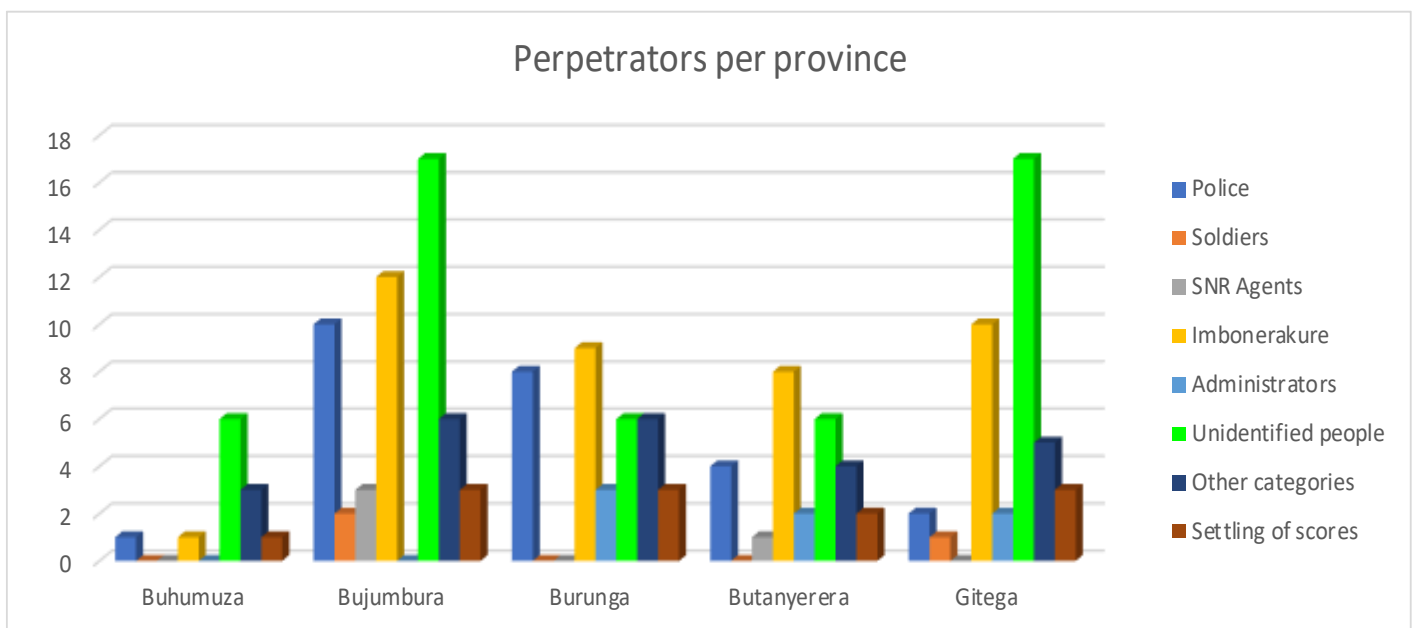
Regarding gender-based violence (GBV), out of 34 cases, 22 were rapes. Butanyerera recorded 12 incidents, including 7 rapes, followed by Burunga with 9 cases of GBV, including 8 rapes. Bujum-

0. INTRODUCTION (CONTINUED)

bura and Gitega came in third, with 6 cases each, including 5 rapes in Gitega and 4 rapes in Bujumbura.

Of the 43 arrests recorded during this reporting period, Burunga stood out with 16 cases, while Bujumbura and Gitega each had 12 cases. Of the 90 people killed, the Ligue Iteka recorded 29 cases in Gitega province, followed by Bujumbura with 22 cases. Regarding kidnappings, Bujumbura recorded 18 cases out of a total of 23 during this period. Regarding torture, the Iteka League recorded 21 cases, with Butanyerera ranking first with 8 cases, Gitega with 5 cases, and Burunga third with 4 cases.

Figure 2: Chart illustrating the main perpetrators of alleged human rights violations observed in Burundi during the period from April to June 2025



Out of a total of 213 documented victims, 167 incidents of violations were recorded during this reporting period. Fifty-two cases were committed by unidentified individuals, 40 by Imbonerakure, 25 by police officers, and 24 by other categories (ordinary citizens, including traders, settling scores, mob justice, SNR agents (3 cases), soldiers (4 cases), and administrative officials (7 cases).



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I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

The political situation in Burundi during the quarter from April to June 2025 was crucial, particularly due to electoral preparations and the June elections. This period witnessed significant events, revealing a troubling atmosphere. The elections were marked by orchestrated electoral fraud, including meetings between local leaders to plan manipulation. Violations such as the early opening of polling stations and attempts at multiple voting were reported, while access for observers, particularly Catholics, was restricted. Opposition members faced intimidation and threats to dissuade them from voting against CNDD-FDD.

The results published by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) showed overwhelming support for CNDD-FDD, with a majority of seats, reinforcing a worrying political monopoly. The opposition, including UPRONA and CNL, opposed these results, denouncing the authoritarian regime in place. Between June 16 and 22, although there was an apparent calm, persistent intimidation against opponents stressed an atmosphere of fear. By May, pre-election tensions had reached a critical level, worsened by violence by Imbonerakure, the CNDD-FDD youth movement, targeting opposition members.

Voter registration operations were imposed under pressure, creating an atmosphere of mistrust. Abuses were frequent, ranging from physical attacks to death threats, particularly against opposition supporters, increasing distrust of the electoral process. Despite the challenges, opposition members continued to organize to make their voices heard, overcoming adverse conditions and authoritarian management. Insecurity that plagued the elections raised growing concerns about the legitimacy of the process. In this climate, targeted intimidation of voters and opponents eroded confidence in Burundian democracy.

Political activities in April 2025 were also marked by tensions, illustrated by intimidation of opponents and growing mobilization within CNDD-FDD. Pressure on the opposition and the threats led to increased vigilance among supporters of UPRONA and the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition. This period saw attempts fund raising to support the ruling party, increasing pressure on its opponents as the June elections approached.

Assemblies multiplied to support broader mobilization of the population, but the unequal conditions of participation remained a topic raised. The manipulation of electoral processes and the absence of a peaceful environment reflect the crisis of democracy in Burundi. Opposition members continue hoping for a fair election despite an increasingly difficult environment, witnessing an ongoing struggle for their fundamental rights. Calling for external observers to monitor the transparency and regularity of elections remains essential in this climate of mistrust.

1.2. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

The governance context in Burundi between April and June 2025 reveals a series of significant events, particularly in the former province of Bururi. In April, three officials, including an administrator, were arrested in Vyanda commune. Alexis Nshimirimana, as a Vyanda official and a member of CNDD-FDD party, was arrested on April 10 on charges of embezzling 13 tons of maize, valued at 25 million Bif, collected by the National Agency for Strategic Management of Food Stocks (ANAGESA). This arrest, ordered by the Anti-Corruption Brigade, comes amid growing concerns about corruption, particularly in the context of a food crisis where maize is vital for many families. The previous arrests of Augustin Hatungimana and Oreste Nzohabonayo demonstrate a dynamic fight against institutional abuses.

Meanwhile, in Kayanza, a trial resulted in Victor Bigirimana being sentenced to two and a half years in prison for theft and illegal sale of minerals. Local authorities, seeking to strengthen the fight against fraud, traveled to the hills bordering Rwanda to issue warnings. On April 10, the Kayanza High Court also ruled on various flagrante delicto cases involving illicit mineral transactions, resulting in severe sentences for two individuals and an acquittal for another, signaling the judicial authorities' commitment to combating criminal activities that are detrimental to the national economy.

On the other hand, the Community of Protestant Churches in Burundi (CEPBU) experienced tensions surrounding the implementation of new legislation for religious organizations. Disagreements emerged over the governance and autonomy of churches, worsened by the adoption of new statutes by some, leading the presidency to reverse these changes, deemed contrary to the legislation. Following the vacancy of the position resulting from the imprisonment of the former communal administrator of Vyanda, an electoral process was initiated, resulting in the election of Évangéline Manirakiza. This appointment, amidst controversies related to embezzlement, represents a turning point in local governance and serves as a symbol of progress to greater inclusion and better governance. Évangéline Manirakiza's arrival as head of the commune also represents an important step toward administrative continuity in times of unrest.

In June 2025, significant events occurred, particularly in Cibitoke, where Governor Carême Bizoza cancelled a decision deemed arbitrary by the administrator of Rugombo commune. On June 27, he invalidated a letter issued by Gilbert Manirakiza concerning the expulsion of Jeannine Uwizeyimana, a resident of Rugombo, for alleged "disturbances to public order." This expulsion was perceived as a violation of fundamental rights, and the provincial authorities opposed it. The Governor thus reinforced the rights of movement, enshrined in the Burundian Constitution, and his intervention entailed support among civil society and residents of Rugombo, who saw it as a victory against abuses of power. Human rights defenders reported similar situations in other communes, where non-local women were excluded from some positions, practices deemed unacceptable and now reversed.

The Governor affirmed the legitimacy of his decision, advising local authorities to direct disputes to the courts, while warning of possible sanctions for illegal practices. It is crucial to ensure respect for the fundamental rights of every Burundian citizen, regardless of their geographic origin.

Local administrators must observe legal procedures and promote awareness of the importance of human rights. Meanwhile, in Mugina, the situation worsened with accusations that the governor had diverted 10,000 liters of diesel amid a fuel shortage. A long-awaited shipment was received on June 2, but distribution was prohibited, reserving the fuel for vehicles on election duty, height-

1.2. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT. (CONTINUED)

tening tensions and exposing cases of favoritism. Many frustrated vehicle owners chose not to vote, while members of the ruling party continued to vote, worsening social divisions.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

The judicial landscape in Burundi between April and June 2025 reveals a worrying dynamic, particularly marked by flagrante delicto trials primarily targeting political opponents, indicating a notable intensification of tensions between the State and its critics. These courts are frequently perceived as devices of judicial appearance, thus raising substantial questions about the impartiality of the judiciary and its adherence to citizens' fundamental rights. At the same time, other criminal cases involving common law offenses were also examined.

The case of Anicet Niyonzima, a police officer sentenced to life imprisonment for homicide and mutilation of his partner, Violette Tuyisenge, is one of the most significant cases of this period. The Muyinga High Court not only handed down this harsh sentence, but also ordered the payment of 50 million Bif compensation to the victim's family, as well as a public exhibition of the convicted person, thus illustrating the gravity of his actions. This judgment sparked a strong emotional reaction among the population, fueling demands for better human rights protection.

Furthermore, the arrest of two members of CNL opposition party, Gatore Thierry and Ndayishimiye Thierry, who were illegally jailed for 16 days by the pro-government Imbonerakure group, reinforces concerns about the legitimacy of the current judicial proceedings. Their arrest, linked to the distribution of leaflets criticizing the regime, has intensified concerns about the safety of CNL officials, who are now forced into hiding in the face of increasing repression. This climate of intimidation, combined with arbitrary attitude, has led to urgent demands for a genuine justice system.

In May 2025, other notable judicial decisions were issued by Rutana High Court, including the sentencing of Jean Marie Bizimana to 20 years in prison for the murder of his wife, and Metussera Mugisha to 10 years for goat theft. In addition, a school principal is under active investigation following a computer theft, while two supervisors are already in detention.

Political arrests remain a concern, with the example of Gilbert Hatungimana, convicted of tearing up a voter's card. Meanwhile, the situation of Innocent Ntirandekura, who is seriously ill and jailed at the National Intelligence Service, highlights potential human rights violations. Finally, the conviction of Minani Mechack for killing his half-brother during an argument also highlights the intra-family tensions that can lead to tragedy. These recent events highlight not only the dysfunctions of the judiciary, but also an alarming trend toward repression of dissenting voices.

1.4. HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXTE

During the last quarter, Burundi witnessed a significant upheaval in the field of human rights, triggered by the renewal of the members of the Independent National Human Rights Commission (CNIDH). This development aroused serious concerns among human rights organizations, who saw it as a maneuver orchestrated by the regime to strengthen its hold over supposedly independent institutions, to the detriment of the very integrity of CNIDH and the fundamental rights of Burundians.

May 2025 marked a decisive turning point with the arrival of new commissioners, following the exile of the former president of CNIDH. On May 8, 2025, an official decree was issued, formalizing the appointments of the members of this commission after a plenary session of the National Assembly held on May 5. To head this new team, Bishop Martin Blaise Nyaboho, an Anglican and Hutu bishop, was appointed president, while Gérard Rugemintwaza took on the role of vice-president and Béatrice Nkurunziza that of secretary. The process urged 114 applications for only seven positions, resulting in a team deemed ethnically balanced. However, some voices criticized the lack of diversity of opinion regarding human rights within this new configuration.

This renewal took place against the context of legislative amendments affecting Law No. 1/04 of January 5, 2011, which governs CNIDH, questioning the legitimacy of the new appointments. A climate of mistrust prevailed, fueled by allegations of mismanagement surrounding the former commission. In response to these accusations of dysfunction, Gélase Ndabirabe, the Speaker of the National Assembly, decided to replace CNIDH members. The appointment of Bishop Nyaboho, in particular, sparked controversy, fueled by concerns about his ability to defend the independence of CNIDH, highlighting significant dysfunctions that the Speaker of the Assembly considered a priority to address.

Founded in 2011, the CNIDH had played a key role in defending civil rights in Burundi. In mid-March 2025, commissioners denounced the management of CNIDH, calling for the resignation of the president and advocating for a financial audit to strengthen transparency.

In response to these concerns, a press release from the National Assembly issued a call for applications for new commissioners, citing the need to investigate structural problems within CNIDH, in accordance with current legislation. Ligue ITEKA expressed its reservations regarding the threats weighing on CNIDH, particularly those from the Speaker of the Assembly, who had considered amending Law No. 1/04, a procedure deemed dangerous for the commission's autonomy.

Faced with this situation, Sixte Vigny Nimuraba, the former president of CNIDH, decided to leave the country. Although allegations of mismanagement were made against him in the media, Ligue ITEKA also reported intimidation against him, such as security suspensions and illegal searches. The circumstances surrounding his departure also raised questions, with President Evariste Ndayishimiye claiming that he was in fact only traveling, while reliable sources opposed this claim, reporting that no official departure had been observed.

1.5. SECURITY CONTEXT

The security climate in Burundi has worsened significantly over the past three months, marked by a series of incidents reflecting an intensification of tensions and violence. Analyses of security reports indicate a worrying increase in Imbonerakure paramilitary activities, particularly observed in Nyabitsinda and other surrounding areas. On April 5, 2025, a meeting of Imbonerakure youth, orchestrated by Augustin Kajisho and his associates, took place on Nyabitsinda hill, sparking an atmosphere of distrust among the local population. These youths expressed their intention to secure a decisive electoral victory for CNDD-FDD party while engaging in paramilitary activities. As a result, the authorities restricted nighttime movement and reinforced roadblocks in some communes to manage the situation.

In Kirundo province, relations with Rwanda have become strained following official statements, and military movements have been noted near the border. In addition, in Butaganzwa commune, an increase in thefts has been reported, creating significant difficulties for farmers, while the militarization of the Imbonerakure in Muyinga has also been reported. Tragic incidents, such as a fire that killed a child, are increasing the sense of insecurity among the population. In May, significant material damage following a workshop fire questions the effectiveness of emergency services. The military situation is worsening with the deployment of more than 600 Burundian soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has repercussions for regional security.

Simultaneously, a massive distribution of weapons to the Imbonerakure in preparation for the elections is being observed, while a large number of opposition members are choosing to exile due to the rise in violence. Tensions persist, with secret arrests linked to Rwandan rebel groups and thefts linked to the Imbonerakure leading to increased instability in the region. In June, an Imbonerakure member attempted suicide, highlighting underlying psychological disorders. Other incidents, such as police abuse and threats against families, further complicate this already tense situation. The increase in burglaries and abuses against Congolese refugees by armed groups, often affiliated with the Imbonerakure, worsen intercommunal tensions, highlighting the urgent need for a targeted judicial response and international attention to these growing security challenges.



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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

The law guarantees that human dignity must be respected and protected by the State, and in the event of violations, sanctions must be applied to the alleged perpetrators, as per Article 21 of the country's Constitution.

During this reporting period, Ligue Iteka documented at least 91 deaths, including 59 people killed by unidentified individuals who were later found. Among these victims, 10 were killed by State agents, including soldiers (1 case), Imbonerakure (7 cases), police officers (2 cases), and administrative officials (2 cases). Ten people died as a result of settling scores, four cases following mob justice, and three cases of infanticide.

The most affected provinces are Gitega and Bujumbura with 29 and 23 cases respectively, followed by Buhumuza with 16 cases and Butanyerera with 15 cases.

These alarming figures reveal a lack of political will to protect human rights in Burundi.



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II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE. (CONTINUED)

Figure 3: Chart of persons killed by unidentified people, killed by State agents, killed following score-settling, killed following mob justice, killed following infanticide, and other child murders

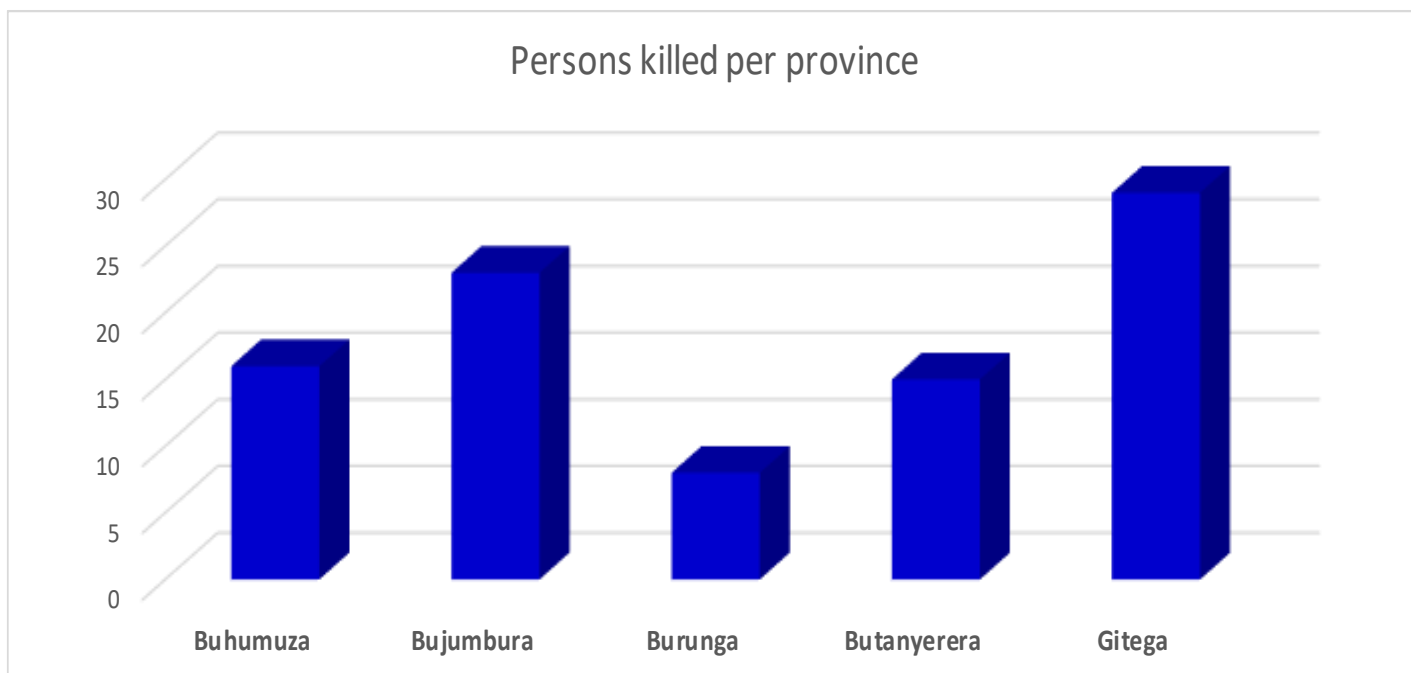


Illustration cases:

Ex1: On April 23, 2025, at around 10:00 p.m., at her home on Murehe hill, Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province, a woman named Amélie Barigenza, aged 50, a member of CNDD-FDD party, was beheaded by as yet unidentified individuals. According to local sources, this crime occurred while her husband was out buying a battery for his torch, and upon his return, he found his wife's body strewn in front of the entrance to the house. The deceased was buried the next day by the communal administration. This woman is reportedly accused of sorcery. Investigations are ongoing to determine the reasons and perpetrators of this crime.

Ex2 : On the morning of April 12, 2025, the body of Rosette Ndikumwenayo, 42 years old, married and mother of five children, a member of CNL party, from Kinama hill, Gisuru zone, Gisuru commune, Buhumuza province, was found by passersby on the banks of Rumpungwe River. According to local sources, the victim was member of the party's choir group. She had left her home on the morning of April 11, 2025 for her farm and did not return. The communal administration, working with the family, proceeded with her burial. The victim had marks on her throat as if she had been strangled. The alleged perpetrators and reasons for this crime have not been identified, but the administration indicated that investigations have started.

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE (CONTINUED)

Ex 3 : *On May 8, 2025, on Rugongo hill and area, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province, two people, including 60-year-old Judith Gakobwa, were killed at 11:30 a.m. by the local population, who accused them of sorcery.*

According to local sources, a few days before the crime, leaflets were found on the hill containing a list of five people to be killed, including three women and two men. Two of the five people on the list were caught and beaten to death. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrators, including Juvénal Nimbona, Barbatus Kwizera, Ernest Ntahorija, and Justin Ntirandekura, all from the same hill, fled to Tanzania. After the crime, on May 10, 2025, the administration attempted to conduct peacemaking sessions, but the population of this hill lived in fear and panic, demanding that the administration ensure their safety. The same sources added that all five people on the list were from the same Tutsi ethnic group. The population is beginning to worry that political reasons may be behind these killings, as less than three weeks earlier, another woman of Tutsi ethnicity was killed by as yet unidentified individuals in Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province, who also accused her of sorcery.

Ex 4 : *A 62-year-old man named Cyprien Barandaje, nicknamed Gapfumu, died on the night of June 9, 2025, in his home on Mututu sub-hill, Mugozi hill, Bururi commune, Burunga province. According to neighbors, this farmer, whose wife is mentally disabled and has been missing for over a year, lived alone in his house where his body was discovered hanging from a rope. While some of his neighbors say he was strangled and hung by unknown assailants to falsify the investigation, police sources say he committed suicide using this rope. The victim was a member of FRODEBU party.*

II.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR MISSINGS

Article 38 of Burundi's constitutional law guarantees every individual the benefit of a fair trial and that their case be heard and judged within a reasonable time. However, on the ground, alarming irregularities in this area are evident.

During this quarter from April to June 2025, Ligue Iteka recorded at least 23 abducted and missing persons, mainly in Bujumbura province (18 cases), Butanyerera (4 cases) and Gitega (1 case). The alleged perpetrators are police officers with 8 cases, SNR agents with 5 cases and Imbone-rakure with 2 cases as well as soldiers with 2 cases. There were 5 cases of people kidnapped by unidentified people.

II.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR MISSINGS . (CONTINUED)

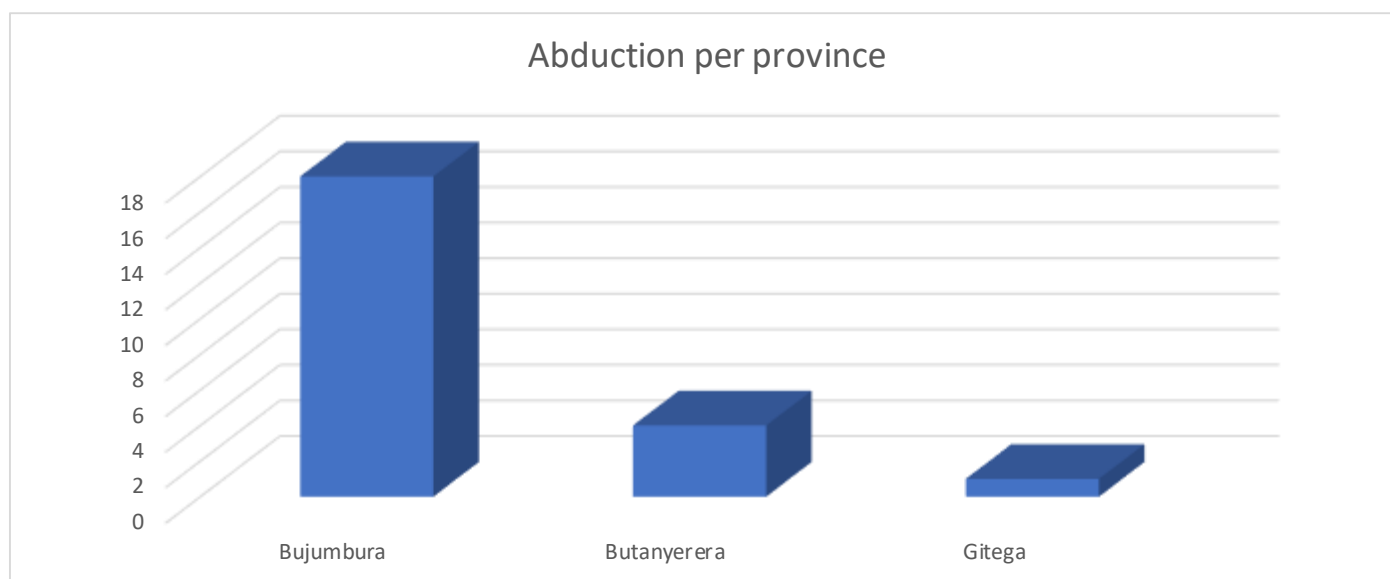


Illustration cases:

Ex1 : On April 21, 2025, Christophe Masimo, treasurer of CNL party in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province, was abducted while in his rice field in Maramvya. According to local sources, Gaddafi, an Imbonerakure in Maramvya, approached him claiming to want to buy rice seeds. After obtaining his consent, Gaddafi allegedly asked Christophe to follow him for the payment. Since then, Christophe has not returned to his field or his home. His relatives and family, fearing for his safety and having searched for him in vain, are demanding that this young Imbonerakure, Gaddafi, be brought to justice to reveal Christophe's whereabouts.

Christophe resided at the 15th street in Maramvya. He is the second CNL member loyal to Agathon Rwasa to be abducted in this locality in April. The first, Fidèle Nkorumbone, was abducted on April 2, 2025, by SNR agents, including Atia Nduwimana. Fidèle remains missing to date.

Ex 2 : On the afternoon of April 15, 2025, Aimable Nkunuzwami, a member of CNL party and an official at the Ministry of Sports, Economic and Cultural Affairs, and resident of Gisyo quarter, Kanyosha zone, Mugere commune, was arrested in Bujumbura city center. Men in police uniform took him to an unknown destination in a double-decker vehicle with tinted windows, as he was on his way to work.

His relatives, unaware of Aimable's whereabouts, reported that his phone sent messages on Wednesday to some of Rwasa's members, including MPs. These messages claimed that he would show them how to fight against CNDD-FDD. His relatives believe that these messages were written by SNR agents who arrested this member of Agathon Rwasa.

Aimable Nkunuzwami was the national youth representative of the pro-Rwasa CNL party. MP Simon Bizimungu, Rwasa's secretary, is calling for CNL party members arbitrarily arrested to be released or brought before the courts, rather than being abducted.

Illustration cases: (Continued)

Ex 3 : 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.

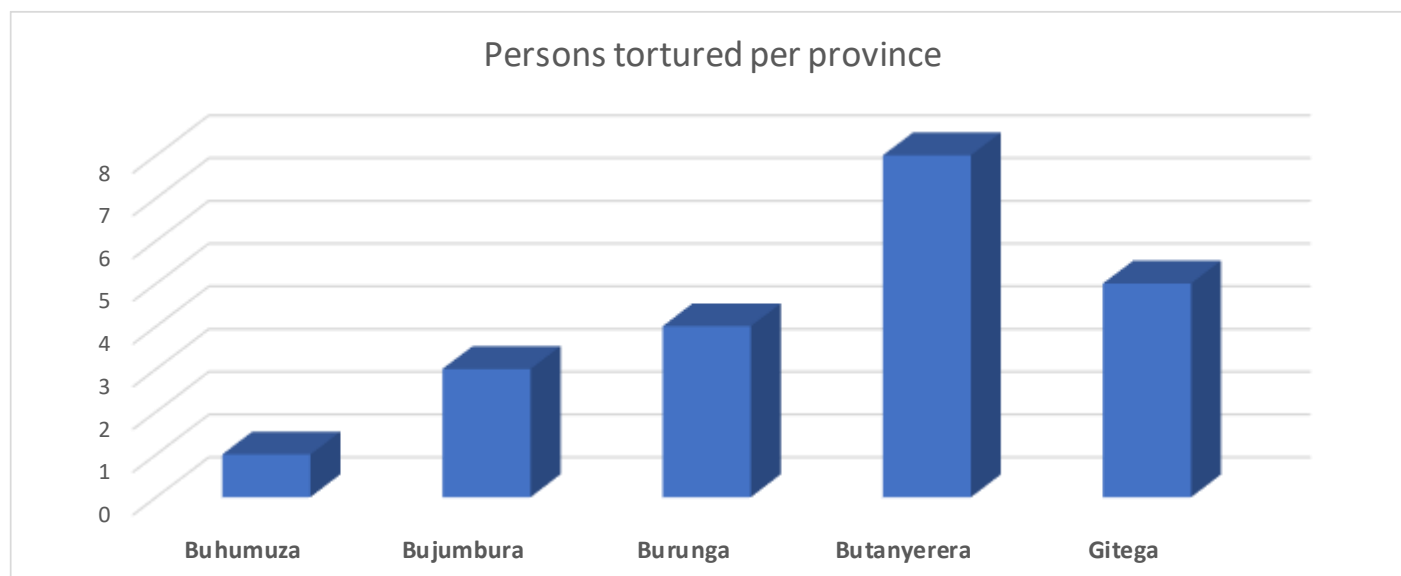
According to witnesses, a Jeep-type vehicle without license plates arrived, and men got out to forcibly catch him and took him away. His family and CNL party members still do not know where he was taken. Although Théophile Niyimbona recently joined CNDD-FDD party, the reasons for his arrest remain unknown.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

The right to physical integrity is protected in Burundi by several constitutional and legislative provisions, as well as by international commitments. The Constitution of Burundi guarantees the right to life, liberty, and security of the person. It prohibits torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. The Burundian Penal Code punishes attacks on physical integrity, including intentional violence, assault, battery, and sexual assault.

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



As the chart above shows, 21 cases of torture were recorded by Iteka during this quarter. The most affected provinces are Butanyerera and Gitega, with 8 and 5 cases, respectively, followed by Burunga province with 4 cases. It should be noted that most of the victims are members of opposition political parties.

II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY . (CONTINUED)

Illustration Cases :

Ex1 : On April 22, 2025, Léonidas Hatungimana, married, father of 5 children, residing on Muyaga hill, in Cankuzo commune, was arrested around 4 p.m. by 5 Imbonerakure, on the orders of Alexandrine Rwaramaze, Muyaga hill head. He was taken to a forest: a place called "ikosorero" on this hill (place of correction, literally translated) and beaten on the back and legs until traces of injuries appeared. He was released upon payment of 50,000 Bif via lumicash to the account of one of these 5 Imbonerakure by the victim's wife to save his life. He was accused of absence to manual work maintaining trees planted on Nyamusenga hill by CNDD-FDD, near Muyaga hill.

And yet, he had contributed 5,000 Bif collected from his commercial kiosk and 9 cups of corn collected at his home.

The next day, April 23, 2025, he filed a complaint with Boniface Banyiyezako, Governor of Cankuzo province, against Alexandrine Rwaramaze, head of Muyaga hill. Governor Boniface Banyiyezako called Alexandrine Rwaramaze to appear in his office for explanation. The outcome of this complaint is unknown. The victim, Léonidas Hatungimana, is a ruling party member and trader, and admits to regularly contributing to the party whenever necessary.

Ex2 : On May 16, 2025, at around 7:00 a.m., on Kibimba hill, Butezi zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province, Paul Ntiragomba, a member of UPRONA party, was tortured by the hill head Zacharie Batungwanayo and CNDD-FDD party representative for that hill. They told him they would kill him if he refused to give his cow to Léonard Ruhoranyi, even though the cow belonged to the cow breeders' association to which Ntiragomba belonged.

According to local sources, Leonard Ruhoranyi and Zacharie Batungwanayo do not belong to this association, except that one is CNDD-FDD representative on this hill and the other is the hill head. These two people, Zacharie and Leonard, were accompanied by Imbonerakure who carried batons. Paul Ntiragomba was able to resist that day because they were unable to remove the cow, but they said they would return on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

For this reason, Paul Ntiragomba is calling on everyone, left and right, for rapid intervention from anyone to protect his life and his family.

Ex3 : On June 7, 2025, on Kibuye hill, Rugazi zone, Mpanda commune, Bujumbura province, Elysée Nkurunziza, aged 18, was beaten by Imbonerakure including Samson Ndikumwami, Jérôme Ndikumasabo, the leader of Nyamirenda cell, Jean Claude Nimbona, and a man named Evariste. According to local sources, the victim was accused of voting for UPRONA party during the legislative and communal elections held on June 5, 2025. The same witnesses added that Elysée Nkurunziza was injured and then taken to Rugazi health center for treatment.

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

II.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/RAPE

The Law on Gender-Based Violence adopted in Burundi in 2016 represented a major step forward. It guaranteed better protection, notably by providing a definition of rape that takes into account the issue of consent and prohibiting harmful traditional practices.

During this reporting period, cases of GBV were observed at an acute rate. Ligue Iteka recorded at least 34 victims of gender-based violence. Among these victims, 22 cases were victims of sexual violence.

As the chart below shows, Butanyerera province leads with 12 cases, followed by Burunga province with 9 cases, and Gitega and Bujumbura, each with 6 cases.

Figure 4 : Chart of victims of gender-based violence

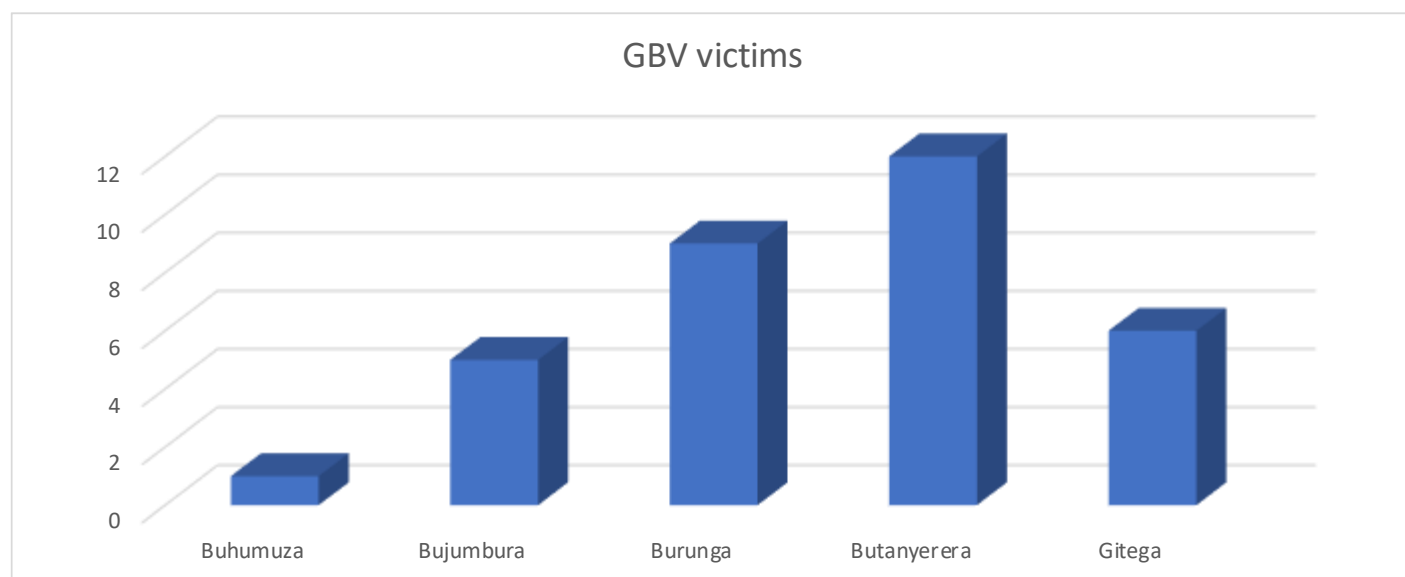


Illustration cases:

Ex1 : On April 30, 2025, on Biganda hill, Kabonobono sub hill, in Muramvya commune and province, Haringanji Galena Jesca, aged 5, was raped by Eloge Itangivyiza, aged 26, a neighbor, farmer, and member of Imbonerakure.

According to the victim, she was home alone when her mother, Iradukunda Espérance, went to draw water from a water pipe about a 20-minute walk away. The alleged perpetrator had watched for the child's mother to leave and entered the compound. He offered the child a doughnut and a piece of sugarcane before committing the crime. According to Esperance, when she returned, the child was crying, naked. There were obvious signs of rape, and the perpetrator had left his machete at the scene of the crime, which the mother recognized.

The victim was taken to Muramvya Hospital, and medical tests confirmed the rape. The perpetrator was arrested by other Imbonerakure and taken to Muramvya police station, where he is jailed.

II.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/RAPE . (CONTINUED)

Illustration cases: (Continued)

Ex2 : On June 21, 2025, around 8 p.m., on Mayenzi hill, Buhiga zone, Gitega province, a 15-year-old girl named I. was raped by Kazubwenge, a 41-year-old CNDD-FDD member and motorcyclist. He found her at home while her parents were at the bar. According to local witnesses, he called him outside while his younger sisters were inside and raped him. According to the same witnesses, the girl had genital injuries and was taken to Rutonganikwa Health Center for treatment.

The perpetrator was arrested on June 22, 2025, by the police and taken to the provincial police station cell.

Ex 3 : A girl raped by a member of CNDD-FDD party in Muhuta commune, Bujumbura province. Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 14, 2025, indicates that on June 4, 2025, on Buyenzi hill, Muhuta commune, Bujumbura province, A.M., a 5-year-old girl, was raped by Kizosi Jean Marie, a 35-year-old member of the CNDD-FDD party.

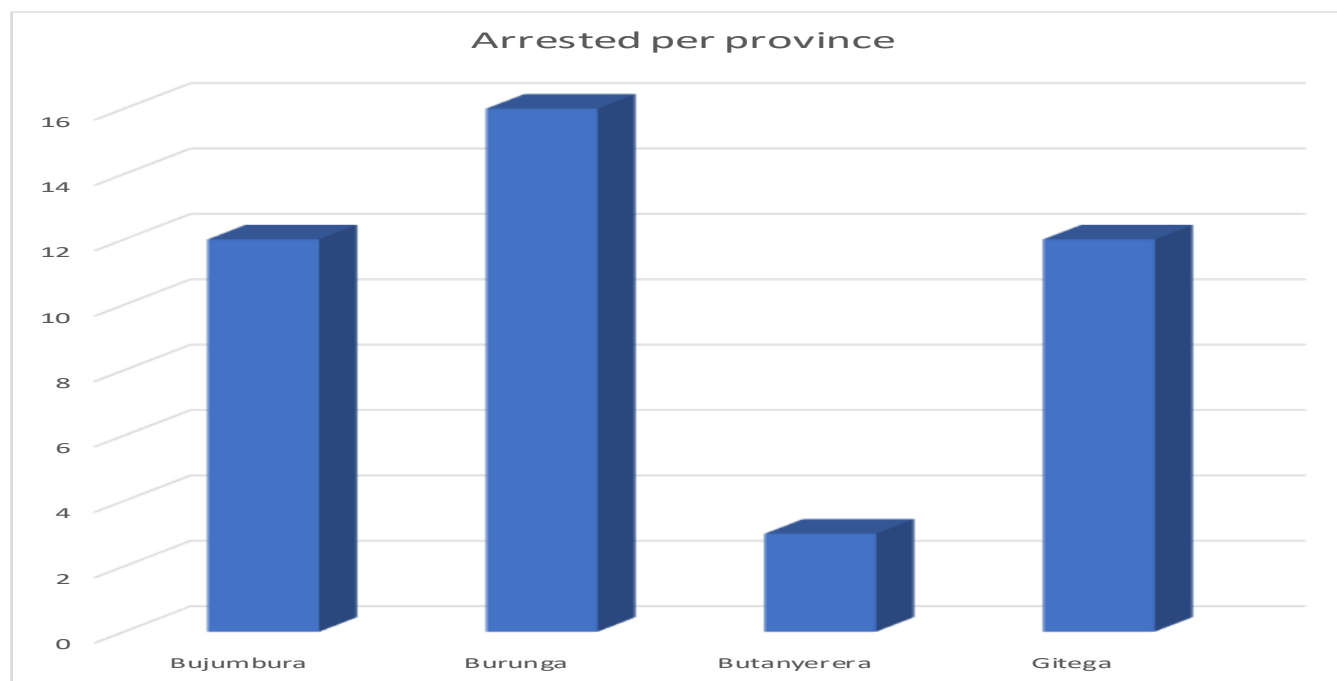
According to witnesses, the survivor was taken to Kaneza hospital for medical treatment, and the alleged perpetrator was arrested by the local Joint Security Committee and taken to Gitaza zone cell on June 9, 2025, at around 6:00 p.m.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

International and national laws in Burundi recognize the principle of innocence until proven guilty, and that detention is an exception.

During this reporting period, Ligue Iteka recorded at least 43 people arbitrarily arrested, including four women. The alleged perpetrators were police officers in 13 cases, Imbonerakure in eight cases, and SNR agents in two cases, and four cases of arrest by administrative officials.



II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS (CONTINUED)

Illustration cases:

Ex1 : On April 7, 2025, at around 3:00 p.m., Eduard Nzambimana, a resident of Musama 3 quarter, Kanyosha zone, in Muha commune, and a major figure in the pro-Rwasa CNL party, was arrested while carrying out his usual duties at Iriho gallery. This incident occurred in front of Star Times offices, near the area frequently referred to as "Velo Moto".

According to witnesses, Nzambimana was arrested by SNR officers dressed in police uniforms. Before being violently forced into a double-cab vehicle with tinted windows, registration number E 0462 A, he was beaten and mistreated. He was then taken to SNR cells, located near Regina Mundi Cathedral, in Bujumbura.

The family is deeply concerned, having been unaware of his whereabouts for several days, despite their unsuccessful searches in various detention centers. Lacking information regarding the reasons for his arrest, the family feels intense anxiety about his safety. They request that, if charges are brought against him, Eduard Nzambimana be brought before competent judicial authorities, in accordance with the law. The possibility of knowing he is in a secret location, with no possibility of contact or information about his condition, reinforces the fear of never seeing him again, or even of discovering that he has been killed. Eduard Nzambimana held the position of secretary of the pro-Rwasa CNL party in Mukaza, Bujumbura. He was also an active trader, selling clothing and offering outfit rental services for festivities such as weddings and dowry ceremonies, operating from his shop at Iriho Gallery.

After several days of uncertainty, it was confirmed that on April 10, Eduard Nzambimana spent his first night in Mpimba prison, after being jailed at SNR near Regina Mundi Cathedral.

Ex2: 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.

Ex3 : On June 5, 2025, at polling station number 3, Bubanza 2 polling center, Bubanza commune, Diane Bigirimana, wife of the president of RANAC party in Bubanza commune, was arrested on the orders of Imbonerakure and taken to Bubanza police station cell.

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

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

III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE.

In Burundi between April and June 2025, the notable events in Burundi were characterized by a cash crisis within financial institutions in Muyinga province. On June 9, Ligue Iteka was alerted to the difficulties faced by users to access financial services in this region. These circumstances have serious consequences for businesses and individuals, who must wait for deposits to withdraw their funds. Furthermore, government officials receive salaries topped at 200,000 Bif, and there are also reports that installment payments of loans are underway. This situation highlights the joint responsibility between the government and financial institutions to ensure adequate access to banking services, which directly impacts human rights, particularly the right to banking access.

Meanwhile, Butanyerera province is facing difficulties in fertilizer distribution, hampering agricultural productivity. Residents of Kirundo and Busoni communes are having difficulty accessing the necessary chemical fertilizers, with complaints of unfair distribution of orders. Some farmers are choosing not to return their order forms to avoid potential fraud. An incident of discrimination was also reported during the distribution of sugar by SOSUMO, where the official demanded voter's cards, penalizing those who had not voted.

Rising prices of necessities in Gisuru and Mishiha communes are causing concern, with reports of price increases despite a general downward trend. This situation is attributed to the high exchange rate of the Tanzanian shilling, which favors exports to Tanzania. An inspection carried out on June 18 in Buhiga commune revealed price inflation, leading to the seizure of stocks of Brarudi beverages by the authorities, who discovered sales at prices deemed excessive, despite declarations of shortages. Although these measures were intended to regulate speculation, the sanctions imposed were not accompanied by the return of the seized products.

Economic law was seriously violated in Burundi in May 2025, as illustrated by several notable incidents. The elections caused a quasi-total shutdown of socioeconomic activities in Muramvya commune as well as in Gitega province. On Friday, May 30, 2025, an unprecedented disruption of economic and social activities affected this region. CNDD-FDD party organized a rally at Muramvya Royal Stadium, where residents were awakened early by Imbonerakure, using loudspeakers, whistles, and drums to encourage the entire population to participate. As a result, all businesses were forced to close until the end of the event. Neighboring schools also suspended classes in the midst of preparations for the end of the school year, forcing students and teachers to go to the stadium to welcome party figures.

Furthermore, female traders were punished for expressing support for an independent candidate in Cibitoke commune of which was interpreted as political repression. Fruits left unattended on stalls due to the absence of female vendors ended up rotting, worsening the women's economic difficulties. The restriction on the return of voter's cards also created tensions during the market closures.

In the current economic context, it is imperative to consider the deep implications of political actions on daily life in Burundi. The economic challenges faced, particularly regarding access to resources, distribution, and the repression of citizens, shows the urgent need for structural reforms to ensure a more stable and inclusive future for the Burundian population.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION.

The right to education in Burundi was severely disrupted in the previous term, particularly in June 2025, especially in Cibitoke region. Several volunteer secondary school teachers refused to submit student grades due to late payments. Young graduates expressed frustration at the authorities' lack of financial commitments. School principals, desperate for assistance, saw tensions rise, threatening the school year. Young volunteers made the submission of report cards conditional on receiving their bonuses. One volunteer described a payment delay of more than eight months. In schools such as Cibitoke High School, united volunteers are also refusing to hand out report cards, leading some principals to suspend their distribution. Joseph Nyandwi, provincial director of education, admits that bonuses remain unpaid and emphasizes that blackmail over grades is not a solution, as it can lead to severe disciplinary sanctions. An expert is calling for fair treatment and compensation for volunteers, urging the State to intervene quickly.

In Mukungu, a conflict has emerged within the communal high school following the theft of exams, intensifying tensions. Disagreements over the organization of a new exam session or the validation of fraudulent results persist. Accusations of administrative misconduct have weighed on the principal, drawing criticism. In Gitega, an atmosphere of political campaigning intrudes the school environment. Despite legal restrictions on campaigns, CNDD-FDD party mobilization activities continue. An event, supposedly a food distribution, turned into a political rally, forcing students to demonstrate party loyalty. A teacher reported threats, creating mistrust among the students.

In May 2025, Ligue Iteka reported that the right to education was being affected by various incidents, such as at ÉCO FO Kobero, where classes were suspended for electoral activities. Many students, mobilized by CNDD-FDD, interrupted their studies to participate in partisan demonstrations. Parents called for a review of these activities. Concerns intensified in Makamba, where politics interfered with education, and students were forced to support CNDD-FDD in order to return to class.

In Rumonge, students were expelled following the theft of exam papers, and suspicions surrounding a principal, allegedly an accomplice, sparking outrage. Students in Mwaro are left without adequate instruction in science and technology, adding to parents' frustration. Teachers in Makamba have to fund themselves the printing of assessment materials, which is considered abusive. In Bugenyuzi commune, political meetings are coercing teachers, creating unacceptable pressure to uphold the ideals of the ruling party.

On April 3, 2025, a riot took place at Matana High School, while in Kayanza, students also suspended classes for a political visit. In other communes, degraded school infrastructure is blocking learning, while the introduction of political activities is disrupting student education. Principals fear excessive politicization of schools. Administrative irregularities are compromising justice in the education system. The exam leaks reveal an organizational failure, reinforcing doubts about educational integrity in Burundi.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH.

Access to health care in Burundi has been severely disrupted, particularly in Makombe, a transit camp in Rumonge where a measles epidemic is affecting Congolese refugee children. More than 1,090 children fleeing violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo are there, exposed to harsh living conditions. These families, often composed of women and children, are crossing Lake Tanganyika from areas like Fizi, worsened by conflicts between the Congolese army and the M23 group. Overcrowding and poor sanitation in the camp are fostering the spread of the disease, while new cases are also appearing in Rumonge. In response, a vaccination campaign has been implemented to protect healthy children and treat the sick. The right to health was also threatened in May in Muyinga, where a severe shortage of drinking water and electricity persists. The commune suffered a full week without access to these key resources, seriously affecting the health of residents. The neonatal wards at the local hospital are out of service due to a fuel oil shortage, jeopardizing the lives of newborns. Residents are urging Régideso to resolve this crisis, which has already caused heavy losses.

Simultaneously, in Bugendana, a shortage of medicines is affecting all health centers, leaving many patients without treatment. Medical staff are forced to refer patients to private pharmacies to obtain medication. One patient expresses his dissatisfaction with the administration's strategy, evident in its push to obtain Medical Assistance Cards. The Bugendana health center is in a critical situation with the recent departure of the laboratory technician, which has caused a three-week interruption in testing and a shortage of healthcare staff.

At Matana Hospital, another major problem is the lack of ambulances, which have been immobilized since an accident on March 30, 2025, making it difficult to refer patients. Patients now have to hire private vehicles for transfers to other facilities. Dr. Ange Larissa Nsabiyumva indicated that the ambulance currently under repair should soon be back in service.



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IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During this reporting period, a persistent deterioration in human rights was observed in various parts of the country. This report highlights incidents relating to violations of the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty, while also incorporating economic, social, and cultural rights. It also addresses issues related to security and the country's general context.

Ligue Iteka analyzes the major events that influenced the political, judicial, governance, human rights, and security landscapes during the quarter. The report also addresses violations of civil, political, and socioeconomic rights. Ligue Iteka expresses its outrage on impunity for the criminal acts observed and presents several recommendations:

To the Burundian authorities:

1. Ensure democratic governance while respecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens.
2. Demonstrate democratic leadership by integrating democratic principles into decision-making and governance actions.
3. Guarantee respect for human rights, including the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty.
4. Take steps to eradicate impunity for crimes and ensure that perpetrators of human rights violations are held accountable.

To the international community:

1. Support Ligue Iteka efforts and other human rights organizations to monitor human rights violations in Burundi.
2. Use their influence to pressure Burundian authorities to respect human rights and end impunity.

To human rights organizations:

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



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