



Anyone should be respected

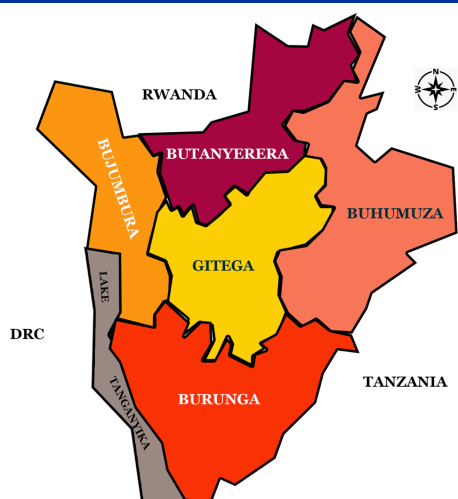
BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY BULLETIN

"Iteka n'ijambo"

N°488 from 18 to 24 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 August 24th, 2025, at least 750 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.

SUMMARY

0. INTRODUCTION.....	P.5
I. CONTEXT.....	P.5
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS	P.11
III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS	P.18
IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	P.21

ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BRARUDI	: <i>Brewery and Limonade of Burundi</i>
CDP	: <i>Council of Patriots</i>
CECI	: <i>Independent Communal Electoral Commission</i>
CEPI	: <i>Independent Provincial Electoral Commission</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy - Forces for the Defense of Democracy .</i>
CNIDH	: <i>Independent National Commission on Human Rights</i>
COGERCO	: <i>Cotton Management Company</i>
DPE	: <i>Provincial 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>
OTB	: <i>Burundi Tea Office</i>
PNB	: <i>National Police of Burundi</i>
RDC	: <i>Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>
RN	: <i>National Road</i>
SNR	: <i>National Inquiry Service</i>
UPRONA	: <i>National Progress Union</i>
VSBG	: <i>Gender-Based Sexual Violence</i>

TABLE OF CONTENT

0. INTRODUCTION.....	5
I. CONTEXT.....	5
I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT.....	5
I.2. SECURITY CONTEXT.....	8
I.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT	9
I.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT.....	11
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS	11
II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE	11
II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES.....	11
II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS	11
II.1.2. KIDNAPPINGS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES.....	13
II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY.....	13
II.2.1. TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENTS OR TREATMENTS.....	13
II.2.2. CASES OF GBV	14
II. 2.2.1. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	14
II.2.2.2. CASES OF GENDER-BASED SEXUAL VIOLENCE (GBSV).....	15
II.2.3. RIGHT TO LIBERTY	15
II.2.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS	15
II.2.3.2. RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS	16
III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.....	18
III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE	18
III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION	20
IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	21

0. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of August 18 to 24, 2025. The period was characterized by events related to the campaign of candidates for the local councils in the country. In this report, the Ligue Iteka also examines the political, judicial, governance, 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 Ligue Iteka are as follows: at least 5 people killed, all found dead in different locations, 2 people tortured, 3 victims of GBV, including two from SGBV and one domestic violence case, as well as 8 people victims of arbitrary arrests. It should be noted that a case of kidnapping of a woman in Ruyigi was interrupted due to the intervention of people who witnessed the scene.

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

A press conference of the General Secretary of the CNDD-FDD party

On August 23, 2025, Révérien Ndikuriyo, in his role as Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD party, held a press conference in Buye, within the Butanyerera province. This event provided a significant opportunity to address various critical and emergency issues affecting the country, including the persistence of poverty, the concerning devaluation of the national currency, and a severe fuel shortage. Other topics discussed include the gradual return of refugees, the long-awaited reopening of borders, and the complex and tense relations with Rwanda. During the discussions, six major themes were highlighted and examined in depth:

Regarding the relations between Burundi and Rwanda, Ndikuriyo reaffirmed Burundi's firm position on this issue. He emphasized the need for Burundi to demand the return of the presumed exiled coup plotters, while insisting on the importance of mutual respect and dignity in interactions with others. On the question of youth engagement and mobilization within the CNDD-FDD, as well as accusations of indoctrination relating to minors, he clarified that the main objective remains the preparation of future generations

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

by instilling in them fundamental values such as self-respect, human dignity, and a deep love for their country. At a time when several reports on human rights in Burundi often denounce the significant role in the violations attributed to these young Imbonerakure of the ruling party.

Regarding the return of refugees, Ndikuriyo emphasized the voluntary nature of this process. However, he noted that some abuse their refugee status to settle elsewhere, which raises questions about the nature of their intentions and the sustainability of their situation. Furthermore, the Iteka League, along with other organizations, continues to report abuses, intimidation, and violence that lead to the arrest and tragic murders of refugees in the Tanzania Camp, prompting these individuals to consider their return to their country.

Judicially, Ndikuriyo stated that the party does not interfere in any way with existing judicial affairs, while announcing the appointment of a national secretary dedicated exclusively to legal matters. This individual will be tasked with reviewing ongoing cases to ensure the fairness of the decisions made. However, it has been noted that several cases of interference have been observed, with judges intimidated and forced to render verdicts that could severely affect the integrity of the judicial system. These abuses have been documented in various jurisdictions across the country, raising serious concerns about the independence of justice.

On the issue of currency devaluation, Ndikuriyo acknowledged a worrying decline

of the Burundian franc, which he mainly attributed to insufficient export production. He therefore called on Burundians to strengthen their efforts in this essential area to contribute to the stabilization of the national economy.

Regarding the fuel shortage, he expressed his opposition to the recent liberalization of the sector, describing it as a measure likely to worsen the situation due to the persistent lack of foreign exchange needed to ensure adequate imports. At the end of this conference, two additional notable points were also discussed:

1. Regarding corrupt candidates: He vehemently warned against candidates resorting to corrupt practices during electoral campaigns. He highlighted the imperative need for observers to establish increased vigilance, aimed at reporting any anomalies among candidates and preserving the much-desired electoral integrity.
2. Vision 2040-2060 : Ndikuriyo expressed his firm and explicitly stated determination to realize the vision of an emerging Burundi by 2040, and fully developed by 2060. He emphasized the crucial importance of strengthening the resources and abilities of local communities, in order to ensure a better and prosperous future for the country and all its actors. This ambitious vision incorporates dimensions such as social inclusion, sustainable development, and economic resilience necessary to overcome present and future challenges.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

A former provincial governor is campaigning for the hill people in Bururi municipality, Burunga province

On August 19, 2025, the former governor of Bururi Province, Colonel Léonidas Bandenzamaso, known by the nickname Kirenge, is campaigning on his native hill of Nyamiyaga for local elections. Some political analysts believe he aims to be elected to be promoted to another position that requires election, according to the Burundian constitution. Administrative sources in the Bamba area, in Bururi commune report that retired Colonel Léonidas Bandenzamaso, alias Kirenge and former governor of the former Bururi Province, is campaigning on his native hill of Nyamiyaga, Bamba area, Bururi commune in Burunga Province, to be elected as a hill chief.

This is the first in Burundi where a former governor is running for election as a hill chief. Some nationals from the former provincial entity commend the bravery with which he effectively led this province and remember that it was in Bururi province where the prices of some strategic products like BRARUDI products, sugar, and cement were respected. However, some recall the machete attacks that shook this province three years ago and that the truth about these assaults is still not known. Others wish him a good and happy political career.

The electoral law stipulates that the candidate for the hill council must reside on that hill permanently, which is not the case for the former governor of Bururi province.

The participation of the Burundian President, Évariste Ndayishimiye, in the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9)

The participation of President Évariste Ndayishimiye in the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), which took place from August 20 to 22, 2025, in Yokohama, Japan, is of significant importance in the context of Burundi's international relations. Accompanied by his wife, the president had the opportunity to interact with other dignitaries present, highlighting the diplomatic nature of this event. A notable exchange during this meeting occurred with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, where the two leaders deepened discussions concerning bilateral relations, a vital aspect for Burundi's economic and social development. In parallel to the conference, on August 20, 2025, he was received in audience by Dr. Reverend Ock Soo Park, the founder of the International

Youth Organization (IYF) in the Republic of Korea.

This interview reveals a willingness to establish stronger cooperation in favor of Burundian youth, particularly those affiliated with the political movement Imbonerakure. The exchanges highlighted various initiatives already underway, such as training programs aimed at fostering a positive change in mindset among young people, the granting of scholarships, and the project to create an academy in Burundi. President Ndayishimiye expressed his interest in these initiatives, recognizing their crucial role in the development and empowerment of the youth in his country.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

In addition, he encouraged the IYF to work closely with the Youth Economic Empowerment and Employment Program (PAEEJ), thus seeking to strengthen existing synergies and maximize the impact of the actions taken. The Iteka League noted that

this meeting could be beneficial for Burundi, provided that the young Imbonerakure are willing to adopt a mindset conducive to the positive change advocated by the IYF when it is implemented in the country.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

A woman threatened in the commune of Karuzi, Gitega province

On August 23, 2025, on Gashanga hill, Bugenyuzi area, Karusi commune, Gitega province, Marianne, a resident of said hill, narrowly escaped an ambush by the Imbonerakure from the hill. According to local witnesses, the victim had been released two weeks prior after being accused of witchcraft and held in preventive detention. As the people of this hill no longer wanted to see her, she decided to move to Gasenyi hill, in the

Mayenzi area, Karusi commune, and had attempted to go back to get food from her fields on her former hill. On her way back, she found herself in an ambush by the Imbonerakure who wanted to eliminate her, but she was lucky to escape, and her son, who is a motorcycle rider in Buhiga, evacuated her.

Disaster victims from Gabaniro are requesting land from the Government to cultivate and survive

Displaced due to a landslide that occurred in the Gabaniro hill, Muhuta commune, Bujumbura province, 165 households are struggling to rebuild their lives. They are asking the government and local authorities to provide them with arable land to ensure the livelihood of their families.

Since the natural disaster that devastated the Gabaniro hill in Muhuta commune, many families have been living in precarious conditions. Most of them survive only through sharing food with neighbors or small aid received from random acts of solidarity.

While some displaced individuals have received roofing sheets for reconstruction, many have been unable to use them due to a lack of land to set up shelter. Those who have managed to build a roof are now facing

another obstacle: the absence of cultivable land to feed their family.

The victims of this landslide explain that reliance on temporary aid is not sustainable and that they aspire to regain a dignified life, like other citizens.

On their side, the local authorities of Muhuta acknowledge the seriousness of the situation, while highlighting the limitations of their actions: *"The municipality is severely lacking in available land to relocate these families. We ask for their patience and hope to find a lasting solution,"* they confide.

In the meantime, the 165 displaced households from Gabaniro continue to live in uncertainty, suspended by a promise of recovery that is slow to materialize.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

The police guarantees about thirty Burundians who are victims of fraud by Anicet Niyonkuru, president of the opposition party CDP, that they will be reimbursed

On August 19, 2025, Anicet Niyonkuru, president of the CDP party, was arrested and released two days later.

According to an eyewitness, the arrest took place at the headquarters of his organization, BAHS, which helps individuals to get visas and find jobs abroad. The PNB placed him at the municipal police station, at the Special Research Office, following allegations of fraud.

According to a close source to the case, more than 30 people accuse him of taking their

money by promising them jobs in Europe. As of August 21, 2025, Anicet Niyonkuru appeared before the Attorney General of the Republic to defend himself and did not deny the facts brought against him by his clients.

The next day, his older brother intervened and agreed to pay part of the amount claimed. The rest of the money will be paid in the next two weeks. The Attorney General of the Republic, Ernest Nduwimana, warned that further measures would be taken if the money was not paid.

A police colonel imprisoned for fuel trafficking and attempted murder

Since August 18, 2025, Police Colonel Moïse ARAKAZA has been transferred under the mandate of the prosecutor near the Appeal Court of Bururi to the Bururi prison after being caught in the economic capital on August 14, 2025.

According to judicial sources, the officer is being prosecuted on two charges: illegal fuel trafficking and attempted murder. His close collaborators, suspected of being part of the smuggling network, have also been incarcerated in the central prison of Murembwe, in Rumonge, where they have already been judged in flagrante delicto.

Civil society and residents have accused Colonel of police Moïse Arakaza for years of orchestrating violence, kidnappings, and various abuses. But until now, no judicial procedure based on human rights violations has succeeded.

The case of Colonel Arakaza highlights parallel economic networks linked to fuel trafficking and questions the ability of the

Burundian justice system to withstand political and security pressures.

Civil society, like the local population, awaits an exemplary verdict. "A courageous judgment would send a strong signal against impunity," several organizations assert. It remains to be seen whether justice will dare to cross this line in a context where cases involving senior officers often end in oblivion.

On this date of August 18, 2025, a large police operation targeted the home of Police Colonel Moïse Arakaza, nicknamed Nyeganyega, located on Muyange hill, Nyanza municipality, in Burunga province. According to witnesses, his home was besieged as early as three o'clock in the morning by police officers from the Makamba provincial police station in collaboration with those from the Nyanza communal police station. The search, conducted under high supervision

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 9)

with those from the Nyanza municipal police station. The search, carried out under high supervision, resulted in the seizure of several police uniforms and other items whose exact nature has not been officially communicated.

At the same time, the homes of three motorcycle drivers living near Colonel Arakaza were also checked.

Arbitrary detentions, pressure on magistrates, and alarming prison conditions in the Burunga province

Many citizens spend long months in detention without clear cases established against them in Burunga province, according to the CNIDH. Its president, Monseigneur Martin Blaise Nyaboho, claims that some incarcerations are ordered by authorities who request to "keep" individuals in prison until they decide for themselves about their release.

But beyond the detainees, the magistrates themselves say they live in a stifling atmosphere. Some hesitate to make judicial decisions for fear of reprisals. Several judges from the south of the country have already been imprisoned, others acquitted, and they have never regained their positions.

All of this was discussed in a workshop organized by the National Independent Human Rights Commission in Makamba in Burunga province.

However, the president of Bururi Appeal Court, Jean Paul Mukangara, present at the workshop, downplays these cases, claiming that they are "rare" considering the number

of cases judged. and emphasizes the constitutional independence of judges.

For his part, Monseigneur Nyaboho promised to report these cases to the Minister of Justice to convene meetings with the main actors in the criminal justice system in order to put an end to the interferences that undermine justice.

Participants at the workshop also point out that these judicial dysfunctions are worsening due to the glaring lack of logistical and material resources. No prosecution office in the southern part of the country has a vehicle to carry out its missions.

The follow-up on cases is therefore slowed down, unnecessarily prolonging pretrial detention and contributing to prison overcrowding. Already, inhuman detention conditions are being denounced: prisoners locked up in containers, as in the Vyanda jail (former province of Bururi), or a prison in Bururi that currently has 324 detainees for an initial capacity of 250.

Flagrance trial at the High Court in Rutana Commune, Burunga Province.

On August 21, 2025, during a fragrance hearing, the High Court of Rutana sentenced Kezimana Fulgence, Ngendakumana Ezéchiél, and Bizimana Claver, all from the

Karusi Commune, to 4 years each and a fine of 100,000 fbu for human trafficking. They were arrested with 5 minors on the Rutana-Gitega road heading towards Tanzania.

I.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Diversion in Nyanza municipality, Burunga province

The members of the former municipal council of Nyanza lac led by Mr. Prudence Mpawenayo are very surprised by the drama caused by the former administrator Mrs. Goreth Manirankunda regarding the misappropriation of an amount exceeding 100,000,000 Fbu.

According to witnesses from the locality, after the handover between the two municipal leaders Engineer Diomède Nsengiyumva and Goreth Manirankunda, it was found that this amount from the public treasury was withdrawn from the account as a loan for the purpose of rehabilitating and developing drainage channels for the streams

in the environment of CDS Mvugo, which is often flooded by water currents.

According to the same witnesses, this project was presented by the president of the municipal council in March 2025 but was rejected by the members of that council, yet a loan was taken for this misappropriation. Ciza Gérard, the municipal accountant, raised this issue in his message at the start of Engineer Diomède's functions on August 14, 2025. This embezzlement was routine and without remedy despite several cries from state and non-governmental organizations.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS

Three lifeless bodies found in Shombo commune, Gitega province

On August 19, 2025, discovered a few meters from the buildings of the Nyabikere Communal High School, Shombo commune, Gitega province, a lifeless body of Melchiade Nzeyimana, a 48-year-old farmer from Ngugo hill, was found. According to local witnesses, Melchiade Nzeyimana was killed by people who wanted to steal a large sum of money from the sale of a cow. The body had traces on his neck, blood in his mouth, which leads us to believe that this man was strangled. The administrator of the Shombo commune says that investigations relating to it have already begun.

Information received by the Iteka League on August 18, 2025 indicates that on August 16,

a lifeless body of Cuma Ndikumana, 50 years old, resident of Taba hill, was found lifeless, tied to a tree. Also, on August 17, the lifeless body of Joseph Nyamweru, 42 years old and from Muhororo hill, was found in the center of the city. The victim had been mutilated with a machete, with multiple injuries all over his body.

Fear has increased among the population and thanks to growing concerns, the communal administrator of Shombo has confirmed the killings and announced the opening of investigations. He called on the population to remain calm and to cooperate with the police. But yet, no suspect has been identified.

II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS (the following of page 11)

A lifeless body found in the Rumonge municipality, Burunga province

On the morning of August 22, 2025, on Mutambara hill, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, a lifeless body of Joachim Bizimana was found in a grave near the Rumonge-Bururi road.

According to witnesses from the locality, the body of the victim was taken to the morgue of Rumonge hospital and four people, including 2 women and 2 men, were arrested and incarcerated in the dungeon of the Rumonge police station for investigative reasons.

According to the same witnesses, on August 21, 2025, two women passing on the road heard screams and approached and found a dying man in the dirty water gutter. They

screamed for help and two men arrived and pulled the victim out of the trench, one of the men went to inform the family. On arrival his family found nothing and had believed that he had been taken to the hospital but in vain, earlier he had been put back in the gutter and was found on August 22, 202. The victim was in possession of a phone, a bicycle and a sum of 700,000 BIF according to members of his family. The victim's throat was slit and thrown into this gutter because among those arrested, one of them had her bicycle and slippers that were found after the search in her household.

A lifeless body of a woman found in Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province

On August 14, 2025, on Rubabi sub-hill, Camazi hill, in Bisagara commune, Buhumuza province, a lifeless body of a woman named Monique Naciza, 50 years old, from Musenga sub-hill, of the same hill, was discovered in a bush of this locality near the Camazi-Rusigabangazi road. According to sources on the ground, this body was found by the children who were looking after the goats.

Mrs. Monique left the house on August 13, 2025, bound for the Rusigabangazi market and her family waited but did not return. It was not until the next day, August 14, 2025, in the morning, that the bad one reached the family announcing the discovery of Monique Naciza's body. The people who killed him

have not been identified and would have used a stone to kill the deceased because, according to witnesses on the spot, when her body was discovered, there was a large stone very close to her blood-stained head, which suggests that it was the latter that was used to murder her.

The administration evacuated this body using the van from the Nisagara commune to the morgue of the Murore hospital. According to a municipal administrative source, investigations are underway to find out the perpetrators and motives of this murder.

According to the same source, a person named Phocas Barampama was arrested for investigative reasons.

II.1.2. FORCED REMOVALS AND/OR DISAPPEARANCES

Information received by the Iteka league on August 18, 2025, indicates that on August 17, 2025, at the Rusengo market in the Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province, a woman known as Maman Salah was kidnapped by yet unidentified individuals. According to local sources, this woman, a mother of five, was taken in a white Toyota double cab pickup truck without a registration number. The victim was abducted on August 17, 2025, while she was at the Rusengo market in the Ruyigi commune.

It is noted that this woman lives on Nyamutobo hill in the same Ruyigi commune. According to the same sources, this woman was found five days after her disappearance in the Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, very close to the building of the former governor of the old Kayanza province. After five days of searching for the victim, her family learned that she was being held in one of the houses in the administrative center of the Kayanza commune.

After arriving in the city of Kayanza, they learned that it is kept in one of the houses

near the house indicated above when they approached, they saw a vehicle with tinted glass coming out of the gate with someone inside the same vehicle screaming for help and they chased the vehicle on a motorcycle.

The vehicle in question took the road in the direction of Ngozi commune. When they arrived about 5 kilometers from the city of Kayanza, they opened the door of the vehicle and dropped the victim on the ground because they noticed that there are people who are chasing them with a motorcycle. The victim's face was bandaged. The family got theirs back but was in critical condition from the torture they suffered.

She is currently hospitalized at the Rema Hospital in Ruyigi, her home province. Family conflicts are believed to be behind this kidnapping. One of his family members known as Muverema has been arrested for investigative reasons; he is currently in the detention center of the provincial police station in Ruyigi.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

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

A woman tortured on Mitakataka hill, Bubanza commune, Bujumbura province

Information received by the Iteka League on August 20, 2025, indicates that since August 8, 2025, a woman living on the Mitakataka hill in the Bubanza commune, Bujumbura province, has been hospitalized after being beaten by a police officer on duty at the Higher Institute of Police (ISP) in Mitakataka.

According to witnesses, the police officer accused the victim of practicing witchcraft before beating her with a stick. Residents

present during the incident claim that this behavior is even more serious because the law enforcement officer, who is supposed to protect the population, has turned into an aggressor.

Local sources report that the police officer was in a state of intoxication at the time of the incident. The anger of the residents was such that they violently beat him as well, before he was narrowly extracted by his colleagues who came to reinforce him.

II.2.1. TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (the following of page 13)

The former area chief of Mitakataka, Jacques Nikwitegetse, confirms these events and specifies that, despite the repeated calls from the residents for this officer to be punished for his behavior deemed '**undignified and criminal**', he continues to circulate freely. His colleagues have protected him from any legal action, which fuels a deep sense of

injustice and frustration within the community.

The residents of Mitakataka demand that exemplary measures be taken so that such abuses do not happen again and that law enforcement fully assumes their duty to protect the citizens.

A man beaten in Musongati Commune, Burunga province

On August 23, 2025, around 6 PM, on Mutwana Hill, Butezi Zone, Musongati Commune, Burunga Province, Hakizimana Gervais, a native of this hill and a member of the UPRONA party, candidate for the hill elections, was beaten by Hill Chief Nemerimana Vincent and Ntirandekura Bernard, representative of the CNDD-FDD Party on the same hill.

According to local witnesses, the origin of these acts of torture is that these officials

accused him of continuing to campaign for the candidates in the hill elections. Gervais was a victim of his political affiliation.

It should be noted that on this Mutwana Hill, several members of the UPRONA Party reside there and are often victims of atrocities committed by local chiefs accompanied by the Imbonerakure.

II.2.2. CASES OF GBV

II.2.2.1. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A man stabbed by his wife in the commune of Mugina, Bujumbura province

On August 24, 2025, in the Gisheka sub-hill, in the Nyamakarabo area, Venant Niyonsaba, 30 years old and father of two children, was injured after being stabbed by his wife, Godeliève Ndayisaba, 26 years old.

According to security sources, the woman attacked her husband with a knife, accusing him of squandering the family assets, particularly livestock, and the victim was rescued by neighbors before being taken to a health center. Witnesses state that the

couple had been experiencing intense tensions for several weeks. The family of the injured expressed their anger, but the intervention of law enforcement helped to calm the situation. Godeliève Ndayisaba was arrested and placed in custody at the communal cell of Mugina.

The head of the Nyamakarabo area confirmed the events 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.2.2.2. CASES OF GENDER-BASED SEXUAL VIOLENCE (GBSV)

An underage girl was raped in Gitega Commune and Province

Information received by the Iteka league on August 20, 2025, on Mugutu hill, Gitega commune, G.A.C., 6 years old currently out of school, was raped by Buyoya Martin, 74 years old, neighbor of his parents.

According to the information gathered, an old man took advantage of the parents' absence and lured her to his house where he raped her. After the incident, the child came back

crying until his older brother arrived and said what happened to him. Alerted, the population intervened quickly and the suspect was arrested and handed over to the local police.

Our source specifies that the victim has significant psychological trauma and needs urgent medical and psychosocial care.

A girl raped in Kiganda commune, Gitega province

On August 20, 2025, on Mugerera hill, Mbuye zone, Kiganda commune, I.I, 11 years old, daughter of Nzikobanyanka and Ndiwokubwayo, 3rd grade student at ECO FO Mugerera, was raped by Mbonihankuye Zabron, 43 years old, farmer, when she went to fetch firewood with 2 other friends. According to local witnesses, the alleged perpetrator approached them and gave 2,000 fbu to the other two to go buy candy in a shop

that is far from there and raped her. When the other children arrived, the dirty work was already done.

The victim's parents arrived at the scene and immediately took her to Mbuye Hospital. The next day, the perpetrator having learned that he was needed, he left and remains untraceable until now.

II.2.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.2.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

Three candidates in the hillside elections arrested in Rumonge commune, Burunga Province

On August 21, 2025, on Kanyenkoko hill, Rumonge municipality, Burunga Province, Moïse Ntirandekura alias Musore, Habonimana Jean Paul, and Venant Issa Havyarimana, three individuals listed as electoral candidates for Kanyenkoko hillside councilors, were arrested by the Rumonge Documentation and taken to the Rumonge police station for questioning. The police later determined that this was a setup to try to permanently remove them 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 intercepted by agents of the National Inquiry Service (SNR) in Rumonge while they were campaigning among the population. They were accused of organizing an unauthorized demonstration, holding up signs.

II.2.3.1. ARBITRARY ARREST (the following of 15)

According to reliable sources, everything began on August 14, 2025, when four candidates from this neighborhood were arbitrarily removed from the list of applicants by the Independent Communal Electoral Commission (CECI) of Rumonge, without any reasons communicated. The concerned parties then brought the matter to the National Independent 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, in fact, all members of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD. However, internal dissensions within the local party structures are the root of these tensions. Some officials appear to be trying to impose candidates of their choice, thus sidelining those deemed independent or less favorable to their influence.

As the elections approach, this situation raises many concerns about the transparency of the electoral process and the respect for the political rights of the candidates.

Five people arrested in Matongo commune, Butanyerera province.

A report to the Iteka League dated August 18, 2025, indicates that since August 14, 2025, five coffee growers from Matongo commune have been detained, accused of uprooting coffee plantations. According to local witnesses, the victims were summoned by the judicial police in collaboration with Janvier Kanyana, the administrator of this commune, and upon arrival, they were put in custody. The administrator claims that these five will be brought to justice since they have disrupted the national economy. This official has ordered the rehabilitation of the destroyed plantations as soon as possible.

II.3.2. RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Families forced into exile after political tensions in Gatonga, Musongati Commune, Burunga province

For several weeks, a climate of fear and intimidation has prevailed over Gatonga hill, Musongati municipality, Burunga province.

According to local sources, at least 13 families, members of the ruling party CNDD-FDD including Ndayishimiye Déo, Niyukwizigirwa Lucie, Ndayishimiye Néhémie, Nizigiyimana Shabani, Niyoyikundiye Vénuste, have already fled the hill seeking refuge in Tanzania, while others remain hidden within Burundi.

According to the same local witnesses, five hill leaders, including Léonard Barakamfitiye, known as Bugoma, who has been the top candidate on the list to lead Gatonga hill for more than three terms, and his colleagues are being targeted by provincial officials of the CNDD-FDD, who are attempting to prevent them from running as candidates for the hill elections.

They have seen their names erased at the CECI Musongati and CEPI Burunga levels, despite the authorization from the National Independent Electoral Commission following an appeal. who confirmed that they were not the subject of any judicial proceedings.

III.2.3. RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS (the following of page 16)

Initially, the local authorities refused to register Bugoma and his colleagues despite their right to candidacy, and Bugoma appealed to the national electoral commission, which ultimately validated his candidacy.

On August 14, 2025, on Gatonga Hill in the Muzye Zone of Musongati Commune, Sylvain Nzikoruriho, Provincial Secretary of the CNDD-FDD party, held a meeting for all party leaders at the level of the Communes, Zones, and Hills of that Province.

The purpose of this meeting was to warn Barakamfitye Léonard, a candidate for the upcoming elections scheduled for August 25, 2025.

According to our source, their conflict began at the time of announcing the candidates for the hill elections. Nzikoruriho ordered the removal of Barakamfitye from the list, stating that he does not meet all the requirements to be elected. This is how Barakamfitye appealed from the CECI to the CENI where he once again obtained authorization to run for election.

In the same meeting, he stressed that Mr. Barakamfitye Léonard has no right to run in the scheduled hill elections since he has not respected his obligations. He also insisted that if he dares to do so, he could even be killed with his entire family. He added that no one intimidates him, whether it is the

Secretary General of the Ndikuriyo Revere Party, or even the President of the Republic.

After Sylvain's remarks, Mr. Léonard Barakamfitye and other members of his propaganda team fled to a border village in Tanzania for fear of being imprisoned in the run-up to the elections.

In this meeting, Sylvain Nzikoruriho demanded to closely monitor 53 people who collaborate with these former hill officials in Gatonga.

According to local witnesses, , behind these political maneuvers lies also the strategic importance of Gatonga, a border hill with Tanzania that is exploited by administrative and political officials to conduct clandestine commercial activities.

It would notably serve as a passage for importing and exporting products illegally. The manhunts observed against certain local officials aim to install loyalists of the CNDD-FDD who would facilitate this illicit trade and protect these networks.

The governor of Burunga, Parfait Mboninyibuka, had recently called on the population, through local media, to "choose useful hill leaders, as the population knows well the worthy candidates." But on the ground, many of these candidates deemed worthy by the residents are being sidelined under the pressure of the CNDD-FDD, widening the gap between official rhetoric and the lived reality.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

Families victims of expropriation fear famine and forced exile in the Mugina municipality, Bujumbura province

Information received by the Iteka League on August 23, 2025, indicates that in the province of Bujumbura, on the hills of Buhoro and Busesa, in the Nyarure area of Mugina commune, around a hundred families find themselves destitute. They are victims of the expropriation of their agricultural land, which serves as their main source of livelihood, in favor of gold mining activities.

The residents denounce the expropriation of their property without their consent, orchestrated by high-ranking individuals including Gervais Ndirakobuca, the current President of the Senate, Lieutenant General Silas Ntigurirwa, Chief of Military Cabinet at the Presidency, Deputy Lubassa, an influential Congolese member of the CNDD-FDD party, regularly elected in the Mugina constituency since 2015, Colonel Carême Bizoza, former governor of Cibitoke, and Colonel Eugène Bizindavyi, the current coordinator of Imbonerakure militia missions in the DRC. who manages the Ajeniteka mining cooperative, of which Gervais Ndirakobuca is the main shareholder, Lieutenant Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bizumuremyi, provincial commissioner of Rumonge.

After unsuccessfully trying to alert the President of the Republic, the victims are calling for help from human rights defenders and anyone of good will.

According to a source from the CNDD-FDD party, the president is aware of the situation, but is turning a deaf ear because he himself would be conducting gold mining activities in the Kibira forest without being disturbed.

In the same commune of Mugina, gold mining activities had allowed the establishment of the Rwandan rebel group FDLR-Interahamwe. These rebels reinforced their positions in the region between 2008 and January 2025, before being called in for reinforcements by the FARDC and FDNB in their fights against the AFC/M23.

However, a source from the SNR indicates that these rebels are gradually returning to Kibira since the beginning of August 2025. The return of these armed groups in and around Kibira raises growing concerns for the security of the surrounding populations, as was the case in the past.

Payment delay of coffee producers in the provinces of the country

In Bujumbura province, since March, coffee growers from the municipalities of Mpanda and Bubanza have been denouncing the non-payment for their coffee production delivered to cooperatives.

This delay plunges the farmers into serious difficulties: they cannot buy their children's

school supplies, pay for fertilizers, or meet other essential needs. One producer laments: "Every year, we are paid late, and once the money is received, it is hardly useful anymore." In light of this situation, some threaten to abandon coffee cultivation, deemed unprofitable.

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE (the following of page 18)

The cooperative leaders explain this delay by the introduction of a new payment procedure. From now on, producers will no longer be paid in cash. Each coffee grower must open a bank account or a microfinance account, or use a mobile transfer service like Lumicash or Ecocash. The coffee growers also denounce the price paid to them as being too low, especially since coffee is an export product that generates foreign currency for the state.

In Gitega province, since April 2025, coffee growers who have sold their coffee have not yet received their money. Unfulfilled promises have been made repeatedly that

payments are close, and they have also ordered coffee growers to open accounts in banks or microfinance institutions while telling them that cash payments will no longer be accepted. According to witnesses from the Gitega province, these accounts were opened 2 months ago, but not a single franc has been deposited into them. Many complaints are emerging claiming that they lack the means to purchase chemical fertilizers and that it is difficult for them to buy school materials among coffee growers.

Delay in the purchase of their cotton harvest in Bujumbura province

The cotton producers of the Imbo plain, particularly those from the areas of Rukana, Rugombo, Cibitoke, Buganda, and Ndava, express their dissatisfaction towards the COGERCO company due to the delay in purchasing their harvest.

According to witnesses, the farmers are denouncing that their already harvested produce is deteriorating, another part that is still in the fields is exposed to rain, and the cotton stored in homes is at risk of fire.

The COGERCO company, which is responsible for buying cotton from the population in Burundi, has not yet started

purchasing. The farmers remind that the money from this sale was supposed to help cover their children's school fees. "*We ask COGERCO to hurry so that our cotton does not get wasted unnecessarily,*" they plead.

Another subject of complaint is the purchase price, considered too low. A kilogram is currently paid 1,000 Burundian francs, while producers are demanding a price of at least 2,500 francs. They believe that cotton is resold at a much higher price on the international market after its export. Some threaten to abandon cotton cultivation if nothing changes, believing that this activity is no longer profitable.

Lack of fuel in Karuzi commune, Gitega province.

Since August 8, 2025, at the Buhiga station, Karuzi municipality, Gitega province, cars have been parked at the Buhiga station waiting for fuel. According to local witnesses, taxi drivers began to park their cars claiming they have information that the supplier will bring gasoline to this station, but by August 24, 2025, not a single drop has been supplied

to this station. According to the same witnesses, this affects the movements of people since passengers traveling to Gitega or Musinga can barely find transportation, which is also too expensive.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Discriminatory decisions in Buhumuza province

On August 21, 2025, the Governor of the Buhumuza Province gathered the 3 DPEs (Cankuzo-Muyinga-Ruyigi) in his office to prepare for the 2025-2026 school year, and after the meeting, a report was issued regarding the decision made.

In this report, he specifies that as part of implementing the vision 2040-2060, all parents with children in both primary and secondary school must prepare accordingly,

School dropout in the municipalities of Kayanza, Matongo, and Muhanga, Butanyerera province

During the 2024-2025 school year, 8,584 boys and 6,329 girls dropped out at the ECOFO level, and 667 girls and 560 boys at the fundamental level also left school, according to Juvénal Mbonihankuye, Director of Education in the three municipalities of Kayanza, Matongo, and Muhanga, former DPE Kayanza. According to this official, there is a slight improvement compared to the 2023-2024 school year, where there were a

while purchasing new uniforms. Furthermore, secondary school students are required to wear closed shoes (for both boys and girls).

This measure will worsen the situation concerning household poverty, and students may drop out of school more than before due to a lack of resources. The Governor's decision constitutes a form of discrimination against children from low-income families.

total of 18,192 dropouts. The reasons, according to Juvénal Mbonihankuye, include early money-seeking, unwanted pregnancies, and a lack of good examples. Children see the increasing number of unemployed individuals and become discouraged. The education director in this part of the province, Butanyerera, advises parents and children to make efforts so that all children attend school.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Iteka League firmly condemns the persistent deterioration of human rights in Burundi and denounces the impunity of those who commit crimes. It urges the Burundian authorities to take all possible measures and recommends the following:

To the government of Gitega:

- ⇒ Take measures to prevent intentional homicides, including infanticides and settling of scores;
- ⇒ Investigate homicides and identify those responsible to punish them according to the law;
- ⇒ Take measures to prevent torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment;
- ⇒ Take measures to protect victims of rape and provide them with adequate support;
- ⇒ Take measures to promote economic stability and reduce poverty;
- ⇒ Ensure access to education for all citizens, without discrimination.