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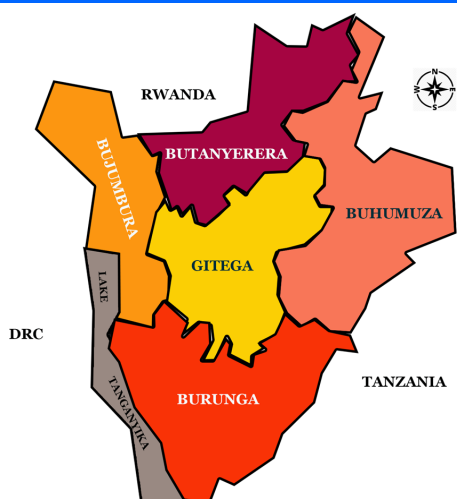
LIGUE BURUNDAISE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME " ITEKA "

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

*"Iteka n'Ijambo"*

**N°486 from 04 to 10 August 2025**

Approved by Ministerial Statutory Instrument N°. 530/0273 of November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1994  
revising Order N°. 550/029 of February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1991



**In memory of Mrs. Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. From December 2015 to August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at least 748 cases of enforced disappearances have been reported to the Iteka League.**

### The ITEKA League:

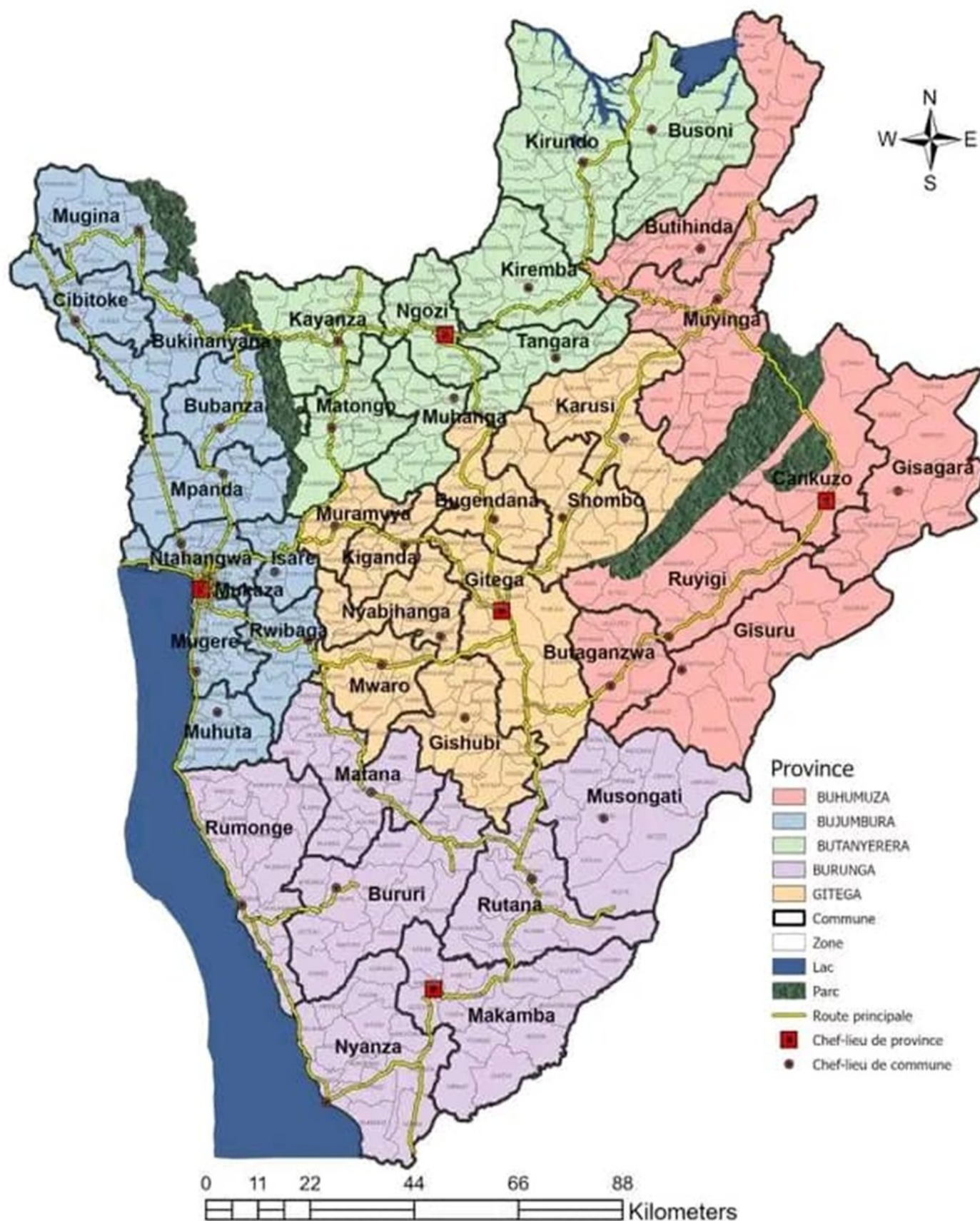
- ♦ Is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human Rights and Peoples (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH),
- ♦ Has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236 and is a member of Ecosoc
- ♦ The Iteka League is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections.

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# ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



## ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>CNDD-FDD</b> | : <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy - Defense Forces</i> |
| <b>DCE</b>      | : <i>Communal Direction of Education</i>                                |
| <b>DPE</b>      | : <i>Provincial Direction of Education</i>                              |
| <b>FDNB</b>     | : <i>Burundi National Defense Force</i>                                 |
| <b>OTB</b>      | : <i>Burundian Tea Office</i>   |
| <b>TGI</b>      | : <i>High Court</i>   |
| <b>UPRONA</b>   | : <i>National Progress Union</i>  |
| <b>VBGs</b>     | : <i>Gender-Based Violence</i>  |
| <b>VBGs</b>     | : <i>Gender-Based Sexual Violences</i>                                  |

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of August 4 to 10, 2025. The period was marked by events surrounding the establishment of the Senate office. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, judicial, economic, and security context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of violations of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least seven people killed, including four bodies found dead, one person tortured, and two victims of gender-based violence.

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

## I. CONTEXT

### I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

#### *Political intolerance in Musongati Commune , Burunga Province*

The municipality of Musongati, in Burunga Province, is the scene of growing political intolerance. Since August 4, 2025, on Giharo Hill, in the Giharo area, there has been overt discrimination against members of opposition parties. Among the most recent cases is that of Kagoma Elias, a fervent member and zonal representative of the UPRONA party, as well as a devoted spokesperson for an association of farmers working in the marshy area known as Munyundo.

Witnesses on the ground report that one day, while Kagoma was in his field, absorbed in planting rice, he was brutally interrupted by Kwizera Marc, a CNDD-FDD activist. The latter, frequently acting on the orders of Sylvain NZIKORURIHO, the CNDD-FDD's provincial secretary in the province, rushed over to the seedlings that Kagoma had carefully planted, uprooting them one by one with destabilizing rage. Unfortunately, this was not an isolated incident. Kagoma and his group of farmers, no strangers to threats, had already suffered

## ***I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)***

### ***Political intolerance in Musongati Commune Burunga Province***

similar intimidation in the past. In 2020, several members of his association were even imprisoned with the stated aim of expropriating them, in order to take possession of the marshland they had inherited from their elders. Faced with this persistent injustice, Elias Kagoma Elias is sounding the alarm, demanding that his rights be restored and that

he and his family be given protection to escape this intimidation. Meanwhile, Kwizera Marc remains unpunished, continuing on his way freely after committing this reprehensible act.

### ***Burned houses in Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province***

On the night of August 9, 2025, on Gaturanda Hill, Kigina area, Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province, five houses were burned down by unknown individuals. The people living in these houses were evacuated, and no one died as a result of this incident. According to local witnesses, there were cases of injuries, other property destroyed, and

goats and chickens perished in these houses. The Red Cross intervened and distributed tents. It should be noted that similar cases occurred in 2015 with the same modus operation, for which no investigations were conducted.

### ***Senate President Election for the legislature 2025-2030***

On August 5, 2025, the newly elected senators held their second meeting. During this session, they formed their leadership team, which includes a president and two vice presidents. The Honorable Gervais NDIRAKOBUCA, former Prime Minister, who recently retired from security, was chosen as president of the upper house of Parliament.

Two vice presidents were also elected. G  n  rose Ngendanganya, who also recently retired from security, was appointed first vice president of the Senate, while Clotilde Kampimbare was designated as second vice president.

### ***Government's reorganisation by designation of new Ministers.***

Following approval by the National Assembly and the Senate, the President of the Republic appointed Mr. Nestor NTAHONTUYE as the new Prime Minister on August 5, 2025. On the same day, new members of the government were also appointed.

The new government is composed of 13

ministers, unlike the previous one, which had 15, including 9 new ministers and 3 reappointed to the same positions, while one was assigned to the new position of Minister of Defense.

## ***1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)***

Information received by the Iteka League on August 4, 2025 indicates that as of August 3, 2025, a disturbing atmosphere prevails in Musongati commune, in Burunga province of where several local political figures are now the target of serious threats. According to information gathered from credible and corroborating local sources, an influential faction within the CNDD-FDD party is preparing to harass, or even physically eliminate, some members of the opposition and local figures accused of “disrupting their plans.” According to local witnesses, Usuel Ntakarutimana, representative of the UPRONA party in Musongati, Juma Théoneste, also active in the opposition, and other influential local figures are being targeted by members of the ruling party. According to corroborating testimonies, a confidential meeting took place in Giharo, involving several current and former CNDD-FDD party officials in the region, including Salathiel Mbonirema, former municipal executive secretary of Giharo, Sylvain Nzikoruriho, Rénovât Hakizimana, Cyriaque Komezurugendo, current head of the CNDD-FDD party in the Butezi area,

Révérien Nahayo, recently elected head of the Musongati municipal council, Emmanuel Ntahondonkeye, municipal executive secretary of Musongati, Alexis Baraguma, head of the CNDD-FDD party in the Giharo area, and Désiré Bigirimana, head of the Giharo area.

The inhabitants of Giharo also describe a climate of terror, where any opposition or disagreement is interpreted as rebellion. The local authorities are prepared to do anything to stifle dissenting voices: death threats, arbitrary imprisonment, psychological pressure.

Rénovât Hakizimana even stated, ***“As long as I was not a member of parliament, I did not have the power to strike hard, but now I have the means to make those who bother me disappear.”*** This chilling statement highlights the level of danger faced by some local figures.

## ***1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT***

### ***A frightened situation in Rumonge, Burunga province***

For several days now, young members of the Imbonerakure have been wearing T-shirts bearing the logo of the ruling party and roaming the town of Rumonge, armed with pistols and sticks.

According to residents, they pass through every evening, especially in bars and crowded areas, asking questions and saying that the army is no longer patrolling. They claim that they are now responsible for security.

Many residents believe that these improvised patrols are not just for show: they give the impression that the role of the military has been deliberately diminished, if not eliminated. “Before, we used to see soldiers patrolling the neighborhoods, especially at night. Now, we only see these young Imbonerakure,” says a woman from the Kanyenkoko neighborhood.

## ***1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 7)***

For some local observers, this situation is part of a broader trend in which political groups are gradually taking over from government institutions. The Imbonerakure, already criticized for their intimidation and targeted violence, appear to be exercising a form of informal security power here, without official supervision.

In the streets of Rumonge, residents are adapting cautiously. Discussions are becoming more discreet, and people look away when they see patrols. While some say these young people are acting to “protect the population,” others fear that fear and self-censorship are beginning to increase.

### ***Armed attack in Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province***

On August 5, 2025, in Ndava, on Bwiza Hill in Bukinanyana commune, a 60-year-old man was killed in an armed attack, and his wife and 10-year-old child were injured. Eliphase Muburo, who previously lived in the Gahabura neighborhood, was killed instantly when unknown assailants entered his home. His wife, Caline Nzeyimana, aged 50, and a child suffered head injuries and had to be taken to the hospital for intensive care. The chief of Ndava hill, Karenzo Samuel, confirmed what happened. He said, “As soon as we heard the screams, we gathered the residents and the police quickly took action.”

One of the suspects, Martin Nsengiyumva, was arrested at the scene, but the others managed to escape.

Initial investigations show that the attackers came from the Gahabura area, from where the victim had moved about ten years ago. This incident is part of an increase in insecurity in the commune of Bukinanyana. Security forces are continuing to search for the accomplices who are still at large.

## ***1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT***

### ***The alarming carceral conditions in Rumonge commune, Burunga province***

As of August 3, 2025, the prison situation at the Rumonge provincial police station is very alarming. In the women's cell, which is designed to hold six people, there were 15 people, and in a cell for minors, which is designed to hold 10 people, there were 50 people.

In an adult cell intended for 10 people, there were 70 people. This exacerbates the poor conditions of these incarcerated individuals.



## ***1.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 8)***

### ***Fragrance process in Rutana commune, Burunga province***

On August 6, 2025, in the commune of Rutana, Burunga province, in a summary trial, the Rutana High Court sentenced Amon Mpawenayo to a principal sentence of 3 years, a fine of 300,000 FBU, and compensation of 2,000,000 FBU to each of the two police officers from Rutana Hill, Birongozi neighborhood, Rutana commune, Burunga province. According to local witnesses, the victim is accused of beating and assaulting two police officers, Jean Claude Harerimana and Evariste Ngendakumana, who were on patrol at 1 a.m. in this neighborhood.

On August 4, 2025, in Rutana commune, Burunga province, the Rutana High Court sentenced Sébastien Hakizimana from Karera hill, Shanga zone, Musongati commune, Burunga province, to 20 years in prison for slitting the throat of his wife, Annociate Sindaharaye. Sébastien confessed to the crime, saying that he did it because his wife refused to sleep with him and moved to another room to sleep. The murder was committed on July 29, 2025.

## ***1.4. ECONOMIC CONTEXT***

### ***Goods' fraudulency in Kayanza Commune, Butanyerera province***

On August 1, 2025, at around 8 a.m., on Gisagara Hill, Rugazi area, Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, police officers from the Gashiru station seized 15 bags of cement illegally imported from Rwanda and 350 bottles of Skol beer. According to local witnesses, this police operation was carried out in collaboration with members of the FDNB working at the Gashiru post, based on information provided by the head of the Gashiru police station. According to the same witnesses, a Probox car without license plates was transporting the illegal goods, and the driver was found to be loading Skol Lager and Malte

beverages of Rwandan origin into the car. The alleged perpetrators, including Tuyizere Emmanuel, alias Promoka, aged 34, Révérien Ndacayisaba and Jean Bosco Nsengiyumva, are being held at the Rugazi police station for further investigation. On August 7, 2025, the Kayanza High Court sentenced the three fraudsters and ordered them to pay \$5 million each to the State of Burundi. They were accused of damaging the national economy.

### ***Disturbance of economic activities in Mwaro Commune, Gitega Province***

Since August 8, 2025, activities requiring electricity in the capital of the Mwaro Commune, Gitega Province, have come to a standstill. The electricity supplied by Regideso has been cut off, and activities such as welding, phone repairs, hair salons, phone charging, and milk sales in restaurants have come to a halt. The use of cell phones has become a problem for users

who cannot find a place to recharge them. In addition to this lack of electricity, the population no longer has water as a result of the motor pump used to supply water, which requires electricity.

## ***I.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page9)***

### ***The farmers are complaining about the lack of manure in Bujumbura province***

Information received by the Iteka League on August 10, 2025 indicates that farmers in several municipalities in Bujumbura province are expressing serious concern about delays in fertilizer distribution. With the growing season already well underway, stocks of Imbura and Urea fertilizers are non-existent, threatening their harvests.

The farmers, who had already paid for these products, feel abandoned. *“We were forced to spend money that we could have used for other needs. If this situation persists, we risk losing our investment,”* said one of them indignantly.

The shortage affects not only the current season's crops, but also off-season crops that depend on urea fertilizer.

Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture acknowledge the lack of fertilizer in warehouses. They say that the expected shipments are coming from abroad and should arrive “in the next few days.” In the meantime, they are calling on farmers to be patient.

## ***II. POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS***

### ***II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE***

#### ***II.1.1. CONVENTIONAL HOMICIDE***

##### ***II.1.1.1. INFANTICIDES***

### ***A baby killed in Mugere commune, Bujumbura Province***

On July 30, 2025, in the Gisyo neighborhood, Kanyosha area, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, a domestic worker named Fides killed her newborn baby after giving birth in secret. According to witnesses, the young woman, who had just started working as a domestic worker and whose pregnancy was unknown to anyone, gave birth to her baby in secret. After the birth, she placed the infant in

a bag and threw it behind the house. The body was found shortly afterward in the neighboring plot. The alleged perpetrator fled immediately after the incident. Local authorities have launched an investigation to find her and shed light on the exact circumstances of this tragedy.

### ***A lifeless new-born-body was found in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province***

Information received by the Iteka League on August 6, 2025, indicated that on July 31, 2025, in the Heha neighborhood, Kamenge zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province, the body of a newborn baby was found. According to local witnesses, Florence NDAYISHIMIYE, originally from Buhumuza RUYIGI commune, a prostitute in the same

neighborhood, gave birth and suffocated her newborn before throwing the body into the toilet. The discovery was made by a neighbor, and the police intervened. The suspect was then taken into custody in the Kamenge zone jail.

### ***II.1.1.2. THE PERSONS KILLED BY NON-IDENTIFIED PERSONS***

#### ***A lifeless body found in Mukaza Commune, Bujumbura province***

On August 5, 2025, at number 33 Fifth Avenue, in the Buyenzi district of Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, the lifeless body of Claver NZEYIMANA, aged 50, from Kayanza commune in Butanyerera province, was discovered inside a vehicle. According to local witnesses, the victim was watching over vehicles that usually spend the night on 5th Avenue in the Buyenzi area. The circumstances surrounding Claver NZEYIMANA's death are unclear. Some believe he may have been the victim of

consuming a highly alcoholic drink called “Kick,” while others suggest he may have been strangled. The neighborhood chief of Buyenzi 3, Alexis NINKUNDA, said the body was taken to the morgue of Prince Regent Charles Hospital, located in the same area of Buyenzi, pending the victim's family organizing his funeral.

#### ***A lifeless body found in Rumonge commune, Burunga province***

On August 4, 2025, on Kagoti Hill, Mutambara Hill, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, Evelyne NSABIMANA, aged at least 25, was found hanging from a palm tree with her legs touching the ground. According to local witnesses, the victim was strangled with a rope made from her loincloth. Our source adds that the perpetrators of the crime, who

remain unknown, attempted to make the murder look like suicide because her feet were touching the ground. Six people have been arrested by the judicial police for investigation purposes, as confirmed by Juma Ruhūzo, chief of Mutambara hill.

#### ***A killed person in Bugendana commune, Gitega province***

On August 4, 2025, on Muririmbo Hill, Gitongo area, Bugendana Commune, and Gitega Province, the lifeless body of Nzeyimana Joseph was found in a ravine called Kabingo. According to information gathered at the scene, Nshimirimana Anitha, the deceased's wife, was arrested by the police of the former Mutaho commune and taken to jail for investigation purposes. Zabulon Ntakirutimana, chief of Muririmbo hill, said that the couple lived in constant

conflict. A local source added that the deceased had spent the evening in a cabaret. According to the same witnesses, the woman told her husband that day: “Come home today, you won't see me anymore.” Visible signs of violence, particularly to the head and face, suggest that he was beaten with clubs. The victim's body was buried that same afternoon.

#### ***A lifeless body found in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province***

On August 7, 2025, on Mboza Hill, in the municipality of Mukaza, Bujumbura Province, the lifeless body of Salvator Baranshagiriye, a 61-year-old mason and father of five children, was found. On August 6, 2025, Salvator was working on a construction site for a man nicknamed

“Gapari” and had a verbal agreement to complete the construction of a house. After his workday, his employer invited him to stay for a drink. Salvator accepted and went to a bar owned by his employer's mother. His son, who was working with him, went home early, leaving his father with the others.

### ***II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS (the following of page 11)***

Salvator's family waited for him, but in vain. The next day, residents discovered the man's body on the road, not far from the bar where he had spent the evening. According to observations at the scene, Salvator Baranshagirije had a neck wound and blood in his mouth, suggesting that he had been strangled. The exact circumstances of his death remain unknown, and the perpetrators of this act have not yet been identified.

### ***II.1.1.3. PEOPLE KILLED FOR ACCOUNTS SETTLEMENTS***

On the night of August 4, 2025, on Bwiza II area, in the Ndava area of Bukinanyana commune in Bujumbura province, Eliphase MIBURO, aged 60, was killed by people armed with machetes who broke into his home. According to local witnesses, the victim was killed by a group of Batwa over land disputes. The victim was a former resident of the Gahabura area and had moved to Bwiza II about ten years ago. The perpetrators also injured the victim's wife, Calinie NZEYIMANA, aged 50, and their 10-year-old child. The injured were taken to a health center in Bukinanyana for emergency treatment. One of the suspects was arrested by the police for investigation purposes. This information has been confirmed by Samuel KARENZO, the chief of Ndava hill, who said that the alleged perpetrators are still being sought.

## **II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY**

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

#### **A failed kidnapping in Bujumbura City**

On August 7, 2025, in the Rohero neighborhood near the Intwari Stadium, Hadji HAKIZIMANA was kidnapped near the Intwari Stadium. Hadji resides in the Nyabugete neighborhood, Mugere commune, in the city of Bujumbura and owns a travel agency called HGS, located at the Sioni market.

According to witnesses close to the victim, Colonel Jean Claver NDUWAYO and his accomplices had devised a plan to rob Hadji of his money and vehicle. Jean Claver, who works at the airport, played the role of calling Hadji, as he already had his phone number. Jean Claver contacted Hadji by phone to ask him for a favor. Hadji agreed, and they arranged to meet in the afternoon near the Intwari stadium. Hadji then drove to the

meeting place in his Vox car. Hadji arrived at the location and parked his car, and then a white Probox car arrived with Jean Claver inside.

After a brief exchange, a white double cab vehicle arrived with police officers and two people in plain clothes on board who seized Hadji, handcuffed him, blindfolded him, and then took him away in the vehicle.

### **II.2.1. TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT( *the following of page 12*)**

The passengers who were with Hadji, witnesses to the scene, then detained Jean Claver, preventing him from returning to his Probox car. They told him that he would not leave until he told them where Hadji had been taken.

The situation escalated and chaos broke out, requiring police intervention. They arrested Jean Claver and seized his car, taking him to the police station in Bwiza. The next day at dawn, around 4 a.m., intelligence agents brought Hadji back in a TI-model car, still blindfolded, and dropped him off behind the stadium before leaving.

### **II.2.2. THE RAPES « VSBGs »**

#### ***A raped girl in Karuzi commune , Gitega province***

Information received by the Iteka League on August 4, 2025 indicates that on August 3, 2025, on Mwoya Hill, Buhiga area, Karusi Commune, Gitega Province, N., a 31-year-old disabled girl was raped by KAREKEZI, a member of the CNDD FDD, aged over 60. According to local witnesses, the incident took place around 5 p.m. when the neighbors were not at home, and this man lifted her up and took

her to his house to rape her. Afterwards, he lifted her up again and dropped her off in front of her house, but someone saw him bringing her back. The victim was taken to the BUHIGA CDS, while the perpetrator was arrested and taken to the police cell in BUHIGA, where he was incarcerated before being transferred to the police station cell in KARUSI.

#### ***A raped lady in Rumonge commune, Burunga province***

Information received by the Iteka League on August 4, 2025, indicates that on July 27, 2025, on Busebwa Hill, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, T.B., aged 16, was raped by Dusabimana Léonce, an Imbonerakure affiliated with the ruling party. According to local witnesses, on the evening of July 27, 2025, around 7 p.m., the alleged perpetrator tricked the victim into following him to a friend's house, where the assault took place. The alleged perpetrator was arrested on August 2 and placed in temporary detention at the Rumonge police station, pending further legal proceedings. As for the victim, she was taken to Mugara Hospital on July 29 for emergency

medical care before being referred to the Humura Center, which specializes in holistic care for survivors of sexual violence. As of August 9, 2025, the judicial authorities had not yet communicated on the progress of the investigation, but the Rumonge community remains waiting for justice for T.B.



### **III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

#### **III.1. ECONOMIC LIFE DISTURBANCE**

##### ***Delayed payment to coffee growers in Kayanza Commune , Butanyerera Province***

Since March 2025, no coffee farmer has yet received a penny for the coffee sold. Information received on August 6, 2025, indicates that on March 17, 2025, the assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Butoyi Daniel, told the community of Gihororo in the Kayanza commune of Butanyerera province that coffee farmers would receive the first installment of their coffee payments. He explained that the delay in payment was due to the digitization of the coffee grower payment system, which, according to him, had been marred by a number of irregularities, including the lack of certain data necessary for the registration of coffee growers.

From the day of this announcement until August 9, 2025, no coffee farmer has yet received this coffee money, which is

disrupting the economic life of coffee farmers. They complain that they are now living in poverty, which means they do not have enough money to pay for fertilizers, hybrid corn seeds for the C crop season, and the basic daily needs of their families, not to mention school supplies for their children, who will soon be starting school.

Coffee farmers in Kayanza believe that food crops such as corn, potatoes, and beans are more important to them than coffee, which is considered an industrial crop. Coffee farmers in the Kayanza commune in Butanyerera province say that if nothing is done to increase the value of coffee, they may even destroy their coffee plantations and replace them with food crops, which are much more profitable.

##### ***Burundi-Mugina : Citizens dispossessed of their land for the benefit of gold mining***

The Citizens of Nyamikoma, located on Nyarure hill in the Buhoro area of Mugina commune, Bujumbura province, are sounding the alarm. They claim that local and national officials have deprived them of their land and have been exploiting a gold deposit on their property without their consent for the past five months. The area being mined, known as the Nyamikoma-Nyarure mining site, covers approximately 10 hectares. It is located in a wooded area near a sawmill belonging to the Burundi Tea Board (OTB) in Buhoro, which usually manufactures crates for packaging tea.

According to several local sources, this gold mining operation is supervised by senior officials, including General Silas Ntigurirwa, Senate President Gervais Ndirakobuca, alias Ndakugarika, Police Colonel Carême Bizoza (former governor of Cibitoke province), Police Colonel Eugène, Police Colonel Jean-Baptiste, nicknamed Mpagaze, and Deputy Justin Niyobuhungiro, known as Rubasa. These figures reportedly promised the residents that they would receive compensation, but this promise has never materialized.

### ***III.1. DISTURBANCE OF ECONOMIC LIFE ( the following of page 14)***

Today, more than 300 workers are employed at the site, which is under military control. No civilians are allowed to approach it without official authorization. The residents, deprived of their fields where they used to grow various crops to feed their families, now fear famine.

“We have lost our land, which was our only source of livelihood. We no longer know how to feed our children,” says one villager. Several of them also claim to have been threatened when they tried to denounce the situation.

On Nyarure Hill, also in the Buhoro area,

the same sources claim that Senate President Gervais Ndirakobuca and other officials have seized nearly 100 hectares of agricultural land belonging to the population. The victims, forced to gather on small plots of land, say they are now living in great distress.

They are calling on the head of state to intervene urgently to return their land to them and put an end to what they consider to be a flagrant injustice.

### ***III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION***

Closure of schools, cycles and sections, in the provinces of Bujumbura, Gitega, and Burunga by the Ministry of Education

The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, François Havyarimana, announced on August 7, 2025, the closure of several schools, cycles, and sections in the provinces of Bujumbura, Gitega, and Burunga.

This radical measure was justified by non-compliance with current regulations, according to an official statement from the ministry.

In the province of Bujumbura, seven schools are affected. Two nursery cycles located in the communes of Mukaza and Ntakangwa, as well as two sections operating in these same communes, are now prohibited from operating for the 2025-2026 school year.

Among the reasons cited by the ministry are: the obvious deterioration of working conditions, the lack of adequate infrastructure, non-functional or poorly maintained latrines, establishments that have changed location without the

ministry's knowledge, and schools operating without official accreditation.

Similar measures have been taken in the province of Gitega, in the commune of Karusi, and in the province of Burunga, in the commune of Rumonge, for similar reasons. The ministry claims to have acted to protect the quality of education and ensure that the educational environment complies with national standards.

“Parents and students are being notified in advance to avoid falling into the trap of enrolling their children in schools that are now closed,” the ministry's statement said. Local education authorities are being called upon to ensure that this decision is strictly enforced until further notice.

This decision comes just two days after François Havyarimana was reappointed as head of the ministry. While some welcome the desire to restore order in the education sector, others question the ministry's own responsibility for how the situation came about.

### ***III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 15)***

#### **School dropouts at *DPE Muramvya***

During the 2024-2025 school year, the number of school dropouts in Muramvya province has reached alarming levels. Elementary school classes are the most affected, with a total of 7,996 dropouts, compared to 1,590 for post-elementary school.

According to the Provincial Directorate of Education (DPE), the main causes are poverty, undesired pregnancies, illness, family relocations, marriage, and others.

Thus, the cases of dropouts by DCE and by category are as follows:

#### **A. IN FUNDAMENTAL**

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Cycle (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years)**

| COMMUNE      | BOYS        | GIRLS       | TOTAL       |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bukeye       | 111         | 53          | 164         |
| Kiganda      | 324         | 287         | 611         |
| Mbuye        | 249         | 163         | 412         |
| Muramvya     | 464         | 311         | 775         |
| Rutegama     | 328         | 312         | 640         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1476</b> | <b>1126</b> | <b>2602</b> |

##### **2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years)**

| COMMUNE      | BOYS       | GIRLS      | TOTAL       |
|--------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Bukeye       | 79         | 32         | 111         |
| Kiganda      | 147        | 78         | 225         |
| Mbuye        | 128        | 69         | 197         |
| Muramvya     | 201        | 177        | 478         |
| Rutegama     | 276        | 149        | 425         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>921</b> | <b>515</b> | <b>1426</b> |

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years)**

| COMMUNE      | BOYS        | GIRLS      | TOTAL       |
|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Bukeye       | 144         | 101        | 245         |
| Kiganda      | 158         | 103        | 261         |
| Mbuye        | 164         | 197        | 361         |
| Muramvya     | 403         | 212        | 615         |
| Rutegama     | 323         | 240        | 563         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1192</b> | <b>853</b> | <b>1995</b> |

### III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 16)

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Cycle (7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> years)

| COMMUNE      | BOYS       | GIRLS       | TOTAL       |
|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bukeye       | 58         | 132         | 190         |
| Kiganda      | 122        | 249         | 371         |
| Mbuye        | 97         | 185         | 282         |
| Muramvya     | 176        | 341         | 517         |
| Rutegama     | 202        | 411         | 613         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>655</b> | <b>1318</b> | <b>1973</b> |

#### B. AU POST-FONDEMENTAL

| COMMUNE      | BOYS       | GIRLS       | TOTAL       |
|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bukeye       | 53         | 121         | 174         |
| Kiganda      | 123        | 220         | 343         |
| Mbuye        | 74         | 131         | 205         |
| Muramvya     | 149        | 270         | 419         |
| Rutegama     | 166        | 283         | 449         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>565</b> | <b>1025</b> | <b>1590</b> |

To remedy the situation, the DPE suggests introducing school canteens in schools, as well as increasing the number of awareness-raising meetings for parents of students in order to curb this phenomenon of dropouts.

### III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

#### *Shortage of CAM cards in Cibitoke commune , Bujumbura province*

Information received by the Iteka League on August 10, 2025 indicates that in the Rugombo and Rukana health centers, a severe shortage of CAM cards has persisted for three weeks, leaving many patients without access to care. The situation, which particularly affects vulnerable populations, has led to heightened tensions and illegal practices.

Residents report an increase in cases of illness, but the lack of these cards makes treatment virtually impossible. The card, which includes a contribution for ambulance services, is sold for 5,000 FBU locally, but center managers are directing patients to distant facilities, creating an additional financial burden.

“To hope to get it elsewhere, you sometimes have to pay up to 10,000 FBU just for transportation, and in total, you can end up paying up to 20,000 BIF.” This exorbitant cost severely hinders access to care for those who need it most. Citizens denounce this as “organized theft,” accusing healthcare staff of hiding the drugs to sell them elsewhere at a higher price, and are calling on the Ministry of Health to intervene to put an end to these abusive practices and punish those who are responsible.

### ***III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH (the following of page 17)***

When contacted for comment, the chief medical officer of the Cibitoke health district said he had not been informed of the situation but promised to do an investigation to check the facts. He also issued a clear warning to the managers of the centers: “Any manager caught in the act of acting differently to legal and ethical principles will be severely punished, which may include suspension or dismissal.”

This crisis highlights the persistent challenges facing the local health system and the need for more rigorous oversight to ensure that essential services remain accessible to all, without exception.

## **V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Iteka League strongly condemns the continuing deterioration of human rights in Burundi and condemns the impunity of perpetrators of crimes. It calls on the Burundian authorities to take all possible measures and recommends the following:

To the government of Gitega:

1. Take measures to prevent intentional homicides, including infanticide and revenge killings.
2. Investigate homicides and identify those responsible in order to punish them in accordance with the law.
3. Take measures to prevent torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.
4. Take measures to protect victims of rape and provide them with adequate support.
5. Take measures to promote economic stability and reduce poverty.
6. Guarantee access to education for all citizens, without discrimination.
7. Guarantee access to healthcare for all citizens, without discrimination.