



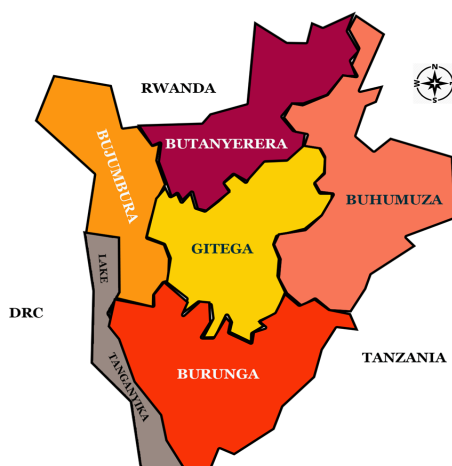
BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS “ITEKA”

Anyone should be respected

Approved by Ministerial Statutory Instrument No. 530/0273 of November 10th, 1994, revising Order No. 550/029 of February 6th, 1991

*Report on the gender-based violence
observed in Burundi during the period
from January to August 31, 2025*

***MINORS, THE MAIN VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE COMMITTED
BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE RULING PARTY IN BURUNDI***



In memory of Mrs. Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2025. From December 2015 to August 31, 2025, at least 841 victims of enforced disappearance were documented by the Iteka League, at least 91 victims reappeared and 750 are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGDFI) has already communicated to the government of Burundi at least 252¹.

¹<https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

PART I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS, REPORT OBJECTIVES, AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK.....	1
I.1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
I.1.1. MAPPING OF ALLEGATIONS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.....	2
I.1.2. MAPPING PERPETRATORS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	2
I.2. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	3
I.3. OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT.....	4
I.3.1. GENERAL OBJECTIVE.....	4
I.3.2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	4
I.4. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.....	5
I.4.1. INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS...5	5
I.4.2. NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.....5	5
PART TWO : OVERVIEW OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN BURUNDI FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO AUGUST 2025.....	6
II.1. MAPPING OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE SUFFERED GENDER BASED-VIOLENCE.....	6
II.2. MAPPING OF ADULTS WHO HAVE SUFFERED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.....	7
PART THREE : CONCLUSION.....	9

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<i>CDS</i>	<i>: Health Center</i>
<i>CECI</i>	<i>: Independent Municipal Electoral Commission</i>
<i>CEDAW</i>	<i>: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</i>
<i>CENI</i>	<i>: Independent National Electoral Commission</i>
<i>CEPI</i>	<i>: Independent Provincial Electoral Commission</i>
<i>CNDD-FDD</i>	<i>: National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Defense Forces</i>
<i>CNL</i>	<i>: National Congress for Liberty</i>
<i>DRC</i>	<i>: Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
<i>ECOFO</i>	<i>: Elementary School</i>
<i>EU</i>	<i>: European Union</i>
<i>ESCR</i>	<i>: Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights</i>
<i>FRODEBU</i>	<i>: Front for Democracy in Burundi</i>
<i>GBV</i>	<i>: Gender-based violence</i>
<i>OPJ</i>	<i>: Judicial Police Officer</i>
<i>PNB</i>	<i>: Burundi National Police</i>
<i>SGBV</i>	<i>: Sexual and gender-based violence</i>
<i>SNR</i>	<i>: National Enquiry Service</i>
<i>TGI</i>	<i>: High Court</i>
<i>UN</i>	<i>: United Nations</i>
<i>UNGA</i>	<i>: United Nations General Assembly</i>
<i>UPRONA</i>	<i>: Union for National Progress</i>

PART I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS, REPORT OBJECTIVES, AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK.

I.1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, the Iteka League reported 447 people killed, including 226 bodies found. In addition, 144 people were documented as victims of gender-based violence (GBV), with 110 minors and 29 women affected by sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). In addition, there were 39 cases of abductions and/or disappearances, 36 cases of torture, and 235 arbitrary arrests.

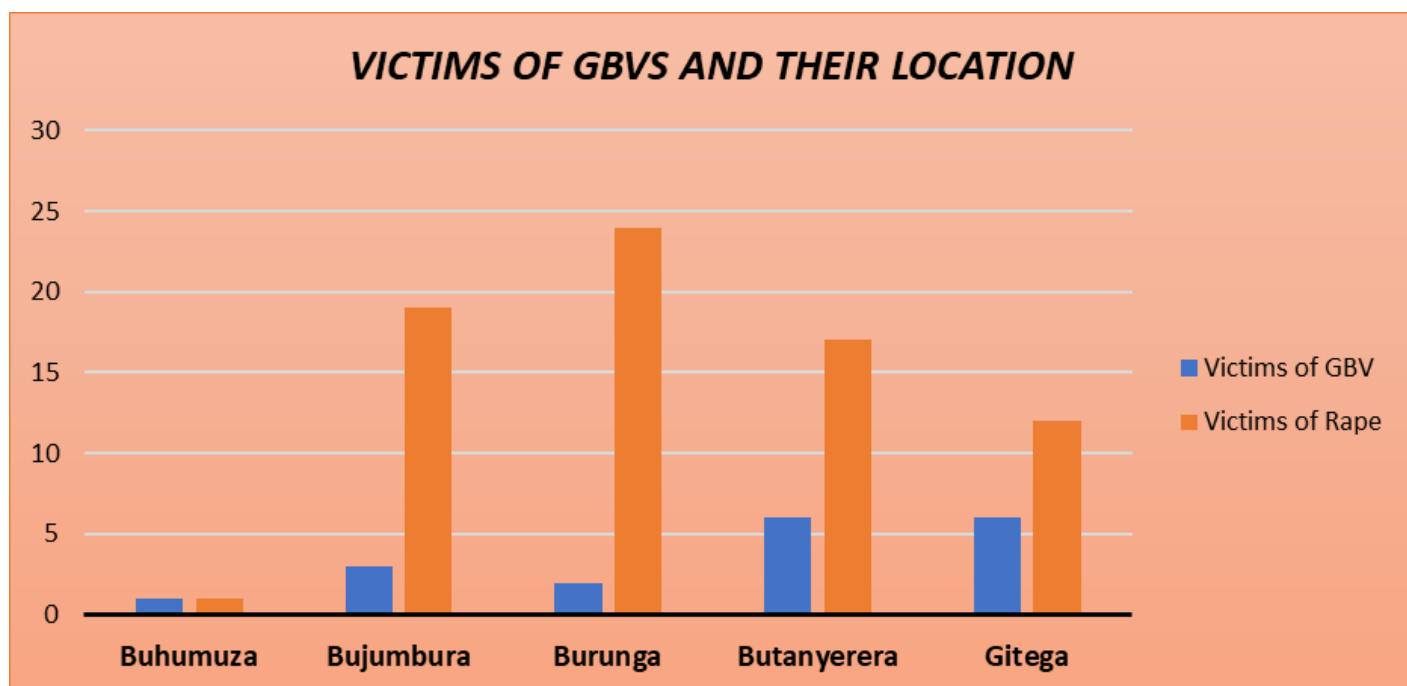
However, the year 2025 did not bring any notable changes or significant improvements. Gender-based violence, particularly against women and children, remains a concern in Burundi, as illustrated by alarming rates of domestic and sexual violence. Schoolgirls who are victims of acts committed by adults often find themselves pregnant, which sometimes leads to forced marriage as a solution, often under family pressure. Girls bear the brunt of this violence, which takes the form of forced marriages and sexual assault. In cases of unwanted pregnancy, these young women resort to abortion or infanticide, unable to meet the financial and educational needs of their children.

In addition, children face various forms of violence, including physical violence, abortion-related murders, and sexual abuse. Despite the existence of national legislation intended to protect women and children, its implementation is extremely difficult, mainly due to a lack of awareness and the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators.

The Iteka League's report on data collected between January and August 2025 reveals 91 cases of GBV victims nationwide, 73 of which involve sexual violence, despite the difficult conditions surrounding its work. The data presented in the graph below shows that Burunga province ranks first, with 26 victims, including 24 cases of rape. This is followed by Butanyerera province with 23 victims, including 17 rapes, Bujumbura in third place with 22 cases, including 19 rapes, followed by Gitega province with 18 cases, including 12 rapes. Finally, Buhumuza ranks last with two cases, including one rape.

1.1.1 MAPPING OF ALLEGATIONS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

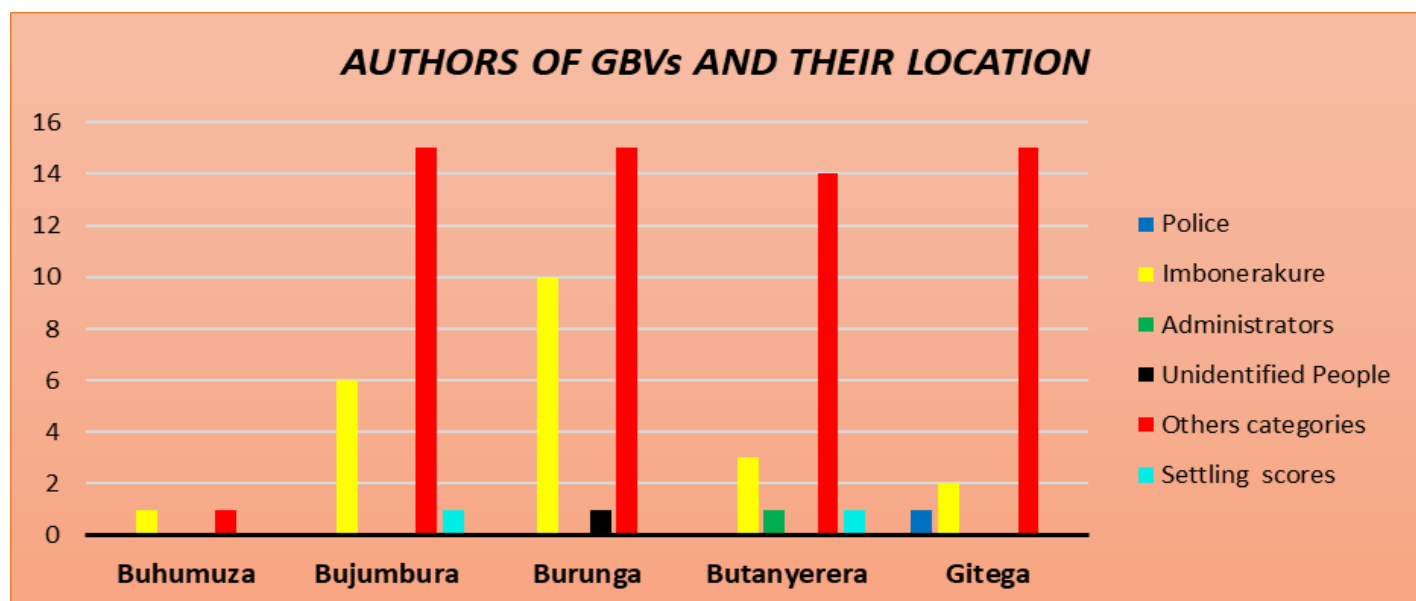
Figure 1: Graph illustrating the main cases of allegations of gender-based violence observed in Burundi during the period from January to August 31, 2025



In its data analysis, La Ligue Iteka reveals that these acts of GBV/SGBV were mainly committed by different groups: 22 cases were attributed to the Imbonerakure “Youth of the ruling CNDD-FDD party,” one case was attributed to unidentified individuals, two cases were linked to settling of scores, 60 cases came from other categories, and one case was recorded involving police officers. The associated graph below highlights the prevalence of acts perpetrated by the category designated as “others,” which includes various actors such as merchants, teachers, and neighbors.

1.1.2. MAPPING PERPETRATORS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Figure 2: Graph illustrating perpetrators gender-based violence observed in Burundi during the period from January to August 31, 2025



It should also be noted that, in most cases, the alleged perpetrators are members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party. The Iteka League highlights the impunity surrounding these incidents and emphasizes the lack of access to justice for victims, which makes them more vulnerable and exposes them to stigmatization.

I.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

In light of the crimes that have continued throughout the decade and the risk of a deterioration in the human rights situation in the post-election period following the rigged 2025 legislative, municipal, senatorial, and collinaire elections and the 2027 presidential election:

- ✓ *Review its conditions for granting financial support to this authoritarian government in order to encourage it to organize an inclusive dialogue involving all stakeholders to find a lasting solution to this political crisis;*
- ✓ *To fully support the renewal of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur and the opening of the Office of the High Commissioner of the UN Secretary-General in Burundi to closely monitor and prevent any deterioration in the tense climate between the entire opposition and the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD.*
- ✓ *Support human rights organizations, institutions, and mechanisms operating in Burundi.*

To the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) :

Given the serious deterioration in the human rights situation and the imminent risk of renewed violence in the post-election period following the rigged 2025 legislative, municipal, senatorial, and collinaire elections and ahead of the 2027 presidential election:

- ✓ *To renew the mandate of the UN Special Reporter on the situation of human rights;*
- ✓ *Open the Office of the High Commissioner of the UN Secretary-General in Burundi to closely monitor and prevent any escalation in this tense climate between the entire opposition and the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD.*

To the mandates of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Special Reporter on the situation of human rights in Burundi; the Special Reporter on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions; and the Committee against Torture :

- ✓ *To continue to closely monitor developments in the human rights situation in Burundi;*
- ✓ *To fully collaborate with independent civil society organizations to provide early warnings to prevent the worst.*

To the CNIDH :

- ✓ *To conduct thorough investigations into sexual and gender-based violence, which has become commonplace, especially for minors throughout the country, in order to fight against this crime, which leaves indelible trauma in the hearts of victims and their family members.*

To the Minister of Justice, Human Rights, and Gender :

- ✓ *Bring to justice all alleged perpetrators of this crime, which targets children and young girls in the country, and rehabilitate all victims.*

To civil society and NGOs :

- ✓ *Prioritize collaboration and coordination of actions to achieve objectives effectively and efficiently.*

I.3. REPORT OBJECTIVES

I.3.1. GENERAL OBJECTIVE :

To contribute in preventing the deterioration of the human rights situation in Burundi in the period following the 2025 legislative, municipal, and hill elections and prior to the 2027 presidential election.

I.3.2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES :

- ✓ *Take stock of the ongoing and worrying situation of gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence (GBV).*
- ✓ *Draw the attention of diplomatic missions accredited in Bujumbura, the EU, and the UN Human Rights Council to the ongoing nature of crimes against humanity, which are likely to worsen with the authoritarian government that emerged from the rigged legislative, municipal, and hill elections of 2025 and the preparation for the 2027 presidential election.*
- ✓ *Encourage the CNIDH to conduct thorough investigations into VBGs, especially VSBGs, which leave indelible trauma in the hearts of child and young girl victims and their family members.*
- ✓ *Require the Minister of Justice, Human Rights, and Gender to bring to justice all alleged perpetrators of this crime, which targets children and young girls in the country, and to rehabilitate all victims.*

I.4. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

I.4.1. INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Burundi, as a nation committed to protecting the rights of women and children, is an active signatory to numerous international agreements. These include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 18, 1979, and ratified by around 100 countries in 1990, including Burundi on January 8, 1992, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Burundi ratified on October 19, 1990, guarantees children the right to be protected from violence, mistreatment, and all forms of abuse and exploitation; the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict; as well as the Optional Protocol prohibiting the sale, prostitution and child pornography; and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, ratified by Burundi on June 28, 2004. The Burundian Constitution also stipulates in Article 44 that “every child has the right to special measures to ensure or improve the care necessary for his or her well-being, health, physical safety, and protection from abuse, exploitation, or exploitation.”

These important international conventions create a solid framework for fighting against all forms of discrimination against women and children. Under these international commitments, the Burundian government has a fundamental obligation to promote and protect the fundamental rights of women and children. This includes measures to eliminate discrimination in all its forms, to guarantee safety and protection from all forms of violence, and to ensure access to education and health care, among other things.

In addition to these two major conventions, the country is also bound by several relevant optional protocols. These protocols cover a wide range of areas, such as fighting against human trafficking, preventing the sexual exploitation of children, and promoting women's

I.4.1. INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS (the following of page 4)

participation in political and social life. These agreements provide an essential legal framework for fighting against discrimination, protecting against violence, and guaranteeing access to fundamental rights such as education and health. Through these ongoing efforts, Burundi aims to build a future of equality and respect for the rights of women and children.

I.4.2. NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Burundi adopted a Constitution in 2005 that guarantees equality between men and women. This Constitution marked a turning point in the country's history by actively promoting women's rights and protection, as did the 2018 Constitution. The year 2009 was a key moment, as the Burundian government ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its optional protocol, a universal reference instrument for the promotion and protection of women's rights. This accession demonstrates the country's commitment to promoting gender equality and fighting against gender inequality and discrimination. To give effect to its international commitments, Burundi has put in place robust legislation to protect the rights of women and children. One such law is the Personal and Family Code, which aims to guarantee equality among family members, particularly between men and women. This law also recognizes the rights of children and ensures that they are not victims of discrimination or violence within their own homes. In addition, Burundi has also adopted a specific law to fighting against gender-based violence. This law aims to eradicate all forms of violence against women, whether physical or psychological. It provides for severe penalties for perpetrators and offers support and protection to victims. However, despite these legislative advances and the country's international commitments, persistent challenges remain in the effective implementation of these laws and the protection of women's and children's rights.

It is essential to strengthen monitoring and oversight mechanisms to ensure that these laws are effectively enforced on the ground.



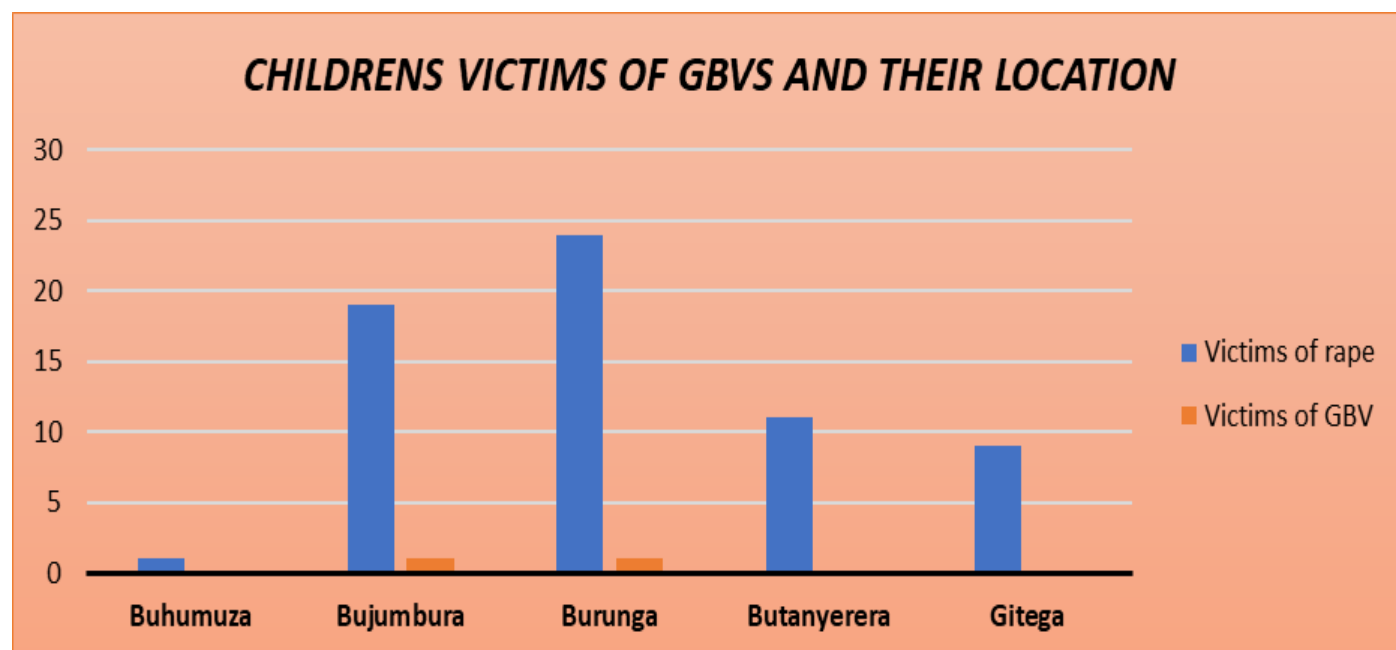
Anyone should be respected

PART TWO : SITUATION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN BURUNDI FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO AUGUST 2025

II.1. MAPPING OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE SUFFERED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Figure 3 : Graph illustrating child victims of gender-based violence observed in Burundi during the period from January to August 31, 2025

For the period covered by this report, it should be noted that among the 91 individuals documented by Ligue Iteka as victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), an alarming 71 cases involved minors under the age of 10. These figures highlight the tragic scope of the situation. Among these 71 child victims, a tragic total of 64 cases were subjected to acts of rape, which constitutes a serious and unacceptable violation of their rights.



Illustrative cases:

Ex1: Information received by the Iteka League on May 15, 2025 indicates that on May 7, 2025, on Mutambara Hill, in the commune and province of Rumonge, a 6-year-old girl named N was the victim of sexual violence.

According to witnesses, the alleged perpetrator is Didace Ndayimirije, a married member of the CNDD-FDD party and president of the youth forum on Kanyenkoko hill. He owned a house in the Mutambara displacement site and had gone there to visit. He took advantage of the opportunity to call the victim, who was with other children, giving the group money to go buy candy, then called her into the house to commit the incident. The parents noticed when they bathed the child, who described what had happened. The alleged perpetrator had already left. The police are searching for him, while the child has been taken to the Humura center for holistic care.

Example 2: On March 21, 2025, C., a 9-year-old girl, was raped by Richard, a young Imbonerakure, her neighbor from Buheka hill in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province. According to neighbors, since that time, the minor, whose father is mentally disabled, has not received medical care and is currently suffering from genital diseases with discharge from her genitals. Local administrative officials allegedly intimidated the family, telling them not reporting the perpetrator, who is a member of the Imbonerakure youth league in the Maramvya sub-hill of the Nyanza-lac commune in Makamba province. The officials accused are the chief of the Maramvya sub-hill, named Niyukuri, and the chief of the Buheka hill,

Célestin Bukuru. Despite pleas from neighbors, the alleged rapist has not been prosecuted, but he is said to have subsequently fled after these authorities' revelations. His mother, who has no financial means, cries every time her neighbors ask her about her daughter. Traditional healing methods were reportedly used to treat the victim.

Example 3: On March 11, 2025, at around 1 p.m., on Kivoga hill, in the commune of Mutaho and province of Gitega, N.A. B., aged 4, was raped by Côme Ndayikengurukiye, aged 40, who calls himself “Ntibakorako” (a member of the CNDD-FDD, untouchable) in the commune of Mutaho. According to the victim's parents, when the child was coming from her grandmother's house 100 meters away, the perpetrator asked her to go with him down the mountain (ku mucamo) to collect corn debris (ibigorigori). Once they arrived, he raped her and intimidated her, telling her that if she screamed, he would decapitate her immediately. According to the same parents, after the act, he let her go, telling her again that if she told anyone what had happened to her, she would be killed one day.

When she arrived home, her mother noticed that the child was having difficulty walking and that blood was running down her legs. She asked the child what had happened, and the victim ended up telling her everything, even giving the name of the perpetrator. Her parents and the community health worker immediately alerted the police and took the child to Mutaho Hospital.

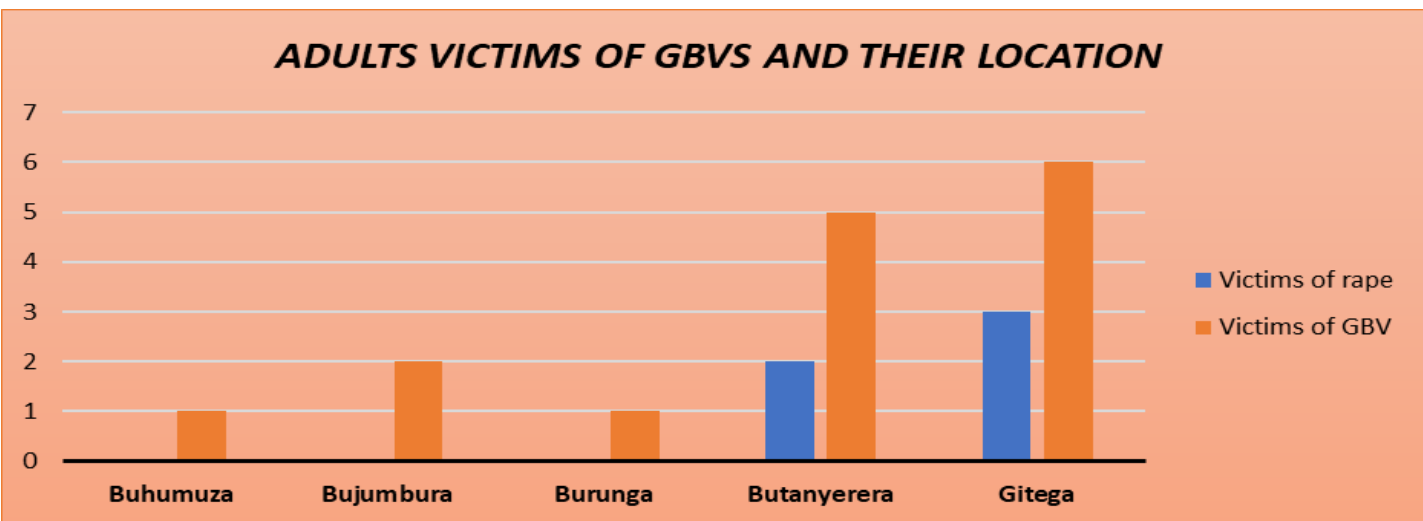
Example 4: On February 28, 2025, an 8-year-old girl, D. I., a second-year student at ECOFO Mudusi, was raped by her teacher, Mbarumuhito Ferdinand, aged 45, on Mudusi Hill in Gatara commune, Kayanza province. According to the victim's parents, the teacher tricked the girl by asking her to wait a little while after the other students had left, then took her behind the door and began to touch her inappropriately in her private parts. The victim screamed for help and was rescued by neighbors of the school.

The teacher fled but was pursued and caught in the Mudusi swamp. He was taken by the local population to the Gatara municipal police station and then handed over to the public prosecutor in Kayanza, Isaac Ningabira, who placed him in custody at the Kayanza police station. The victim received treatment at the Maramvya Community Health Center and was then referred to the Seruka center with the help of Léoncie Nshimirimana, representative of the Murekerisoni association, which campaigns for children's rights in Kayanza.

II.2. MAPPING OF ADULTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Figure 4 : Graph illustrating adult victims of gender-based violence (GBV) observed in Burundi during the period from January to August 31, 2025

During this period, the Iteka League recorded 20 adult victims of GBV, including 5 rapes and 15 cases of GBV. The province of Gitega was the most affected with 9 cases, including 3 cases of rape and 6 cases of GBV, followed by the province of Butanyerera with 7 cases, including 2 cases of rape and 5 cases of GBV. Bujumbura had 2 cases, and finally Burunga and Buhumuza had 1 case each.



Illustrative cases:

Ex1: On March 9, 2025, at the Hope 2 Hotel in the municipality and province of Muyinga, G. N. managed to avoid being raped by Shabani Nimubona, the leader of the Imbonerakure in Buhumuza province. Witnesses reported that on March 28, 2025, Shabani Nimubona arrived at the hotel with another man and were welcomed by N. without incident. On March 29, 2025, Shabani Nimubona returned to the hotel alone in a car with tinted windows. He asked the security guards if the young Tutsi girl from Bururi who worked there was present. He threatened them and demanded that they call her, and when she arrived, he forced her into his car. Shabani began touching her private parts and told her to take off her pants. N.G. asked him for a little time to get ready and then locked herself in a room. She then called her boss, who came to pick her up in his car and take her to hide in a safe place. Until April 4, 2025, Shabani Nimubona continued to come to the hotel every day to see if she had returned. N. G. and her family live in great anxiety, fearing that something serious will happen to her. "He was elected deputy in Buhumuza province in the June 5, 2025 elections."

Ex 2: Mrs. Nshimirimana Fidès, who is 34 years old and lives on Mwumba Hill in the Gitondo area of Bugendana commune in Gitega province, was injured by her husband on the night of Monday, July 22, 2025.

According to neighbors, her husband, Nibaruta Jean Marie, beat her very violently, and her left eye was seriously injured. People who witnessed the scene say that the violence occurred while Nibaruta was drunk, which, according to them, often happens when he comes home drunk. At such times, Fidès often has to sleep elsewhere to protect herself.

When the neighbors heard screams, they came to her aid and took her to Mutaho Hospital for emergency treatment. Meanwhile, her husband fled and is still at large.

Ex3: On January 29, 2025, at around 7 p.m., a 24-year-old woman, Josiane Niyonkuru, was brutally murdered by Édouard Hagabimana, a 35-year-old merchant and member of the CNDD-FDD party, in the Magarama neighborhood of Gitega province.

According to the neighborhood chief, Nzibarega Léandre, the victim had spent the day working as a mason's assistant at a construction site. At around 5 p.m., Édouard called her to ask her to spend the night at his house. Later, at around 8 p.m., Édouard called his brother to ask him to come and help him remove a dead body from his house.

Édouard's brother alerted the neighborhood chief, who called the police. When they arrived at the scene, they found Josiane's decapitated body in the bathroom. According to witnesses, the victim had been raped before being killed. Édouard Hagabimana was arrested at the scene and taken to the provincial police station, while Josiane's body was transported to the morgue at Bethaniya Hospital in Songa. A trial is scheduled for February 1, 2025.

It is important to note that Édouard Hagabimana had been living alone since the beginning of January, because of the conflicts with his wife. Josiane's funeral will take place as soon as her family, who are in Mwaro, arrive in Gitega.

EX4: On May 8, 2025, on Rwuya Hill, in the commune of Mbuye, Muramvya province, Bizimana Anitha, a 34-year-old farmer married to Niyondiko Laurent, was raped by two men, both neighbors from the same hill. According to eyewitnesses, Anitha had been drinking local beer with Nsavyimana Dedith, 38, and Nzitunga Celeus, 40, both farmers and members of the CNDD-FDD, at a trading center in Rwuya about 500 meters from her home. The two men asked her to accompany them. She agreed. According to the same eyewitnesses, when they arrived at a bush near her home at around 7 p.m.

they demanded that she undress and sleep with them, which she refused to do. They tied her up with her loincloth and raped her in turn. After the act, she managed to scream, alerting her neighbors. They came and found her naked. The next morning, she was able to report the perpetrators because she knew them. She was taken to Muramvya Hospital, where medical tests confirmed the rape. Her husband went to the Mbuye police station to file a complaint, and police officer Adjudant major Ndikumana Salomon was able to arrest Nitunga Celeus, while the other perpetrator, Nsavyimana Dedith, fled. The alleged perpetrator is currently being held in the Mbuye police station for investigation, and the police are searching for the other alleged perpetrator.

PART THREE : CONCLUSION

In Burundi, fighting against sexual and gender-based violence remains a major challenge, despite the efforts of the authorities and civil society organizations. The persistence of this violence can be explained in part by the impunity of the alleged perpetrators and deeply entrenched cultural norms, despite awareness-raising among victim communities, which often stigmatize victims and discourage them from reporting incidents, preferring or forcing them to settle out of court. In addition, gender inequalities contribute to the vulnerability of women and girls, making them more susceptible to various forms of violence, including sexual assault, harassment, and rape. The situation is further exacerbated by conflict and instability, which weaken institutions and limit victims' access to justice.

In terms of health, care services are often inadequate or difficult to access, complicating the physical and psychological rehabilitation of victims. Furthermore, social stigma remains a major obstacle, deterring many victims from reporting crimes or seeking support. Based on its experience, Ligue Iteka notes that data collection also remains a challenge, limiting accurate understanding of the extent of the phenomenon and hindering the implementation of effective policies. The path to a sustainable reduction in sexual violence requires strong political will, increased awareness in society, and greater support for victims. Collaboration between local, national, and international actors is essential to develop appropriate strategies, promote gender equality, and strengthen protection mechanisms in order to guarantee a future free from violence for all.



Anyone should be respected