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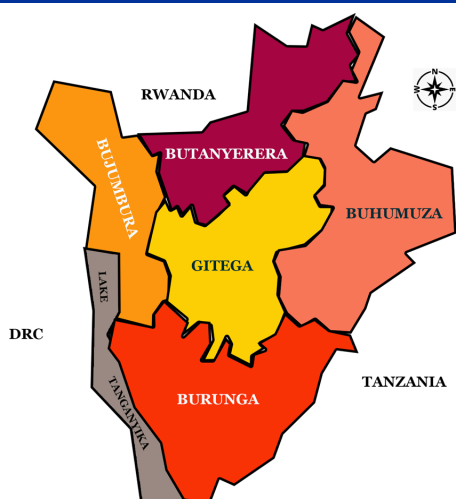
LIGUE BURUNDAISE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME " ITEKA "

BULLETIN HEBDOMADAIRE

"Iteka n'Ijambo"

N°482 from 7 to 13 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 13, 2025, Ligue Iteka has documented at least 746 cases of enforced disappearances.

Ligue ITEKA :

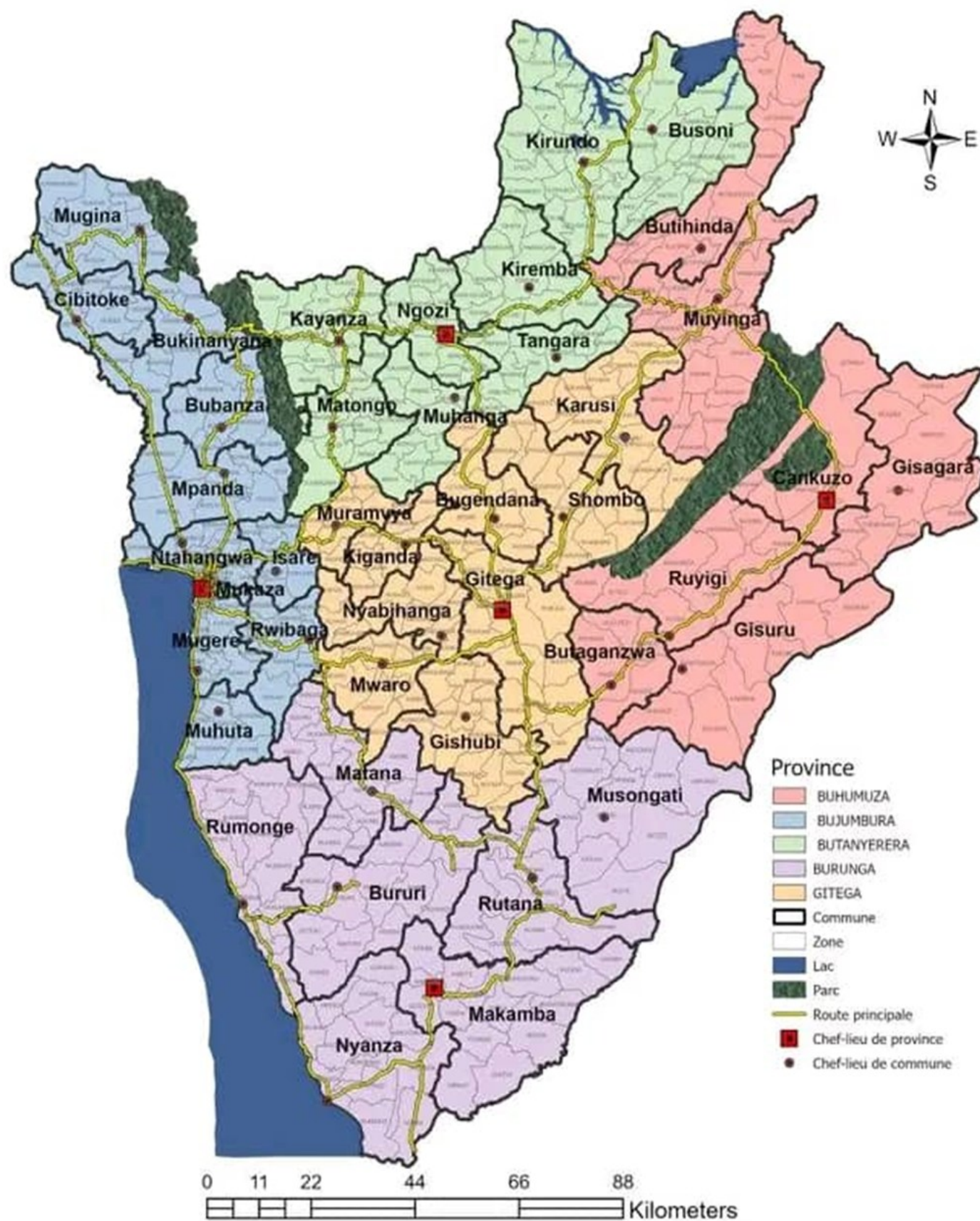
- ♦ « Is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH),
- ♦ Has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236, and is a member of ECOSOC."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

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ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF 16 MARCH 2023



BRARUDI	: <i>Breweries and Lemonade of Burundi</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
DCE	: <i>Communal Direction of Education</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
EAC	: <i>East African Community</i>
FDNB	: <i>Burundi National Defense Force</i>
M23	: <i>March 23 Movement</i>
PSR	: <i>Special Traffic Police</i>
RN	: <i>National Road</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>

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This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of July 7-13, 2025. The period was characterized by political tension following the hill elections. In this report, Ligue Iteka also reviews the political, security, judicial, governance, and economic contexts. The report also addresses civil and political rights as well as socioeconomic and cultural rights.

The human rights violations observed and documented by Ligue Iteka during this period include the following: at least seven people were killed, including five found dead, one person was abducted, one victim of sexual violence, and 45 cases of arrests of Eusébie followers.

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

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Population concerns regarding the absence of communal administrators in some communes in Bujumbura province.

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 12, 2025, indicates that it has been observed that in several communes in Bujumbura province, people are facing difficulties related to the absence of communal administrators in office. These difficulties are mainly manifested by the need for administrative assistance, including the signing of urgent documents, and other services that citizens currently cannot adequately access.

In the absence of communal administrators, citizens are sometimes forced to travel long distances or wait for long periods without receiving the required documents on time. This situation is slowing down administrative and social activities essential to communal life. Ligue Iteka has been informed that some functions normally assigned to administrators are temporarily being performed by newly appointed interim executive secretaries. However, according to citizens, this transitional measure does not

effectively meet their expectations and does not replace the actual presence of a communal administrator capable of signing and validating official documents.

Faced with this situation, the affected populations strongly request that the appointment process for new communal administrators be accelerated to ensure the normal and efficient functioning of administrative services in their respective communes.

The competent authorities are recommended to fill the vacant positions of communal administrators in Bujumbura province as soon as possible to guarantee the continuity and efficiency of public services at the local level.

A province celebrates after the departure of Governor Olivier Nibitanga, accused of repression, torture, and murder

A situation in Burunga province, formerly known as Rutana, reveals a dynamic of collective joy sparked by the dismissal of Governor Olivier Nibitanga, a controversial figure in the provincial administration. The large crowds in the bars reflect residents' desire to mark this event, which they see as a "long-awaited deliverance" after a prolonged period of oppressive, violent, and corrupt governance. One prominent citizen describes this period as one in which "we lived like prisoners in the open air," indicating profound social distress.

The charges against Nibitanga are varied and serious, including accusations of physical violence, humiliation of local officials, arbitrary detention, financial extortion, and systematic abuse of power. Several officials, including a former prosecutor and Gitanga zone head, directly endured his abuses. The case of Georges Nisubire, a trader left disabled from torture, illustrates the widespread intimidation that has developed, involving the governor and a provincial intelligence official.

Human rights violations are worsened by Nibitanga's alleged connection to the assassination of Police Major Japhet Mukeshimana, pointing to a lack of rigor in judicial investigations. Despite the arrests, the suspects were never brought to justice, prompting criticism from local legal experts regarding the impunity enjoyed by some authorities. A lawyer in Rutana highlights the ineffectiveness of the judiciary in dealing with the powerful, fueling a growing sense of injustice among the population.

Before his term as governor, Nibitanga had already been suspected of serious human

rights violations in his previous positions within the intelligence services, which had caused palpable concern among the population. Since his departure, a more receptive climate reappears, offering traders and economic exiled people the hope of restarting their businesses, thus contributing to a sense of collective rebirth.

However, despite the prevailing optimism, the need to investigate past violations remains crucial. Citizens are demanding a response from the Burundian State in terms of justice and reconciliation, emphasizing the need for a balance between celebration and reparation. While welcomed as a positive step, could Nibitanga's ouster involve the State to a proactive approach to justice? The step ahead for this story will depend on the institutions' ability to respond to the aspirations of wounded Burundians, who affirm that "celebration is good, but reparation is even better."

Residents of Musongati commune, in Burunga province, denounce irregularities in the communal election process, including the illegal addition of candidates in Mutwana, and assert that the electoral process is blocked, thus preventing a free and transparent election.

On July 11, 2025, recent reports revealed significant unrest on Mutwana hill, located in Butezi zone. This discontent was triggered by the publication by the Musongati Independent Communal Electoral Commission (CECI) on an updated list of hill candidates, including names that the population considered as faulty. The origin of the events dates back to July 4, 2025, when an initial list of five candidates was made public. The very next day, July 5, citizens rushed to the CECI Musongati office to voice their complaints. However, these complaints were quickly dismissed, arguing that the deadline for submitting complaints had already expired. One bitter complainant expressed, "We were informed that the complaints were closed, even though they had started the day before! We were given no reasonable time to react."

On July 10, 2025, the CECI published a second list, including two new names, bringing the total to seven candidates, including Francine Ndikumana and Daniel Bucumi. However, the Mutwana community expressed its outrage, claiming that these individuals had never filed a candidacy, were not from the hill, and had never resided there. This part of the population denounces deliberate manipulation aimed at sidelining genuine candidates. They point out that those who had pleaded on July 5, 2025, were not re-registered, while unknown individuals were inserted "without logic," without legal basis or consultation with local residents. One resident protested: "It's a total lockdown strategy. Those who dared to express their disagreement were not reinstated, and instead, ghosts were introduced."

Mutwana residents point the finger at several local political figures, they accuse of pressuring Musongati CECI to falsify the lists. Among those involved are Sylvain Nzikoruriho, CNDD-FDD leader in Burunga province; Rénovat Hakizimana, CNDD-FDD secretary in Giharo commune; Cyriaque Komezurugendo, CNDD-FDD representative in Butezi zone; and Nemerimana Vincent and Ntirandekura Bernard, representing CNDD-FDD on Mutwana hill. These individuals are suspected of having orchestrated the insertion of these fictitious names to exclude candidates deemed "problematic" on several hills in Musongati commune. CECI members have even reportedly acknowledged their difficulty acting independently due to instructions imposed by the hierarchy. In response to what they describe as a sham election, residents gathered the next day and began searching for the two newly added individuals, without success. They maintain that the inclusion of these names was artificially done to sow confusion and justify the exclusion of genuine candidates. They firmly state: "This is not fair! We demand that our five legitimate candidates be reinstated, as is the case elsewhere. This must not be a contest for a single party."

Mutwana residents are demanding an immediate review of the candidate list, the reinstatement of the excluded complainants, and stress the importance of ending political troubles.

They insist that the right to vote should not be monopolized by a single group, and reaffirm their right to freely choose their hill leaders. "We demand fair elections, with genuine candidates, not names from nowhere!"

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE's regime is about to sacrifice the lives of Burundian civilians in gold mining in Masisi-South Kivu

Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE's government appears ready to sacrifice the lives of many Burundian civilians in the context of gold mining in Masisi-South Kivu. For over a year, the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has been the scene of a violent conflict, directly involving the Burundian authorities through their army and the Imbonerakure militia. This war, which the Burundian leaders and their allies do not expect to win, has caused more than 100,000 refugees to exile into Burundi, Rwanda, Zambia, and Uganda. Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by figures such as Prime Niyongabo and Ildephonse Habarurema, respectively Chief of Staff of the Army and the head of the National Intelligence Service, currently maintain an active network of recruitment of Burundian gold miners, from places like Mugina, Bukinanyana, Cibitoke and Butihinda, with the search for more than a thousand workers to help them facilitate the

trafficking of minerals, particularly gold, in Misisi.

Aware of his failures against the M23, Evariste Ndayishimiye, in his quest for the DRC's natural resources, often referred to as blood minerals, continues to call on his ally, the FDLR, whose members are currently traveling to Bujumbura province to support this recruitment, according to local sources. Given the risks of human rights violations linked to this trafficking in a country already marked by numerous rights abuses, the population and local human rights defenders are urged to closely monitor this situation, which could lead to the loss of civilian lives, in addition to the thousands of soldiers already killed in eastern DRC.

Murder of a young man and attempted murder of two women accused of sorcery in Karusi commune.

On Thursday morning, July 10, 2025, at 6:00 a.m., on Gashanga hill, located in Bugenyuzi zone of the vast Karusi commune, two women, Perpétue and Euphrasie, were nearly killed by the inhabitants of this hill. The villagers, fueled by accusations of sorcery, angrily attacked them. Perpétue, over 50 years old and a member of CNDD FDD, and Euphrasie, 60 years old and also member of the same party, were at the center of this turmoil.

All of this started the day before, when Evariste, a young man also affiliated with CNDD-FDD, had crossed Euphrasie's bean field, who was working with her husband. According to a source close to Evariste's family, following a way they looked at him, without uttering a single word, was significant. Evariste was back home from hard work making bricks in Ndurumu swamp. Tragically, he died that same evening, shortly before 1:00 a.m., and his body was taken to Buhiga Hospital mortuary to await his funeral.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (continued from page 9)

Faced with this tragedy, the community, in a spirit of revenge, wants to react, but the hill head quickly alerted the police. This life-saving intervention led to the last-minute arrest of the two accused women.

Disturbingly, it is worth mentioning that Perpétue's arrest was actually instigated by Euphasie, who accused her of being his accomplice in alleged sorcery.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

The verdict of July 8, 2025, in Gasarara after six civilians were massacred by young Imbonerakure members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party on June 30, 2025.

On July 8, 2025, the Bujumbura High Court rendered a verdict in a trial following a serious massacre that occurred in Gasarara, on Nyabiraba hill, in Rwibaga commune, Bujumbura province. This tragic event entailed the death of six persons, including two women and two sisters from the same family, and left another victim seriously injured. The case raises concerns about the independence of the Burundian judiciary, fair trial guarantees, and potential impunity related to political affiliations. Human rights violations were observed, including violations of the right to life under Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), with the six victims intentionally killed using cruel methods such as poisoning, fatal beatings, and public cremation. These killings constitute serious violations of the right to life, which is protected by the Burundian Constitution and international conventions ratified by the country. Furthermore, the physical integrity of one survivor, Euphasie Ndayavugwa, was also violated, constituting a direct violation of her right to physical security and protection from inhuman or degrading treatment, in accordance with Article 7 of the ICCPR. Furthermore, complicity by omission of State agents, under Article 2 of the ICCPR, which imposes the obligation to protect rights, was highlighted by the conviction of three local officials for failure to assist a person in danger. Their inaction, despite alarming evidence, illustrates a failure by the authorities to prevent serious crimes. The judgment was rendered only a week after the events, which, while demonstrating the need to act quickly, could harm the quality of the

investigation and respect for the rights of the defense, as well as the careful collection of evidence. Among the penalties imposed, we note: 14 people were sentenced to life imprisonment, three local officials received three years in prison, two accomplices received 20 years in prison, and four were acquitted for lack of evidence. Although the verdict appears harsh, the consistency between the roles of the accused and the sentences they received raises questions.

The court allocated 165 million Bif to the victims' families and 10 million to the survivor. However, this reparation mechanism, while symbolically relevant, lacks clarity regarding its actual implementation, particularly with regard to insolvent defendants, leading to risks of impunity. Systemic concerns are emerging, particularly regarding the political ties of the convicted, with several of them believed to have affiliations with the Imbonerakure, the youth wing of the ruling party (CNDD-FDD). Precedents of undeclared releases fuel fears of political protection for these convicts.

Regarding the selectivity of the judiciary, it is notable that no high-ranking security or administrative officials have been prosecuted, despite the organized nature of the massacre, which questions the scope of the responsibility under investigation. NGOs, both Burundian and international, highlight the lack of sufficient guarantees to ensure justice without political interference, making the principle of equality before the law fragile in sensitive cases involving individuals linked to power.

The Gasarara massacre represents a tragic episode that highlights the persistence of political violence, the vulnerability of civilians, and the shortcomings of the Burundian judiciary. Although the verdict represents a step forward toward acknowledging the facts and punishing those responsible, effective justice requires concrete evidence. This case should serve as a catalyst for structural reforms in the domains of security, justice, and governance.

One person sentenced to 5 years in prison for human trafficking, a persistent phenomenon in Burunga province.

On July 10, 2025, the Rutana High Court sentenced Pascal Hakizimana, a 22-year-old man from Shombo, Gitega province, to five years in prison and a fine of 500,000 Bif for human trafficking. Pascal was arrested on July 2, 2025, on Kabingo hill, Musongati commune, Burunga province, along with eight people, including six minors between the ages of 14 and 15, and two adults (one 18 and the other 22), on their way to Tanzania. All eight were students. Pascal confessed to the crime, claiming that he received a commission when he successfully brought them to Tanzania from Tanzanians seeking labor to cultivate their fields.

During his trial, the young man admitted the facts, stating that he was a Tanzanian national and that he had been paid 400,000 Bif by two men from Ngozi to organize the crossing.

The victims, all from Ruhororo in Tangara commune, Butanyerera province, were returned to their families because they were students.

A local source indicates that this case is part of a series of recurring arrests linked to human trafficking in southern and eastern Burundi, particularly in Makamba, Rutana, Rumonge, and Bururi.

Last April in Makamba, around ten women and girls were arrested as they were preparing to illegally cross the border into Tanzania. The smugglers had used false promises of employment in Dar es Salaam. In Bururi, in February, judicial police officers uncovered a network operating from Songa commune, involved in the irregular transport of young boys to plantations in southern Tanzania.

In Rumonge, another case shocked public opinion in 2024 when an influential trader was arrested for organizing the transfer of several young people to farms in exchange for large sums of money.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (continued from page 11)

Life sentence for a woman accused of killing her husband in Bugendana commune, Gitega province.

On 8 July 2025, the Prosecutor's Office at the High Court in Gitega province imposed a life sentence on Béatrice Ndayikengurukiye. This occurred after the woman went herself to the police station located at the Communal Office after killing her husband, Basabose Abubakar.

1.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Demands of residents of Rumonyi quarter, Bururi commune, Burunga province, regarding access to electricity for their safety

Information reported to Ligue Iteka reveals that many residents of Rumonyi quarter, located in Bururi town, which is the capital of Bururi commune in Burunga province, express deep dissatisfaction due to the lack of electricity supply in their area. These residents claim to have been applying for electricity for over ten years, but so far, no significant progress has been made.

This lack of electricity has negative consequences for local security: children are unable to study at night due to safety concerns, which directly impacts their academic performance. Furthermore, incidents of insecurity, such as theft and assault, have been reported repeatedly. Community development efforts are also hampered, as many income-generating activities requiring electricity cannot be carried out. Furthermore, some residents report having

applied for the installation of electricity meters for over a year without receiving a positive response. They claim to have paid for this service without receiving any return, viewing it as a form of fraud. Residents are therefore asking REGIDESO to take their quarter into consideration, especially since they are seeing progress in access to electricity in other regions of the country.

1.5. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

An infant abandoned by an unknown person, a sign of poverty in Burundi

A baby was abandoned by its caregiver on Thursday, July 10, 2025, in Gahahe quarter, Rubirizi zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province. He was left in another house, entrusted to a child found there, who then handed him over to Odette Niyonkuru. The latter, who is currently caring for the infant, says it was around 6 p.m. when an unknown person arrived at her home and found a little girl of about 6 years old.

The person asked her to hold the baby for a while, then disappeared without returning. The infant, who appears to be about a month old, was unclothed, a sign of the poverty that plagues Burundi. According to local sources, single mothers abandon their children due to lack of food.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

II.1.1.1 PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A woman murdered in Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province.

On Monday morning, July 7, 2025, a woman (whose name is not yet known) left her home on Nyamugari hill, Nyamugari zone, Gisagara commune (formerly Cendajuru commune) to harvest her rice field located on Nyabisindu hill, Cankuzo zone and commune, in Ruru valley. She did not return. Since the following day, July 8, 2025, her family has been searching for her, seen near households near the field, to inquire if she had requested accommodation to continue harvesting, but to no avail. They then went to the rice field where they saw her deceased. The victim had injuries all over her body, with one eye

removed and one ear cut off.

A few months earlier, she had left her marital home (due to divorce) on Nyabisindu hill in Cankuzo commune, where she was married to Manisha Daniel. She had gone to her son's on Nyamugari hill. According to the alleged perpetrator's neighbors, Manisha Daniel swore that he would not allow his wife to eat the rice grown on his property alone. The police arrested Daniel Manisha.

He has been jailed in the provincial police station cell since Tuesday, July 8, 2025. The police and the Red Cross have asked the deceased's family to bury her with dignity.

A hill mediator murdered with a machete on Gikuzi hill, Nyanza commune, Burunga province.

On Gikuzi hill on July 11, 2025, a well-known mediator, Donavine Nsavyimana, was hacked to death by Nyandwi Boniface, a resident of Mahembe. The incident occurred shortly after 11 a.m. in her home. According to local sources, Nyandwi, armed with a machete, entered the victim's home, fatally stabbed her, and fled. Vugizo police confirmed the incident and announced investigations, regretting that the authorities were not alerted in time to prevent the tragedy. However, the reasons for the murder appear to go beyond personal reasons; evidence suggests a commissioned crime, potentially linked to suspicions of sorcery that have been present on the hill for several years. The name of Emmanuel Ndayirukiye, a teacher in Gitabazi, has emerged as a possible instigator, particularly after the recent loss of a child, whose mourning rituals end were scheduled for

July 12. Witnesses claim that Emmanuel vowed not to lift the mourning period as long as Donavine was alive, reinforcing suspicions against him. This statement, reported by neighbors, could indicate a premeditated murder, motivated by revenge mixed with mystical beliefs. This locality is experiencing a climate of suspicion surrounding sorcery, with some residents calling on "poisoners" to purify their homes of evil spells, which has led to denunciations and violence. Donavine, righteous or not, has been perceived as a target of these accusations. The authorities are calling on the population to avoid rumors and to collaborate with the police to arrest the murderer and his accomplices, recalling that justice must be achieved through legal channels, not revenge.

II.1.1.2. BODIES FOUND.

The body of a man found in Gisagara commune, Burunga province.

On the eve of July 8, 2025, in the bush, on Mwambu sub-hill, Twinkwavu hill, Twinkwavu zone, Gisagara commune, someone cutting grass for his animals saw a rotten body. He alerted the administration (formerly Cendajuru commune). This body was not recognized. The communal administration, along with the Red Cross, proceeded with its burial.

A body found in Gishubi commune, Gitega province.

Discovery of the body of Élie Manirakiza, aged 56, father of three, in his house with a rope around his throat. The incident occurred around 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2025, on Rurimbi hill in Gishubi commune, Gitega province. This information was confirmed by the police, who stated that the reason for the murder was not yet known, but that suicide was the most likely cause. The police raided the scene for investigation purposes.

A body found in Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province.

On July 10, 2025, at around 9:30 a.m., Ligue Iteka received information stating that a body was discovered across the road to Rusigabangazi, Musenga sub-hill, on Camazi hill. This was also confirmed by the head of Camazi Branch.

After hearing this information, our source on spot, accompanied by Camazi zone head and Camazi CDS nurse, noted that a woman named Ntaconayigize Marie, aged 36, daughter of Ntibatumwaka Juvenal and Ndagijimana Alodie, married to Nyandwi Félix, a resident of the aforesaid hill, had been killed by as yet unknown criminals. They saw that she was sleeping in a right lateral position with a large wound on her right ear and forehead. This woman had disappeared the day before around 11:00 a.m. while returning home after going to get medicine.

After the report, the local administration and the deceased's family organized the burial.

Finally, it should be noted that Minani Eric, 27, son of Nakumuryango Jean and Nizigiyimana Stéphanie of Camazi hill, s/c Musenga, was arrested. According to information from a 50-year-old man named Nabuzoya Peragie, the alleged perpetrator was with the deceased the day before at 11 a.m. around this area.

II.1.1.2. BODIES FOUND.(continued from page 14)

A body was found in Kigarama quarter, Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province.

A body was discovered under disturbing circumstances in Kigarama quarter, in Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province. On the morning of Thursday, July 10, 2025, residents were confronted with a shocking sight: a man died, was lying near a public tap, a place usually frequented by residents seeking to fill their water containers. The victim, identified as Alexis, was a married man and father of two children, whose daily life was marked by precariousness. According to Magnifique Niragira, the quarter head, the body was left there by unidentified individuals, suggesting a gruesome abandonment.

Near the body, a bag of beans and rice was found, raising questions among observers who believe it could have been a ploy intended to tarnish the victim's reputation, portraying him as a thief. Alexis worked hard for his family, collecting sand from demolished buildings and filtering it before selling it.

Concordant testimonies from residents and those provided by authorities suggest that this man was not a criminal, but rather an innocent victim.

Rumors are circulating about the true circumstances of his death; many claim he was killed elsewhere before his body was dumped there, in an attempt to cloud the issue. The first person has been arrested for investigation, although he maintains his innocence. However, troubling claims suggest the possible involvement of the Imbonerakure, a youth group close to the government, in this criminal act, calling for an impartial and rigorous investigation.

Alexis's family, as well as local residents, are in turmoil and are demanding clarification of this tragic event. They are calling on the rele-

vant authorities to conduct an independent investigation to uncover the culprits and ensure justice is done. At the same time, cries of despair denounce a growing climate of insecurity, as well as an attack on fundamental rights: the right to life, dignity, and justice. This murder is part of a worrying trend of impunity and targeted violence against innocent individuals.

Alexis's body was transferred to Ngozi General Hospital mortuary, leaving his family in unbearable pain, mourning a husband, a father, and a humble worker assassinated. The presence of a bag of rice and beans at his side reinforces the idea that he was the victim of a simulated robbery, but other sources maintain that the man had just left behind a widow and two children, and that he was killed elsewhere before being dropped off in Kigarama to cover up the true facts. One person is already jailed pending investigations.

II.1.1.1. BODIES FOUND (continued from page 15)

A body found at the border of Mpanda and Rugazi, Bujumbura province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 7, 2025, indicates that a man aged approximately 35 to 40 was found dead on July 6, 2024, on the banks of Musenyi River. This river separates the communes of Mpanda and Rugazi, located in Bujumbura province.

The body showed clear stab wounds, suggesting that the victim was stabbed to death. Although his identity has not yet been established, the circumstances of his discovery sug-

gest that the man may have been murdered elsewhere before being abandoned there.

Nadine Nibitanga, the administrator of Mpanda, went to the scene. She ordered the transfer of the body to Mpanda General Hospital mortuary for identification and autopsy procedures. An investigation is likely underway to elucidate this murder.

II.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

A student of the University of Burundi missing for two weeks.

On July 10, 2025, the parents of a young University of Burundi student named Blaise Niyubushobozi alerted on the mysterious disappearance of their son occurred on Wednesday, June 25, 2025. Since that day, he has shown no sign of life. from Ngozi commune, in Butanyerera province, Blaise, aged 22, is currently in his first year of Kirundi-Swahili at the University of Burundi. He resides on Mutanga campus. That day, as his classmates headed to class, they left him asleep in his room.

Upon their return, however, he had disappeared without taking his personal belongings.

Since that event, no information regarding his whereabouts has been obtained. Investigations have been conducted at various detention centers in Bujumbura, but all have proved unsuccessful. Blaise's family and friends are deeply concerned for his safety and health. It should be noted that information has revealed that Blaise is a member of Agathon Rwasa's CNL party.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. RAPE

A young girl raped by a police officer in Kiganda commune, Gitega province

On July 10, 2025, at around 7 p.m., on Nyarunazi hill, in Rutegama zone of Kiganda commune, a police officer raped a young girl. After dropping off a classmate, N. J., 17, a ninth-grade student at Ecofo Munanira, met a police officer named Franck Nkurunziza, aged 38, from Kirundo commune in Butanyerera province. He was on duty at Nyarunazi hill police station.

He then offered to have sex with her in a eucalyptus plantation near the police station, but she refused his request. According to the victim, he then forced her and raped her. Alerted by his screams, his fellow police officers intervened and took the suspect to the provincial police station the next day. He is currently jailed in Muramvya police cell.

II.2. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.2.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

Arrests of several Euzébie followers in Kirundo commune.

On 10 July 2025 in Nyange Bushaza quarter, Kirundo commune, 45 Euzébie followers, including 6 children, 35 women, and 4 men, were arrested by the provincial commissioner of the P.N.B., where they were held for 7 days for their prayers. They were taken to Kirundo Prosecutor's Office cell. However, the 6 children were returned to their families. Among

these faithful, Buregeya's wife, named Françoise, was arrested with two children but handed over to their father, Buregeya; three children of Ninahaze Euphrem, whose wife, Joyce, misused family wealth each time to support her companions; and one daughter from Gisuguru, who had followed her mother.

It should be noted that to date, this is the fourth time this team has been arrested, after Businde, Ngozi, and Gatumba.



III. 1. DISRUPTIONS IN ECONOMIC LIFE

Rising of food prices in Buhumuza province

The rising of food prices in Buhumuza province are affecting its population during the harvest season. Despite this period of abundance, food prices have not decreased significantly. The availability of BRARUDI products, particularly Primus beer, remains a concern due to the speculative practices of traders. The administration, although it attempts to intervene by imposing corrective measures on vendors, sometimes encounters notable resistance. For example, on June 30, 2025, a bar owned by police officer Lieutenant Colonel François Museremu was closed by the authorities for two months, accompanied by a fine of 500,000 Bif, because he was caught selling a bottle of Primus for 4,000 Bif instead of the regulated price of 2,500 Bif.

That same day, a beverage vendor, Léa of Gasanda, was caught red-handed possessing hidden crates of Primus, which she intended to sell at high price. Her business was therefore closed for three months, and the hidden crates were seized by the police.

Destruction of traders' kiosks in Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province

In May, the former governor of Kirundo province initiated a series of working visits to the communes of Bwambarangwe and Bugabira. During these inspections, he observed that firefighters' access to Mukenke and Ruhehe markets, located in the respective towns, was blocked. In collaboration with the provincial commissioner and the communal commissions, they decided to reopen these markets, resulting in the demolition of several kiosks, which caused significant losses for their owners.

The latter, having acquired their occupancy rights from the communal administrators at prices ranging from one to two million Bif, were in a precarious financial situation. The affected owners then desperately sought an alternative solution, which could be the refund of the fees paid to obtain these kiosks, especially since the new administrators of these communes were not yet in office. It is worth noting that at Mukenke market, fourteen kiosks were destroyed, including five in this market and nine in Ruhehe market.

III.2. RIGHT TO HEALTH

Water shortage in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province, exposed to disease risks

The water shortage situation in Cibitoke commune, located in Bujumbura province, constitutes a relevant case study on the challenges related to drinking water supply. As of July 13, 2025, Cibitoke, as the provincial capital, is facing a crisis marked by the inaccessibility of water supplied by REGIDESO, depriving residents of an essential resource for several weeks. This lack of centralized supply forces them to resort to surrounding rivers, which poses a significant risk to their public health, given the water quality.

The non-functioning public taps of REGIDESO forces families to turn to untreated water sources in marshes, such as Nyamagana River. However, these sources are often contaminated by chemical residues from surrounding agricultural activities. The cost of a 20-liter container, which can exceed 1,000 Bif, is a major obstacle for many families already struggling financially.

This situation leads to the consumption of unpurified water, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases, particularly cholera, which is particularly feared during the rainy season.

The emergence of suspected cases in different localities, such as Mparambo, Rukana, and

Rusiga, highlights the urgency to address this crisis and the challenges facing the population. In response to this urgent health threat, residents are expressing a pressing need for REGIDESO to quickly restore the water supply to prevent the situation from worsening. During a survey, the provincial head of REGIDESO acknowledged the difficulties encountered, emphasizing that the dry season negatively impacts water reserves while increasing urban demand. He promised that actions are being implemented to improve storage capacity and called for rational water use. Furthermore, he encourages health and administrative authorities to raise public awareness of the importance of treating river water, either by boiling it or by using purifying products before consumption.



Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ligue Iteka strongly deplores the continued deterioration of human rights in Burundi and condemns the impunity enjoyed by alleged perpetrators of crimes. The organization urges the Burundian authorities to adopt the necessary measures and proposes the following recommendations:

To the Government of Gitega, it is suggested to:

1. Conduct thorough and impartial investigations into the violence, killings, attempted assassinations, and other human rights violations, and prosecute those responsible.
2. Fight impunity by prosecuting those responsible for human rights violations, including state agents and militias, and ensuring the accountability of those responsible for violence.
3. Reform the electoral process to ensure its transparency and impartiality, including by investigating allegations of cheating and blockades of the electoral process.
4. Strengthen local governance by appointing competent and honest communal administrators and ensuring their effective presence in the communes.
5. Establish human rights protection mechanisms, particularly for vulnerable groups, and guarantee access to justice for victims of violations.
6. Take urgent measures to improve access to drinking water in affected areas, particularly in Cibitoke, to guarantee the right to health and a decent life.
7. Encourage dialogue and national reconciliation to ease tensions and promote social cohesion, particularly by involving local communities and political parties.