



Anyone should be respected

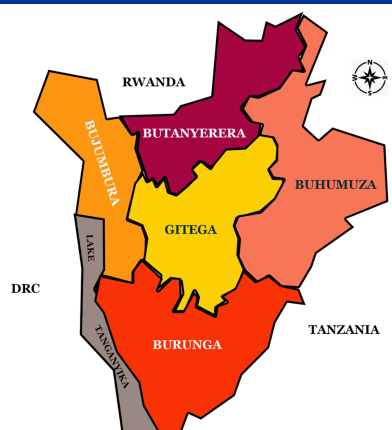
BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY BULLETIN

"Iteka n'Ijambo"

N°489 of 25 to 31 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 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>

The ITEKA League:

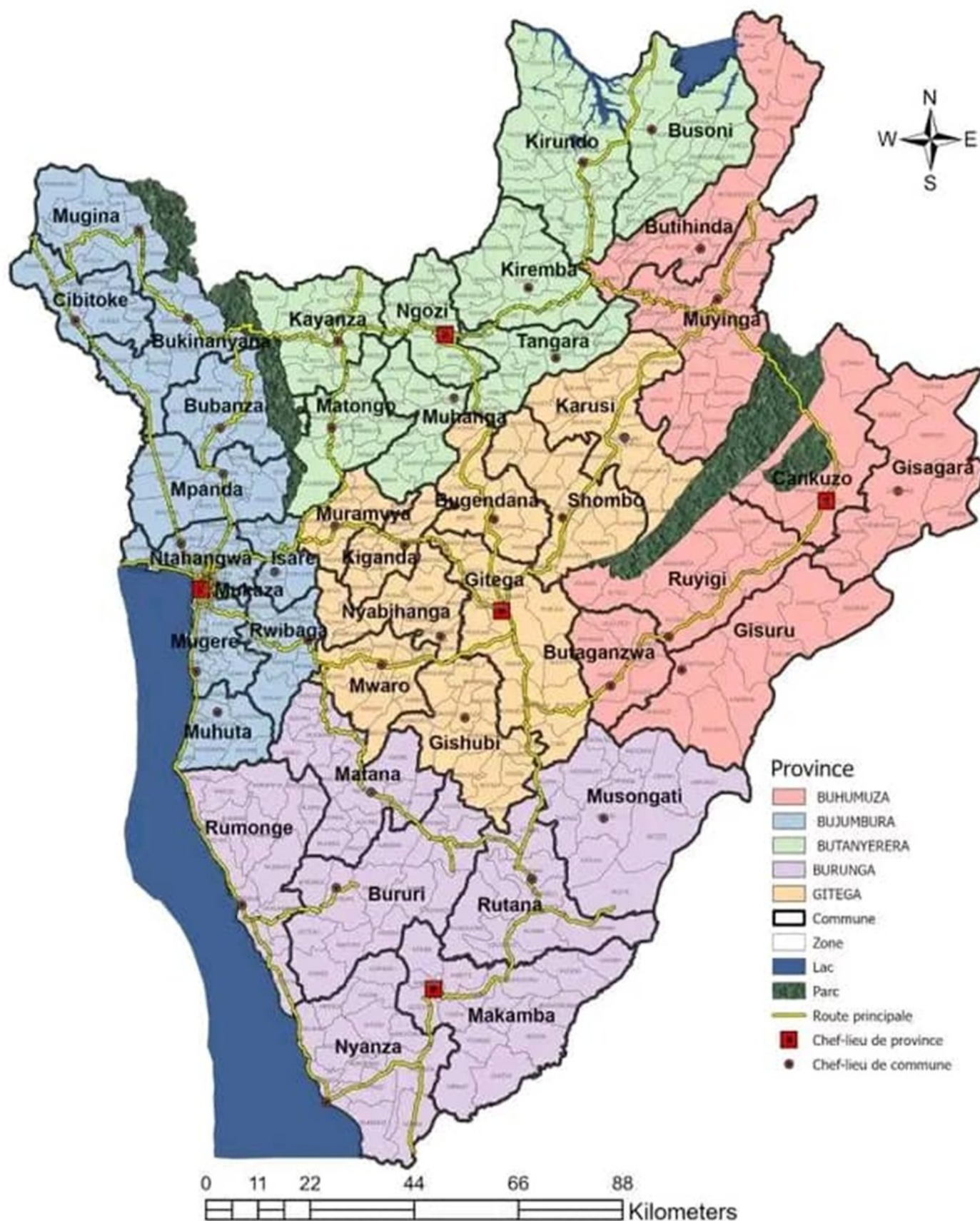
- ♦ Is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human Rights and Peoples (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH),
- ♦ Has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236 and is a member of Ecosoc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

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ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CAM	: <i>Health Insurance Card</i>
CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CECI	: <i>Independent Municipal Electoral Commission</i>
CENI	: <i>Independent National 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>
ECOFO	: <i>Elementary School</i>
FRODEBU	: <i>Front for Democracy in Burundi</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
OTB	: <i>Burundi Tea Office</i>
SNR	: <i>National Inquiry Service</i>
TGI	: <i>High Court</i>
VBGs	: <i>Gender-Based Violence</i>
VSBGs	: <i>Sexual and Gender-Based Violence</i>

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0. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of August 25 to 31, 2025. The period was marked by events surrounding the election of the country's collinary councils. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, judicial, and security context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of violations of civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

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

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

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Elections of community councilors and neighborhood leaders

On August 25, 2025, the local elections in Burundi had low participation and many irregularities. In Gitega province, although election officials confirmed that participation was good, our witnesses admit that the population was not informed by the authorities. In the two communes of KARUSI and SHOMBO from the former province of KARUSI, the participation was 60% according to a member of the CECI KARUSI. In these elections, in all the hills, there were candidates from the CNDD-FDD who were expected to win regardless, and that was indeed the case.

Some concerns regarding the electoral process

drew the attention of observers.

According to our source, during the application submission period in various municipalities, as in other provinces of the country, citizens reported encountering difficulties in registering as candidates. According to our local sources, they were assured by members of the Independent Municipal Electoral Commissions (CECI) that they would not face any obstacles in being included on the lists.

However, recent findings indicate that the final candidate lists were made up of proposals from the party's CNDD-FDD local committees.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

One case that particularly attracted attention is that of a retired officer from the Judicial Police at the Provincial Police Station of Gitega, named Vincent. During the presentation of candidates in the Shatanya III neighborhood, he noticed that his name had been removed from the list. He filed an appeal with the CECI and the CEPI Gitega. The electoral officials then assured him that, on the day of the election, his name would indeed be on the candidate list.

However, according to our source in the Shatanya III neighborhood, on the day of the elections, the majority of voters only voted for this candidate Vincent, in whom they placed their trust. To their great surprise, the official results did not reflect these votes. The testimonies collected say that his votes were cancelled.

In Muramvya commune, Gitega Province, the August 25, 2025, hill council elections were marked by unprecedented fraud from the beginning to the end.

Imbonerakure members circulated among the voters to remind them which names to elect. Polling station officials were seen filling out multiple ballots at the ECOFO Busimba polling station, where polling station president Niyonzima Anaclet filled out and placed dozens of ballots in the ballot box in full view of everyone.

The same practices were observed at the Muramvya municipal high school polling station.

According to the same sources, the fraud was particularly noticeable during the counting of votes, where in some centers there was no vote counting, but the lists of the five candidates to be elected had been drawn up in advance.

In Butanyerera province, voter turnout in the local elections was low, as confirmed by our source, and marred by irregularities and fraud. In the Gabiro, Kinyami, Muremera Gisagara, Rubuye, and Shikiro neighborhoods, the polling stations opened with a slight delay of 15 minutes, which the polling station officials explained was due solely to the setting up of the equipment. Women were also elected, although they were not very numerous.

According to polling station managers, the number of female candidates on the posters in the various neighborhoods of the city of Ngozi was satisfactory. In the Rubuye neighborhood, there were 3 out of 7 candidates, in Kinyami there were 5 women out of 10, and in Muremera there were 4 women out of 9.

Throughout Butanyerera province, as specified by Désiré Minani, president of the CEPI Butanyerera, there were 1,131 women on the electoral rolls out of a total of 5,606 candidates in the province.

Cases of fraud were also reported in Butanyerera province. Niyonzima Félix and Ndacayisaba Alexis were caught with several voter cards, one with six cards and the other with seven cards, with the aim of rigging the elections.

They distributed the cards they had in order to influence the vote. According to local witnesses, the two individuals mentioned above were caught in possession of several cards. The population noticed this and called the president of the polling station, who then called the president of the CECI, who had just passed by. The election resumed with the return of the CECI president, and the two were arrested and taken to the Coco Gashikanwa jail to have the relevant files prepared.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

A similar case of fraud occurred at the Marembo polling station in the Gisenyi area of Busoni commune, Butanyerera province, where six people carrying voter cards that did not belong to them were turned away. The center manager said that these cards had been sent by their owners, suspecting that some candidates were trying to use the cards of deceased persons or those who had left to seek work in other provinces or abroad. He said that he had sent them away because they did not have any identification confirming the cardholders' identities or official power of attorney. By 2 p.m., 2,625 of the 3,142 expected voters had already cast their ballots. There are eight candidates at this center, including four men and four women.

In the commune of Kirundo, the ITEKA League was informed of the existence of a group of young Imbonerakure who were tasked with telling voters who to vote for on the list of candidates. No one could refuse for fear of reprisals. The CECI did not accept the candidacies of other people who are not members of the ruling party, and their applications were rejected, according to our source.

In Bujumbura province, cases of electoral fraud involving the election of hill chiefs and neighborhood chiefs have been documented. In the Mugoboka neighborhood, Nyakabiga area, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, Innocent BIGIRIMANA, a member of the Imbonerakure youth league, had received 641 votes after the count, but the results were published differently. According to local witnesses, Rénovât SINDAYIHEBURA, former administrator of the commune of Mukaza, came to give instructions to the members of the voting center so that a certain Pierre NIMBONA, who was number 13 with 92 votes, would move up to first place.

CENI agents assigned to the Mugoboka neighborhood accuse the president of the independent municipal electoral commission (CECI) Mukaza Patrick Mbonyumukunzi of reversing the list that was posted the day after the elections on August 26, 2025. Pierre NIMBONA ultimately obtained the 641 votes that belonged to Innocent BIGIRIMANA.

The residents of the Mugoboka neighborhood accuse Pierre NIMBONA of committing several offenses, notably the demolition of a house belonging to a widow when he was head of the neighborhood before being dismissed by the then minister Gervais NDIRAKOBUCA, known as NDAKUGARIKA, who was in charge of the interior, security, and community development.

In Cibitoke commune, in Dogodogo, Rugombo area, voter cards were distributed to people from outside the area who were allowed to vote without being registered on the official lists. A soldier even fired two shots while chasing young girls accused of having benefited from these fraudulent cards. An arrest followed, but no legal action has been announced. On Cibitoke hill, several voters were seen putting large bundles of ballots into the ballot boxes, under the indifferent gaze of polling station officials.

On Rusiga hills, Karurama, Rugeregere, and Kagazi, polling station presidents were caught red-handed committing fraud. They were arrested but released without trial, which only added to the frustration of voters.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

In Mugina commune, Muyange, two individuals were caught in possession of 19 voter cards. They were arrested and then released without any legal action. Other similar irregularities were observed at polling stations in Rusagara, Ruziba, Buhoro, Muhingo, and Butahana, where the electoral process was largely compromised.

Beyond these instances of fraud, the election was marked by very low turnout in several localities.

These hill elections, which were supposed to strengthen local democracy and bring citizens closer to their institutions, left a bitter taste. Between fraud, intimidation, and a lack of transparency, many are now asking about the future of the democratic process at the grassroots level.

In Burunga Province, a few days before the local elections on August 25, 2025, political tensions shook the Kanyenkoko neighborhood in Rumonge town. Three candidates, Moïse Ntirandekura alias Musore, Habonimana Jean Paul, and Venant Issa Havyarimana, claim to be victims of intimidation and persecution aimed at preventing them from being elected.

According to our sources on the ground, on August 14, 2025, four candidates from this neighborhood were arbitrarily removed from the list of applicants by the Independent Communal Electoral Commission (CECI) of Rumonge, without any reason being given. The individuals concerned then appealed to the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), which ruled in their favor, allowing them to resume their campaign. On August 21, 2025, the three members of the CNDD-FDD Ntirandekura, Habonimana, and Havyarimana were arrested by agents of the National Intelligence Service in Rumonge, who accused

them of organizing an unauthorized demonstration by brandishing placards while campaigning.

They were released by judicial police officers shortly after being taken into custody at the provincial police station in Rumonge.

In Nyanza-lac, at some polling stations, commissioners were seen standing at the entrance to establishments or ECOFOs, campaigning on behalf of their masters or candidates in the elections and accompanying them to the polling stations where political representatives took turns in the voting booths to help elderly and illiterate voters write the names of the elected candidates on the ballots.

At the Kavungerezi ECOFO, the director of the establishment, Ntiranyibagira Frederic, who was also the president of the polling station, was caught with at least fifty completed ballots that he was trying to slip into the ballot box with the help of his teacher, both of whom were members of the CENI. They were arrested by the police on the orders of the president of the CECI in Nyanza, Ovain Ndikumana.

At the ECOFO Buheka, the same thing was observed, but the perpetrator, named Pius, a former advisor to the governor of Makamba, was not apprehended despite several cries for help from members of the CECI.

Other similar incidents were reported at the ECOFO polling stations in Gifuruzi and Mukubano, where SNR agents also used their professional skills to have them arrested by the police. In the localities of Vugizo and Mabanda, no such incidents were reported. The vote counting stage was carried out under the supervision of CNDD-FDD political representatives only.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 8)

At ECOFO Rumonge 4, located in the city center, three polling station presidents, two polling station members, and one representative were arrested for alleged electoral fraud during the hill elections.

According to local sources, the polling station presidents were caught in possession of several completed ballots. One of them also had an estimated 100,000 FBU in cash on him, fueling suspicions of vote buying or ballot manipulation. All six suspects were immediately taken into custody in the police cell in Rumonge.

Even before election day, the Independent Communal Electoral Commission (CECI) of Rumonge had replaced 18 polling station officials who were caught campaigning for certain candidates. They were transferred to other polling stations.

In Buhumuza province, the week of August 25 to 31, 2025, was marked by local elections, with the population of Buhumuza province, like that of other provinces, turning out to vote on August 25, 2025.

Polling stations opened at 6 a.m. in almost all voting centers. For example, the polling stations located at the ECOFO Ruyigi, ECOFO Sanzu, ECOFO Gasanda, and ECOFO Nyamutobo voting centers opened at 6 a.m.

Unlike the June 5, 2025 elections, which were double elections, the August 25, 2025 elections did not see massive participation by the population.

For example, at the ECOFO Ruyigi voting center, where turnout was minimal, only 181

of the 456 registered voters had cast their ballots by 11:55 a.m.

At ÉCOFO Nyamutobo, polling station number 1, only 158 of the 324 registered voters had cast their ballots by 12:05 p.m.

According to some officials, the reason for this low turnout compared to previous elections is that the population was not sufficiently informed and aware.

Another observation is that, due to the lack of information on how to vote, the population should ask polling station officials for information on how to proceed.

It was also noted that people who cannot read or write should ask polling station officials for help, which is a violation of the principle of voting secrecy.

Voting for others without a proxy and the registration of additional lists of voters were used as forms of cheating.

Most of the candidates were civil servants, raising questions about how they will combine the two roles.

For example, in the Kinyabakecuru and Gasanda districts, those who received the most votes were civil servant teachers.

According to Article 171 of the 2024-2025 Electoral Code, the mandate of the hill or neighborhood chief is incompatible with any other public office.

We are awaiting the official announcement of the results by the CENI and their validation by the Constitutional Court.

Former governor of Bururi province elected hill's chief in Burunga province

On August 25, 2025, Colonel Léonidas Bandenzamaso, former governor of Bururi province, was elected chief of Nyamiyaga hill, his native hill in Bururi commune, Burunga province, where this man, who resides in Bujumbura, was elected. However, he has

already exchanged places with the second elected candidate, according to a member of the CECI, who confirms having read a letter addressed to this CENI board requesting this change.

Celebration of the 20th anniversary of the CNDD-FDD party and Imbonerakure Day, 9th edition

The celebration of the 20th anniversary of the CNDD-FDD and the 9th edition of Imbonerakure Day, held on August 30, 2025, at the Ingoma Stadium in Gitega, raises questions about the current political dynamics in Burundi. President Évariste Ndayishimiye has stated that peace has been established and that the party is committed to strengthening this stability, which is essential for national development. However, it is worth noting that this optimism is contested by the opposition and civil society, which paint an alarming picture of the government's management and failure to respect human rights.

The FRODEBU party, for example, has issued a negative assessment in which poor governance and corruption are at the center of criticism, accompanied by a lockdown of the political space. At the same time, civil society is concerned about the increase in

enforced disappearances, exacerbated, according to them, by a continuing deterioration in human rights in Burundi, a concern that was highlighted on the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

Organizations such as SOS Torture Burundi, the Movement of Women and Girls for Peace and Security in Burundi, and the OMCT documented 26 cases of enforced disappearances between January and August 2025. Finally, the event was symbolized by a parade of young Imbonerakure and Aiglons (Ibiswi vy'Inkona), bringing together various foreign dignitaries, including delegations from Kenya and South Africa, as well as representatives of other political parties. This convergence of participants illustrates the complexity of international relations and the commitment of local actors to political dialogue, but also the latent tensions present in the Burundian socio-political landscape.

The approval of zone leaders, advisors to zone leaders, heads of zonal technical services, and advisors to the municipal administrator in Buhumuza province.

On August 26, 2025, in the Buhumuza province meeting room, the Cankuzo municipal council approved the zone chiefs, zone chief advisors, zone technical service chiefs, and municipal administrator advisors.

According to sources on the ground, there was never any call for tenders, posting of notices, or submission of applications. The president of the municipal council, Dr. Protais Baribarira, asked the municipal administrator, Marie Rose Nahimana, to read out the names of the people already proposed and

invited the members of the municipal council to approve them by a show of hands without comment. According to sources close to the government, the names are drawn up at the CNDD-FDD party headquarters and sent to the administrators for reading only. This is standard practice at the national level.

On August 26, 2025, in the Buhumuza province meeting room, the Cankuzo municipal council approved the zone chiefs, zone chief advisors, zone technical service chiefs, and municipal administrator advisors.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 10)

According to sources on the ground, there was never any call for tenders, posting of notices, or submission of applications. The president of the municipal council, Dr. Protais Baribarira, asked the municipal administrator, Marie Rose Nahimana, to read out the names of the people already proposed and invited the members of the municipal council to approve them by a show of hands without comment. According to sources close to the government, the names are drawn up at the CNDD-FDD party headquarters and sent to the administrators for reading only. This is standard practice at the national level.

The approval of the zone chiefs, zone chief advisors, zone technical service chiefs, and municipal administrator advisors by the Cankuzo municipal council took place on

August 26, 2025, in the Buhumuza Province meeting room.

However, many are outraged at the way these zone chiefs were appointed. The population says that there was never a call for applications, no posting of notices, and no submission of files. However, Law No. 18 of June 7, 2024, on the reorganization of the municipal administration specifies in Article 71, paragraph 1, that *the Zone Chief is appointed by the Provincial Governor on the recommendation of the municipal administrator after approval by the municipal council.*

According to sources close to the government, the names are drawn up at the CNDD-FDD party headquarters and sent to the administrators for their information only. This is the case throughout the country.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

A grenade found in the Ntakangwa municipality, Bujumbura province.

On August 26, 2025, an explosive device, a grenade, was found 30 meters from the neighborhood chief Remy Ndayongeje at Fourth Avenue in the Muramvya neighborhood, Kinama zone, Ntakangwa municipality, Bujumbura province.

The people of Kinama say that the placement of the device is related to political motives, as the local elections and neighborhood chief elections did not occur as planned in some polling places. Election office agents were apprehended in possession of ballots bearing

the name of this neighborhood chief, and they were arrested by the police.

According to the same sources, this neighborhood chief may have used this simulation to show that he is threatened in order to explain that even those who were arrested for electoral fraud are the ones who wish him harm. The population is calling for more investigations into this grenade so that the culprit is punished and those who were apprehended for rigging the elections are punished severely and in accordance with the law.

A grenade found in the Cankuzo municipality, Buhumuza province.

On the morning of August 26, 2025, on Nyarutiti hill, Minyare area, Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province, a nearly new grenade of "defensive" brand was found hidden in the rocks. It was recovered by

Gabriel Toyi, responsible for removing small caliber weapons from the local populations, following a report from the neighboring community.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 11)

Assassination attempt in the commune of Karuzi, Gitega province

On August 29, 2025, on Rumgoma hill, Buhiga area, KARUSI commune, Gitega Province, a 45-year-old member of the CNDD FDD named Thierry, almost killed his mother MONIQUE and his sister ESTELLA when he came to attack them in front of their house with a machete. According to local witnesses, for two months, Thierry and his older brother STAR NIYONKURU, began to intimidate their mother by accusing her that she is a prostitute, that the eldest of the

ESTALLA family does not belong to their father Samuel, and no longer the fourth child of this family, Fiacre. They want to share the family property by excluding both. According to a source close to this family, all four children are of one father and one mother. The ingratitude of these two drunken brothers leads them to disrespect their mother. The family and friends were able to intervene in time and Thierry took off when he heard that his mother was calling the local authorities.

A household was attacked by yet unidentified criminals in Butihinda Commune.

On the night of Friday, August 26, 2025, on Gasenyi Hill in the Giteranyi area, around 11:30 PM, unidentified bandits stabbed a child in the hips after breaking into their home to steal. The alert caused neighbors to come to the rescue, and the bandits escaped to the hills of Tanzania as Gasenyi is a border

area with this neighboring country. The victim was taken to Mugano hospital where they are receiving intensive care. In collaboration with the Tanzanian administration, the search for these criminals is ongoing.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

Four people judged for election theft in Rumonge municipality, in Burunga province

On the afternoon of August 26, 2025, at the Rumonge High Court, the individuals accused of stealing local elections were caught red-handed. Sibomana Abubakar, from Muturirwa-Minago hill, Rumonge commune, Burunga Province, accused of being in possession of 10 voter cards, Nyabenda Wilson, Bikorimana Eric, Ntakirutimana Euphraise, and Selemani Jean Marie, all from the Rumonge 4 voting center, at polling station number 5, were accused of corruption at the polling station. Bikorimana Jonathan was accused of placing more than 20 ballots in the ballot box in Buranga hill, Muhuta commune, Bujumbura province. Irankunda Liévin from Rutumo hill, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, was also accused of putting pre-filled ballots in the ballot box.

According to local witnesses, after the trial, the High Court sentenced the first defendant to three months' imprisonment and a fine of 500,000 Fbu, while the second group was sentenced to two months' imprisonment and a fine of 2,000,000 Fbu each. In the third case, the defendant was sentenced to five months' imprisonment and a fine of 800,000 Fbu, and the last defendant was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and a fine of 400,000 Fbu.

The ITEKA League is concerned about the double standards applied, given that in other localities, election fraudsters were not prosecuted, but merely taken into custody and then released after the elections.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 12)

A man accused of electoral fraud in Karehe, Gweza area, Bururi commune, Burunga province

On August 25, 2025, on Karehe Hill in the Gweza area, Bururi commune, BURUNGA province, Augustin Ndikumana, aged 40, member of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, teacher at Nyabudiba Elementary School, originally from Mirango hill in the Gitsiro area of the same commune, was arrested and taken to the Bururi police station on charges of electoral fraud.

During the public hearing on August 29, 2025, this case was dealt with among the fragrance cases, and the public prosecutor accused this man, who was president of the Éco fo Nyabiraba polling station during the hill elections, of being caught with 38 completed ballots in a cardboard box next to his handbag in that polling station.

The defendant rejected the charges, saying

that only the empty handbag belonged to him and that it was a setup by a group of people who had placed the ballots in the box next to his empty handbag.

The public prosecutor accused the man of entering the polling station with a bag, which is prohibited, but did not cite the legal basis for this. The defendant requested that the prosecution investigate by questioning other members of the polling station to find out how the ballots ended up in the box in the room. The prosecution sought a ten-year prison sentence and a fine of 4 million Burundian francs.

The case was immediately taken under advisement and, after a few minutes, instead of pronouncing the judgment, the court announced that the case would be returned to the court without giving any reasons.

Summary trial in Rutana commune, Burunga province

On August 27, 2025, the High Court of Rutana, in a public hearing of fragrance, sentenced Emmanuel Manirambona, originally from the Gihofi hill, Bukemba area, Rutana commune, Burunga province,

to a main penalty of 6 months and a fine of one million (1,000,000 fbu) for being accused of trading in prohibited beverages. He was arrested with 4 cans of 20 liters each.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY THE IMBONERAKURE MILITIA

One person killed in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province

On August 26, 2025, at the Kamenge military hospital, in the Mukaza district of Bujumbura province, Thierry Niyibizi, a 35-year-old man from Rubizi hill in the Muyira area and father of four children, died after being beaten by Imbonerakure.

According to an eyewitness, on August 18, 2025, while returning home, Thierry Niyibizi had an argument with some family members and a group of Imbonerakure from his hill, led by their chief Joël

Ndindakaha, nicknamed "Mburu," arrived and began to beat him, accusing him of having assaulted his family members. 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 without success. He was later transferred to the Bujumbura military hospital where he passed away. His family and loved ones are demanding that justice be done.

II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS

A lifeless body found in the commune of Rwibaga, Bujumbura province.

On August 26, 2025, on the banks of the Mugere River, on the Gatobo hillside, in the Mayuyu area, Rwibaga commune, Bujumbura province, the lifeless body of an unidentified man aged between 50 and 60 was discovered. According to local witnesses, the body had injuries to the head and left eye, suggesting that the perpetrators struck the man on the head with a club before leaving him for dead on

the banks of the river. Our witnesses added that the administrator of Rwibaga commune, Frédéric MANIRAKIZA, arrived at the scene to assess the situation, accompanied by police officer Léopold MANIRAKIZA. The administrator decided that the body should be taken to Mukike Hospital.

A lifeless body found in Gishubi Commune, Gitega Province

Information received by the Iteka League on 25 August 2025 indicates that on 23 August 2025, at around 9 a.m., the lifeless body of Mathias Mpfekurera, 60 years old, from Gasagara hill, in Makebuko region, commune and province of Gitega, was found in the Ruvyironza River, near Jugwe Hill, Bukoro Region, Gishubi Commune, Gitega Province.

According to our local source, the victim's body was beginning to decompose and adds

that the deceased had no known conflict, neither within his family nor in the community.

According to witness statements, he was last seen alive on August 20, 2025, when he went to the market. His relatives waited for his return, but in vain. From observations made at the scene, it seems that the old man was hit with a large stone or perhaps a sledgehammer.

II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS (the following of page 14)

A body found in the municipality of Gishubi, in the province of Gitega

On Wednesday, August 27, 2025, around 9 AM, the lifeless body of Nyandwi Emmanuel, aged 60, was found at his home on Nyamutobo Hill, Nyabiraba zone, Gishubi commune, Gitega province, hanging from a rope fixed inside his house. According to testimonies collected, the deceased lived alone in this house. Neighbors alerted authorities after noticing that the house had

remained closed until an unusual hour. Although the body was discovered hanging, visible injuries on the legs raise doubts about the exact circumstances of the death. Some speculate that he may have been beaten before being suspended, to mislead the investigations. The judicial police officer who arrived on the scene conducted an examination and authorized the burial of the body.

II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS

The lifeless body of a woman found in Karusi Commune in Gitega Province

The lifeless body of a woman named Edith, a member of the CNDDFDD and aged over 45, was discovered in a ditch on her home hill in Nzibariba, in the Buhiga area of Karusi commune.

According to a local source, the victim was drunk and shouting at around 8 p.m. the previous evening while at home without her husband, Cishahayo Sébastien. She used to go to stay with different families whenever she argued with her husband, spending several days there, according to the same source. Recently, she wanted to take her two

grandchildren with her, but the neighbors refused, contacting her husband instead, who advised them to let her do so, while ensuring that she took good care of the children.

When he returned from the center of Buhiga at around 11 p.m., he found only the two children at their grandparents' house. This morning, her body was found in a ditch where large trees had been uprooted. However, a contradictory version claims that she was suspected of witchcraft and that those around her hated her, insinuating that she was killed by unknown individuals. However, the body showed no signs of violence.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. VBGs

A girl raped in Rumonge commune, Burunga province

On August 26, 2025, on Gihwanya Hill, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, N J, aged 4, was raped by Havyarimana Marius, aged 14, a sixth-grade student at ECOFO Gihwanya. The latter called the child and

took her to an unfinished house to commit the crime. She was taken to Rumonge Hospital and the alleged perpetrator is being held in the Rumonge police station jail pending documents confirming his date of birth.

II.2.1. VBGs (the following of page 15)

A girl raped in Mugere, Bujumbura province

Information received on August 27, 2025 indicates that on August 23, 2025, on Kavumu hill in the Muyira area, Mugere commune, Bujumbura Province, ND Ch B, aged 13, was raped by HARAKAZA Stève, aged 21, a student at Kanyosha Communal High School studying Second Form Arts.

According to local witnesses, the child went to her neighbor's house around 8 a.m. as usual, and since there was no one 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.

A child raped by his father in Ntahangwa, Bujumbura province

On August 21, 2025, on Rukaramu Hill, in the Rukaramu area of Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province, 12-year-old A M was raped by her own father, Bikorimana Bienvenue. According to local sources, at the time of the incident, her mother, Goreth, was at work. When she returned home, the child

told her what had happened, despite her father's threats to prevent her from speaking. The child received the necessary care at the Rukaramu Community Health Center, and the alleged perpetrator was transferred to Kabezi, to the provincial prison, for legal proceedings.

A victim of GBV in Matongo, Butanyerera province

On August 25, 2025, at around 10 p.m., on Kibayi Hill in the Mbirizi area of Matongo commune, Butanyerera province, 70-year-old Nsaguye Barnabé was physically assaulted by his 50-year-old wife, Mayange Marie Rose.

According to information provided by the victim, the 70-year-old accused his wife of wasting the corn harvest to buy banana wine at the Kibayi center, which often led her to be unfaithful with other men. The victim said that his wife jumped on him, shouting insults about him being impotent and pulling on his private parts.

Nsaguye Barnabé said that his wife let go of him when he bit her arms. The day after the incident, the victim said that he went to the Kibaribari health center for treatment because he still felt a burning sensation in his testicles. Siméon, the director of the family and community development center in Gatara, confirms the information and adds that after questioning the married couple, the victimized husband did not want to report the perpetrator and suggested that the matter be settled amicably.

A woman beaten and injured by her husband in Mbuye commune

On August 21, 2025, on Taba Hill, Gasura area, Kiganda commune, Gitega province, Anne Marie Ndereyimana, a 30-year-old farmer, was injured by her husband, Nibizi Julius, aged 33. According to local witnesses, the victim was beaten by her husband after he caught her reading a message on his

phone written by his concubine, Aline Kanyamuneza .

The victim suffered injuries to her back and was taken to Gasura Hospital. The perpetrator was arrested and released the following day after paying a fine of 50,000 Burundian francs, while the victim remains hospitalized.

II. 2.2. TORTURE

A member of the CNDD FDD beaten in Karuzi commune, Gitega province.

On August 25, 2025, at around 10 p.m. in the MANDERA hotel, on Rwingoma hill, in the Buhiga area of the new KARUSI commune, Gitega province, Alexis Bandyatuyaga, CNDD FDD zonal secretary of Buhiga, was beaten until his nose bled, by General Isidore, originally from the former commune of GITARAMUKA. According to local witnesses,

the victim arrived on his motorcycle and responded arrogantly to the general's guards.

According to the same witnesses, the general was staying at the hotel and had come to elect the hill councilors. He kept his motorcycle until the next day, even though he had let it in at night.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Right to information violated as Burundian authorities target private press

On August 14, 2025, the National Communication Council prohibited private media outlets from collaborating on coverage of the consequences of the fuel shortage in Burundi. Espérance Ndayizeye wrote to the director of Radio Isanganiro, the station leading the collaboration, stating that there was no news on this subject.

The Constitution and the press law are being violated by a regulatory body that should be enforcing the law, as the media do not ask for permission to collaborate but simply inform the broadcaster of the change in programming.

Preventing journalists from coordinating their coverage is not an isolated incident, as coverage of events at the National Assembly has been hampered by directives from Gélase Ndabirabe, who was re-elected as President of the National Assembly, requesting that no

private media outlet cover or have access to events at the Assembly, even plenary sessions in Kigobe.

On August 27, 2025, Apollinaire Ndayikeze, the communications advisor to the National Assembly, took the decision to remove some journalists from private radio stations from the Assembly's WhatsApp group with journalists, so that they would no longer have access to information about the activities organized by the lower house.

The Iteka League points out that this is a violation of the right to freedom of expression and debate, as the single-party government could worsen the situation and lead to the collapse of democracy in Burundi.

It should be noted that the Prime Minister, former Finance Minister Nestor Nahontuye, clearly stated on March 13, 2025, during a media briefing on the CAM medical assistance card, that he could not provide information to the private press.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. DISRUPTION TO ECONOMIC LIFE

Very low wages disrupt the finances of day laborers' families at the Rwegura tea factory

Day laborers who pick tea leaves on the plantations of the Rwegura tea factory complain that they are poorly paid. Pascal Nkundwanabake, representative of the day laborers on the Rwegura tea plantations, says that they receive only 150 francs for each kilogram of green tea leaves picked.

He finds this remuneration derisory given the exponential rise in the price of other food products on the market. According to him, tea pickers on the Rwegura tea plantations can no longer meet their families' basic needs. Rénovât Sindayigaya, head of the tea plantation industrial block at the factory,

says that since the beginning of this year, more than 1,200 pickers have already handed in their aprons to go and work on private tea plantations, where they earn at least 8,000 francs a day.

He fears that if nothing is done to increase these workers' wages in the coming days, the factory will find itself unable to harvest the tea crop. Gilles Mukundwa, Director General of the OTB, says he is concerned about this issue and promises these workers that within three months, the wages of pickers on the factory's tea plantations will be increased.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

To the government of Gitega :

- ⇒ Take measures to prevent intentional homicides, particularly those involving bodies found;
- ⇒ Investigate homicides and identify those responsible in order to punish them in accordance with the law;
- ⇒ Take measures to prevent torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment;
- ⇒ Take measures to protect rape victims and provide them with adequate support;
- ⇒ Take measures to promote economic stability and reduce poverty;
- ⇒ Guarantee access to information for all citizens in Burundi and outside the country;
- ⇒ Guarantee labor rights for all citizens and not allow the employment management to employers, including in parastatal companies.