

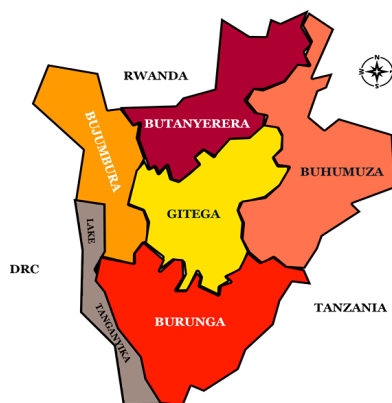


BURUNDIAN HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE “ITEKA”

Anyone should be respected

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

REPORT OF THE BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA" ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURUNDI IN AUGUST 2025.



In memory of Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to August 31, 2025, at least 835 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 85 victims have reappeared, and 750 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGIDE) has already communicated at least 252 victims¹ to the Government of Burundi.

¹<https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

The Iteka League:

- ♦ **"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.**
- ♦ **It is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections."**

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SIGLES ET ABBREVIATIONS

UNGA	: <i>United Nations General Assembly</i>
BRARUDI	: <i>Burundi Brewery and Lemonade Company</i>
CDP	: <i>Council of Patriots</i>
CENI	: <i>Independent National Electoral Commission</i>
CEPI	: <i>Independent Provincial Electoral Commission</i>
CECI	: <i>Independent Municipal Electoral Commission</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces of Defense</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
DESC	: <i>Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Elementary School</i>
FDLR	: <i>Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda</i>
FRODEBU	: <i>Front for Democracy in Burundi</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
PNB	: <i>National Police of Burundi</i>
SNR	: <i>National Enquiry Service</i>
TGI	: <i>High Court</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>
VB	: <i>Polling station</i>
VBGs	: <i>Gender-based violence</i>

0. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT

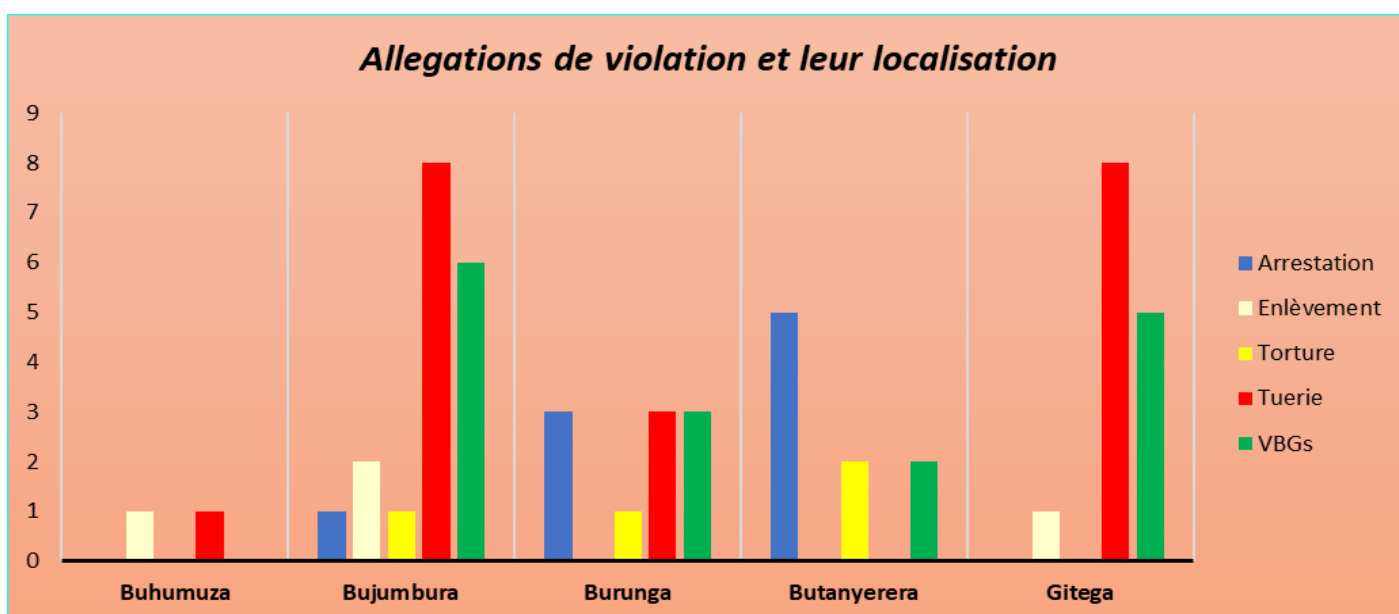
This monthly report for August 2025 is a summary of the weekly Iteka n'Ijambo bulletins from issues 486 to 489. It covers the political, judicial, governance, economic, and security context that marked this period. It also reviews civil and political rights and economic, social, and cultural rights. The report concludes with a summary and recommendations.

The civil and political rights situation during the period covered by this report was marked by the following incidents: 20 people were killed, 4 people were tortured, 4 people were abducted, 16 people were victims of gender-based violence, including 11 underage girls who were raped, and 9 people were arbitrarily arrested and detained.

Imbonerakure, police officers, administrative officials, and SNR agents are identified as the alleged perpetrators of most of these human rights violations and murders.

0.1. Mapping of reported violations and their alleged perpetrators

Graph 1: Graph illustrating the main human rights situations observed in Burundi during the month of August 2025

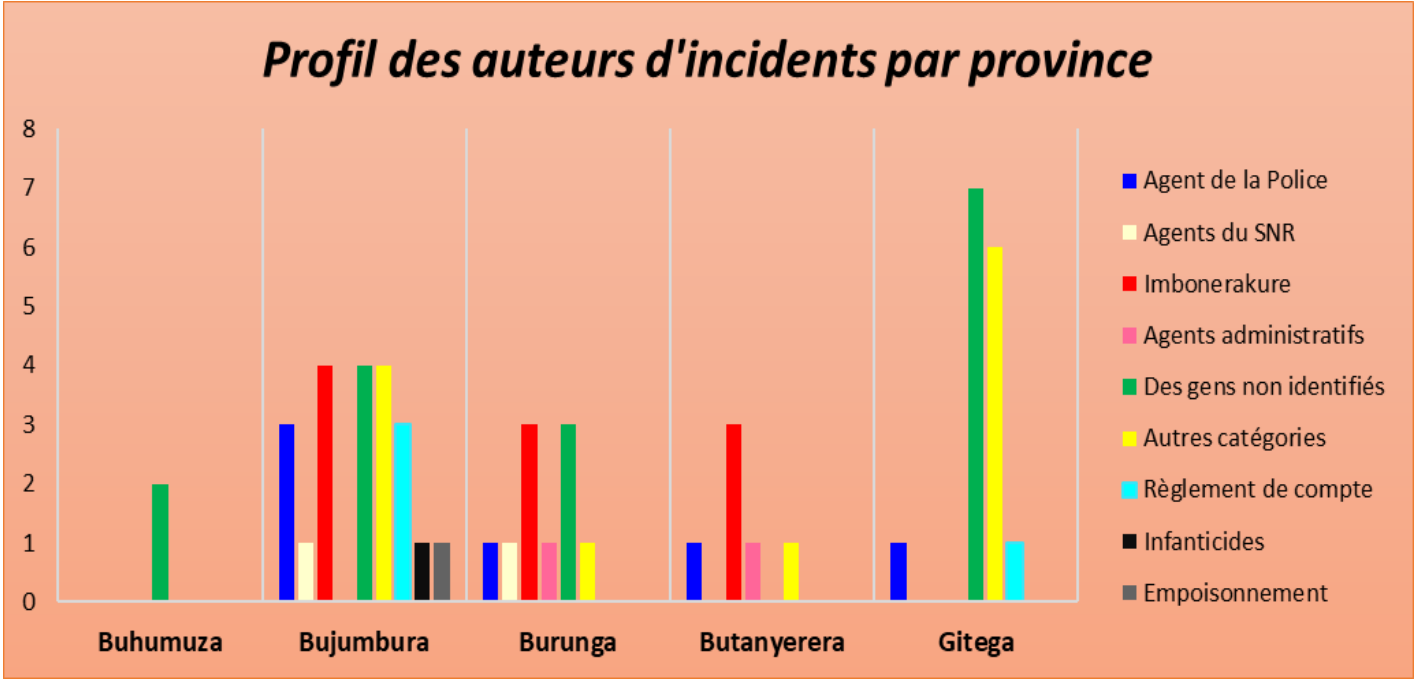


The above graph illustrates the five categories of violations in the five different provinces of the country, with Bujumbura experiencing the most allegations of human rights violations with 18 cases, followed by Gitega with 14 cases, Burunga with eight cases, Butanyerera with five cases, and finally Buhumuza with two cases.

Thus, during the month of August 2025 covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded 47 cases of alleged civil and political rights violations throughout the country. These alleged human rights violations resulted in 53 victims and are broken down as follows: 20 people killed, 4 cases of kidnapping, 16 victims of gender-based violence, including 11 underage girls who were raped, 4 cases of torture, and 9 people arbitrarily arrested.

The province of Bujumbura stands out as the most affected, with a total of 18 victims (including 8 intentional homicides, 2 cases of abduction, 6 cases of GBV, and 1 case of arrest), followed by the province of Gitega with 14 cases of alleged human rights violations (including 8 homicides, 1 case of abduction, and 5 cases of GBV).

Graph 2: Graph illustrating the main alleged perpetrators of civil and political rights violations observed in Burundi during August 2025



According to the graph, out of 47 cases of violations involving 53 victims (graph 1): 6 cases of violations were committed by police officers, 2 cases by SNR agents, 10 cases by Imbonerakure youth, 2 cases by administrative agents, and 16 cases by unidentified individuals; 4 cases were acts of revenge, 1 case was infanticide, and 12 cases fall into other categories involving private individuals, traders, and domestic violence, including gender-based violence.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

August 2025 was marked by alarming events in Burundi's political landscape, including a rise in political intolerance in various municipalities, particularly in Musongati in Burunga province. Since August 4, this locality has been the scene of open discrimination against members of opposition parties, particularly on Giharo hill. One notable incident involved Kagoma Elias, a prominent member of the UPRONA party, who was assaulted by Kwizera Marc, a CNDD-FDD activist acting under the instructions of Sylvain Nzikoruriho, provincial secretary of the same party. This climate of intimidation, which is not an isolated incident, has already led to arbitrary arrests of members of Kagoma's association in 2020, when several members of his association were even imprisoned with the avowed aim of expropriating them, in order to take possession of the marshland they had inherited from their elders, as part of an attempt to take control of inherited agricultural land. Faced with persistent threats, Kagoma is calling for the restoration of his rights and protection for himself and his family, while his attackers continue to act with impunity.

At the same time, on August 5, 2025, the new senators meet to elect the president of the Senate, where Gervais Ndirakobuca, former prime minister and retired police general, is chosen to lead the institution. This period is also marked by a cabinet reshuffle, with the appointment of Nestor Ntahontuye as Prime Minister, forming a cabinet of 13 ministers.

Tensions are rising as death threats are made against local political figures in Burunga province, where members of the CNDD-FDD appear to be orchestrating a campaign of intimidation against opposition figures. The political situation is also marked by election campaigns for hill councils, a process that reveals unequal access to information and notable exclusions of opposition candidates.

Campaigns often marred by irregularities and fraud reached their peak during the August 25, 2025 elections, raising concerns about the integrity of the democratic process. Allegations of vote rigging and voter intimidation punctuated the electoral landscape, pointing to an uncertain future for local democracy².

At the same time, Cardinal Pietro Parolin's visit to Burundi symbolizes an effort at reconciliation and reconstruction, even as political tensions persist. The celebration of the 20th anniversary of the CNDD-FDD highlights growing divisions between the ruling party and the political opposition, further complicating the situation. Mass rallies and the non-transparent approval of community leaders indicate a consolidation of power, often at the expense of democratic participation.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

In terms of security, August 2025 was marked by worrying events, particularly in the province of Burunga. In the commune of Rumonge, the situation deteriorated with the appearance of groups of young Imbonerakure, who roamed the streets wearing T-shirts bearing the logo of the ruling party and armed with guns and sticks. Local sources report that these young people invade bars and other places at night, asking questions and noting the absence of military patrols, suggesting that they are replacing the police and security forces. A resident of the Kanyenkoko neighborhood said that, unlike in the past when soldiers patrolled the streets, today only the Imbonerakure are visible. This phenomenon can be interpreted as an indicator of a decline in institutional control in favor of unofficial political entities. The Imbonerakure, already criticized for their intimidating actions, appear to operate with impunity and without military supervision, raising concerns about potential community violence³.

On August 5, 2025, an incident occurred in Bukinanyana, where a 60-year-old man was killed in an armed attack, highlighting a growing pattern of insecurity. The authorities' responses, although prompt, reflect a climate of real fear. At the same time, members of the Imbonerakure who fought in the Democratic Republic of Congo are expressing their dissatisfaction with the failure to deliver on promises of compensation, adding to social tension and anxiety among local populations about a potential resurgence of violence.

On August 9, 2025, uniforms and military equipment were distributed to the Imbonerakure, heightening concerns about their growing influence over local judicial affairs⁴. Furthermore, a notable incident on August 23, 2025, saw a woman recently released from abusive detention survive an attempted assault by the Imbonerakure, revealing the constant threat to vulnerable individuals.

²<https://ligue-iteka.bi/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Bulletin-ITEKA-N-IJAMBO-489.pdf>

³<https://ligue-iteka.bi/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Bulletin-ITEKA-N-IJAMBO-487.pdf>, page 8

⁴Idem

Victims of a landslide in Muhuta continue to suffer the devastating effects of the disaster, appealing to the government for farmland and highlighting the inadequacy of humanitarian responses to a persistent crisis. The climate of anxiety persists, exacerbated by the discovery of explosive devices and other violent incidents during the same period, highlighting the urgent need to reassess existing security mechanisms to counter the rise in criminal acts and social tensions.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

August 2025 in Burundi was marked by a series of judicial events illustrating the dysfunction of the justice system and alarming detention conditions, particularly in Rumonge, in the province of Burunga. As of August 3, conditions at the Rumonge provincial police station are particularly worrying. The cells reserved for women, initially designed for six inmates, actually hold 15 women, while the cell for minors, designed for 10, houses 50. As for adults, a cell with a capacity of 10 is overcrowded with 70 inmates, further exacerbating the deterioration of living conditions.

On August 6, a summary trial was held in Rutana, where the High Court sentenced Amon Mpawenayo to three years' imprisonment, along with a fine of 300,000 Burundian francs and compensation of 2,000,000 Burundian francs to two police officers whom he allegedly assaulted while they were on patrol. In another ruling on August 4, Sébastien Hakizimana was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for killing his partner during a domestic dispute.

Inequalities in the application of the law were also observed in Rumonge. On August 13, Tuyihimbaze Asmani and Paul Ndagijimana were arrested in possession of 440 liters of contraband fuel, and although the prosecution sought moderate sentences, they were ultimately sentenced to one year in prison, a fine of one million Fbu, and compensation to the state. Uncertainty remains surrounding the involvement of a police colonel, Moïse Arakaza, in this smuggling case.

On August 14, NJEJIMANA Égide was sentenced to 20 years in prison for setting fire to the homes of two merchants in Rutana, illustrating a marked difference in the severity of sentences compared to other cases that have gone unpunished. In Gitega, Ivan Nishimwe and Emery Nzoyisaba were sentenced to 10 years in prison for motorcycle theft, with fines and compensation imposed on the victims on August 12.

The social climate was shaken by an event on August 14, when KAREKEZI, accused of rape, was seen walking free in Karusi despite a previous arrest, causing widespread concern among the population. On August 19, Anicet Niyonkuru, president of the CDP party, was arrested for fraud, with victims accusing him of promising jobs abroad without ever delivering on them. In addition, Moïse Arakaza, a police colonel, has been imprisoned since August 18 for fuel trafficking and attempted murder, including allegations of illegal behavior and violence. A search of his home led to the seizure of prohibited material, and the population is expressing a growing desire for concrete action against impunity.

The judicial context in Burundi is thus marred by acts of arbitrariness and prolonged detentions without legal basis. A significant number of citizens find themselves in detention without specific charges, leading to significant human rights violations. Magistrates often find themselves under pressure, expressing fears of possible reprisals.

On August 21, the Rutana High Court sentenced three individuals linked to human trafficking to four years in prison after they were arrested in possession of minors. Finally, on August 26 in Rumonge, several convictions for thefts committed during the elections revealed notable inconsistencies in the handling of these cases compared to other frauds that went unpunished. On August 25, Ndikumana Augustin was arrested for electoral fraud, raising further doubts about equality before the law. On August 27, Emmanuel Manirambona was convicted of illegal trade in beverages, reflecting the ongoing efforts of the judicial authorities to maintain order in a complex environment.

1.4. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The economic situation in Burundi in August 2025 is causing serious concern. In Kayanza, a police operation on August 1 led to the interception of 15 bags of cement and 350 bottles of Skol beer imported from Rwanda. Organized with the National Defense Force, this intervention was based on a report of a suspicious vehicle. Three suspects, including Tuyizere Emmanuel alias Promoka, are in custody and have been fined 5 million each for fraud. In Mwaro, economic activities have been suspended since August 8 due to a prolonged power outage, affecting essential repairs and causing a shortage of drinking water.

In Bujumbura province, farmers are concerned about delays in fertilizer distribution, which threaten future harvests. The Minister of Agriculture has promised that shipments will arrive soon, while urging producers to be patient. On August 16, the first stone of a railway linking Uvinza to Musongati was laid, financed by the African Development Bank, in order to strengthen regional trade.

However, in Gitega province, coffee farmers have not received payments promised by the state, complicating their financial situation. In addition, in Burunga, the relocation of the Kwa Buhinja market in Tanzania has added to inflation on Burundian products, prompting some to cross the border illegally.

Finally, in Bururi, the Anders Gahore hospital is facing a drinking water supply crisis due to power cuts, raising concerns about patient hygiene. At the same time, police have carried out operations against oil smuggling in Bugendana, as fuel prices on the black market rise. In short, Burundi faces multifaceted economic challenges, ranging from fraud and shortages to political consequences that impact daily life.

1.5. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

The governance framework in Burundi in August 2025 reveals significant economic disruption due to power cuts affecting several cities, notably Bujumbura. Starting on August 4, these cuts disrupted activities in all sectors, justified by REGIDESO as necessary for connection work. Statements by the Director General, Dr. Ir. Lieutenant Colonel Jean Albert Manigomba, raised doubts among the population about the legitimacy of these measures, affecting the daily lives of Burundians. Despite an August 10 statement from REGIDESO promising a reduction in delays, the outages caused water supply difficulties, forcing residents to travel to Lake Tanganyika, thereby increasing the risk of contagious diseases such as cholera.

Organizations such as the Iteka League and other civil society actors report negative impacts on daily life, with disruptions in essential sectors such as banking and healthcare. Institutions such as BCCI and Bancobu have had to suspend their services, while hospitals, such as the Prince Regent Charles Hospital morgue, are experiencing great difficulties.

This crisis comes after REGIDESO announced that projects such as Kabu 16 and Rusumo Falls, intended to improve energy supply, were scheduled to begin in July 2025.

In addition, the municipality of Nyanza, in Burunga province, is facing allegations of embezzlement by the former administrator, Ms. Manirankunda Goreth, led by Mr. Mpawenayo Prudence. According to witnesses, more than 100 million FBU were embezzled after the transfer of power, initially intended for the rehabilitation of water drainage systems. This project, which was rejected by the municipal council before being embezzled, was reported by the municipal accountant, Ciza Gérard, upon the arrival of Engineer Diomède on August 14, 2025. The embezzlement, considered systematic, remains unresolved despite warnings from state and non-governmental organizations.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

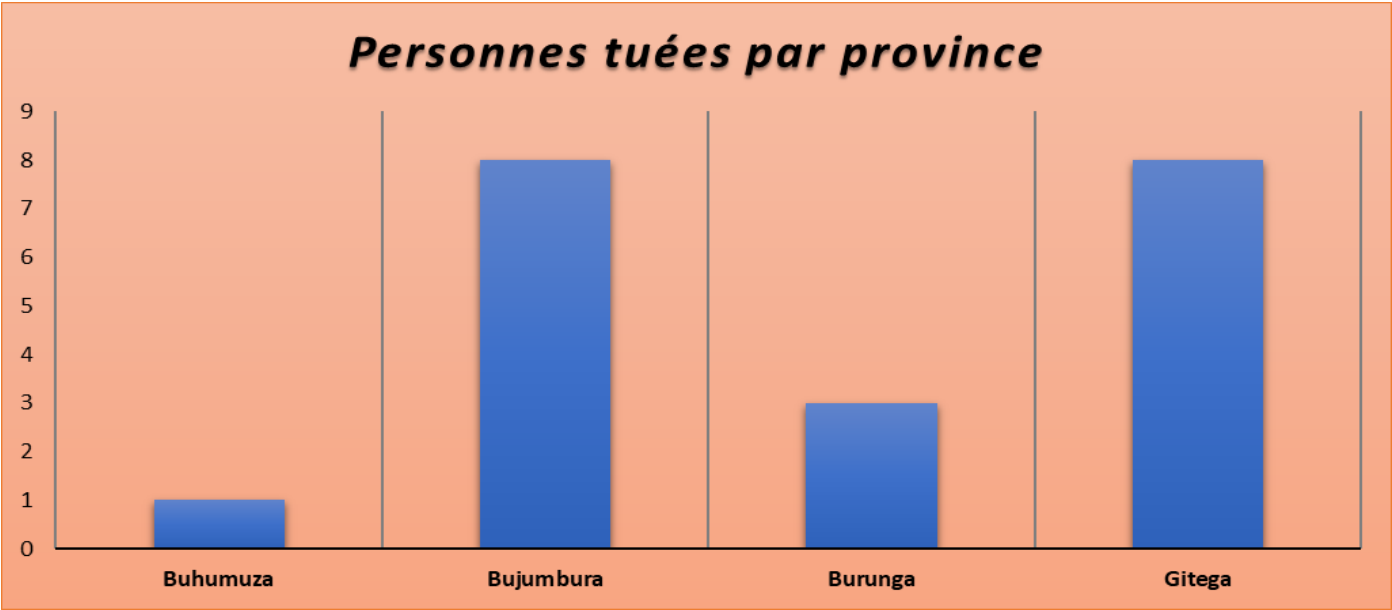
Burundi is one of the countries that acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1965) and its Optional Protocol (1976) without reservation on May 9, 1990. As part of its implementation, Burundi has taken measures in its domestic legislation, notably in its Constitution of June 7, 2018 (Main Law), in Article 19, which guarantees that all rights proclaimed and guaranteed by duly ratified international texts are an integral part of this Constitution. implementing texts have been put in place, notably the Criminal Code of December 29, 2017, and the Code of Criminal Procedure of May 11, 2018, and other institutions for the protection of human rights in Burundi have been created.

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

During the period covered by this report, a total of 20 cases of intentional homicide were recorded by the Iteka League throughout the country. Among the victims, 15 were men and 5 were women.

In these cases, 14 people were killed by unidentified individuals and/or found dead; 1 case was attributed to young Imbonerakure, one case of infanticide, two cases of revenge killings, one case of poisoning, and one case of a woman killed by her husband. The provinces most affected were Bujumbura and Gitega, with eight cases each, followed by Burunga province with three cases. Buhumuze had one case.



Illustrative examples:

Ex1: On August 26, 2025, at the military hospital in Kamenge, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, Thierry Niyibizi, aged 35, originally from Rubizi hill, Muyira area, father of four children, died after being beaten by Imbonerakure.

According to an eyewitness, on August 18, 2025, Thierry Niyibizi, returning home, had an argument with some members of his family, and a group of Imbonerakure from his hill, led by their leader Joël Ndindakaha, nicknamed “Mburu,” arrived and began beating him, accusing him of assaulting members of his family. He was beaten to the point of losing consciousness, with no one able to intervene to help him. According to the same witnesses, neighbors then intervened and rushed him to small health centers, such as those in Claver and Isororezo, but to no avail. He was then transferred to the military hospital in Bujumbura, where he died. His family and loved ones are demanding justice.

Example 2: On August 15, 2025, near Rusizi National Park, in the town of Gatumba, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Province, the lifeless body of an unidentified man was found floating in the Rusizi River.

According to witnesses, the body showed clear signs of torture. “You could see that he had been killed elsewhere before being thrown here,” said a local resident.

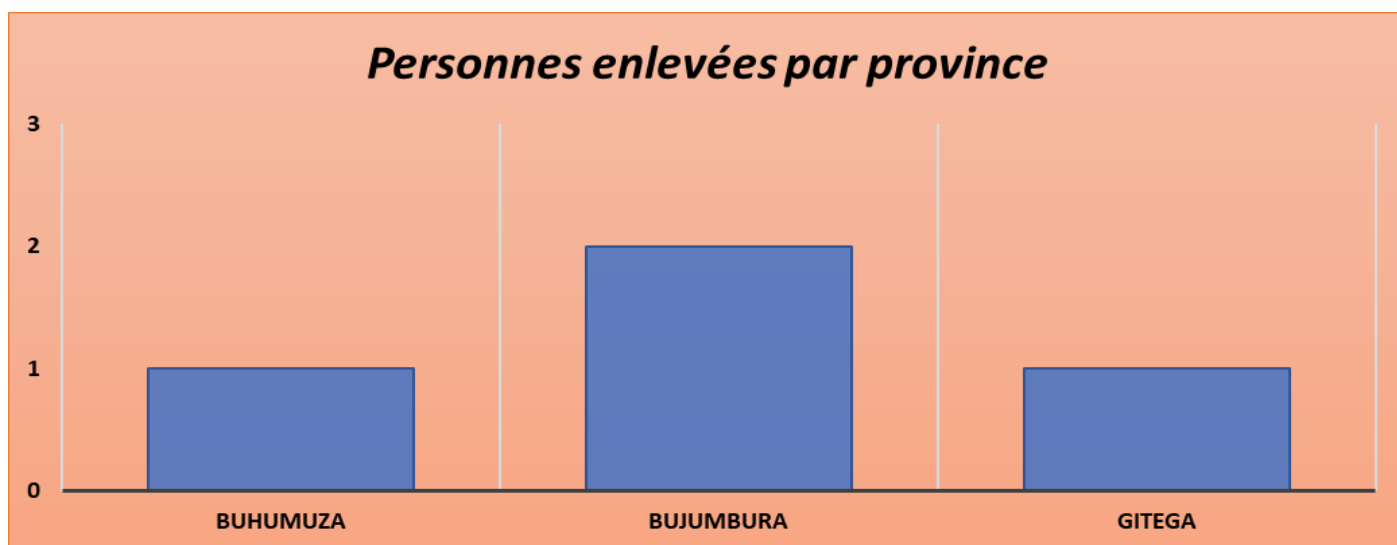
Local authorities at the scene confirmed that the body was in an advanced state of decomposition and ordered its burial the same day on the grounds that it had already begun to decompose.

At present, the victim's identity remains unknown and no arrests have been reported. An investigation should be opened to determine the exact circumstances of this tragedy and identify those responsible. On the orders of the local authorities, the body was buried.

II.1.2. PEOPLE KIDNAPPED AND/OR MISSING

The Constitution of Burundi guarantees all individuals a fair trial, as well as a hearing and judgment within a reasonable time, as stipulated in Article 38.

The Iteka League has recorded four people kidnapped, including three men and one woman, with two cases in Bujumbura province and one case each in Buhumuza and Gitega. Among the victims, two were abducted by police officers and two by unidentified individuals. The abducted woman was freed thanks to the intervention of people who had the courage to chase after the vehicle that was transporting her to an unknown destination.



Illustrative examples:

Ex1: *Since August 11, 2025, at the Nyabikere center, SHombo commune, Gitega province, Daniel, a member of the CNDD FDD, aged over 30, originally from Butamenwa hill, NYABIKERE area, current SHOMBO commune, has disappeared while in police custody. According to local witnesses, the victim ordered a meal costing 2,000 francs in a restaurant in the Nyabikere center but only had 1,000 francs in his pocket. The restaurant owner, Jean Marie, called the police commissioner instead of giving him time to go and get the rest of the money. After the meal, he told the restaurant owner that he was waiting for his employer to arrive to pay him and settle the bill. According to witnesses, the police came and began to beat him, then took him to the Nyabikere detention center, where he was placed in his own cell after being beaten again. The same source adds that other prisoners protested that a person in critical condition could not be incarcerated. The police then decided to take the victim to the Nyabikere health center, but the nurses refused to admit him because he was in critical condition. Since then, no one has seen him. The inhabitants of the Nyabikere area fear for the fate of the man named Daniel and are asking for clarification.*

Ex2: *On August 17, 2025, at the Rusengo market in the commune of Ruyigi, Buhumuza province, a woman known as Maman Salah was abducted by unidentified individuals. According to local sources, the woman, a mother of five, was taken away in a white Toyota double-cab pickup truck with no license plate. The victim was abducted on August 17, 2025, while she was at the Rusengo market in the commune of Ruyigi.*

It should be noted that this woman lives on Nyamutobo hill in the same commune of Ruyigi. According to the same sources, the woman was found five days after her disappearance in Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, very close to the building of the former governor of the former province of Kayanza. After five days of searching for the victim, her family learned that she was being held in one of the houses in the capital of Kayanza commune. After arriving in the town of Kayanza, they learned that she was being held in one of the houses near the house mentioned above. When they approached, they saw a vehicle with tinted windows leaving the gate with someone inside the same vehicle screaming for help, and they pursued the vehicle on a motorcycle.

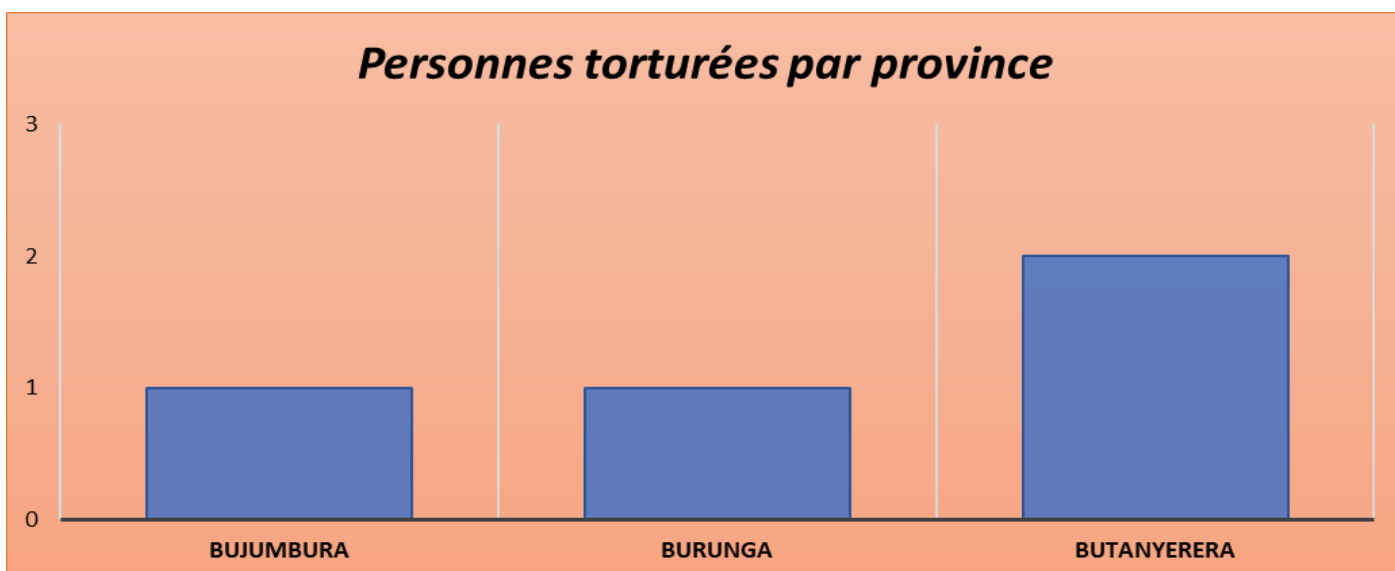
The vehicle in question took the road towards the commune of Ngozi. When they were about 5 kilometers from the town of Kayanza, they opened the door of the vehicle and dropped the victim on the ground because they noticed that there were people chasing them on motorcycles. The victim's face was bandaged. The family recovered their loved one, but she was in critical condition as a result of the torture she had suffered.

She is currently hospitalized at Rema Hospital in Ruyigi, her home province. Family conflicts are believed to be behind the kidnapping. One of her family members, known as Muverema, has been arrested for questioning and is currently being held in the provincial police station in Ruyigi.

II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

Article 21 of the Burundian Constitution stipulates that “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.” In addition, Law No. 1/04 of June 27, 2016, on the protection of victims defines the rights of victims and provides for measures to protect their physical and mental integrity. This clearly demonstrates the country's commitment to protecting the physical integrity of its citizens.

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



In total, four cases of torture were recorded by the Iteka League throughout the country during the period covered by this report. Of these cases, three were attributed to members of the Imbonerakure, and one was committed by a police officer. The province of Butanyerera recorded two cases, followed by Bujumbura and Burunga with one case each. Illustrative examples:

Ex1: On August 13, 2025, in Ndayisenga Élie's bar (sabuhungu), on Ruhhehe hill, Bugabira area, Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province. Ruhengwe Patrice, aged 51, a member of the UPRONA party and a mechanic, was beaten by a group of Imbonerakure led by Ndayisaba Viateur, aged 35. According to local witnesses, the conflict arose from political discussions that were taking place and Ruhengwe opposed them. According to the same witnesses, the victim spent the night outside, unable to move due to his injuries, and was rescued in the morning. The police are searching for these criminals, and a man named Kajisho Emmanuel has been apprehended by the police for questioning. It should be noted that the victim's brother, Ntagambira Jean Prosper, a candidate for the position of hill chief, is criticized by the Imbonerakure for his ethnicity and his past as a refugee in Rwanda. The victim was hospitalized at Kirundo Hospital.

Example 2: On August 8, 20225, a woman living in Mitakataka hill, Bubanza commune, Bujumbura province, was hospitalized after being beaten by a police officer on duty at the Mitakataka Higher Police Institute (ISP).

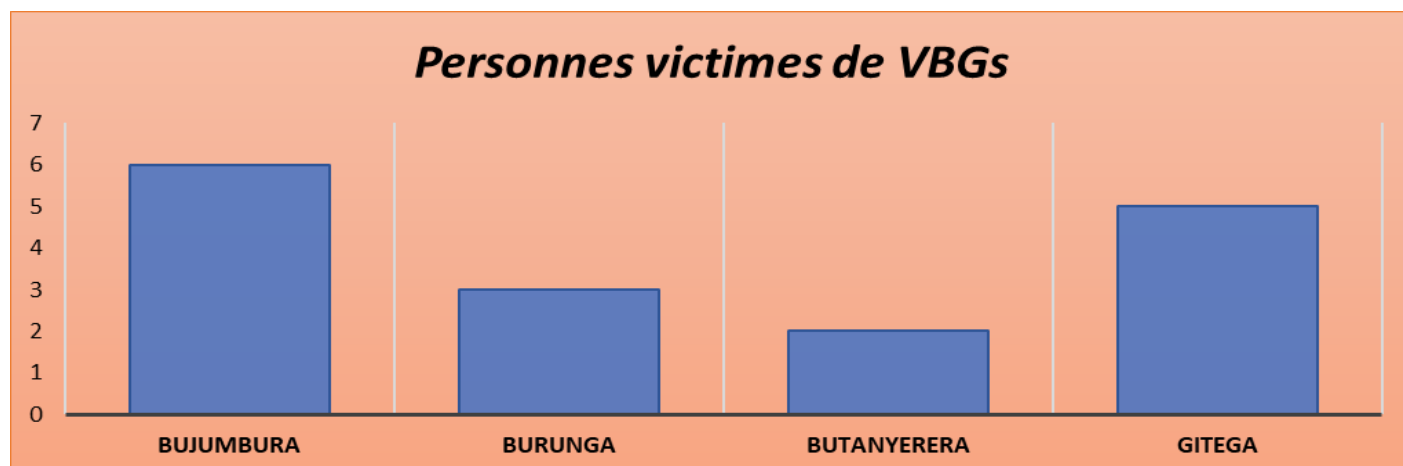
According to witnesses, the police officer accused the victim of practicing witchcraft before beating her with a stick. Residents who witnessed the incident say that this behavior is all the more serious because the law enforcement officer, who is supposed to protect the population, turned into an aggressor.

Local sources report that the police officer was intoxicated at the time of the incident. Enraged neighbors also beat him violently before he was narrowly rescued by colleagues who came to his aid.

The former head of the Mitakataka zone, Jacques Nikwitegetse, confirms these events and points out that, despite repeated calls from residents for the police officer to be punished for his behavior, which they consider "unworthy and criminal," he continues to move about freely. His colleagues have protected him from prosecution, fueling a deep sense of injustice and frustration within the community.

II.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

During the reporting period, the Iteka League recorded 16 cases of victims of GBV, including 11 cases of underage girls who were raped. Bujumbura Province was the most affected with 6 cases, followed by Gitega with 5 cases, and Burunga Province came in third with 3 cases.



Of the 16 cases of GBV/rape recorded nationwide, 6 were committed by members of the Imbonerakure, 9 were committed by individuals (including shopkeepers, domestic workers, and neighbors of the victims), and 1 was a case of domestic violence between spouses.

Illustrative examples:

Ex1: Information received on August 27, 2025 indicates that on August 23, 2025, on Kavumu hill in the Ruyaga area, Mugere commune, Bujumbura Province, ND Ch B, aged 13, was raped by HAKAZA Steve, aged 21, a student at Kanyosha Communal High School in 2nd Languages.

According to local witnesses, the child went to her neighbor's house around 8 a.m. as usual, and since no one else was there but Steve, he raped her and threatened to kill her if she revealed the secret. The child was afraid and did not tell anyone what had happened to her. In the evening, when her parents returned home, her mother noticed that the child was having difficulty moving and revealed what had happened to her. She was then taken to the SERUKA center for the necessary care. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and imprisoned in the Muyira jail pending legal proceedings.

Example 2: On August 20, 2025, on Mugerera Hill, Mbuye area, Muramvya commune, I. I., aged 11, daughter of N. and Nd, a third-year student at ECOFO Mugerera, was raped by Mbonihankuye Zabron, 43, a farmer, when she went to fetch firewood with two other friends. According to local witnesses, the alleged perpetrator approached them and gave 2,000 FBU to the other two to go and buy sweets in a shop far away, and then raped her. When the other children arrived, the dirty deed had already been done.

The victim's parents arrived at the scene and immediately took her to the hospital in Mbuye. The next day, the perpetrator learned that he was being sought and fled, and remains at large to this day.

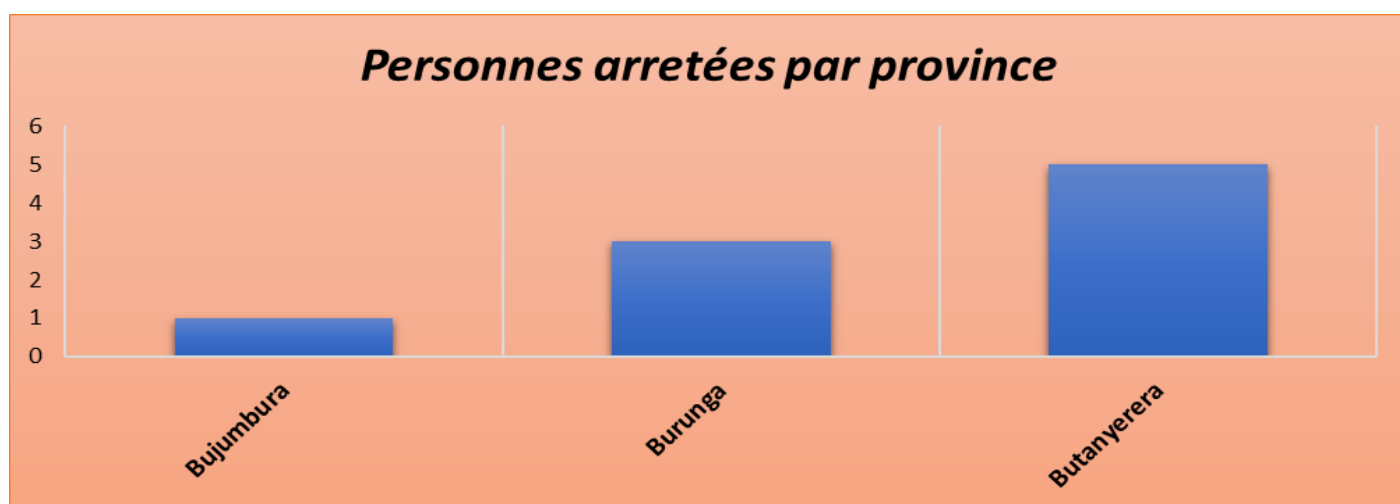
Example 3: On August 24, 2025, on the Gisheka hillside in the Nyamakarabo area, Venant Niyonsaba, aged 30 and father of two children, was injured after being stabbed by his wife, Godeliève Ndayisaba, aged 26.

According to security sources, the woman attacked her husband with a knife, accusing him of squandering the family's assets, particularly livestock, and the victim was rescued by neighbors before being taken to a health center. Witnesses say that the household had been experiencing severe tensions for several weeks. Witnesses say that the couple had been experiencing tensions for several weeks. The injured man's family expressed their anger, but the intervention of the police helped to calm the situation. Godeliève Ndayisaba was arrested and placed in custody at the Mugina communal jail.

The head of the Nyamakarabo area confirmed the facts and called on the population to trust the justice system. "The suspect will be heard and prosecuted in accordance with the law," he said.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

Article 21 of the Burundian Constitution guarantees the right to liberty and security of the person. It stipulates that "No one may be arbitrarily arrested or detained." The Burundian Penal Code regulates the conditions of preventive detention and provides guarantees to prevent arbitrary arrests and detentions.



In total, three cases of arrests involving nine victims were recorded throughout the country during the period covered by this report, with one case each in the provinces of Bujumbura, Butanyerera, and Burunga. Of these three cases, two were committed by police officers, including one case by the SNR. The other case was attributed to an administrator.

Illustrative examples:

Example 1: On August 21, 2025, on Kanyenkoko Hill, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, Moïse Ntirandekura, alias Musore, Habonimana Jean Paul, and Venant Issa Havyarimana, three individuals listed on the electoral rolls for the Kanyenkoko hill councilors, were arrested by the Rumonge Documentation Office and taken to the Rumonge police station for questioning. The police then realized that this was a setup to try to remove them permanently from the list.

According to local witnesses, the victims claim to be victims of intimidation and persecution aimed at preventing them from being elected. Ntirandekura, Habonimana, and Havyarimana were arrested by agents of the National Enquiry Service (SNR) in Rumonge while campaigning among the population. They were accused of organizing an unauthorized demonstration and brandishing placards.

According to corroborating sources, it all began on August 14, 2025, when four candidates from this neighborhood were illegally removed from the list of applicants by the Independent Municipal Electoral Commission (CECI) of Rumonge, without any reason being given. The individuals concerned then appealed to the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), which ultimately ruled in their favor, allowing them to resume their campaign.

According to several residents of the Kanyenkoko neighborhood, these three men are all members of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD. However, internal divisions within the local party structures are at the root of these tensions. Some officials are reportedly seeking to impose candidates of their choice, thereby sidelining those considered independent or less favorable to their influence.

With the elections approaching, this situation raises many concerns about the transparency of the electoral process and respect for the political rights of candidates. Example 2: On August 14, 2025, on Rukina Hill, in the Rukina area of Rwibaga commune, Bujumbura province, Nikura Gabriel, a merchant, and Tharcisse, who was transporting his Brarudi products to his customers, were apprehended by police officers from Mayuyu. The next day, the police brought Mr. Nikura back to the scene and confiscated all the Brarudi products he had in his possession.

After this operation, Mr. Nikura Gabriel was transferred again to Mayuyu, then, around 3 p.m., taken to Bujumbura. Since then, there has been no news of him: neither his family nor his neighbors know where he is.

A local leader also expressed concern: “When someone is arrested with a legal warrant, that’s normal. But when they then disappear without anyone knowing where they are, it’s very worrying. It creates a climate of fear among the population.” The police authorities have not yet made any official statement on this case.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

Violations of economic rights in Burundi in August 2025 are evident in significant delays in payments to coffee farmers in Kayanza. Since March 2025, no payments have been made, causing an economic crisis for farmers. On August 6, a government official attributed these delays to the digitization of payments, but no compensation followed, plunging coffee farmers into alarming precariousness. They are struggling to buy fertilizers, obtain corn seeds, and meet the basic needs of their families.

In Mugina, the confiscation of land for gold mining is causing concern. Local officials are seizing nearly 10 hectares of agricultural land, preventing residents from farming it. The expropriations are being carried out for the benefit of an illegal gold mining operation, leading to threats from the authorities against those who try to resist. Fearing famine, residents are calling for urgent intervention by the head of state in response to the abuses.

Power cuts in Burundi are exacerbating the situation, affecting businesses that depend on electricity and making it impossible to preserve food. Medical facilities, which are also affected, are seeing their operations compromised, jeopardizing healthcare. Complaints are emerging about the slowness of public services due to these interruptions.

In the province of Bujumbura, the Nyamikoma sub-hill community has raised the alarm about illegal gold mining on their land, involving influential figures. Around 100 families in the Buhoro and Busesa hills are being expropriated, with their main source of income threatened by gold mining projects. Despite efforts to alert the authorities, the villagers are receiving no help.

Delayed payments to coffee farmers in the provinces of Mpanda and Bubanza are creating tensions, with farmers receiving no compensation for their deliveries. Many are considering giving up coffee farming, while in Gitega, farmers are still waiting for payments, despite new bank accounts being opened to facilitate the process.

Cotton producers in Burundi are facing delays from COGERCO in purchasing their harvest. Farmers are concerned about the imminent deterioration of their crops. In the commune of Karuzi, a fuel shortage is complicating transportation, while workers at the Rwegura tea factory are earning derisory wages, pushing them towards private plantations where pay is better, which is causing concern among managers about declining productivity.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Violations of the right to education in Burundi in August 2025 were marked by the closure of schools, cycles, and sections in the provinces of Bujumbura, Gitega, and Burunga, ordered by the Ministry of Education. Minister François Havyarimana announced this decision on August 7, 2025, citing non-compliance with current regulations, according to an official statement. In the province of Bujumbura, seven establishments were affected, including two nursery schools and two sections in the municipalities of Mukaza and Ntakangwa, which were banned from operating for the 2025-2026 school year. The reasons given by the ministry include deteriorating working conditions, lack of adequate infrastructure, faulty or poorly maintained latrines, establishments that have changed location without authorization, and schools operating without official approval. Similar decisions have been taken in the province of Gitega, in the municipality of Karusi, as well as in the province of Burunga, in Rumonge, for similar reasons. The ministry justifies its intervention by the need to preserve the quality of education and ensure an educational environment that complies with national standards, warning that parents and students must remain vigilant in the face of these closures. Local education authorities, for their part, must ensure that this decision is enforced until further notice. This measure follows the reappointment of François Havyarimana to his post, raising questions about the ministry's responsibility for the conditions that led to this situation.

In Muramvya province, the dropout rate for the 2024-2025 school year is worrying, mainly affecting primary school classes with 7,996 dropouts recorded, compared to 1,590 in post-primary education. The Provincial Education Directorate (DPE) cites the main causes of these dropouts as poverty, unwanted pregnancies, illness, family relocation, and marriage.

On August 21, 2025, the Governor of Buhumuza Province convened the DPEs of Cankuzo, Muyinga, and Ruyigi provinces to prepare for the 2025-2026 school year. Following this meeting, the Governor issued a statement stipulating that all parents of primary and secondary school students must purchase new uniforms. Secondary school students are also required to wear closed-toe shoes, which could exacerbate the situation for poor families and increase the risk of school dropouts. This directive is perceived as discrimination against children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Finally, in the province of Butanyerera, particularly in the municipalities of Kayanza, Matongo, and Muhanga, the number of school dropouts for 2024-2025 stands at 8,584 boys and 6,329 girls at the ECOFO level, as well as 667 girls and 560 boys at the fundamental level, according to statements by Juvénal Mbonihankuye, director of education in these municipalities. Although he notes a slight improvement compared to the previous school year, when 18,192 dropouts were recorded, he emphasizes that the causes remain the same: early search for money, unwanted pregnancies, and lack of role models. Children, witnessing a growing number of unemployed people, may become discouraged. The director calls on parents and children to redouble their efforts to ensure that all students attend school.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

In August 2025, the municipality of Cibitoke was the scene of serious violations of the right to health, with devastating effects on the local population. On August 10, the Iteka League reported an alarming shortage of CAM cards in health facilities in Rugombo and Rukana. This crisis had worsened over the previous three weeks, causing growing concern among patients, particularly those considered most vulnerable. The latter were severely affected, with an escalation in reported illnesses. Valued at 5,000 FBU, the cards have become almost impossible to find, forcing health center managers to redirect patients to distant facilities, resulting in increased transportation costs, potentially reaching 20,000 FBU.

At the same time, allegations of “organized theft” have been made, pointing the finger at certain health workers suspected of keeping cards to resell them at exorbitant prices. Faced with this worrying situation, citizens have strongly urged the Ministry of Health to intervene to put an end to these unacceptable abuses. In response, the district chief medical officer promised to launch an investigation to clarify these allegations. This crisis highlights the persistent challenges facing the local health system. In addition, the AGAPE Clinic in Rugombo has come under fire for the quality of its care, with an increase in deaths and allegations of fraud and political impunity. Although it has collaborated with the government to provide free care to women and children, tragic deaths due to staff shortages and unsafe working conditions have been reported since 2018.

The situation has further deteriorated with the departure of many health professionals, often disillusioned by their pay and working conditions. A tragic case illustrating this despair is that of Privat Manirabogora, who died on July 21, 2025, from an intestinal obstruction due to a lack of adequate care. In addition, acts of fraud, such as the manipulation of reports, have enabled the clinic to embezzle subsidies exceeding one billion Burundian francs per year, initially intended to provide free care. The clinic's owner, Deputy Lubassa, appears to have escaped any form of punishment, despite the termination of partnerships with the government in 2019 and 2024, with no action taken against the staff involved.

IV. CONCLUSION ET RECOMMENDATIONS

During the period covered by this report, the deterioration of the human rights situation continues to be observed in different parts of the country.

This report highlights cases of violations of the right to life, physical integrity, and freedom, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

This report also lists issues related to security, as well as the political, judicial, economic, and governance context prevailing in the country.

It also reviews civil and political rights and economic and socio-cultural rights in terms of their disruption and expresses concern. The Iteka League protests against the impunity of the crimes observed and recommends the following:

To the Government of Burundi:

1. Guarantee respect for human rights, including the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty.
2. Take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.
3. Promote economic development to improve citizens' living conditions and reduce inequalities.
5. Guarantee access to basic services, including water, health, education, and justice, for all citizens.

To the EU and other technical and financial partners of Burundi:

1. Support the efforts of Ligue Iteka and other human rights organizations in monitoring human rights violations in Burundi.
2. Use their influence to compel the Burundian authorities to respect human rights and end impunity.