



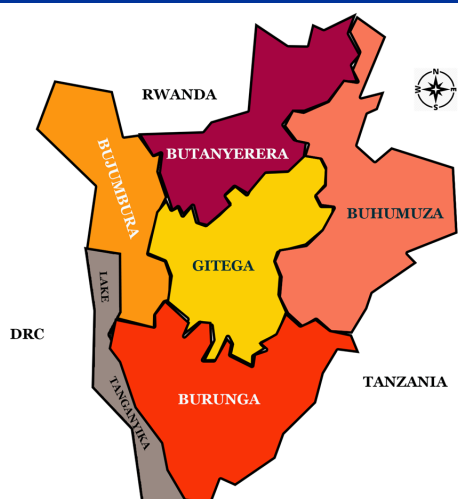
LIGUE BURUNDAISE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME " ITEKA "

BULLETIN HEBDOMADAIRE

"Iteka n'Ijambo"

N°483 from 14 to 20 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 20, 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



ACRONYMS

<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>DCE</i>	<i>: Communal Direction of Education</i>
<i>DRC</i>	<i>: Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
<i>EAC</i>	<i>: East African Community</i>
<i>FDLR</i>	<i>: Democratic Force for the Liberation of Rwanda</i>
<i>FDNB</i>	<i>: Burundi National Defense Force</i>
<i>M23</i>	<i>: March 23 Movement</i>
<i>OPJ</i>	<i>: Judicial Police Officer</i>
<i>PSR</i>	<i>: Special Traffic Police</i>
<i>PTBA</i>	<i>: Three-Year Budget Plan</i>
<i>RN</i>	<i>: National Road</i>
<i>SNR</i>	<i>: National Intelligence Service</i>
<i>UPRONA</i>	<i>: Union for National Progress</i>

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0. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of July 14-20, 2025. The period was characterized by a transition of communal administrators who had not yet been appointed communal executive secretaries. In this report, the Iteka Ligue also examines the political, economic, judicial, and security context. It also analyzes illustrative facts of violations of civil and political rights as well as socioeconomic and cultural rights.

The human rights violations observed and documented by Ligue Iteka are as follows: at least 5 people killed, including 2 bodies found, 1 person tortured, one of whom died as a result of these acts of torture. In addition, 76 cases of arbitrary arrest and detention were reported. Among the victims are 50 mass arrests of Pentecostal Church members in Kayogoro zone of Makamba commune, Burunga province.

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

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Paralysis of administrative activities in Muyinga commune in Buhumuza province.

Since the end of the term of the communal administrators, Muyinga commune is facing a tumultuous period. The organization and operation of key services that support the daily life of residents seems to be disrupted. In particular, the civil status department is at the forefront of this malfunction. This department, whose mission is to issue documents such as certificates of residence, full identity certificates, birth certificate, and certificates of indigence, is currently at an impasse. Each document must be validated by the signature of the communal administrator, which, in theory, guarantees its legitimacy.

However, this procedure, once respected, has been relegated to the background in the current situation.

Add to this the fact that the Executive Secretary, the replacement designated to manage the situation, is strangely absent from his office, seemingly too preoccupied with personal matters. This absence has direct consequence of a deficit in administrative documents, plunging the population into growing frustration. Complaints are pouring in from all sides, highlighting the distress of a population struggling to obtain basic public services. The administration, as the guarantor of these services, unfortunately seems to be reeling under the weight of this unexpected situation. In this context, the future seems uncertain for the citizens of Muyinga, who eagerly await a return to a forgotten normalcy.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 5)

Dysfunction of the local administration in Mwaro commune.

While the former officials are no longer in office during the period leading up to the election of new communal administrators, residents of Mwaro commune and those of Nyabihanga commune in the expanded province of Gitega (part of the former Mwaro province) are experiencing difficulties obtaining national identity cards.

This is due to the fact that only administrators are authorized to sign this document. The people complaining are those who wish to travel for various missions. It should be noted that the election of new communal administrators, following the country's new administrative divisions, is scheduled for July 24, 2025.

Political intolerance in Musongati commune, Burunga province

On the night of July 15-16, 2025, the Uprona party headquarters, located in Musongati administrative commune, on Butezi hill, was the target of a deeply moving act of vandalism. The perpetrators of this vandalism remain unknown, but suspicions largely fall on individuals linked to Imbonerakure, the youth wing of CNDD-FDD ruling party. Upon their arrival at the scene, Uprona members were horrified to discover the walls of their headquarters completely destroyed and the portraits of Prince Louis Rwagasore, an icon of independence and founder of the party, torn down and destroyed. For them, this act goes far beyond simple vandalism; it is a revealing gesture of growing political intolerance. "Look at this mess! Our symbols, our heritage, all of it has been trampled underfoot." "These are barbaric actions, unworthy of a State governed by the rule of law," exclaimed a member present at the scene since dawn, his face marked with anger.

Although the real culprits have not yet been identified, some party members are beginning to report worrying signs. According to them, this attack is part of a context of tension following the political meetings on July 7 and 8 organized by the local CNDD-FDD branch. "After these meetings, we sensed that a major event was being prepared. And now an attack has occurred. This cannot be a pure coinci-

dence," commented a regional Uprona official, looking grave. Uprona members also note that this atmosphere of intimidation is not unfamiliar to them. They report having been subjected, for several weeks, to a series of threats and pressure on several hills formerly part of Giharo commune, now part of Musongati. They see this situation as an insidious form of political harassment, seeking to suffocate their voice. "What we're experiencing is reminiscent of dark periods of intolerance. Some of these individuals resemble war dogs, devoid of dignity. They even seem to be under the influence of illicit substances, their aggression is so palpable," says another member, his voice trembling with anger.

Further worsening the frustration of Uprona members is the deafening silence of administrative and police authorities. No local representative has come forward, and no investigation has yet been launched. For these members, this silence means complicity. "When the State chooses to remain silent, it becomes accomplice. This silence shows that those who attack us feel safe," says one member, visibly exasperated.

Faced with these rising tensions, Uprona members are demanding an immediate investigation, accompanied by security measures to protect their premises. They warn that they do not intend to passively endure

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (continued from page 6)

this climate of fear and violence. "We will not stand idly by. We demand that justice be done, and that our rights be respected, just like those of any other legitimate party in Burundi," concludes a local party official, his expression determined. While waiting for better days to come, the office is being closely

monitored by its members, worried about possible new provocations.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

Armed incursions and gold mining tragedy in Ruhororo-Mugina.

At the heart of the gold mining tragedy in Ruhororo-Mugina, information reaching Ligue Iteka indicates that on July 11, 2025, the sound of footsteps of armed individuals echoed along Ruhwa River, on the edge of the Rwandan-Burundian border. Rumors, spread by Imbonerakure and elements of the army, began to circulate. These men, according to reports, crossed Ruhwa from the Democratic Republic of Congo, taking Rukana route, in Cibitoke commune. They then continued their journey to Mugina, in Nyamakarabo zone, to reach Rubona and Ruhororo, before disappearing into Kibira forest. It was rumored that these men were actually FDLR members, having fled the fighting in Kamanzola, seeking refuge in the impenetrable greenery of Kibira.

In Ruhororo locality, in Mugina commune, gold mining developed, formerly practiced by civilians, then associated with the FDLR. However, since February 2025, this activity has been attributed to two prominent figures in the Burundian regime, Evariste and Prime Niyongabo, transforming what was once a simple quest for gold into a highly politicized affair. This tragic scene found its first victim on Friday, July 18, 2025: Ndikumana, a forty-year-old father of seven from Ruhororo hill. The injuries he sustained, as a result of a tree fallen on him while he was mining, ultimately led to his hospitalization in Mabayi. Despite the soldiers' best efforts

to save him, Ndikumana did not survive his injuries.

His death, surrounded by immeasurable sadness, was worsened by the lack of a dignified burial. The soldiers subsequently refused to transport his body to the mortuary, thus stifling any possibility of uncovering the truth about this tragic event. When a police officer attempted to investigate the circumstances surrounding his death at the scene of the tragedy, he was threatened. Ndikumana's family, disheartened and helpless, was forced to arrange his funeral on Saturday, July 19, 2025, without any hope of justice. While anxiety and worry hover over the families of other gold miners scattered throughout Kibira, all are urgently calling for truth and justice to be established, in order to clarify the working conditions of those who, like Ndikumana, risk their lives for gold.

1.1. SECURITY CONTEXT (continued from page 7)

Awareness-raising session on peace and security in Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province.

Following the recent tragic events related to assassinations in this commune, an awareness-raising campaign was launched by various administrative authorities for the local population. This meeting was held on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at Camazi zone, located on Camazi hill, in Gisagara commune. The session was chaired by the provincial Governor, Denise Ndarusehere, accompanied by the new Gisagara commune Executive Secretary, Evelyn Dusinge. The governor also supported by several provincial authorities, such as Nakumuryango Pierre Claver, the Chief of Staff, Bazikwankana Ferdinand, the Public Prosecutor, and Police Colonel Habimana Célestin, the provincial police commissioner. The commander of Mutukura military

brigade was also present. Other participants included officials from Gisagara commune, as well as administrators from Camazi zone, including zone heads, hill leaders, and all local population. The primary objective of this meeting was to raise awareness among citizens about the importance of avoiding taking justice into their own hands, in order to help reduce the number of killings recorded in recent weeks.

Feeling of insecurity among the population in Musongati commune, Burunga province.

On July 17, 2025, on the green slopes of Mutwana hill, located in Butezi zone of Musongati commune in Burunga province, a man named Mateso appeared. He is facing charges for killing a woman named Mode in 2007. Before fleeing to Tanzania, the alleged criminal resided on the same hill, more precisely in Simbi sub-hill. His two accomplices, Ciza and Nyakuri, also known as Karemera, have been charged by the Public Prosecutor's Office and are currently jailed in Rutana central prison. After an 18-year absence, Mateso has reappeared. According to reliable sources, this man returned to the zone helped by Bernard Ntirandekura, CNDD-

FDD representative on the hill. The latter allegedly plans to exploit Mateso to carry out torture and other human rights violations to intimidate the population who do not share CNDD-FDD's ideologies.



Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa

1.3. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Analysis of the context surrounding the signing of the ordinances for the implementation of the 2025-2026 Finance Bill. From July 14 to 20, 2025, the Minister of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning, Honorable Nestor Ntahontuye, signed a series of ordinances aimed at mobilizing funds in line with the Finance Bill for 2025-2026 financial year. This legislation, adopted by the National Assembly of Burundi, establishes a general State budget of 5,227.06 billion Bif, representing a 10.5% increase over the previous year. In addition, it provides for a budget deficit exceeding 436 billion Bif, which the government plans to finance through domestic resources. However, the Court of Auditors expressed concerns about excessive reliance on this method of financing, warning MPs that: "Excessive reliance on domestic financing to offset the deficit could hamper the efforts of the private sector and compromise the mobilization of resources essential to its development." »

Among the signed ordinances, several stand out for their scope and application: - Joint Ministerial Ordinance No. 720/540/113 of July 17, 2025, establishes the procedures for reporting lease contracts for movable and immovable property by public services, in accordance with Article 42 of the Finance Act for the 2025/2026 financial year.

- Joint Ministerial Ordinance No. 720/540/112 of July 17, 2025, defines the procedures for collecting building tax for the granting of construction permits in urban areas, in accordance with Article 40 of the same Act. - Joint Ministerial Ordinance No. 720/540/114 of July 17, 2025 updates the rental rates for State property, under Article 40 of the Finance Bill. - Ministerial Ordinance No. 540/098 of July 16, 2025 establishes the terms for granting a whistleblower bonus to report tax or customs fraud, according to Article 182 of the Bill. - Ministerial Order No. 540/076 of 15 July 2025 deals with the reporting of employee headcounts and staff movements within ministries, pursuant to Article 29. - Ministerial

Order No. 540/074 of 15 July 2025 specifies the expenses eligible for payment without prior authorization and the accounting regularization procedures, according to Article 6. - Ministerial Order No. 540/072 of 15 July 2025 sets out the cash payment procedures for public institutions via the Bank of the Republic, in accordance with Article 33. - Ministerial Order No. 540/073 of 15 July 2025 deals with expenditure commitments in tranches, according to Article 22. - Ministerial Order No. 540/071 of 15 July 2025 deals with direct negotiation with producers for some supply contracts, according to Article 37. - Ministerial Order No. 540/077 of July 15, 2025 concerns the implementation of the activities of the PTBA (Three-year Annual Budgeting Plan), in accordance with Article 39. - Finally, Ministerial Order No. 540/077 of July 15, 2025 aims at the collection of a special contribution, according to Article 66 of the Budget Bill.

This last ordinance deserves special attention. Its Article 1 stipulates that the special contribution funds the acquisition of school furniture, the recruitment of teachers, and supports the Health Assistance Card. If its implementation is strictly in accordance with legal provisions, this could potentially alleviate some problems related to the procurement of school supplies. However, the text presents ambivalence. Article 4 refers to voluntary participation, while Article 5 imposes a mandatory withholding tax, applying to all civil servants, except the Ministries of Defense and Security. Ligue Iteka calls for strict compliance with the laws when implementing these ordinances, particularly the one relating to the collection of the special contribution, to avoid forced and illegal collection practices.

1.3. ECONOMIC CONTEXT (continued from page 9)

Chaotic exploitation of gold ore in Butihinda commune.

On the night of Thursday, July 17, 2025, on Masaka hill in Kamaramagambo zone in Butihinda commune of Buhumuza province, 2 groups of bandits, one composed of 11 people, all suspected thieves of gold ore, and the other of 8 soldiers, all in charge of security at the exploitation sites of the company of President General Évariste Ndayishimiye called SOTEB operating in Nyungu and Kamaramagambo zones; were arrested by the intelligence officer in this locality named Wilson N. Among the civilians who were arrested, we can cite Masabo (former Manager of Memento transport company) and an Imbonerakure nicknamed Neva, all from Swahili quarter of Muyinga commune. They are now jailed in Muyinga central prison. Others, like Amuri and Doris, fled after being warned. These thieves were dealing with the soldiers, who gave them access to these sites and guided them, showing them where they could mine gold for a fee ranging from 40 to 100 million Bif per trip.

According to our source, after several attempts that SOTEB agents became afraid of being caught one day in this dirty business and alerted higher authorities. That same night, the Minister of Energy and Mines, Ibrahim Uwizeye, the Chief of Staff at the Presidency for Economic Affairs, and the Deputy Director General of SOTEB rushed to the scene to investigate the theft. After being beaten by the Imbonerakure and SNR agents, these soldiers and civilians were taken directly to Muyinga central prison, where they await trial. The prosecution and authorities say investigations are underway to determine which authorities are working with these bandits.

1.4. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

Three alleged murderers jailed at Ngozi judicial police in Butanyerera province.

Three people, including two police officers and a judge from Tangara Residential Court, have been jailed at Ngozi judicial police since July 17, 2025, accused of killing Donatien Nduwimana. The murder allegedly stemmed from a dispute between the judge and the victim over what they deemed unacceptable restaurant service. In response to the judge's accusations, the police officers allegedly beat Donatien until he lost consciousness, resulting in his death after four days in the hospital. This case is currently before the Judicial Police Officer awaiting trial.

On July 18, the three individuals were arrested for assaulting Nduwimana in a restaurant. Ac-

cording to sources, the presiding judge accused him of serving unsatisfactory food, which led to an escalation of violence. This violent attack against the victim constitutes a violation of human rights, including Article 24 of the Burundian Constitution and Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Donatien Nduwimana was taken to Ngozi hospital but succumbed to his injuries. The situation raises questions about the abuse of power by judicial and police officials, which undermines public confidence in the judiciary. The perpetrators were arrested and are currently jailed, awaiting appearance in court.

I.4. CONTEXTE JUDICIAIRE (continued from page 10)

The victim's families, residents of Tangara, and various human rights defenders are demanding justice and punishment for the perpetrators. They insist that the trial be fair and impartial, without any influence linked to their status. This tragedy exposes serious failures in the State's respect for human rights. It is impera-

tive that justice be served swiftly to restore confidence in judicial and police institutions in Burundi.



Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

Murder of a man in Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province.

Ligue Iteka was informed of the death of Bizimungu on 14 July 2025 on Ntega hill, in Kirundo commune. He was killed by his neighbor Harushingoro. The main cause of his death was that he was trying to help Harushingoro's wife while the couple were arguing in their bedroom. The woman was calling for help while Harushingoro was attacking her with a stick.

At this point, the deceased was kicked in the stomach by Harushingoro. According to our source, after feeling chest pain, he was taken to Ntega CDS, where he died. The alleged perpetrator is currently on the run. It is also important to note that the woman sometimes accused her husband of misusing family property.

A woman killed in Muramvya commune, Gitega province.

On July 15, 2025, at 8 p.m., on Rweteto hill, in Bukeye zone of Muramvya commune, Gitega province, a husband killed his wife. Ntirampeba Félicité, aged 42, was the wife of Nzoyihera Timothée, aged 47, both farmers. According to local reports, he had a relationship with a concubine from the same hill and sometimes spent a week at her house. According to the same sources, that evening, he was returning from

her house very drunk. He then called his wife to open the door, before clubbing her on the forehead. Their 16-year-old child screamed for help, but to no avail, as her mother had just died. The assailant immediately fled and remains unaccounted to date.

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

One person dies following assault and battery in Ngozi: the population demands justice

An individual named Donatien Nduwimana, known as Dona, tragically lost his life as a result of violent beatings by police officers acting under the orders of Jean Pierre Butoyi, president of Tangara Residential Court.

According to numerous concordant testimonies, Donatien suffered extreme violence throughout his body, leaving him in critical condition. His abdomen, in particular, was visibly swollen after the beatings. Transferred to Ngozi General Hospital, he died on July 18, 2025, at around 5:00 p.m., despite the efforts of medical staff.

The local community, deeply shocked by this horrific loss, is expressing its grief and ou-

trage faced with this institutional violence. She demands immediate arrest and prosecution of: 1. Jean Pierre Butoyi, for ordering this action, 2. And the two police officers involved: judicial police officer Emmanuel and Jean Baptiste Nijimbere.

These acts cannot go unanswered. Justice must be served for Donatien Nduwimana to prevent such abuses from happening again in the future.

II.1.1. 2. BODIES FOUND.

Two bodies in Burundian military uniforms found on the border with the DRC.

On Monday, July 14, 2025, two bodies dressed in Burundian military uniforms were discovered in an advanced state of decomposition on the banks of Rusizi River, in Rukana zone, Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province. The local fishermen who discovered this body immediately alerted the military authorities, who strictly prohibited civilian access to the area around the site. According to local sources, the bodies may be members of the Imbonerakure, youth affiliated with the ruling party, who fled fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by crossing Rusizi River. These members reportedly wore military uniforms during their escape and likely drowned during the crossing. Witnesses also report that other people have recently disappeared in the waters of Rusizi in similar circumstances.

The soldiers present at the scene quickly evacuated the bodies in a military vehicle, having first wrapped them in plastic tent. No information was provided regarding the identities of the deceased. The Rugombo zone commander stated that he had not been informed of the incident, while the head of the 112th Infantry Battalion military camp based in Cibitoke refused to confirm the identity or origin of the victims.

Faced with this mystery, the local population remained without official information on the circumstances of this tragedy. An independent investigation is necessary to shed light on this worrying incident that occurred on the Burundian-Congolese border.

II.1.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

Bujumbura: a lawyer arrested and then released

On Tuesday, July 15, 2025, a young lawyer named Ernest Mategeko was arrested by armed individuals wearing police uniforms around 5 p.m. in Bujumbura downtown, Rohero zone, Mukaza commune.

He was taken aboard a Corolla vehicle, registration number H0958A. While some people were talking about the young lawyer abducted to an unknown location, and his family was expressing deep concern for his safety, on the evening of July 15, around 9 p.m., this lawyer was taken to his home in Nyakabiga by agents of the National Intelligence Service, who arrested him while searching for some documents.

According to his relatives, this lawyer was arrested in a personal matter involving financial debts, which he promised to pay in order to be released on July 18, 2025, while he was being jailed in the National Intelligence Service's cells in Rohero, near Regina Mundi Cathedral.

Residents of the economic capital, Bujumbura, are calling on security agents to respect the law and procedures when arresting someone, rather than breaking the law by using force, when a simple summons is enough in this civil case.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

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

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

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

The incident occurred when the child was asked to go buy an item in a store, an order by the agent Janvier himself. The student, failed to find the requested item for reasons beyond his control. When he back, he was violently physically assaulted by the agent. Worse still, the child was forcibly taken to the cell, where he was illegally jailed for several hours.

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

Calls are beginning to be raised for an independent investigation and exemplary sanctions against the perpetrators. Local children's rights organizations are also calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety and protection of minors against all forms of violence, including from State agents.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY(continued from page 14)

Abuse of herders in Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province.

Herders supplying their milk to Ngozi the town of are threatened by Imbonerakure who own Gabi-ro milk collection center and are members of Terimbere Mworozu cooperative. According to these herders, they are stopped along the way by these Imbonerakure, headed by Libani. Their milk and bicycles are seized by these young people from the ruling party, forcing them to sell the milk to this milk collection cooperative at a non-negotiated price.

The most recent case was on Wednesday, July 16, 2025. Barihinyuza Jean Marie from Mivo commune of Ngozi was manhandled by Libani and others. He had about twenty liters of milk in small 5-liter containers that he was supplying to various households in Ngozi for children. This milk was seized, along with his bicycle, until 4 p.m. Very angry following this injustice, he cried for help until Libani was called by his colleagues

who informed him that there was disorder. Barihinyuza was demanding money to pay for the milk, which was already in poor condition. He was forced into the house sheltering the cooperative for some time, according to those who remained there. According to those who witnessed the scene, he was terrorized and ordered to go straight back in without telling to anyone what had happened in the house. Visibly terrified, he left with his bicycle. However, he had denounced the forced membership in the cooperative. He also denounced the sum of thirty thousand Bif demanded without a receipt to have back his bicycle.

II.2.2. RAPE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A 15-year-old girl raped on Gitaza hill, Rumonge zone, Burunga province

On July 17, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., on Gitaza hill, a girl named H. J, a 15-year-old student at Ecofo Gitaza in 8th grade, was the victim of sexual violence by the alleged perpetrator, Nkurunziza Aimé-Emile, aged 26, who resides on the same hill.

The survivor was taken to Humura Center for holistic care, while the alleged perpetrator was arrested and jailed in Muhuta communal police station cell, where he was caught on July 18, 2025, while attempting to escape by climbing through the ceiling before being transferred to Rumonge provincial police sta-

A 15-year-old girl raped on Nyakibande hill, Isare commune, Bujumbura province

On July 16, 2025, a 15-year-old child was raped on Nyakibande hill, Isare commune, Bujumbura province, around 3:00 p.m. The girl named N.I, aged 15, is the daughter of N. J.D and N.M. G, a ninth-grade student at Ecofo Mpinga. That day, she was looking for cattle feed when the alleged perpetrator, known as Harerimana Egide, came and raped her. The child did not hide what happened to her and told her parents everything.

The victim received all the necessary care at Rushubi Hospital. As for the alleged perpetrator, he was arrested by the police and is currently jailed in Isare communal cell.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS .

Arbitrary arrest and illegal detention of members of Kiremba Pentecostal church of Kirama branch, living in Mabanda, Mabanda hill

July 12, 2025, of approximately fifty choir members. The latter, during rehearsals at the home of Jean de Dieu, who shared the same vocation, were arbitrarily arrested and jailed by security agents, in complicity with members of the administration of Rusenyi branch of Kayogoro Pentecostal Church, consisting of two evangelists and two deacons. They acted under the cover of three young Imbonerakure from Mabanda hill.

This situation results from a religious migration among the faithful of Kayogoro mission, who say to be threatened by administrative orders deemed oppressive by their direct supe-

rior, thus urging a forced relocation to Kiremba Christian mission, where they aspire to regain freedom of worship. A few hours after the arrests, Mabanda zone head, in cooperation with the police commissioner, ordered their release, while requiring them to provide written information to the administrative and police authorities on any activity concerning them.

Human rights activists in Burunga province advocate freedom of worship and the adoption of biblical administration to support the followers of different churches.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM (continued from page15)

Six people arbitrarily jailed in Bubanza commune, Bujumbura province

On July 20, 2025, information reached Ligue Itesha reporting the detention of six individuals at Mudubugu military camp, located in Gihanga zone of Bubanza commune. Among them were three men, two women, and a young girl, all accused of illegally intruding on land recently annexed by the army as a military zone. Administrative sources and testimonies from local residents revealed that these individuals, some harvesting cassava while others were collecting firewood on land they had cultivated for generations, were allegedly severely beaten by soldiers before their arrest.

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

dents without compensation.

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



Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa

III.1. ECONOMIC DISRUPTION

Widespread fuel shortage in Karusi commune in Gitega province

Since early July, residents of Karusi and Buhiga communes as well as other localities have been facing a remarkably severe fuel shortage. This crisis has led to a widespread rise of the prices of basic goods, as well as products from other provinces. For example, the availability of Brarudi products is causing serious concern. Currently, the cost of a bottle of Primus has reached exorbitant levels, with prices ranging between 5,000 and 8,000 Bif, while the usual price is around 3,000 Bif. The prices of other products, such as soap and palm oil, have also increased significantly, rising from 200 to 400 Bif for soap and from 1,000 to 2,000 Bif for a 1.5-liter bottle of palm oil.

Regarding the transportation sector, the situation is equally alarming; once the vehicle arrives at the parking, fares are negotiated individually for each passenger. It even ap-

pears that transportation agencies have abandoned the application of standard fares. For example, the trip from Buhiga to Gitega can cost between 25,000 and 30,000 Bif, while the trip from Buhiga to Bujumbura can cost between 40,000 and 50,000 Bif. According to the testimonies collected, the population is expressing dissatisfaction and expressing suspicions about the responsibility of the administrative authorities in this situation. They report with some exasperation that they find themselves in a situation where everyone acts at their own discretion.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION.

Major challenges at Ruhengeri Primary School, Matongo commune, Butanyerera province

On Gatara hill, in Matongo commune, Ruhengeri Primary School faces major challenges. These challenges not only jeopardize the quality of education received, but also affect the safety, health, and dignity of the young students who attend it. Diomède Niyonzima, the school's principal, does not hide his concern: the school, which accommodates more than 400 students, has only six classrooms. This limited space leads to overcrowding, which creates an atmosphere uncondusive to learning.

In addition, the lack of sanitation infrastructure is becoming alarming. With only two toilets for such a large number of students, the situation highlights a blatant violation of their right to decent hygiene. This has serious consequences: waterborne diseases such as diarrhea and cholera threaten children's health, as does the increased risk of violence, particularly for girls who, seeking isolated toilets may be in dangerous situations.

These unacceptable conditions directly affect several fundamental rights established by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the right to health, the right to a safe education, as well as the right to dignity and protection from abuse.

Donatien Ndakubwimana, social affairs advisor for the former Gatara commune, is aware of these concerns. He announced that the needs of Ruhengeri Primary School have been included in the future emergency projects of the new authorities in Matongo. To ensure the protection of children, several measures are being considered. It is essential to urgently build additional toilets, meeting the standard of one toilet for every 25 students, and to build new classrooms to improve the learning environment.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (continued from page 17)

At the same time, mobilizing the community and partners is essential: an appeal is being made to NGOs, churches, and any individual wishing to support these initiatives. The implementation of a school protection committee, including parents, teachers, and students, is also planned to increase vigilance.

Finally, hygiene and health awareness sessions will be organized, with the provision of hand-washing facilities and access to drinking water. The children of Ruhengeri Primary School have the right to a healthy, safe, and protective

school environment. Faced with these pressing challenges, it is crucial to act quickly and in a coordinated manner to safeguard their health, their education, and their future.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

Rabies vaccine shortage in Burunga province.

On July 16, 2025, information received by Ligue Iteka indicated that as of July 9, fourteen people, including ten children under the age of 15, were bitten by a stray dog on Kirembe hill, in Bururi commune, in the heart of Burunga province. This situation has raised serious concerns about the victims' health, as the province is facing a severe shortage of rabies vaccines. Victims reported receiving only two of the five doses needed at Kirembe Health Center. These doses were provided thanks to donors who managed to procure the vaccines from Bujumbura, where their cost varies between 58,000 and 76,000 Bif, while the lack of vaccines in Burunga's health facilities further complicates the situation.

Doctor Jérémie Ndayizeye, head of Bururi health district, confirmed this alarming shortage, noting that even the Ministry of Health and the Fight Against AIDS, which previously distributed vaccines to districts to provide free protection, no longer has them. For the victims, often from very poor families, receiving

their second injection on July 14, 2025, has been a difficult journey, as financial resources are deeply lacking. They appealed to the generosity of benefactors to obtain the three remaining doses and urged the Ministry of Health to work to make these rabies vaccines more accessible.

It is also important to note that a dog whose owner remains unknown was euthanized the same day on Muzima hill, in Bururi commune. This information was relayed by Ferdinand Nduwimana, executive secretary of the new Bururi commune, who took the opportunity to encourage dog owners to ensure their vaccinations are maintained and to keep them under control to avoid similar tragedies in the future.

III.4. RIGHT TO FOOD AND FOOD SECURITY.

Seed shortages and the risk of a decline in agricultural production and food insecurity in Kirundo commune in Butanyerera province.

In Kirundo commune, the population complains of an alarming lack of selected PAN 53 seeds. While the State had ensured sufficient supplies for season A, it seemed to have forgotten the following seasons, namely B and C. In flooded areas where agriculture could thrive, many residents dream of cultivating and sowing crops. However, the Kirundo Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock (DPAE) had a desperately low stock. Despite this, it was possible to obtain seeds from a few private agricultural stores. Ironically, some of these stores were run by DPAE agents themselves. Currently, these

seeds were selling at an exorbitant price of 40,000 Bif, whereas previously, a 2 kg-bag cost only 4,200 Bif, a much more reasonable price. This situation sparked public anger at what they considered a deplorable practice from members of this institution, which seemed to have shifted to private sector.

IV. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS.

IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS .

Exploitation of minors in construction work in Mwaro Commune.

Since the start of the current summer holidays, young children from low-income or disadvantaged families have been seen struggling to earn some income, though in particularly difficult conditions for some. At various construction sites located in Mwaro commune town, in the extended Gitega province, long lines of children can be seen carrying bricks in plastic bags or baskets.

Each brick they move earns them 20 Bif. Some of these children, still minors, are between 9 and 10 years old. Many of them report earning around 1,000 Bif per day. They also emphasize that it is difficult for them to find food during the day, even though this work requires some physical strength.



V. 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:

1. Take measures to improve the security situation in the country, including by combating violence and crime;
2. Conduct independent and prompt investigations into all reported incidents of human rights violations to ensure transparency and accountability.
3. Take concrete measures to prosecute and punish those responsible for these violations, including State agents, members of the Imbonerakure militia, and security forces to end impunity.
4. Establish border control and security mechanisms to ensure the country's security.
5. The Burundian government must end its involvement in the internal crisis in neighboring countries, or risk provoking regional conflicts.