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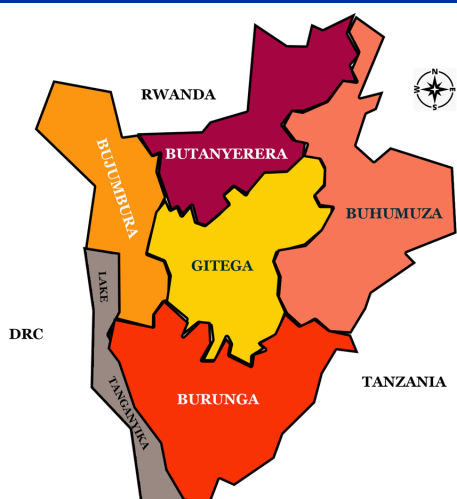
LIGUE BURUNDAISE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME " ITEKA "

BULLETIN HEBDOMADAIRE

"Iteka n'Ijambo"

N°481 from 30 June to 6 July 2025

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



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of Ligue Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to July 6, 2025, Ligue Iteka has documented at least 745 cases of enforced disappearances.

Ligue ITEKA :

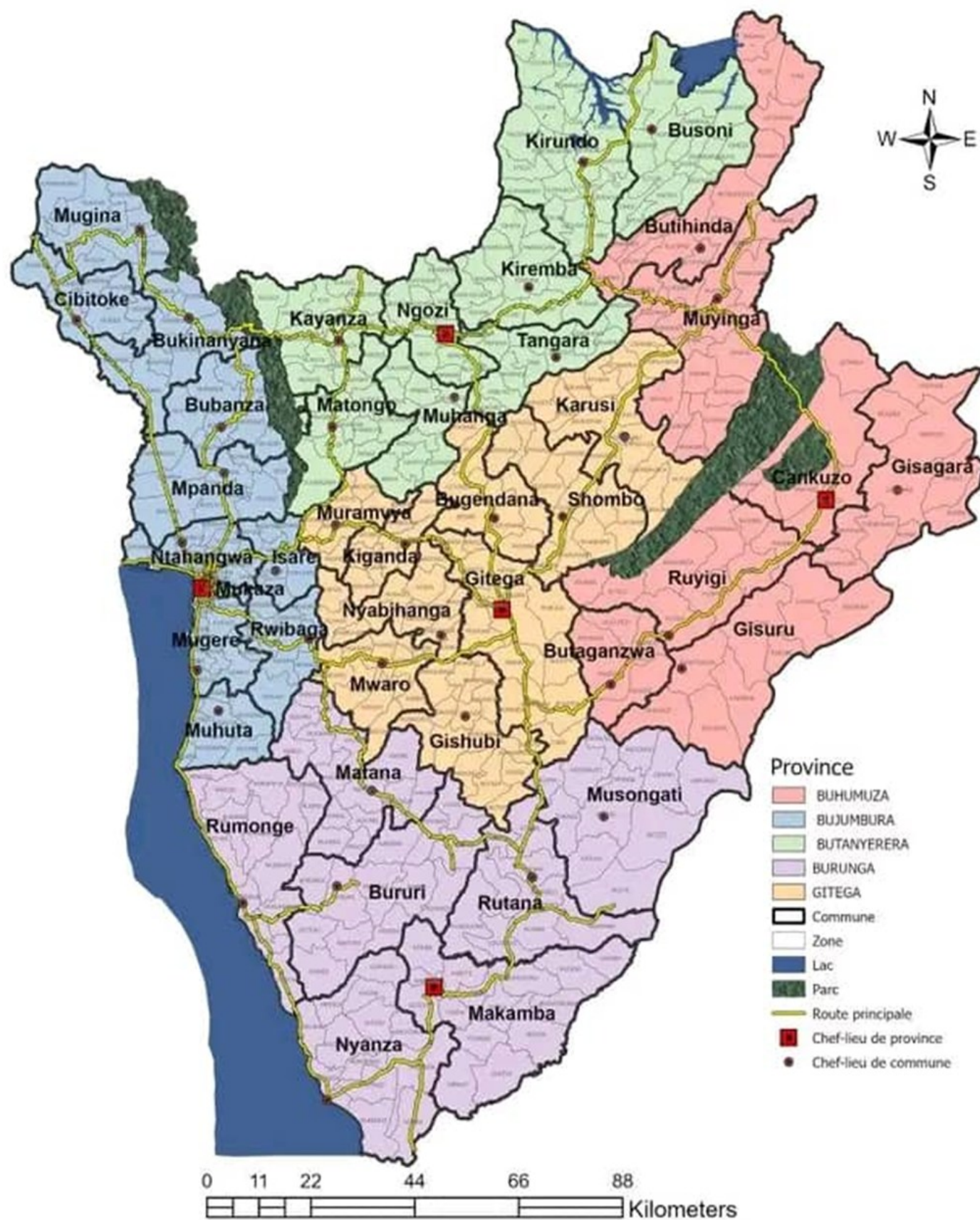
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- ♦ Ligue Iteka is decentralized in 17 federations and 32 sections .

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ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF 16 MARCH 2023



BRARUDI : *Breweries and Lemonade Plant of Burundi*

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

CNL : *National Congress for Liberty*

DCE : *Communal Directorate of Education*

DRC : *Democratic Republic of Congo*

EAC : *East African Community*

FDNB : *Burundi National Defense Force*

M23 : *March 23 Movement*

PSR : *Special Traffic Police*

RN : *National Road*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

UPRONA : *Union for National Progress*

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of June 30 to July 6, 2025. This period was characterized by a reduction in political tensions following the June 5 elections. In this report, Ligue Iteka also reviews the political, security, judicial, and governance contexts. It also addresses civil and political rights, as well as socioeconomic and cultural rights.

The allegations of human rights violations observed and documented by Ligue Iteka are as follows: at least 15 people were killed, including 7 bodies found, and 1 person was tortured. In addition, 142 cases of arbitrary arrests and detentions were reported. Among the victims are 140 mass arrests of Congolese people in Cibitoke commune.

The main suspects in these violations are administrative officials, police officers, and young Imbonerakure members linked to the ruling CNDD-FDD party.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Deterioration of the National Police's image on the Independence Day in Ngozi Commune.

The deterioration of the National Police's image is particularly evident on Independence Day, annually celebrated in Ngozi commune. For three years, representatives of this institution have not participated in the festive parade held on July 1st, an event of great importance to the population of Butanyerera province. According to the police officers themselves, the lack of appropriate uniforms and boots prevents them from participating in this celebration. However, this parade is a much-loved and expected event for the residents. They explain that normally, police officers receive new uniforms twice a year. However, some are beginning to express their dissatisfaction due to the wear and tear of their current uniforms.

It should be noted that this lack of uniforms could harm the morale of the police force. Furthermore, this situation illustrates shortcomings in the institution's internal management. The consequences of this lack of representation during such a symbolic event could be serious in terms of security, worsening the risks faced by civilians, who could lose confidence in their protectors, as well as the police themselves.

Independence in Bern and a confiscated democracy in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province

The independence celebration in Bern harshly contrasts to the political situation in Cibitoke, Bujumbura province, where democracy appears to have been confiscated. Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 6, 2025, highlights the deep disenchantment of Cibitoke residents as Burundi commemorates its 63rd anniversary of independence. The local population, along with the opposition, has clearly opposed the current CNDD-FDD regime, they accuse of repressing democracy, misappropriating political gains, and creating a deep socio-economic and security crisis. In this context, the feeling of usurped democracy is particularly strong in Cibitoke. The recent legislative and communal elections have been widely discredited by the opposition, including the Burundi Bwa Bose coalition, led by Sahwanya FRODEBU, and CNL, which describe the events as a "masquerade" or an "electoral hold-up." The Constitutional Court is also under fire for validating these results despite numerous protests, questioning the integrity and independence of the judiciary.

The population of Cibitoke, as in many other regions, lives under the threat of a regime accused of exercising its authority through terror. Reports of torture, abductions, and extrajudicial executions have driven a growing number of opponents to flee the country. Economically, the situation is equally worrying, with inflation reaching nearly 40% and significantly eroding citizens' purchasing power. The stagnation of agricultural production, essential to the local economy, results from the lack of appropriate policies. Reports from Rugombo report alarming poverty and critical shortages of basic food products. Corruption, combined with poor management of public funds, is perceived as a systemic scourge that even affects local administration institutions.

The health and education sectors are also suffering serious shortcomings. In Bukinanyana, health centers lack medicines and staff, entailing the rising of maternal and infant mortality

rates. Secondary school infrastructure is in poor condition, and textbooks are increasingly scarce. Citizens criticize the regime for its inability to provide basic services, despite its claims of sovereignty. Cibitoke, as a province bordering Rwanda, is directly affected by diplomatic tensions. The closure of the Ruhwa border severely limits the activities of local traders, depriving them of a crucial source of income. Furthermore, Burundi's involvement in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo against the M23 is raising concerns, with a former soldier calling for a withdrawal to avoid unnecessary casualties, particularly among the Imbonerakure of Cibitoke mobilized on the front lines.

Those defending CNDD-FDD's achievements are struggling to persuade. An eighty-year-old man, a former UPRONA member, declares that the current regime has betrayed Louis Rwagasore's ideals and abandoned the principles of unity, peace, and power-sharing imposed by the 2000 Arusha Agreements. This situation has given rise to a sense of despair among a population that, on the eve of independence, demands more than ever a return to the fundamental democratic principles of the Republic.

UPRONA party members removed from the list of hill councilors in Burunga province.

Members of UPRONA party have been removed from the list of hill councilors in Burunga province. This situation follows the communal elections held on June 5, 2025, in which CNDD-FDD party obtained a victory of 100%. Consequently, the party began a process of removing the names of candidates not affiliated with the ruling party from the list of hill councilors in Burunga province. On July 2, 2025, at a meeting chaired by CNDD-FDD provincial secretary Sylvain Nzikoruriho, in the presence of other representatives from different zones of Giharo commune, he clearly stipulated that any candidate wishing to run for the position of hill councilor and not appearing on the Bagumyabanga list would have no right to appear on that list and therefore could not be elected

as a hill councilor, a decision that would be applied throughout the province. He added that they no longer have time to organize elections and that they would proceed to list the names of CNDD-FDD members. It should be noted that four people had their applications rejected: Binamungu Côme, Nyandwi Zabulon, Nahimana Glorioso and Nathanaël, all members of UPRONA party, from Mutwana hill, in Butezi zone of Giharo commune.

Dysfunction within the public administration in Muyinga commune, Buhumuza province.

The public administration of Muyinga commune, located in Buhumuza province, is experiencing notable dysfunction. A marked reluctance can be observed among administrative officials and throughout public services. The latter seem to be guided by a worrying inaction, not making necessary decisions in situations requiring immediate action.

Employees claim they are ready to act, but express their inability to handle citizens' complaints and other concerns, citing uncertainty surrounding their own future. This is particularly evident in the case of the Communal Education Directorate (DCE) and the provincial education inspectorate.

These institutions chose not to cancel the joint deliberation between the principal of St. André High School in Mukoni, Kwizigira Espérance, and the prefect, with the attendance of three teachers, a librarian, and a supervisor, all involved in a school with more than 25 teachers.

This impasse is explained by a blatant lack of collaboration and effective communication, which led the principal to postpone the deliberation, initially scheduled for Friday, to the following Saturday, without first informing the staff.

Fraud reported in the preparation of the elections for hill heads across the commune of Cankuzo in Buhumuza province.

Irregularities have been observed in the preparation process for the elections for hill heads in Cankuzo commune, located in Buhumuza province. The period from June 16 to 25, 2025, was specifically dedicated to CECI registration for candidates wishing to serve as hill and quarter heads. Yet, across the commune, individuals had already been nominated for these positions, quite before registration officially opened.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 7)

According to the existing legislation, this registration should be free, without any distinction based on political affiliation. Unfortunately, the reality on the ground, in all the hills, clearly contradicts this electoral law. Fear rules. For a person to be elected, they must first be nominated and supported by CNDD-FDD party. Those who dare to attempt registration are intimidated by Imbonerakure, terrorizing any opposition.

Forced contributions to celebrate the electoral victory in Cankuzo commune.

The return of forced contributions to celebrate the electoral victory in Cankuzo commune marked a memorable day. On Saturday, July 5, 2025, every hill, without exception, was transformed into a stage for festivities dedicated to the celebration of this electoral victory, linked with the culture of "Kwihungura irangi." Financial resources necessary for these celebrations were systematically collected, quarter by quarter, household by household, and even within the different departments. With no exceptions, even for those who were not members of CNDD-FDD or other political parties; they were also included in this call for contributions. Collection lists bearing CNDD-FDD emblem and logo circulated everywhere.

These documents included the person's first and last name, hill of origin, the amount donated, the department or position, as well as the telephone number and signature. At the time of the collection, the Bakenyerarugamba and Imbonerakure affirmed that everyone could donate according to their means. This collection process lasted for a whole week before July 5, 2025 and continued on the same day, thus demonstrating a notable community mobilization.

Mutwana hill elections: candidates exclusion and national reports of irregularities

As the hill councilor elections in the Giharo zone approach, tensions are rising on Mutwana hill, particularly in Butezi zone. Four citizens who decided to run for office to represent their hill report their unjustified exclusion from the electoral list, imposed under pressure from influential individuals in the ruling CNDD-FDD party.

The candidates concerned are:

1. Côme Binamungu,
2. Zabulon Nyandwi,
3. Glorioso Nahimana, and
4. Nathanaël [his name is not precised].

Although they were duly registered, various local reports indicate that influential CNDD-FDD figures have requested their removal from the list from Musongati Independent Communal Electoral Commission (CECI). Among the names mentioned as having pressured are: Bernard Ntirandekura, CNDD-FDD representative on Mutwana hill; Cyriaque Komezurugendo, representative in Butezi zone; Renovat Hakizimana, representative of Giharo commune; Sylvain Nzikoruriho, representative in Burunga province; as well as Vincent Nemerimana, current hill head of Mutwana and on the top of CNDD-FDD list for these elections.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 8)

On the ground, CNDD-FDD members were reportedly warned that the elections would be just a formality: "We will simply read the list; there is no need to vote. Everything has already been decided," some internal sources report. The four rejected candidates are criticized for not being officially affiliated with CNDD-FDD. According to their critics, they are considered sympathizers or members of other parties, such as UPRONA. For some representatives of the ruling party, this situation is unacceptable in a commune where they want only Bagumyabanga (members of CNDD-FDD) to access hill head positions. Moreover, the excluded candidates highlight blatant inequalities in the processing of applications: while some documents are neglected for CNDD-FDD candidates, these same documents are strictly required for those from the opposition.

This climate of injustice and anxiety on Mutwana hill is causing residents to feel insecure in the face of these potentially destructive pre-election maneuvers. They are calling on the authorities to reinstate these four candidates so they can participate in the election equally like any other citizen. According to CNDD-FDD members themselves, these practices are not unique to Mutwana. Similar cases are reportedly reported in other communes across the country, where candidates deemed unaligned with party interests are systematically excluded, questioning the credibility and inclusiveness of the electoral process at the national level.

Giharo: controversy surrounds the decisions of hill notables on political interference and violations of moral norms

In Musongati commune, Giharo zone, located in Burunga province, a Bashingantahe institution is confronted with the ideologies of the ruling party and not guided by customary morality. A particularly controversial event occurred on Thursday, June 26, 2025, on Kibimba hill. That day, the dynamics of the Bashingantahe (local notables) faced an unexpected turmoil. Boniface Nyandwi, a man married to a single wife, was removed from his role in favor of Anderson Habonimana, who lived with two women. This act, which has been the subject of severe protest, has angered residents, who consider it as a political and moral deviation. Rumors indicate that this decision was influenced by political backstabbing. Indeed, according to several local sources, the decision to replace Nyandwi was not based on any clear criteria, but rather on partisan logic. This maneuver was allegedly orchestrated by Léonard Ruhoranyi, CNDD-FDD party secretary on Kibimba hill, in complicity with Zacharie Baturungwanayo, the hill head.

Together, they show their wish to exclude non-members of their party from the hill's decision-making institutions. This process is against the very purpose of these structures, created by the national authorities to promote mediation, peace, and coexistence, regardless of political affiliation.

Kibimba residents highlight a troubling paradox: while moral integrity should be an essential criterion for accessing the status of notable, many current leaders seem to lead lives that blatantly contradict societal values. For example, the president of the notables on this hill divorced twice and married three successive women. Moreover, the hill head himself is also in a polygamous relationship.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 9)

Submission of applications for hill/quarter councilors in Musongati commune

Yet, existing national legislation prohibits local leaders from having more than one wife or concubine, in order to preserve public morality. Faced with these inconsistencies, Giharo residents feel a deep sense of alienation. They believe that the decisions of the community leaders are increasingly influenced by CNDD-FDD political leaders and some local administrators. Each time they try to challenge these decisions in court, they encounter a new obstacle: many claim that these same administrators exert direct pressure on Giharo court, particularly its president, known for his support of CNDD-FDD.

Such influence over the judiciary undermines the very principle of impartiality and reinforces the feeling of abandonment among a part of the population, who now doubt the neutrality of the institutions supposed to defend them. The situation in Kibimba reveals a deeper malaise within local governance. If the authorities wish to

restore the credibility of these community institutions, it is urgent to thoroughly review the process for appointing community leaders to ensure their independence and integrity, while preserving political neutrality. Vigilance is necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the judicial system, free from any political influence. Like so many other regions of the country, Giharo commune awaits concrete measures to ensure that these structures become places of trust, justice, and social balance.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

Collapse of a wall onto houses causing the death of an infant in Ngozi commune.

On June 30, 2025, a tragedy occurred in Ngozi commune, more precisely in Kigarama quarter, where a wall under construction suddenly collapsed onto two neighboring houses. This incident caused major destruction, both human and material.

According to reports, an infant less than one year old was in one of these houses at the time of the collapse and died shortly afterward. Furthermore, a man suffered serious injuries when he was pulled from the rubble, along with two of his children. The victims were quickly transported to Ngozi Hospital for necessary medical care.

This tragic event plunged the quarter and its residents into deep grief.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

Verdict of Rutana High Court in a flagrante delicto trial.

The Rutana High Court, in a flagrante delicto trial, handed down a 15-year sentence of penal servitude to Havyarimana Emmanuel and Eric Irankunda, both residing in Gihofi in Bukemba zone. Meanwhile, Melchiade Ndayisenga and Léonidas Niragira, from Rongerero hill in Rutana commune, will serve seven-year prison. These four individuals were found guilty of robbery.

The trial took place on the evening of Friday, June 27, 2025. Emmanuel HAVYARIMANA and Eric IRANKUNDA were arrested in the act while attempting to steal goods from a reader's stock in Kigwati quarter of Rutana around 3 a.m. Melchiade NDAYISENGA had left on a motorcycle with 300 kg of beans toward BUGIGA, located ten kilometers from Rutana, while Léonidas NIRAGIRA had hid-

den these bags of beans. Melchiade was arrested while returning to Rutana for a second batch that his accomplices had been trying to remove from the stock before being arrested. It should be noted that these three men had just been released from the prison, Haviyarimana and Irankunda for robbery, while Eric had served a sentence for murder. In addition, they will have to pay 400,000 Bif to the trader, the victim of these acts of vandalism, to repair the padlocks they damaged.

A woman jailed for infanticide in Buyengero, Rumonge commune, Burunga province.

Since Tuesday, July 1, 2025, an octogenarian woman residing in Nyamurunga village, from Buyengero zone of Rumonge commune, Burunga province, has been jailed by the local police. According to reports from the locality, corroborated by Mr. Étienne Havyarimana, the commune administrator, this woman is suspected of having caused the death of her own child by poisoning, a tragic act that allegedly occurred on June 17, 2025.

The administrator specified that it is planned to transfer the suspect to Rumonge prosecutor's office so that the judiciary can take charge of the case and examine it according to the applicable legal procedures.

For their part, the residents of Nyamurunga hope that justice will be rigorously applied, convinced that the person responsible must face an exemplary sentence. Some of them express fears about the suspect's possible release, despite the seriousness

of her act, arguing that she could have been linked to other previous deaths.

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE .

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE .

II.1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS OR IMBONERAKURE MILITIA

Six people killed by Imbonerakure in Nyabiraba commune, Bujumbura province

On June 30, 2025, on Gasarara hill, Nyabibondo zone, Nyabiraba commune, Bujumbura province, six people, including Annociatte, Vénantie, Stéphanie Emmanuel, and Venacais, and Ndarwibagiye, were murdered by Imbonerakure, accused of sorcery. According to local witnesses, on July 1, 2025, 14 suspected people were arrested by the police and taken to Nyabiraba commune cells. Among those arrested is the Imbon-

erakure leader on Gasarara hill, Elysée Ndayikengurukiye, who is being blamed by the population for having organized and ordered these heinous crimes. Michel Barakana, administrator of Nyabiraba commune, adds that investigations have already started. The Agathon Rwasa CNL party wing spokesman says that among the victims are CNL party members.

II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY SETTLING SCORES

Murder of a man in Bukemba commune, Burunga province

A man died in Bukemba zone of Rutana commune, Burunga province. On July 3, 2025, on Bugiga hill, NDAYIZEYE Bosco lost his life following a deadly attack, perpetrated with a machete by Misigaro Roger. It should be noted that these two individuals were involved in a land dispute, and their case was being processed at Rutana High Court. The

victim's body was buried, while the alleged perpetrator was arrested and jailed at Bukemba communal police station.

II.1.2. BODIES FOUND.

A body found in Muramvya commune, Gitega province.

On July 1, 2025, the body of an adult male was found in a bush around 6 a.m. on Mirinzi hill, Shombo zone, Muramvya commune, Gitega province. The body was Nzigamyé Melchior, aged 64, from the same hill. According to local sources, a land dispute was the cause of this murder. According to the same sources, the victim had been seen the day before sharing a drink with his friends at Buruhukiro trading center (some 500 meters from his home) until late at night.

Three suspects were arrested, including his cousin Nsabumuremyi Éric, aged 36. The others were Irakoze Fernand, aged 28, and Nsabimana Edmond, aged 31, all Imbonerakure.

II.1.2. BODIES FOUND(continued from page 12)

A child's body found in Buhumuza province

On the morning of June 28, 2025, on Camazi hill, Camazi zone, Gisagara commune, in Buhumuza province, a 12-year-old boy named Enoch Habiyambere, son of Cishahayo, was killed by as yet unidentified individuals. According to local sources, the day before the crime, the deceased went to the river to fetch water around 6 p.m. His parents waited, but Enoch did not return. The following morning, his body was discovered decapitated in a bush near the water fountain.

The residents of this hill found this situation very strange because it was the first time this type of crime had occurred. Political reasons are believed to be behind this crime, as the deceased's father is a retired ex-FAB and has applied for the hill elections. According to local sources, he is an influential member of the pro-Agathon RWASA CNL party.

A body found in Musenyi river in Mpanda commune, Bujumbura province

The body was discovered yesterday, July 6, 2025, on the banks of Musenyi River, separating the communes of Mpanda and Rugazi, in the new province of Bujumbura. The victim was a man, estimated to be between 35 and 40 years old.

He appears to have been stabbed to death, as the body showed visible stab wounds. The victim's identity could not be determined, but it is suspected that he was killed elsewhere before being dumped at this location. The administrator of Mpanda commune, Nadine NIBITANGA, went to the scene and ordered the body transferred to the mortuary of Mpanda General Hospital.

A 35-year-old man's body found dead in Gitaza, Muhuta commune, Bujumbura province.

On June 30, 2025, at around 6:30 a.m., the body of a man was discovered on the beach of Lake Tanganyika, in Gitaza center, Muhuta commune, Bujumbura province, located in southwestern Burundi. The victim was identified as Rémy Ntiruvahirya, aged 35.

From Kirombwe sub-hill, Gitaza hill, in the same province, Rémy Ntiruvahirya was last seen on Saturday evening on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, according to several witnesses. The latter reported that the body showed signs of an unnatural death, suggesting a possible assault.

Local administrative authorities, accompanied by members of the deceased's family, buried the body that same afternoon.

II.1.2. BODIES FOUND(continued from page 13)

A body discovered in Rumonge commune, Burunga province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 3, 2025, indicated that on June 16, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., a body was discovered at Gitwe hill cemetery, in Buruhukiro zone, Rumonge commune, by individuals who had come to bury a relative. As at Murambi hill, the disappearance of a 32-year-old man named Mbo-nyimana Torati had been reported, and his family was therefore notified.

According to witnesses on the scene, the victim had left his home in Murambi, Buruhukiro zone, Rumonge commune, on the evening of June 15, 2025, to visit his aunt who lived on Nyagasaka hill (Gatwenzi sub-hill). On the way, he was attacked by criminals who beat him, injuring his eyes and testicles. They then took him to the local police. During the journey, a neighbor, noticing the victim's

critical condition, asked them where they were taking him. They replied that they were going to the judicial police station.

Then, on the morning of June 16, 2025, a body was found in the vegetation of the cemetery, adjacent to the road to Gitwe hill, which allowed his parents to recognize him. They then alerted the local police and the hill authorities, who proceeded with the burial after taking photographs. On June 30, 2025, the deceased's father went to Rumonge prosecutor's office to file a complaint, and summonses were sent to the hill administration as well as to some members of the youth league of the ruling party, the Imbonerakure, identified among those who had accompanied the victim.

Unfortunately, no one showed up. The prosecutor then issued a second summons for July 7, 2025.

A girl aborted a 3-month-old fetus on Kinyinya hill, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province.

On July 1, 2025, information received by the Iteka Human Rights Ligue indicates that on June 28, 2025, in Ntakangwa commune, on Kinyinya I hill, Bujumbura province, a 29-year-old woman named Jocelyne Itangishaka, working as a tailor on the same hill in Kinyinya, clandestinely aborted using abortion drugs.

It was while she was at work that her colleagues noticed she wasn't feeling well, as she remained lying down, which aroused suspicion. According to local sources, she miscarried that evening on her way home. When questioned, she confessed everything. She is currently jailed in Maramvya zone.

Homicide in Gabiro-Ruvyagira: A 59-year-old woman found dead in her cassava field in Gabiro-Ruvyagira, Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province

On Gabiro-Ruvyagira hill, in Rugombo zone of Cibitoke commune, the body of Julienne Nahayo, a 59-year-old woman, was discovered this Sunday, July 6, in her own cassava field, the day after her disappearance.

According to local sources, the victim had gone alone early in the morning to her usual farming activities. Not returning, her family members searched her, but without success. In the afternoon, passersby, attracted by an abnormal concentration of flies in a remote part of the field, made the horrible discovery: a pool of blood and, a little further away, Nahayo's body.

II.1.2. BODIES FOUND (continued from page 14)

The initial findings of the investigation leave little room for doubt: this was a homicide. According to the local police report, the body bore clear signs of violence. The victim was apparently dragged several meters before being killed. The autopsy performed at Cibitoke mortuary confirmed severe head trauma, likely caused by a blunt object.

The reason for the crime could be linked to a dispute over land ownership. According to several members of the victim's family, this field had recently been contested by individuals who allegedly threatened Nahayo. Some of them even publicly declared their intention to kill her.

This information points to a premeditated murder, against the backdrop of a land dispute, an unfortunately recurring phenomenon in some rural areas of Burundi where tensions over farmland remain high.

The police in Rugombo immediately opened an investigation. The police commissioner has

launched an appeal for witnesses and the cooperation of the local population in order to identify the perpetrators of this heinous act.

"We invite anyone with useful information to come to the authorities or share it anonymously. No detail is insignificant in this type of investigation," he said.

Julienne Nahayo's shocked family is demanding immediate justice. "We have lost a mother, a sister, a peaceful neighbor. This crime cannot go unpunished," said a relative, his voice thick with emotion. In a climate of growing tension, the residents of Gabiro-Ruvyagira hope that the authorities will take all necessary measures to ensure their safety and prevent such tragedies to happen again.

Attempted murder of a newborn discovered at the entrance of the health center in Bururi

On the night of Friday, July 4, 2025, a newborn was discovered at the entrance to Gisanze health center, located in Matana commune, Burunga province. Child rights defenders in Bururi have expressed their concern and called on the police to find the mother of this abandoned child so that she can be punished in accordance with existing legislation.

Félix Niyongabo, the commune administrator, indicated that the police, in close collaboration with local authorities and community members, are currently engaged in a search for the mother who abandoned her child shortly after giving birth.

This authority also stated that the baby, suffering from the cold, was placed in an incubator at Bururi Hospital this Saturday.

If the mother is not found, the child will be transferred to Kirembe orphanage, also located in the same commune.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY .

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

A person tortured in Buhiga commune, Gitega province

On June 28, 2025, around 10 p.m., on Rwingoma hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Gitega province, Nzeyimana Thomas, a 32-year-old CNDD FDD member from Bugenyuzi hill, zone and commune, who had come to visit, was beaten by three Imbonerakure including Twagirayesu Dieudonné, aged 26, Bigirimana Charles, aged 30, and Tuyisenge Issa, aged 25. According to local witnesses, these Imbonerakure were commanded by Nkeshimana, a 57-year-old CNDD FDD member, when he saw this visitor at his brother's house (Nkeshimana's brother) because his friends are the sons of Nkeshimana's brother from Makamba, where they had gone in search of work.

On June 29, 2025, the victim, helped by his friends, went to the hill head to complain. After listening to both parties, Nkeshimana was fined 30,000 Bif to give to the victims for medical treatment. The Imbonerakure were taken to a place where they were beaten with sticks, according to the quarter head.

II.2.2 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A man killed by his wife in Bugendana commune, Gitega province.

A man named Basabose Fabien, aged 45, from Rurengera hill, Mutaho commune, Gitega province, was killed by his own wife with a pestle while they were going to bed on the night of July 7, 2025. The alleged perpetrator, Ndayikengurukiye Béatrice, aged 33, accused him of having extramarital affairs.

According to neighbors, the victim was a Muslim. Local police confirmed the incident and indicated that the woman voluntarily went to the communal office around 11 a.m. on Monday, confessing to her actions.

The local administration, in agreement with the victim's family, decided to bury the de-

ceased according to Muslim rituals. The suspect, meanwhile, was jailed, and her case is pending before the courts.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM.

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS .

More than 140 Congolese nationals arbitrarily arrested in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province

Between June 14 and July 3, 2025, more than 140 Congolese citizens were arrested in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province. These individuals were jailed in the modern market cells, at Rugombo police station, as well as at Rukana and Cibitoke police stations. From Bukavu and Kamanyola, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), they were arrested after crossing Rusizi River into Burundi. According to a local source, these arrests were carried out by members of the Imbonerakure militia, linked to CNDD-FDD party, in coordination with police present at the border.

Most of those arrested, mainly young men, were in transit to Uvira, Masisi, Kongolo, Lubumbashi, Kalemie, and Moba, due to the impossibility of using Uvira road, currently under the control of the M23 rebel movement.

According to the same source, the arrests were based on unfounded accusations of complicity with the M23, only because of their geographical origin. The detainees reported being stripped of their personal belongings (clothing, money, valuables), with some claiming to have lost up to US\$2,000.

Allegations of ill-treatment, physical assault, and food deprivation were raised. Detention conditions have been described as unsanitary, overcrowded, and unsuitable for accommodating individuals not accused of crimes.

Detainees also report being denied access to legal and medical assistance and receiving no official information regarding the reasons for their detention. However, on July 3, 2025, these Congolese nationals were released without trial or compensation after a three-week detention. However, their confiscated personal belongings have not been returned.

The released individuals now express an urgent need for humanitarian assistance, as well as for securing their reintegration or return to their country of origin to reunite with their relatives.

Local authorities, in collaboration with security services, have confirmed these arrests, which they justify as preventive measures against alleged security risks. According to their statements, the entry of these individuals from Kamanyola, a region influenced by the M23, represented a potential danger to national security. They reiterated that the border is officially closed and that any irregular crossing is subject to severe penalties.

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS . (continued from page 17)

A woman arbitrarily arrested on Mboza hill, Ruyaga zone, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province.

Information received by ITEKA Human Rights League on July 4, 2025, indicates that Gloriose Ntahiraja, from Mboza hill, Ruyaga zone, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, was arbitrarily arrested and is currently jailed in Kabezi Prosecutor's Office cell. A mother of six, Gloriose was married to Dieudonné Nshimirimana.

According to the testimony of the residents of this hill, Dieudonné and Gloriose's home had been experiencing misunderstanding for some time, as Dieudonné constantly sought to expel his wife to marry another woman. He did everything he could to mistreat Gloriose so that she would leave on her own, but she endured all the violence and remained to raise their six children. When Dieudonné realized that his attempts to get rid of her had failed, he finally abandoned her and their six children and exiled in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

After all this suffering, some members of Dieudonné's family continued to seek a way to jail Gloriose. On June 20, 2025, she punished her daughter for a misdeed and was immediately arbitrarily arrested on charges of trying to kill her child, although she explained that it was simply a routine parental punishment. The same day, she was taken to Ruyaga zone cell and charged with attempted murder.

On July 2, 2025, Gloriose Ntahiraja was transferred from Ruyaga to Kabezi Prosecutor's Office cell, with the aim of facilitating her permanent eviction from her household, as had been planned for a long time, according to a local source.

One person arrested in Muramvya commune, Gitega province.

Information received by Ligue Iteka dated July 6, 2025, indicates that on June 26, 2025, on Remera hill, Shombo zone, Muramvya commune, Gitega province, Butoyi Fulgence, aged 37, from Namande hill, Yanza zone, Nyabihanga commune, Gitega province, and a member of UPRONA party, was arrested by Imbonerakure accused of tearing down a CNDD-FDD party flag.

According to eyewitnesses, a group of six Imbonerakure from Remera hill, led by 31-year-old Ngezahayo Venerand, came to his house with a torn CNDD-FDD flag and placed him in his compound. According to the same witnesses, he had repeatedly refused to join their party. They roped him and took him and the flag to Muramvya communal police station, where he has been jailed ever since.

III.1. **DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE**

Consequences of the border closure with Rwanda: An economy in distress and disarray.

Since the border closure between Rwanda and Burundi, the suffering endured by the population of Ruhororo, Butahana, Nyamakarabo, and Rubona zones is difficult to comprehend. The consequences are obvious on a social level, resulting in the breakdown of family ties between Rwandans and Burundians with relatives across the border. Economically, the repercussions are just as severe, with reduced, if not impossible, access to the Rwandan market. This trade provided this population with a means of obtaining various goods at affordable prices, such as fuel, which had become scarce in Burundi, cattle, and SIM cards from MTN and Tigo operators, which are the only companies guaranteeing reliable telephone coverage in these areas.

In addition, human rights abuses are emerging, with reports of abductions and ransoms imposed on those who dare to cross the border. Among the most tragic events was the murder of two Imbonerakure, two men in

their thirties from Nyamakarabo hill, on June 19, 2025.

These victims lost their lives following unfounded accusations related to an alleged coffee sale in Rwanda. Behind this crime, which the administrative authorities have never condemned, lies an invisible hand, suspected of being that of intelligence agents, the governor of the former Cibitoke province, as well as CNDD-FDD officials and zone heads, who only support those who work for them or bring them profits. The main reason for this murder lies in the fact that the victims did not accept the repression suffered by the rest of the population. Even individuals visiting their relatives are arrested, while on the other side of the border in Rwanda, local authorities allow Burundians to pass through unhindered. The population denounces an agonizing economy due to this border closure, while insisting that human rights remain seriously violated in these localities.

The mystery of Brarudi beverage trade, disrupting the country's economy

For some time now, it has been observed that some Brarudi beverages, such as Amstel, Amstel Bechou, and Royal, are experiencing a notable shortage on the market. Primus, is offered at a price higher than the legal price, raising questions. With the disappearance of the aforementioned beverages, Primus has gained popularity, now selling for between 5,000 and 6,000 Bif in places such as MUSAGA, KINANIRA II, and Kanyosha, all located in Mugere commune. Surprisingly, even other brands,

such as Amstel, Amstel Béchou, and Royal, are still available on the market, but at very high prices, starting at 15,000 Bif. For example, at Sous le Manguier bar, run by Vyisi in Kinanira II, in Mugere commune, Amstel was listed at 15,000 Bif and Royal at 12,000 Bif, but these transactions took place somewhat clandestinely.

III.1. *DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE*

Some brands were accessible, but when we asked the owners about their origin, we were told they came from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Moreover, they are also sold in stores, such as to Gérard's in Kinindo. However, rumors persist that the Brewery continues to produce and export them abroad, or that others obtain them to resell them at high prices after secret negotiations with representatives of the beer distribution.

According to some sources, these Brarudi drinks are being transported to Tanzania and the DRC before returning at higher prices, a phenomenon that is seriously disrupting the country's economy, especially in a context

where the population suffers from alarming poverty.

For some time now, the police have been mobilizing to address the soaring prices of alcoholic beverages. Some individuals have been fined, while others have served prison sentences. However, the situation appears to be complex, as some actors have been arrested while others continue to operate with impunity, raising doubts about the integrity of the police themselves. For example, the bar/bistro located near BSR, in Mukaza commune, displays abnormal prices for Brarudi products, and the regulars at this bar are often police officers, which creates an atmosphere of suspicion and concern.

Some of the herders in Bururi province complain that their cows have not been vaccinated against lumpy skin disease and foot-and-mouth disease.

During this campaign, cows in the former Bururi, Matana, and Songa communes received the lumpy skin disease vaccine, and each herder paid 1,000 Bif per vaccinated cow. Those in Mugamba, Rutovu, and Vyanda communes received the foot-and-mouth disease vaccine for a fee of 2,000 Bif per cow. These farmers complain that they were not informed about this campaign. Others say they went to the vaccination sites, but due to a lack of vaccines, their cows were not vaccinated, and they fear they risk contamination of these viral diseases without curative medication. Meanwhile, the Bururi livestock office has confirmed about twenty deaths across Bururi province since the beginning of this year from lumpy skin disease.

Gloriose Niyubahwe, director of Bururi provincial office for environment, agriculture, and livestock, explains this lack of vaccines by the fact that this office has only received 5,000 doses of vaccines against lumpy skin disease and 4,666 doses against foot-and-mouth disease, while the entire former Bururi province has a total of more than 100,000 cows that were expected for this campaign. The farmers are calling on the government to seek other vaccines as soon as possible to protect the remaining cows, otherwise the spread of these diseases will continue.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

End-of-year school activities disrupted by a CNDD-FDD political meeting in Makamba

On July 3, 2025, the second sit exams scheduled for several schools in Makamba commune could not take place due to a "patriotism" meeting organized at the same time by the secretary general of CNDD-FDD party, Révérien Ndikuriyo, for young students known as "majorettes," who are often mobilized for the ruling party's parades.

The meeting was held at Makamba High School of Excellence and attracted a large number of students, to the detriment of educational activities. In almost all of the commune's schools, teachers arrived early in the morning for exams, but were surprised to find classrooms almost empty. "It's incomprehensible that the ruling party organize political activities at such a crucial time for students. It was their last chance to save their school year," lamented one anonymous teacher.

According to reliable reports, the students who attended the meeting were enticed by material benefits promised on the occasion, including a buffet served on site and a per diem, a sum of money offered to participants, and such an initiative is raising questions in educational circles.

Teachers now fear pressure from their principals. Some say they fear being forced to retake the exams, in violation of current school regulations, which strictly limit the number of assessment sessions.

Parents share the same concern, denouncing political interference in their children's educa-

tion, particularly those involved as majorettes. Several say their children are regularly prevented from attending classes and summoned to rehearsals for political parades under CNDD-FDD banner. "We were told it was only for official holidays, but now it's almost every week. Even today, they missed the exams to listen to a political speech," confided a visibly exasperated mother.

Some students freely admit that they deliberately chose to attend the meeting rather than take their exams. For them, these patriotic activities are valued, sometimes more than academic success. "If we refuse to attend these meetings, we could be expelled from majorette groups. And we might even get into trouble at school," said a ninth-grade student.

This incident has revived the debate on the independence of schools from political interests in Burundi. While teachers have been calling for respect for the school calendar and students' rights to a stable education, this new political interference highlights the persistent tensions between educational institutions and party structures. No official statement from the Ministry of Education or CNDD-FDD party has yet been issued on the matter, but frustration is palpable in schools in Makamba commune. Teachers and parents hope that the authorities will take measures to prevent such disruptions from recurring, especially at such crucial times for students' future.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (continued from page 21)

A teacher refuses to give students their results because his principal owes him 92,000 Bif in Bururi.

Students in 7th and 8th grades at ECOFO Rukina, Mutsinda hill, Matana commune, Burunga province, have not yet received their end-of-year results, although the first announcement was scheduled for Wednesday, July 2, 2025. For good reason, a volunteer teacher of Kiswahili and English subjects in these classes has refused to give them the results. Information on the ground

indicates that he is demanding 92,000 Bif the school owes him.

After a teacher who was teaching classes went on maternity leave, the school's principal assigned them to Alexis Tuyigendanire for a fee of 2,000 Bif per hour worked, but the principal has not yet paid, and the teacher has decided to keep the students' results.

A student attempted suicide after being informed of her failure.

On Monday, June 30, 2025, around 5:30 p.m. on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, the student's parent received a phone call from a resident of Gatara quarter, where there is a deep ditch caused by rainwaters. He told her that they had just found her daughter, Kimana Maryse, born on October 6, 2004, student at Lycée Technique la Référence in Buhiga in 2nd year of computer science and management.

When she went to the school reports announcement, they told her she had failed, even though she had 53% in the second term with three failures. She did not have the courage and went to the ditch where she threw herself. She was evacuated, and her father took her to Buhiga Hospital for first aid. She was still breathing, but in a coma, before being transferred this Tuesday morning to Cinquantenaire Hospital in Karusi, for X-ray (MRI).

The results showed that she had not suffered any shock to the head or even to the spine. Above all, her family noted a psychological disorder, as she spoke uncoordinated words. They are waiting for her to recover so she can tell them about the problems she has for her recovery.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

Residents fear diseases linked to dirty hands given the lack of drinking water in Muyinga commune.

People in the different quarters of Muyinga commune are deeply concerned about the risk of diseases caused by poor hand hygiene. Indeed, some residents are in desperate situations, sometimes spending more than a month without access to drinking water due to unfair distribution orchestrated by Regideso agents. They point out that this water shortage is often attributed to corruption plaguing the system. There are people who set themselves up as water vendors, charging a rate of 1,000 Bif per drum.

However, when supply is lacking, this price can rise two to three times, becoming a heavy burden for households. Each household uses an average of three drums of water per day at 6,000 Bif. Spending such a daily sum only for water is a real ordeal, especially since most of people live in extreme poverty, where even feeding represents a monumental financial challenge. This water shortage only worsens their already precarious living conditions.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ligue Iteka notes and denounces the persistent deterioration of human rights throughout the country. It condemns the impunity of perpetrators of crimes and urgently calls on:

- The government to take measures to improve the security situation in the country, particularly by combating violence and crime;
- Independent and prompt investigations into all reported incidents of human rights violations to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Concrete measures to prosecute and punish those responsible for these violations, including members of the Imbonerakure militia and security forces, to end impunity.
- Protection mechanisms to ensure the safety and rights of vulnerable people, including displaced persons and foreign nationals.