



Anyone should be respected

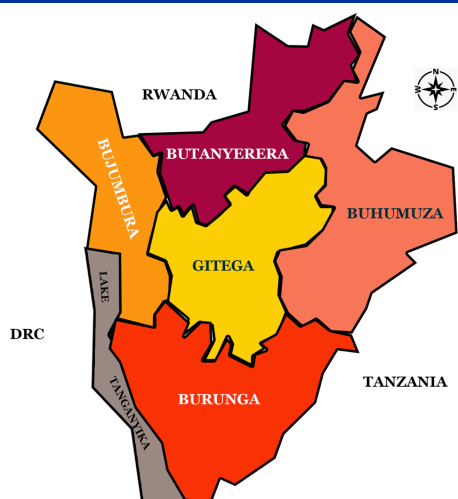
BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY BULLETIN

"Iteka n'ijambo"

N°487 from 11 to 17 August 2025

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



In memory of Mrs. Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10th, 2015. From December 2015 to June 30th, 2025, at least 745 cases of enforced disappearances have been reported to the Iteka League.

The ITEKA League:

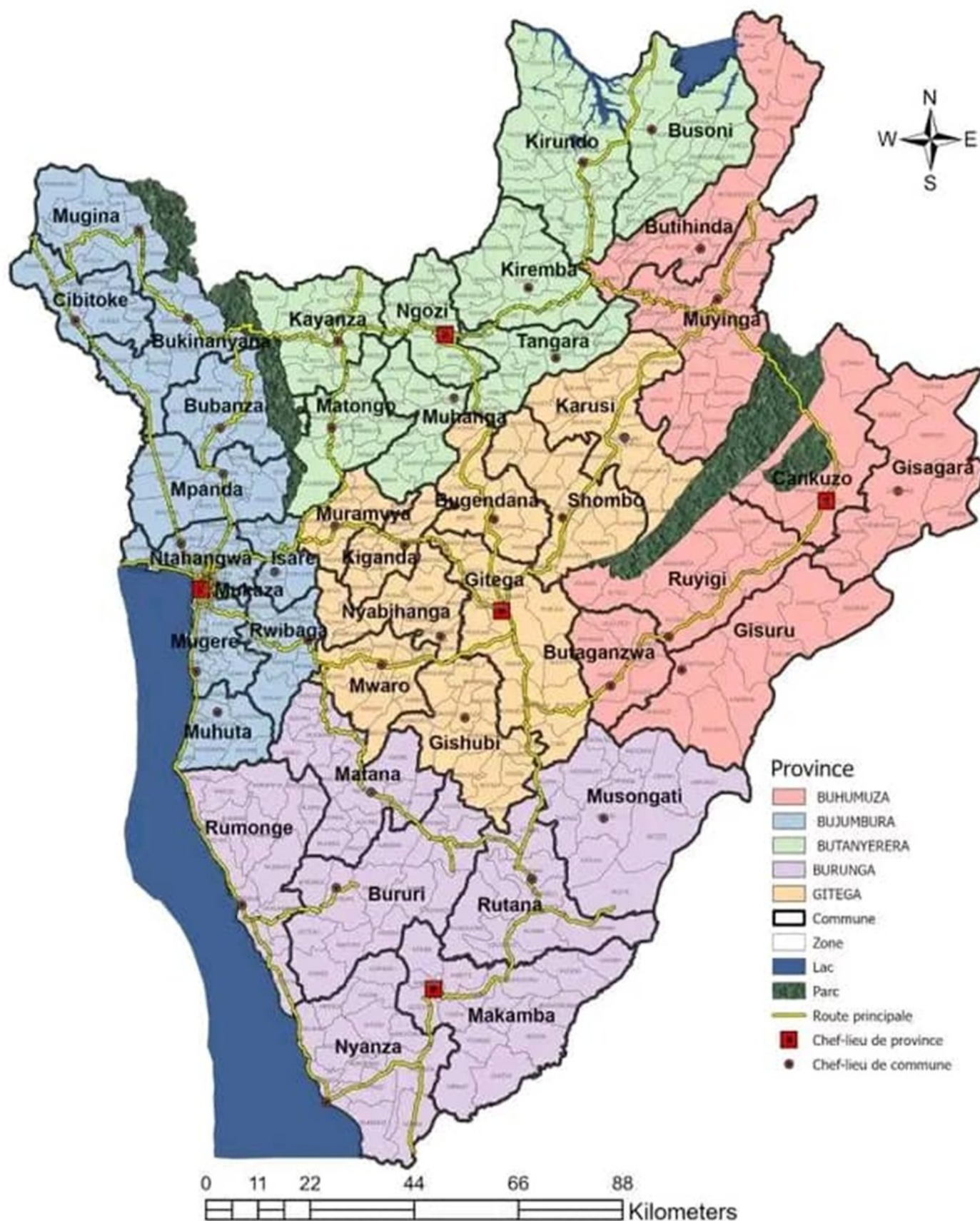
- ♦ Is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human Rights and Peoples (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH),
- ♦ Has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236 and is a member of Ecosoc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

BANCOBU	: <i>Commercial Bank of Burundi</i>
BBCI	: <i>Burundian Bank for Commerce and Investment</i>
CEPI	: <i>Independent Provincial Electoral Commission</i>
CECI	: <i>Independent Communal Electoral Commission</i>
CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy - Forces for the Defense of Democracy .</i>
DCE	: <i>Communal Directorate of Education</i>
EAC	: <i>East African Community</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
FARDC	: <i>Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
FDNB	: <i>National Defense Force of Burundi</i>
ODECA	: <i>Burundi Coffee Development Office</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Polic Officer</i>
OTB	: <i>Burundi Tea Office</i>
M23	: <i>March 23 Mouvement</i>
RDC	: <i>Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>
REGIDESO	: <i>Burundi Water and Electricity Distribution Authority</i>
RN	: <i>National Road</i>
SNR	: <i>National Inquiry Service</i>
UPRONA	: <i>National Progress Union</i>

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0. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the situation of human rights in Burundi during the week of August 11 to 17, 2025. The period was characterized by events related to the campaign of candidates for the country's colline councils. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, judicial, economic, and security context. It also analyzes illustrative facts 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 4 people killed including 2 bodies found lifeless, 2 people tortured, 2 victims of gender-based violence, 2 people abducted, and 1 person victim of arbitrary arrest.

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

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

The political context in Burundi this week is marked by electoral campaigns for communal councils, scheduled from August 5 to 21, 2015. However, the exclusion and intimidation of opposition candidates raise concerns about legal rights. In Burunga, candidates, primarily from the opposition, are found to be absent from official lists, while members of the CNDD-FDD party enjoy better access to information. Testimonies reveal that some candidates were never made aware of the published lists. In rural areas, access to the lists proves difficult, exacerbating inequality. Despite the complaints, the campaign continues, without apparent reaction from Philémon Nahabandi to the accusations.

In Buhiga, Nizigiyimana Issa, an Imbonerakure, begins his campaign with a budget of 4 million fbu. While other candidates are posting their portraits, the population is concerned about the election costs of Issa. An incident on August 11 in Giharo, where a rice field belonging to Kagoma Elias was destroyed, intensifies tensions. Marc, an Imbonerakure, is accused of this act under local influence. The field had recently been returned to the community, but members of the CNDD-FDD continue to expropriate land, and hostilities towards Kagoma Elias persist.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

Illustrative facts:

Unusual campaign of the candidate hillside leaders in the country.

From August 5 to 21, 2015, the campaigns for the hillside councils are taking place in all the hills of Burundi. Sometimes, well-known candidates from political backgrounds other than the CNDD-FDD, although they present themselves as individuals, find themselves sidelined or mistreated during the electoral campaigns, which are guaranteed by Burundian law.

In Burunga province, while some candidates registered for the hillside elections are already campaigning, many others, mostly from opposition parties, are shocked to discover that they are not on the official lists of individuals allowed to run.

The testimonies collected from several hills in the municipalities of the province are consistent. These candidates, though duly registered, never saw the lists publicly displayed. They learned of their exclusion far too late, while their opponents had been campaigning from day one.

In the rural areas far from the municipal centers, some municipalities grouping the equivalent of three former municipalities, the situation turned into confusion. Candidates desperately searched for the "posted" lists, going as far as the municipal offices and even to the provincial electoral commission. But again, no official document was presented to them.

On the ground, only candidates sent by the ruling party, CNDD-FDD, seem to have had access to the complete lists from the very beginning. Several sources, including within the electoral commissions themselves, state that the lists of authorized candidates were

briefly displayed before being quickly removed, once the opposition candidates were crossed out. Candidates from the CNDD-FDD party, informed in advance of this maneuver, were thus able to campaign without competition.

For some observers, this is a deliberate strategy aimed at locking down the electoral process, depriving citizens of the opportunity to vote for independent or critical local figures, and ensuring that only candidates loyal to those in power appear on the ballot.

Despite protests from both the excluded and some members of the electoral commissions outraged by these practices, the campaign is moving inexorably forward. The hill elections are to be held on August 25, 2025.

That date, no official communication has been issued by the president of the Independent Provincial Electoral Commission (CEPI) of Burunga, Philémon Nahabandi, regarding these accusations. In Gitega province, on August 2, 2025, on the Buhiga hill, in the Karusi commune, during the ongoing electoral campaigns for hill and neighborhood leaders, NIZIGIYIMANA Issa, an Imbonerakure frequently implicated in wrongful acts, began his campaign to become the leader of Buhiga hill. According to local witnesses, unusual behaviors have manifested, especially one.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

Hilux equipped with a generator and voice micro-launchers alongside other Imbonerakure who were helping to rally while circulating in the neighborhoods of the Buhiga hill. The same sources add that the budget allocated to this activity is enormous and that it is an aid of about 4 million requested from CNDD-FDD militants. Other candidates have opted to display their photos on electric poles and public places. The population fears that once Issa is elected, they will have to pay the aforementioned amount.

In the Buhumuza province, information received by the Iteka League on August 17, 2025, reveals that residents are beginning to prepare for the hill elections scheduled for August 25, 2025. However, opposition party members in the commune of Ruyigi claim that their candidacies were rejected by the CECI RUYIGI.

Political intolerance in Musongati commune, Burunga province

The political context of Burundi this week is marked by electoral campaigns for the hill councils, scheduled from August 5 to 21, 2015. However, the exclusion and intimidation of opposition candidates raise concerns about legal rights. In Burunga, candidates, mainly from the opposition, find themselves absent from the official lists, while members of the CNDD-FDD party have better access to information. Testimonies reveal that some candidates were never made aware of the published lists. In rural areas, access to the lists proves difficult, exacerbating inequality. Despite the complaints, the campaign continues, with no apparent reaction from Philémon Nahabandi to the accusations. In Buhiga, Nizigiyimana Issa, an Imbonerakure,

The individuals running for the elections in the hills are almost all associated with the ruling party CNDD-FDD in the neighborhoods of SANZU and GASANDA. According to experts, the ruling party is seeking to control all levels of power, which could lead the country toward a system with only one party.

Similarly, the situation is like that for the composition of municipal councils, where in the 5 new communes of the province of Buhumuza, more than 97% of the 125 municipal councilors belong to the ruling party.

starts his campaign with a budget of 4 million fbu. While other candidates post their portraits, the population is concerned about Issa's electoral costs. An incident on August 11 in Giharo, where a rice field belonging to Kagoma Elias was destroyed, intensifies the tensions. Marc, an Imbonerakure, is accused of this act under local influence. The field had recently been returned to the community, but members of the CNDD-FDD continue to expropriate land, and hostilities towards Kagoma Elias persist.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

Visit to Burundi on official duty by the Secretary of State of the Holy See, Cardinal Pietro Parolin

Since August 12, 2025, the Secretary of State of the Holy See has engaged in a significant mission in Burundi, a memorable occasion that highlights 60 years of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and this country. This trip has a particularly emotional dimension, as it includes the laying of the cornerstone of a health center, in memory of Bishop Courtney, the tragically murdered nuncio in Muturirwa, in the Rumonge municipality, on December 29, 2003. On August 14, 2025, His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin had the privilege of inaugurating this founding stone, while also blessing the foundations of a future major seminary that will bear the name of Michael Aidan Courtney. A monument, erected on the very site of Bishop Courtney's assassination, preserves the memory of this kind-hearted man. This new health center will emerge in the province of Burunga, within the Rumonge municipality, precisely in the Minago area, to honor Bishop Michael Aidan Courtney. The inauguration of the monument was held under the presidency of Cardinal Parolin, in the presence of important personalities from Burundi, including Vice President Prosper Bazombanza, as well as diplomats and members of the Catholic community. In his speech, Cardinal Parolin emphasized the importance of this health center, stating that it represents the idea that even in places marked by bloodshed, it is possible to build a space of healing and peace. Prosper Bazombanza expressed his emotion, recalling the tragedy of Bishop Courtney, whose loss left deep scars in the hearts of the Burundian people. "A year after my appointment as governor, the brutal disappearance of Bishop Courtney shocked everyone. The Burundian people continue to mourn his loss.

"He described the clergyman as a man of peace and a devoted pastor, who sacrificed his life for Burundi and its citizens. According to

Bazombanza, His death had a considerable impact, both nationally and internationally. "This man was an ambassador of peace, whose life was tragically interrupted. Although his assassins sought to silence his voice, they will never extinguish the light he ignited." He emphasized that the inauguration of this memorial is both a tangible tribute and a reminder of an exceptional man. The creation of this health center is the symbol of "the victory of life over death." Furthermore, during this visit, masses were celebrated, notably in the parish of Minago and in that of Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue, located at the national Marian sanctuary of Mugera, to commemorate the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. This event brought together many bishops, the apostolic nuncio to Burundi, hundreds of priests, as well as thousands of faithful, including the presence of the Burundian president, Évariste Ndayishimiye. In his homily, Cardinal Parolin urged the audience to transcend personal interests to work for the common good, especially in conflict regions, so that those who suffer can regain their dignity and security.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

Imbonerakure from DRC report wrong promises

Eight months after being sent to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to fight alongside the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) against the rebel movement M23, several members of the youth league of the CNDD-FDD party, called Imbonerakure, claim they have received none of the promised compensation. According to their testimonies, collected from recently returned youths, the authorities had assured them of 500 US dollars each, as well as on-site food provision. But none of this materialized. "We were supposed to receive this amount and be fed, but everything fell through," recounts one of them, met in the Buganda area. Before crossing the border via the Rusizi River, these youths underwent a quick three-day military training in a forest camp and stadium. "They had said that if one of us died, his family would receive support. But many fell at the front, and their loved ones didn't even have the right to a simple ceremony," laments another veteran, met in Mabayi, where he received his training in the

Kibira. Today, some communities fear an increase in thefts and assaults, as these young people return with no resources in a context of great poverty. Residents are calling on the authorities, particularly the military, to closely monitor these former combatants to prevent any drifting. When asked about this, the military commander of the 112th infantry battalion in Cibitoke states that he is "not aware of anything" regarding the presence of these Imbonerakure in the DRC, while warning: "Whoever commits a crime will be punished according to the law."

Distribution of military equipment to the Imbonerakure in Muyinga Commune, Buhumuza Province

On August 9, 2025, in the Muyinga municipality, Buhumuza province, during the inauguration ceremony of the new administrator, uniforms were distributed to all the young Imbonerakure of the CNDD-FDD from different areas of this municipality. According to eyewitnesses from the locality, in addition to the uniforms, they were given firearms and Motorola radios with the aim of ensuring the security of the entire municipality. According to the residents of this municipality, these Imbonerakure maintain law and order.

When a problem arises between two people, they are the ones who make the decision even if it falls under judicial authority.

It should be noted that all these Imbonerakure are under the command of Shabani NIMUBONA, the newly elected deputy in Buhumuza Province.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

Double standards in Rumonge commune Burunga province

On August 13, in Rumonge, Burunga province, Tuyihimbaze Asmani, originally from Muyange, Nyanza commune, and Paul Ndagijimana, originally from Kabarore, Butanyerera province, both living in Nyanza-Lac, were arrested while in possession of 440 liters of smuggled fuel transported in a vehicle modified into a tank able of holding more than 500 liters.

According to local witnesses, they were judged in flagrante delicto the next day by the Rumonge High Court, and both men admitted to the facts, asserting nonetheless that they were working for a senior police officer holding the rank of colonel, Moïse Arakaza also known as 'Nyeganyega.'

The public prosecutor initially requested a sentence of six months' imprisonment, a fine of 600,000 fb, and compensation of 500,000 fbu for the benefit of the state. However, after deliberation, the court sentenced each of the accused to one year of imprisonment, a fine of one million Burundian francs, and to pay 500,000 francs in compensation to the state. The seized vehicle has been confiscated for the benefit of the state, and the 500 liters of fuel will be auctioned at the official price, with the proceeds going to the public treasury.

However, questions remain about the role of a senior officer mentioned in the case, whose arrest is still uncertain.

Some observers are questioning the leniency of certain sentences imposed, noting that in other cases, smugglers caught with a single can of fuel have received harsher penalties.

On the probable arrest of Colonel Moïse ARAKAZA, the communal administrator of Rumonge, Augustin Minani says that the president of the Rumonge court of first instance is the most qualified to know about it.

Furthermore, Moïse Arakaza alias "Nyeganyega" was himself arrested with 60 liters of gasoline in the locality of Kigwena on the same day, still within the commune of Rumonge. According to police sources, he threatened police officers with his pistol warning them that he would shoot before leaving the scene, but the 60 liters were seized by the Kigwena police.

No official charges have, for the time being, been announced against Colonel Moïse Arakaza. This lack of response raises questions among the local population.

This report highlights the persistence of illicit fuel trade across all provinces of the country and reignites the debate about the alleged involvement of figures within the security apparatus in these traffics.

The Iteka League demands that justice be applied fairly, without distinction of rank or status. "Justice should not operate on the principle of double standards. If the mere executors are convicted, then the alleged mastermind should also face the law for their actions."

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 9)

Twenty years in prison for arson and aggravated theft in Rutana, Burunga Province

On August 14, 2025, the High Court of Rutana sentenced NJEJIMANA Égide to 20 years of primary penal servitude for setting fire to MPFAYOKURERA Léonie's kitchen, then breaking into the house of trader NDAYISHIMIYE Alexis on Matutu Hill, Kivoga zone, Rutana commune, on the night of August 10, 2025, in order to steal 4.8 million Burundian francs.

Recognized as guilty, notably thanks to the testimonies of children, the defendant will also have to pay 4.8 million FBU to NDAYISHIMIYE Alexis and 2 million FBU to MPFAYOKURERA Léonie, under penalty of 30 years of forced labor. Furthermore, he must also pay 4% of these amounts to the public treasury as well as court fees.

Conviction of two perpetrators accused of theft by the High Court in Gitega Commune and Province

On August 12, 2025, in a flagrant offense trial before the Gitega High Court, Ivan Nishimwe and Emery Nzoyisaba were each sentenced to 10 years in prison. They were accused by the Public Prosecutor's Office of theft. They were arrested on August 6, 2025, in an area known as Place in the Magarama neighborhood of the city of Gitega, in possession of a motorcycle with its license plate concealed and a mobile phone

belonging to Fausta Habarugira. Ivan Nishimwe and Emery Nzoyisaba pleaded guilty due to intoxication. Each of the two convicted individuals will have to pay a fine of 200,000 frs bu separately, as well as a joint compensation of 500,000 frs bu to Fausta Habarugira. The motorcycle that was used in this operation will be returned to its owner, Jean Claude Yamuremye, according to the Gitega High Court.

Release without trial of a man accused of rape in Karusi Commune, Gitega Province

On August 14, 2025, on Mwoya Hill, Buhiga Zone, Karusi Commune, Gitega Province, the population saw a man named KAREKEZI moving freely in the center of Buhiga after his release from the police station's cell,

despite having committed a rape. It should be noted that on August 3, 2025, Karekezi was arrested after raping a 31-year-old disabled girl.

1.4. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The laying of the foundation stone for the Uvinza-Musongati railway

The ceremony for the laying of the first stone for the construction of the Uvinza-Musongati railway took place on Saturday, August 16, 2025, on Rubara Hill, in the municipality of Musongati, Burunga province. This event was marked by the presence of the President of the Republic of Burundi and the Prime

Minister of Tanzania, as well as several dignitaries from both nations. It is essential to contextualize this project, which is part of a more ambitious program aimed at establishing railway links between Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I.4. ECONOMIC CONTEXT (the following of page 10)

The Uvinza-Musongati segment, spanning 282 km, includes 180 km in Tanzania and 102 km in Burundi. This railway is designed to enhance connectivity, promote trade, and foster regional integration between the involved countries. From a financial perspective, the total cost of the project is estimated at approximately 1 billion 118 million dollars, which is over 3.6 trillion BIF. The initial funds required have already been secured, with the approval of the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the recruitment of a monitoring mission, which will play a crucial role in overseeing operations.

In terms of timing, the project's implementation duration is anticipated to be

between 4 and 5 years. Regarding the progress of the works, the construction contract was formalized on January 29, 2025, in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, in the presence of the ministers responsible for infrastructure from both countries. The specialists from the company in charge of the construction have already begun field investigations to establish the final route of the railway. It should be noted that the African Development Bank (ADB) has approved the recruitment of the control mission, a prerequisite essential for the launch of the works. In addition, about twenty Chinese technicians are currently deployed in Burundi, in the provinces of Makamba and Rutana, to verify the relevance of the alignment proposed during the feasibility studies. This step is crucial to ensure the viability and efficiency of the project in a

Non-payment of coffee farmers causes discontent in Karusi Commune, Gitega Province

Since April 2025 until today, coffee producers have been complaining because they sold their coffee to the Burundian state through the company ODECA. They have been given several promises saying that they would soon be paid, but nothing has materialized. Moreover, they were asked to open bank accounts or micro-finance accounts, being told that cash payments would no longer be

possible. It has now been two months since they opened these accounts, but they still have not received any money. Right now, it is difficult for them to find money to buy fertilizers for the next growing season or even to pay for their children's school supplies, as the school year is approaching. These coffee producers feel lost in this situation.

Closure of Burundian-Tanzanian cross-border market in favor of Tanzania

For nearly three years, the cross-border market known as Kwa Buhinja, once located on Murambi Hill in the former commune of Kibago, at the Burundian-Tanzanian border, is now established in Manyovu (Malagarazi plain), Tanzania. This market, which brought together Burundian and Tanzanian traders, was closed following the ban on the use of foreign currencies, particularly the Tanzanian shilling, by the Burundian government at the border posts of Mabanda, Kayogoro, and in other localities in the south

of the country. The administrative and police authorities of Makamba helplessly witness the disappearance of this market which had brought benefits to the commune and the local population.

1.4. ECONOMIC CONTEXT (the following of page 11)

According to witnesses, the trigger for this closure was an incident involving a Tanzanian trader and a Burundian official who refused her the use of the shilling and even prevented her from recovering beans she had just purchased. In response, the Tanzanian authorities decided to move the market to the other side of the border, in Manyovu, in the Maragarazi plain (Kigoma region, Kasulu district), in order, they said, to protect their citizens. Since then, the market is commonly referred to as 'Mukibande' in the Maragarazi plain.

Since then, this market has never reopened on the Burundian side. Burundian traders now sell their products exclusively at Kibande-Manyovu, thereby weakening the local economy and the budget of the former commune of Kibago, where paying civil servants' salaries has become problematic.

According to several accounts, Burundians who go there today must do so clandestinely, often at night, around midnight or one in the morning, in order to evade the strict controls of the police, the Imbonerakure, and agents from the Burundian Revenue Authority

(OBR), who are trying to stop them. These restrictions mainly affect breeders who export cows, goats, or chickens to Mukibande, as they have no other market to sell their livestock.

Local authorities note that foodstuffs and livestock are now being exported to this market, where transactions are made in Tanzanian shillings, which is currently worth more than three times that of the Burundian franc. The back effect is strong inflation on prices when goods are reintroduced to Burundi.

"It has become almost impossible to bring this market back, located just a few meters from the Maragarazi River, which separates Burundi and Tanzania," lament some officials, considering that this blockage is the consequence of a hasty decision by Burundian authorities.

Shortage of drinking water in Bururi commune, Burunga province

Lack of drinking water at the Anders Gahore hospital in Kiremba, Bururi commune, Burunga province since August 7, 2025. Patients, caregivers, and employees of this Pentecost contract healthcare facility fear contracting diseases from dirty hands. This is one of the consequences of the lack of electricity from REGIDESO as this hospital was supplied with drinking water from a borehole powered by electricity. According to

the director of this hospital, Dr. Yves Nimubona, they could resort to using a generator instead of electricity, but the fuel shortage worsens the situation. He adds that even the morgue of this hospital has not been operational since that date due to the lack of electricity. Those seeking the morgue are not welcomed and are forced to organize the burial of their loved ones on the same day as the death, according to Dr. Yves.

1.4. ECONOMIC CONTEXT(the following of page 12)

People engaged in different activities requiring electricity, such as welders, cafeteria operators, owners of public secretariats, and others using computers in the Bururi and Matana communes are

desperate due to power outages. Some complain that they cannot find anything to eat and are asking REGIDESO to do everything possible to find a solution.

Searches and seizures by the police at some traders accused of selling fuel on the black market in Bugendana Commune in Gitega Province.

On August 12 and 13, 2025, at the Bugendana Center, Bugendana Commune, Gitega Province (RN15-Gitega-Ngozi), a police operation targeted smuggled fuel traders at the Bugendana center.

At this center, there is only one gas station, but for more than five months, no fuel has been available there. Historically, even before this station arrived, the sale of smuggled fuel was common.

In recent weeks, as the fuel shortage affects the entire country, the Bugendana center continues to source from resellers who import this product from Musinga, coming from Tanzania.

Residents were surprised to find that some traders were arrested while others, still active in the same trade, were not disturbed and continue their business in plain sight.

According to several witnesses on the scene, the day before, on August 12 around 7 PM, three local police officials, Ndayikeza Arnaud (communal police commissioner), Niyonizewe Égide (Bugendana documentation), and Harerimana Thérèse (Bugendana police force), went to these vendors to collect the usual fees.

According to some of them, certain individuals named Ezéchiel and Justin stated that they did not have the requested money, citing recent losses. The following morning, the police conducted a search of the kiosks of Justin, Ezéchiel, and others nearby. Justin was beaten before being taken to the

Bugendana communal lockup, where he is still detained today, and Ezéchiel, for his part, is in hiding to avoid arrest. The police claim to have seized 150 liters of fuel, and the investigating officer Mahinja Antoine asserts that Justin's case does not concern him.

Local testimonies mention a possible targeted discrimination against Justin and Ezéchiel, residing at the OPJ site for displaced persons in Bugendana, while their colleagues who remain free are active Imbonerakure in this center.

Sources from the area indicate that some police officers regularly receive money ranging from 50,000 to 100,000 fbu per day per trader to tolerate this illegal activity.

It should be noted that local fuel prices illustrate the extent of speculation: a 1.5-liter plastic bottle sells for between 25,000 and 30,000 fbu.

Since May 2025, in Matongo commune, Butanyerera province, more than 70,000 tea plants have been uprooted. In a meeting held on August 12, 2025, Janvière Kanyana, the Matongo commune administrator, in collaboration with the manager of the Teza tea complex, addressed tea growers from 3 areas who have uprooted more than 70,000 tea plants.

I.4. ECONOMIC CONTEXT (the following of page 13)

They recommended that the administrators closely monitor these destroyers of the national economy and bring them to justice. Let us remember that tea growers have been

discouraged by the price at which they sell tea leaves and prefer to cultivate food crops like corn and potatoes.

I.5. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Paralysis of activities in Burundi following power cuts

Since August 4, 2025, several cities, including the economic capital Bujumbura, have been in total darkness due to power outages, which will only be restored the day after August 14. This phenomenon has caused a widespread stagnation of activities across all sectors of social and economic life in the four provinces of the country. REGIDESO, the company responsible for managing water and electricity, attributes these outages to connection works planned between August 4 and August 14, 2025. Although it claims that these interruptions are necessary for the improvement of the national electrical network, the statement made by the General Director, Dr. Ir. Lieutenant-Colonel Jean Albert Manigomba, has raised questions among users regarding the legitimacy of these large-scale measures, which seem to overlook the impact on the everyday lives of Burundians.

In response to the serious concerns raised, REGIDESO issued a statement on August 10, 2025, aimed at calming the population, affirming its commitment to continuously work to minimize the duration of these works. Nevertheless, the extent of the power cuts has also affected the water supply,

forcing residents to go to Lake Tanganyika to obtain water, with an increased risk of infectious diseases such as cholera.

The Iteka League, like other observers on the ground, notes that these power cuts have disastrous repercussions on daily life. Key sectors such as banks and hospitals are severely impacted. For example, banking institutions like BBCI and BANCObU have been forced to interrupt their usual services due to these outages. In terms of health, hospitals, including the morgue of the Prince Regent Charles Hospital, are also affected, making their operations difficult. This crisis comes at a time when, a few months earlier, REGIDESO had promised that July 2025 would mark the beginning of the operation of Kabu 16 and the Rusumo Falls, which are supposed to enhance the energy supply to promote the economic and social development of Burundi.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A lifeless body found in Ntakangwa Commune, Bujumbura province

On August 15, 2025, near the Rusizi National Park, in the locality of Gatumba, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Province, a lifeless body of a man, not yet identified, was found floating on the Rusizi River.

According to witnesses, the body showed obvious signs of torture. "We could see that he was killed elsewhere before being thrown here," said a resident of the neighborhood. Local authorities at the scene confirmed that the body was in an advanced

state of decomposition and ordered its burial on the same day on the grounds that its body had already begun to decompose.

For the moment, the identity of the victim remains unknown and no arrests have been reported. An investigation should be opened to determine the exact circumstances of this tragedy and to identify those responsible. Under the order of the local authorities, this body was buried.

Discovery of a corpse in Muramvya commune, Gitega province

On August 11, 2025, on Murehe Hill, Mbuya Zone, Muramvya Commune, Gitega Province, at around 7 a.m., a lifeless body of Bandiye Museremu, 73 years old from Murehe Hill was found in the Mubarazi River by passers-by. According to local witnesses, the body

was packed in a bag. According to the same witnesses, the alleged perpetrator of this murder is his brother Rujora Gérard, 66 years old as a result of the conflict. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and put in the cell of the Muramvya Police.

A schoolgirl killed in the Nyanza district, Burunga province.

Information received by the Iteka League on August 11, 2025 indicates that on August 9, 2025, on the Muyange hill of the Nyanza zone, Mugumya II district, Nyanza commune, Burunga province, Miella Kaneza, schoolgirl, 9 years old daughter of Simeon, teacher at the ÉCOFO Muyange II and Godeliève was hit by a fire with flames the size of gasoline organized by a little boy not yet identified. Thus far.

The little girl saw him coming from her from a place that had been closed for a few months by a metal door with a small hole through which he entered. He put his arm with a

small object on the little girl who was cleaning the kitchen utensils and automatically the flames burst out from the lower limbs and all her clothes.

The child rushed outside the fence to help, and the neighbors used sand and water to extinguish the fire, which was intensifying second by second. They managed to stop the blaze after 15 minutes, but the body was already affected by burns that CDS Muyange could not treat.

II.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS (the following of page 14)

The victim was promptly transferred to Nyanza Lac hospital and then to Kibuye the next day, where the victim passed away after

5 days. The neighbors did not miss any trace of this perpetrator. The police and the documentation department investigated

II.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A woman was killed by her husband in Cibitoke Commune in Bujumbura Province

A woman was killed with a machete after arguments with her husband in the commune of Cibitoke, Bujumbura province. According to the available information, this incident occurred on the night of August 14 to 15, 2025, on Rusiga hill, locality of Kumase. The alleged perpetrator, who had been married to the victim for about 5 months, was arrested by the police after trying to flee. The alleged perpetrator was

arrested and is currently detained by the police in the capital of the commune of Cibitoke. According to police sources, the suspect did not answer questions from investigators. The local population was very nervous and almost killed the suspect before his arrest. It should be noted that this incident is part of a broader context of domestic violence and undermined human rights in Burundi. According to our reports, Cibitoke province has seen other cases of similar violence in the past.

II.1.3. ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

A person kidnapped in the Mugere municipality, Bujumbura province.

On August 11, 2025, Arakaza Lewis, 21 years old, living in Gasekebuye, Mugere Commune, Bujumbura province, was kidnapped by unidentified individuals. According to the victim's parents, Richard Niyokwizera and Evelyne Hatungimana, who

reside in Gasekebuye, they stated that their son left their home in Mugere Commune around 10 a.m. and has not been seen since, with all attempts to find him having been unsuccessful.

A missing person in the Shombo commune, Gitega province.

Since August 11, 2025, at the Nyabikere center, SHombo commune, Gitega province, Daniel, a member of the CNDD-FDD, over 30 years old, originally from the Butamenwa hill, NYABIKERE zone, SHOMBO commune, has disappeared while in police custody. According to local witnesses, the victim ordered a dish worth 2,000 fbu in a restaurant in the Nyabikere center but only had 1,000 fbu in his pocket. The restaurant

owner, Jean Marie, called the commissioner instead of giving him time to go fetch the rest of the money. After the meal, he informed the restaurant owner that he was waiting for his employer to arrive who would pay him and settle the bill. According to witnesses, the police arrived and began to beat him before taking him to the Nyabikere detention center, where he was placed in his own cell after being subjected to further beatings.

II.1.3. ABDUCTION AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE (the following of page 16)

The same source added that other prisoners protested that one could not incarcerate a person who was in a critical state. The police then decided to take the victim to the Nyabikere health center, but the nurses refused to admit him since he was in critical

condition, and after that moment, no one saw him until today. The residents of the Nyabikere area are concerned about the fate of the person named Daniel and are asking to be informed.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

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

A tortured person in the Kirundo commune , Butanyerera province.

On August 13, 2025, in Ndayisenga Élie's bar (sabuhungu), on the Ruhehe hill, Bugabira area, Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province, Ruhengwe Patrice, a 51-year-old member of the UPRONA party and mechanic, was attacked by a group of Imbonerakure led by Ndayisaba Viateur, 35 years old. According to local witnesses, the origin of the conflict was political discussions being held, which Ruhengwe opposed. The same witnesses stated that the victim spent the night outside as he was unable to move due to

the beating and was helped in the morning. The police are searching for these criminals, and one named Kajisho Emmanuel has been apprehended for investigation. It should be noted that the victim's brother, Ntagambira Jean Prosper, a candidate for the position of hill chief, is being accused by the Imbonerakure due to his ethnicity and his past as a refugee in Rwanda. The victim was hospitalized at Kirundo Hospital.

A person beaten in Busoni Commune, Butanyerera province.

Information received by the Iteka league on August 11, 2025, indicates that on August 10, 2025, in Nyenzi hill, Busoni commune, Butanyerera province, Barinakandi was found in a ditch with injuries to the neck and in a state of unconsciousness. According to local witnesses, there is a group of three imbonerakure, including Karorero Felix, Rugema, and Salvator, who were conducting night patrols around the area where he was found. His family has reported these

individuals, but they have never been called in, and his bicycle, 20 kg of beans, and 70,000 FBU have not been recovered, and they are seeking justice. Neighbors also testify to the presence of these imbonerakure that same night. The investigating officer who had the case told the family to report the matter to the leader of the imbonerakure in the commune, but the family of the accused refused.

II.2.2. SGBV CASES

A raped girl in Kayanza commune , Butanyerera Province

Information that the Iteka League received on August 14, 2025 indicates that on August 04, 2025 on Bubezi hill, Kayanza area, Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, Mayoya Estella, a 12-year-old infirm girl, daughter of Barihuta Alexis and Minani Astérie, was raped by Barenga Bernard, 41 years old, neighbor of the victim's family. The child was sitting in front of the house when the parents were not home and came this Barenga man bringing two doughnuts. He told this girl that he wants to give her these donuts but being in the house after knowing that the child is alone in the house. He gave the child a doughnut and carried it into the house and raped him.

Afterwards, the man fled and the child remained lying on the mat until the parents arrived around 4 p.m.

The child reported the alleged perpetrator, and the parents went to the alleged perpetrator's home, which was locked with a padlock. It should be noted that the alleged perpetrator was a tenant in this house. The local authorities assisted the parents in transporting the child to the Kayanza hospital for help, but the alleged perpetrator has not returned to this house and remains untraceable until now.

A raped girl in Mugere commune, Bujumbura province

On August 14, 2025, in the Kajiji district, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, KANKINDI Émeline, 16 years old, domestic worker in the Kajiji district, was raped by her employer Révérien Nzigamasabo, a member of the CNDD-FDD. According to local witnesses, he abused him by taking advantage of the absence of his wife, who had gone for a medical consultation. Before taking action, he tried to manipulate her by

promising her a sum of 50,000 Burundian francs as well as a salary increase. After the attack, the victim, deeply shocked and suffering from physical pain, decided to confide in her neighbors. They accompanied her to the ADRA Health Center, located in the same neighborhood of Kajiji, so that she could receive appropriate medical care. Révérien NZIGAMASABO learned that the facts had been revealed and fled.

II.2.1. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.2.1.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

A person arrested in Rwibaga commune, Bujumbura province.

On August 14, 2025, on Rukina hill, Mukike area, Rwibaga commune, Bujumbura province. Nikura Gabriel, a merchant, and Tharcisse, who was transporting his BRARUDI products to his customers, were apprehended by police officers coming from Mayuyu.

The next day, the police brought Mr. Nikura back to the site and confiscated all the BRARUDI products he held. After this operation, Mr. Nikura Gabriel was transferred again to Mayuyu, and then, around 3 PM, he was taken towards Bujumbura. Since then, there has been no news of him: neither his family nor his neighbors know where he is.

II.2.1.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS (the following of page 18)

A local leader also expresses his concern: "When someone is arrested with a legal warrant, that is normal. But for them to then disappear without anyone knowing where

they are is very worrying. It creates a climate of fear among the population." The police authorities have not yet officially communicated on this matter.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

Consequences of Power Outages in Burundi

For several days, many Burundians whose activities depend on electricity have been experiencing a real nightmare for their business. Prolonged power outages have plunged several sectors into a silent but devastating economic crisis. Milk vendors, hair salons, bistro, bar, hotel, and restaurant owners are struggling to operate, and the preservation of fresh products has become impossible.

"We just spent almost an entire week without electricity. How are we going to pay our rents or our employees?" said an owner of a downtown bistro indignantly.

Hospitals and clinics are not spared; due to lack of power, some essential medical equipment is out of service, jeopardizing the quality of care and the safety of patients. Public secretariats and other administrative services are functioning slowly, especially the blockage of document printing, digital communication, and file management related to citizens' procedures.

Inhabitants dispossessed of their land for gold in the municipality of Mugina, Bujumbura province

Information received by the Iteka League on August 17, 2025, indicates that the residents of the Nyamikoma sub-hill, located on the Nyarure hill, municipality of Mugina, Bujumbura province, are making a desperate call for help in the face of massive dispossession of their lands for the benefit of an illegal gold mining operation, led by high-ranking individuals in the country.

For the past five months, a gold deposit has been exploited over approximately 10 hectares belonging to these families. The extraction site, known as Nyamikoma-Nyarure, is located near a sawmill of the Burundi Tea Office (OTB). The villagers claim that the operation is taking place without their consent and without any

compensation. Several local sources accuse senior officials of the Burundian government of overseeing this exploitation. Among them are General Silas Ntigurirwa, Senate President Gervais Ndirakobuca, Police Colonel Carême Bizoza, and Deputy Justin Niyobuhungiro.

According to local witnesses, more than 300 workers are on site and the area is under military surveillance. Deprived of their fields, families have no means to feed themselves and fear famine.

"We have lost our land, which was our only source of livelihood. We no longer know how to feed our children," testifies a villager. Several residents claim to be threatened when they try to report the situation.

III.2. RIGHT TO LIFE

The life of the population on the chessboard of interests in Cibitoke municipality, Bujumbura province

This report documents serious allegations of human rights violations at the AGAPE Clinic in Rugombo, in the Cibitoke commune. The information gathered indicates a significant deterioration in the quality of care, leading to an increasing number of patient deaths, as well as accusations of financial fraud and political impunity.

The AGAPE Clinic, which had an agreement with the Burundian government for its free care program for pregnant women and children under five, is now facing multiple accusations. Since 2018, several deaths of infants and pregnant women have occurred due to a lack of staff and proper care.

The situation has worsened due to a massive desertion of healthcare personnel, who cite low wages and poor working conditions. This shortage of professionals has led to almost nonexistent medical assistance, as evidenced by the case of Privat MANIRABOGORA, who

died on July 21, 2025, from an intestinal obstruction due to a lack of appropriate care.

The degradation of the clinic's services is linked to acts of fraud. Falsified reports have allowed the clinic to misappropriate funds from the Burundian state, amounting to over one billion Burundian francs per year, initially allocated for the free care program.

The owner of the clinic, Deputy Lubassa, is at the center of these accusations. His political influence is presented as the reason for his impunity. Although the government terminated its partnerships with the clinic in 2019 and 2024, no sanctions have been taken against the deputy or the medical staff involved.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

To the Gitega government:

1. Take measures to prevent intentional homicides, including infanticides and settling of scores.
2. Investigate homicides and identify those responsible to punish them according to 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. Ensure access to health care for all citizens without discrimination.