



Anyone should be respected

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY BULLETIN

"Iteka n'Ijambo"

N°490 from 1st to 7th September 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 Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to August 31, 2025, at least 835 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 85 victims have reappeared, and 750 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGIDE) has already communicated at least 252 victims¹ to the Government of Burundi.

¹<https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

The Iteka League :

- ♦ "Is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH),
- ♦ has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236 and is a member of ECOSOC.
- ♦ It is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections."

SUMMARY

0. INTRODUCTION.....	P.5
I. CONTEXT.....	P.5
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS	P.9
III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS	P.16
IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	P.17

ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BRARUDI	: <i>Burundi Brewery and Lemonade Company</i>
BSR	: <i>Special Investigation Unit</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Elementary School</i>
FAB	: <i>Burundian Armed Forces</i>
FARDC	: <i>Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
FDLR	: <i>Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda</i>
FDNB	: <i>National Defense Force of Burundi</i>
FLN	: <i>National Liberation Forces</i>
M23	: <i>March 23 Movement</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
PNB	: <i>Burundi National Police</i>
RN	: <i>National Road</i>
SNR	: <i>National Enquiry Service</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>
VSBG	: <i>Sexual and Gender-Based Violence</i>

TABLE DES MATIERES

<i>0. INTRODUCTION.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I. CONTEXT.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I.2. SECURITY CONTEXT.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>I.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>II.1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED AS A RESULT OF SETTLING SCORES.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>II.1.1.3. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>II. 2.1. CASES OF TORTURE.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>II.2.2. CASES OF GBV.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>II.2.3. CASES OF SGBV.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>III.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>III.2. RIGHT TO HEALTH.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</i>	<i>17</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of September 1 to 7, 2025. 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 socio-economic and cultural rights.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least 16 people killed, including 9 bodies found dead, 1 person tortured, 2 victims of gender-based violence (GBV), including 1 victim of sexual violence, and 10 people victims of arbitrary arrest.

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

Participation of President Evariste Ndayishimiye in the 7th extraordinary session of ECCAS

On September 7, 2025, Burundi's President Évariste Ndayishimiye took part in the 7th extraordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. This meeting was also attended by other notable leaders, such as Gabonese President Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo Félix Tshisekedi, and Central African President Faustin-Archange Touadéra.

The heads of state present discussed several critical issues, including :

- **The security situation in the DRC:** Leaders expressed concern about the ongoing crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, where territories remain under the control of an armed group receiving external support. They called for the immediate implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2773.

- **Regional integration:** The conference welcomed the joint efforts of the Lomé, Doha, and Washington processes to restore stability in the region.

- **The appointment of the new Commission President:** Burundian Ambassador Ezéchiel Nibigira was appointed President of the ECCAS Commission for a renewable five-year term.

It should be noted that the conference had the following objectives:

Consolidating peace and strengthening democratic governance in the region

- Deepening regional integration and responding to the aspirations of the peoples of Central Africa,

- Promoting stability and prosperity in the subregion.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

ENABEL Country Director expelled by the Government of Burundi

On September 5, 2025, Davis Leyssens, Country Director of the Belgian International Cooperation Agency ENABEL, was expelled by the Government of Gitega, which gave him 48 hours to leave Burundian territory.

The reason for this expulsion is that the ENABEL director shared an article from the South African newspaper The Continent on social media criticizing Burundi for its fuel shortage.

This decision is a strong signal from the Gitega government that censorship spares no one and is proof of reports by the ITEKA league and other organizations highlighting that fundamental rights, particularly freedom of expression and opinion, are not respected in the country.

ENABEL is a crucial development partner for Burundi, providing technical cooperation mainly in the areas of health, education,

agriculture, professional integration, and governance.

The ITEKA League is concerned about these ill-considered measures by the Burundian government and calls on Belgium to focus its actions primarily on serving the population, which is in great need of this support. In the face of such abuses, the international community should: (i) denounce violations of freedom of expression and freedom of the press, (ii) encourage diplomacy and dialogue to resolve disputes in Burundi, (iii) support human rights organizations and independent media working to promote transparency and accountability, (iv) promote international cooperation and exchanges for the economic and social development of Burundi, and (v) closely monitor developments in this situation and take measures to protect human rights and international cooperation.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

One person injured in Gisuru commune, Buhumuza province

Information received by the Iteka League on September 1 indicates that on August 25, 2025, the day of the hill elections, on Murehe hill, Gisuru commune, Buhumuza province, Richard Sinibagiye and Esron, both members of the CNDD-FDD, fought following a dispute between them over who would be the leader of the hill. According to local witnesses, Esron picked up a piece of baked brick and threw it at his rival Richard, who was injured in the face.

The victim was injured and rushed to King Khaled Hospital. Richard was asked to pay a bill of 5 million, but he turned back because he could not afford to pay for treatment at the hospital in Gisuru. Pus is coming out of the victim's nose.

However, Esron must pay the 5 million, and his motorcycle was auctioned off on August 31, 2025, for 2 million. Esron, who was being held at the Gisuru police station, fled.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

Several cases of theft reported in Mwaro commune, Gitega province

Information received by the Iteka League on September 1, 2025, indicates that since the last days of August 2025, cases of livestock theft (cows and pigs) have been reported and have become numerous on certain hills, especially in the Kayokwe and Mwaro areas. According to local witnesses, the animals stolen from one hill are slaughtered on a neighboring hill and the carcasses are transported at night by motorcycle drivers.

For example, a cow stolen from Saswe hill may

be slaughtered on Ruramba hill, while one stolen from Kibogoye hill may be slaughtered on Musama hill, all in the Kayokwe area.

In addition to these thefts committed on various hills in the Kayokwe area, there have been cases of empty bottles being stolen from the Kibumbu center in the Kayokwe area, where more than 40 empty crates were stolen at night.

Burundian military convoys spotted in Kaburantwa in the Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province

Information received by the Iteka League on September 2, 2025, indicates that in Kaburantwa, Buganda area, for the past three days, the inhabitants of this border town have been living to the rhythm of an unusual ballet: entire columns of military trucks crossing the Kaburantwa bridge towards the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Witnesses describe an almost continuous flow, day and night, revealing a military deployment of a scale rarely seen in this region.

On Transverse Road 6, residents are in disbelief. "It was almost non-stop. The trucks passed one after the other, filled with soldiers armed to the teeth," says a farmer, still in shock. According to several sources, the convoys came from strategic garrisons, notably Cishemere and Mudubugu, where intensive military exercises had already aroused the suspicions of the population.

The units involved appear to be far from homogeneous. Witnesses and local sources describe a mix of profiles: seasoned veterans, hastily trained young recruits, and members

of the Imbonerakure, the youth league of the ruling party. Even more troubling, some are said to have been supervised by Rwandan militiamen from the FLN, a rebel group hostile to the Kigali regime.

Officially, there is radio silence. Neither the Burundian army nor the political authorities have communicated about the mission of these troops. Several soldiers say they are joining their compatriots already stationed in the high and middle plateaus of South Kivu. Their mission: to fight local and regional armed groups, including Red Tabara, FNL, Twirwaneho, and M23.

However, uncertainty reigns on the ground. "We are going to fight, but many of us fear we will not return," says one soldier, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Several comrades have already fallen. Their families have received nothing, not even official recognition." Initial promises, such as pay in dollars or Congolese military ID numbers, have reportedly not been kept, fueling frustration and risking a decline in troop morale.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

The military command in the Rusizi Valley simply referred us to the army spokesperson, who in turn declined to comment. This silence fuels rumors and concerns in an explosive regional context where alliances are rapidly being redrawn.

Military reinforcements at the Burundi-Rwanda border in the commune of Cibitoke, Bujumbura province

Since August 15, 2025, a movement of military trucks has been observed leaving the economic capital, Bujumbura, for Mugina. Their main destination is Camp Mabayi, then the Kibira forest. These vehicles arrive at night, filled with soldiers, and leave empty. Sometimes they transport a few soldiers who, according to reports, have been sidelined because of their opposition to the war in South Kivu.

Since August 24, 2025, on the eve of the local elections, some of these new arrivals have begun to circulate. A large number of them are believed to belong to the Military Police. Among these elements, the presence of FDLR members and about 30 snipers has been reported. The latter are said to have come to

prepare for a possible M23 offensive on Uvira and part of Burundian territory close to the DRC and Rwanda.

The presence of Rwandan elements within the National Defense Forces (FDN) is not new. According to our sources, many individuals captured in Kibira are being held at the Military Police camp in Bujumbura. Their leaders are reportedly receiving military training there before returning to their normal lives in the capital or rejoining the battlefield in the DRC. Reinforcements in the border areas with Rwanda that do not touch Kibira (Rubona, Nyamakarabo, and Rukana) are provided by soldiers and Imbonerakure, most often in uniform and armed.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

Discontent among litigants in the municipalities of Bururi and Matana, Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka League at the beginning of September indicates that in August 2025, litigants in the municipalities of Bururi and Matana in Burunga province did not benefit from the services of the courts, which are usually organized in the field during the August 2025 judicial vacation. Information from these courts confirms that field visits to enforce judgments, inspect premises, and verify enforcement had been organized, but fuel shortages made this difficult, as confirmed by the presidents of these courts. For example, the Bururi court had planned to deal with 55 cases in the field during the judicial recess, but only four were completed. The Matana court had planned to

deal with 32 cases, but only eight were completed. In Vyanda, 20 of the 40 cases planned were completed. This comes at a time when the presidents of the courts of Mugamba, Songa, and Rutovu confirm that they did not organize any visits during the recent judicial recess because they had no fuel throughout the month of August. They say that even if fuel were available, the quota of 12 liters of gasoline for their motorcycles remains insignificant given the number of visits organized. Court officials are calling for fuel to be made available and for this quota to be increased once fuel is available so that they can serve the population effectively.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY STATE AGENTS

One person killed in Gitega commune and province

On September 2, 2025, at around 5 p.m., on the Nyabisaka hillside, Ntobwe hill, Gitega commune and province, Rémégie MUREKAMBANZE, a native of Rweza hill, Mungwa area, motorcycle driver, and activist for the pro-Agathon Rwasa CNL party, was shot 22 times and killed by Butoyi Elie, a police officer who had just arrested him. According to local witnesses, the victim was with his friend Irakoze Salatiel in a bar owned by Nzayumaze Pascal, a merchant who also owns a shop. The merchant asked Rémégie and his friend for 87,000 Burundian francs, and they refused, asking instead for a bill for what they had consumed. The shopkeeper then contacted police officer Butoyi Elie, reporting that a member of the CNL was causing trouble. The police officer, accompanied by a colleague, arrived and ordered the two young men to get on two motorcycles to take them to the police station in the Mungwa area for questioning. Rémégie Murekambanze was arrested by the

police without prior explanation and was taken away on a motorcycle. He then asked the police officer who was transporting him on the motorcycle to stop for a moment so that he could buy some phone credit to tell his family that he had been intercepted. According to the same witnesses, the police officer did not accept this request and, after a brief discussion, shot Rémégie Murekambanze 22 times, killing him instantly. The victim's body was recovered by the vehicle of the administrator of the commune of Gitega, Dr. Jacques NDUWIMANA, to be taken to the morgue of the Gitega hospital, and the police officer had already fled.

Police officer Manirakiza Dismas wrote in his report that the police officer had fired because the victim had tried to grab his weapon, but this version of events is disputed by all the witnesses present, who claim that it was a premeditated murder.

Two people killed in Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province

On August 30, 2025, at around 8 p.m., on Rugerero hill, Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province, J.Berchmans Siryuyumusi and a woman named Nathalie Harakandi were killed.

According to local sources, the two had spent the evening together having a drink at a bar owned by Mr. Claude, located in the commercial center of Rugerero hill.

At around 8 p.m., the two headed to Nathalie Harakandi's home, where her husband had not yet returned. Floribert Havugiyaremye, Nathalie Harakandi's husband, after

learning from his neighbors that a man had broken into his house, arrived with a group of five young Imbonerakure.

When they arrived at the house, they began beating J.Berchmans and Nathalie. At around 9 p.m., the neighbors alerted the authorities, but neither the authorities nor the police intervened until much later.

Upon arriving at the scene, the administrator of the commune of Gisagara, accompanied by the communal police commissioner of Gisagara, found that the two individuals were in critical condition. They took them to Murore Hospital in the Gisagara commune's van.

II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY STATE AGENTS (the following of page 9)

Both individuals died after arriving at the hospital. Floribert Havugiyaremye and two Imbonerakure members involved in this

despicable act are currently being held in the Gisagara municipal police station

Pregnant Congolese traders killed in Cibitoke, Bujumbura province

On the night of September 2-3, 2025, on Nyamitanga hill in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province, a pregnant Congolese trader was shot dead by a Burundian soldier as she attempted to cross the Rusizi River with ten cans of fuel. "We heard more than ten gunshots. It was like an ambush," said a young man.

According to local witnesses, the victim was known for her courage and regularly crossed the river to supply fuel to the residents of

Bukinanyana affected by the shortage. "The soldier didn't fire into the air to scare her, he aimed directly at her," accused a village elder.

The body was taken to the morgue, but the anger of the residents has not subsided. The villagers are demanding that the soldier in question be brought to justice. This tragedy is part of a context of severe fuel shortages in Burundi, which is driving many residents to cross illegally into the DRC to survive.

II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED IN SETTLING OF SCORES

A woman killed in Musongati commune, Burunga province

On August 31, 2025, at around 8 p.m., on Runyoni Hill, Musongati commune, Burunga province, Anastasie Nahayo was attacked and killed with a spear by her relatives. According to local witnesses, they stabbed her in the left leg with a spear and struck her on the head with a machete. The same witnesses added that the attack was

motivated by land disputes, as she did not get along with two of her nephews, Gervais and Salvator. The alleged perpetrators, including Gervais, Salvator, and Janvier, were arrested and taken to Rutana Central Prison. They were held overnight by neighbors, and the next day the police came and arrested them.

A lifeless body found in Bugendana Commune, Gitega Province

Information received by the Iteka League on September 1, 2025, indicates that on August 31, 2025, at around 9 a.m., on the Rukororwa hillside, Bigera hill, Rwisabi area, Bugendana commune, and Gitega Province, the lifeless body of 65-year-old Ngenge Nicodème was found in his own home. The body was lying in his living room, the door to the house ajar, with a knife stuck in his neck. According to our local source, the deceased was in conflict with his two sons, Niyonzima Stany and Niyiriho Fidèle, as well as some of his neighbors, and it was the neighbors who raised the alarm by shouting that Ngenge had been killed during the night.

Immediately, OPJ Rwankineza, the municipal commissioner, the municipal executive secretary, and other police officers went to the scene of the crime and searched the home of Ndabarushimana Emmanuel, a neighbor of the victim, where they discovered bloodstained clothes.

According to our source, these clothes were the ones Emmanuel was wearing the day before when he was with his son Niyiriho Fidèle. The two sons of the deceased and Emmanuel were arrested for investigation into the circumstances of the murder and taken to the police cell in Mutaho.

II.1.1.3. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

A lifeless body found in Gitega commune and province

On September 2, 2025, in the Shatanya neighborhood of Gitega commune and province, the lifeless body of Jean Marie, aged 60, originally from Nyamagana hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, was discovered on the soccer field. According to local witnesses, the deceased worked as a security guard at one of the pharmacies in the neighborhood. Our source specifies that his body had no injuries, but blood was found

around his mouth. The neighborhood chief, Asumani NDAYISHIMIYE, said that the victim died after consuming a highly alcoholic drink known as Kick. The neighborhood chief and police officer Manirakiza Sylvestre decided to take the body to the Gitega regional hospital for further examination and to wait for his family to arrive to arrange the funeral.

A dead body found in the commune and province of Gitega

On September 01, 2025, in the Shatanya district, Gitega commune and province, a lifeless body of Misigaro Maxime, 81 years old, from Rushanga hill, Bugendana commune, was found lying in a gutter, with wounds on the forehead. According to local

witnesses, the victim did not have a safe place to shelter, he lived under a fence under which he was found. The municipal administration took the decision to bury the body without investigation.

A lifeless body found in the Gishubi municipality, Gitega province

Information received from the Iteka League on September 4, 2025, indicates that on August 31, 2025, on Rurimbi Hill, in the Gishubi commune of the Gitega province, the lifeless body of Ntanyungu Capitoline, aged 80, was found lying on her bed. Her house

and her small bedroom were locked, as confirmed by one of the deceased's family members. The deceased lived alone in her house. The family and the administration decided to proceed with the burial.

A lifeless body found in Rumonge municipality, Burunga province

On September 04, 2025, on the banks of the Murembwe River near Gozi hill, on Gitsinda hill, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, A lifeless body of a former ex-FAB soldier, Apollinaire Nduwamungu, from Gozi hill in

Matana commune (former Mugamba commune) was found. According to local witnesses, his body had injuries on his head, which suggests that he was killed with a club. The motive for the crime is not known.

A lifeless body found in the municipality of Bururi, Burunga province

On September 4, 2025, on Gitwaro Hill, Binyuro Zone in Bururi Commune, Burunga Province, a lifeless body, visibly strangled after blows received, of Athanase Manirakiza, retired from the Burundian police, was discovered in a tripsacum field ten meters from the path on his native Gitwaro hill. The victim's body had marks on his neck and blood in his nose and mouth. According to local witnesses, he had disappeared on September 2, 2025 when he

had just withdrawn an unknown amount of money from the Rheza post office. According to the same witnesses, the phone and the identity of the victim were found in his clothes and his shirt covered in blood. Alexis Nijimbere, head of Gitwaro Hill, confirms the facts and indicates that the body of the deceased has been taken to the morgue of the Kiremba hospital pending the outcome of the investigations.

II.1.1.3. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS (the following of page 11)

One person killed in the municipality and province of Gitega

On September 04, 2025, on Ntobwe Hill, Mungwa Zone, Gitega commune and province, Doris BIMENYIMANA, 16 years old, from Rusiga Hill, Rugombo Commune, Bujumbura Province was stabbed to death in the afternoon. According to witnesses in the locality, the victim was murdered while he was making doughnuts with Chartier NSHIMIRIMANA from Nyarunazi hill, Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province. According to testimonies, the two young people were in the orphanage located in the Ntobwe district, commonly known as "AGROBU". It was at this location that the

fatal attack took place. The circumstances and motive for the murder remain unknown because the neighbors saw him near this so-called friend without him screaming for help. The investigating officer Mpawenayo Jeanine, accompanied by other police officers, went to the scene and proceeded to arrest the presumed perpetrator and ordered the transport of the victim's body to the morgue of Gitega Hospital. Sylvestre NIYONKURU, the head of the Ntobwe hill, emphasizes that this young man suspected in this crime is currently in the hands of the police for investigative reasons.

A lifeless body found in the municipality of Karuzi, Gitega province

On September 1, 2025, around 8 PM on Nzibariba Hill, Buhiga Zone, Karuzi municipality, Gitega province, the lifeless body of Edith, a member of the CNDD FDD, aged over 45, was found in a ditch on that hill of origin. According to local sources, since the evening of August 31, 2025, she had been drunk and shouting loudly while at home when her husband Cishahayo Sébastien was not at home. She used to wander into other families whenever she had a dispute with her husband and spend several days elsewhere, according to the same source. That day, she wanted to take her two small grandchildren, but the neighbors refused her and called her husband, who told them to let her go wherever she wanted, but to keep her children. When her husband returned around 11 p.m. on August 31, 2025, as he

was at the Buhiga center, he found only the two children at their grandparents' house. The day before, she was found dead in a ditch where large trees had been dug up. The local and communal authorities called an OPJ and a doctor from the Buhiga hospital who did a constant and the autopsy of the body and took an ambulance to evacuate the body to the morgue of the Buhiga hospital. Three of the victim's brothers refused and first asked for the results of the autopsy. As professional secrecy does not allow the results to be disclosed, they and their neighbors resisted until 6 p.m. but they finally accepted and the lifeless body was put in the morgue to be buried on September 5, 2025. The victim's body had a wound at the level of the head towards the back.

A lifeless body found in the municipality and province of Gitega

On September 3, 2025, around 7 PM, on the banks of Bwoga hill, in the commune and province of Gitega, the lifeless body of Simbare Ambroise, aged 74, married and father of nine children, originally from and residing on the same hill, a retiree from BRARUDI, in a state of decomposition, was

found in the Ruvyironza River, separating the communes of Gitega and Nyabihanga. Besides the advanced state of decomposition of the body, signs of severe injuries were observed on the head, suggesting that he was struck with a heavy object such as a club.

II.1.1.3. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS (the following of page 12)

According to witnesses in the area, the victim had been missing since August 30, 2025. OPJ Nahayo Léandre, accompanied by police from the Civil Protection, went to the scene, recovered the body, and transported it to the morgue of Gitega hospital. Neighbors of the

victim suspect that this murder is linked to conflicts arising from the sale of a family plot valued at 200 million FBU, a transaction to which not all household members had agreed.

A lifeless body found in the Makebuko commune of Gitega province

Information received by the Iteka League on September 5, 2025 indicates that on August 05, 2025, on Gitanga sub-hill, makebuko hill, Makebuko commune of Gitega province, a lifeless body of Niyuhire Pamphile, aged 60, son of Gahungu Jean and Basabakwishi Cécile, was found hanging in his house.

According to some local sources, the police considered that this man committed suicide while some suspect that he had his throat slit and hung in his house. The family and neighbors of the deceased have taken the measure to make the burial on the same day on August 05, 2025.

A young child was killed in Bugendana Commune in Gitega Province

On the night of August 31, 2025, in the Biharahata sub-hill, Kinyinya hill, Rwisabi area, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, a child named Dusenge Fiston, two years old, was killed. According to testimonies gathered, his mother, Ndabarushimana Audacienne, was in the kitchen when she returned to the main house and found her son already dead. The woman reportedly screamed and called for help, but no one came to her aid. Further according to our source, neighbors, alerted by the situation, rushed over and took the mother with the child's body to the police

station, accusing her of being the perpetrator of the murder. She defended herself, claiming that unidentified individuals who entered her house committed the act before fleeing. Officer Rwankineza Georges, who arrived at the scene, confirmed that the mother was not responsible for her child's death. He specified that two people have been arrested, one of whom was wearing blood-stained clothes. These two suspects, whose identities are not yet known, are being held in the police cell in Mutaho, pending further investigations.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. CASES OF TORTURE

A child tortured in Musongati commune, Burunga province

On September 4, 2025, on the Gakungu hill and zone, Musongati commune, Burunga province, Olivier Twigumanire, 17 years old, was beaten by police officers and J.Baptiste Niyongabire and Jonas son of Maheshwa, Imbonerakure of the same Gakungu hill using sticks and chicottes. According to sources on the ground, Olivier Twigumanire, whose mother is the zonal leader of the UPRONA party, was tortured by accusing him that he stole the essence of Ruwaya who is the trader of the said product

on this Gakungu hill as well as from the hills of his entourage. While the act was done by an alleged thief recognized on this hill called Franck who fled as soon as he heard that the boy Olivier had already been captured. According to the same sources, this child, Olivier Twigumanire, after this torture, was forced by the police of this hill along with the hill chief, civil status chief Barahekenywa J. Claude, and the recently appointed zone chief of Gakungu, Login, to pay a sum of four hundred sixty thousand Burundian francs

II.2.1. CASES OF TORTURE (the following of page 13)

(460,000 fbu) for this fuel trader. As a result, for Olivier to be released from the case, he sold his plot given by his father. His older brothers Sylvain Nkuzimana and Donatien Manirakiza, who tried to intervene by asking

for help here and there, were arrested by the police at the Gakungu hill post and were put in the cell of the Gakungu post located at the chief town of the Gakungu zone, commune Musongati, province Burunga.

II.2.2. CASES OF GBV

A woman chased away in Muramvya Commune, Gitega Province

Information received by the Iteka League on September 1, 2025 indicates that on August 30, 2025, on Masango Hill, Muramvya area and commune, Gitega Harerimana province, Soline, 39, was beaten and chased out of the matrimonial home by her husband Nibaruta Methoda, 41 years old. According to local witnesses, they were all farmers, of different

social classes and the husband complained that he had made a mistake by marrying a woman of Tutsi social class. He hit his wife telling her "will suffer iwanyu wa bwoko bubi we". The victim has filed a complaint and her husband has been in the police cell in Muramvya since August 4 awaiting the trial.

II.2.3. CASES OF SGBV

An insane girl raped in Muramvya commune

On August 29, 2025, around 5 p.m. on Gikonge Hill, Bukeye Zone, Muramvya Commune, Gitega Province, N A, aged 16, living with mental disability, fatherless was raped by Nibaruta Gédéon, 63 years old, farmer. According to local sources, the victim was herding goats, the perpetrator gave him a 500 fbu note to agree to sleep with him.

According to the same sources, two other children who were nearby called passers-by and the perpetrator was caught red-handed. They tied him up and took him to the Bukeye police station, while the victim was taken to Giko Hospital and medical tests confirmed the act. The author is incarcerated in Muramvya Central Prison.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

Seven people arrested in the municipality of Rumonge, Burunga province

On September 3, 2025, on Gatete Hill, Rumonge municipality, Burunga province, Ntahondabasigiye Josephine, Niragira Caroline, Sindakirimana Donavine, Mpanzamaso Kazire, Mbangukirwe Séverin, Binyaruka Bernard, and Basirimba Onésime were arrested for opposing the expropriation of their land located in the Gatete area, Rumonge municipality, Burunga province. Representing a dozen families, these individuals are being prosecuted for rebellion against a decision by the Republic's prosecutor's office.

According to local sources, these individuals are involved in a long-standing land dispute

concerning a property located on the aforementioned hill. The disputed land is claimed by twelve families but has been named "Nkurunziza City" and is currently managed by a certain Benjamin Bikorimana, whom these families accuse of being responsible for their detention.

The case has already been brought before the court of residence in Rumonge, opposing the representatives of the affected families to Mr. Bikorimana. The lawyer for the families denounces a manifest judicial imbalance. According to him, if justice finds it necessary to suspend activities at this site, this decision should apply to both parties in conflict, and

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS (the following of page 14)

not just one.

He also criticizes the violation of articles 154 and 155 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, asserting that his clients were arrested without a warrant and without prior notification from a competent judicial authority. He requests their immediate release so that the land dispute can be examined in a fair trial. The families have claimed ownership of the land since 2012 and assert that they have been unjustly expropriated. They accuse Benjamin Bikorimana of having used false documents to sign engagement acts in their name. A complaint has been filed regarding this matter, but the case has not yet been judged.

"We do not understand why our representatives are being arrested when the file on the false documents has not even been examined by the judiciary," one of the residents laments.

Police sources indicate that the arrested individuals continued to cultivate the land

despite a formal ban issued by the public prosecutor. But the families claim they have never been legally deprived of their rights to this land, denouncing the involvement of certain local authorities in their expropriation.

Many authorities are hiding behind this Bikorimana Benjamin, an influential militant of the CNDD FDD party. They have divided this property of about 65 hectares among themselves. They also signed engagement documents with certain families for the transfer of their properties. Other families refused, and it is they who are being persecuted.

The Rumonge prosecutor's office went to have them sign a commitment document on September 5, 2025, so they would agree no longer to exploit these properties in order for them to be released, but these individuals rejected this proposal from the Republic's prosecutor's office in Rumonge, preferring to remain in detention according to information gathered from their lawyer.

A person arrested in Mukaza municipality, Bujumbura province

On September 3, 2025, in the Rumuri neighborhood (formerly Nyakabiga III), on 11th Avenue, in the Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, Marius Muhirwa, a journalist with the National Radio and Television, was arrested and taken to the judicial police cell. According to sources close to the victim, he is accused of fraud. He had promised a certain Chanel, an employee of Molena City bar, to secure a teaching position for his wife if he gave him four million Burundian francs. Marius then transferred this money to a person named Léonce, who

was presented as someone capable of facilitating the job acquisition. As the position was never granted, Chanel demanded the refund of the amount, and Marius committed in writing to do so, but the agreed deadline passed without him keeping his promise. Chanel turned to the police, leading to Marius's arrest. The journalist was initially held in the dungeon of the Rohero area until around 3 PM, before being transferred to the BSR.

A journalist arrested by the SNR in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province

On September 3, 2025, in Nyakabiga, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, around 5 PM, Norbert Rucabihari, a journalist from the online media Buja 24, was arrested while in a bistro. He was approached by individuals looking for him, armed with his photo, and then taken away in a taxi

towards the headquarters of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Rohero, near the Regina Mundi cathedral. According to sources who followed the case, he was interrogated about information published by the Net Press newspaper regarding the war in Eastern DRC. He was acquitted after

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS (the following of page 15)

proving that he no longer worked for that media outlet and by showing his professional card. Many wonder if journalists from the Net Press newspaper are under scrutiny by the SNR. This event highlights a procedural flaw,

as press offenses are primarily the responsibility of the National Communication Council before being transferred to judicial authorities. This reflects a regression of freedom of expression and opinion in Burundi.

A person arrested in the commune of Karuzi, Gitega province

Since September 2, 2025, on Nzibariba hill, Buhiga area, Karuzi municipality, Gitega province, Nepomuscène, a 34-year-old member of the CNDD FDD, has been arrested and imprisoned by the Buhiga area police. According to local witnesses, the reasons for his incarceration are that he called the husband of the deceased Edith, who was found dead on September 1, 2025, on the

same hill. According to his relatives, when the deceased was screaming due to intoxication, Nepomuscène, her close neighbor, called her husband informing him of what his wife was doing when she wanted to leave with two small children. Therefore, in response to pressure from the deceased's brothers and other family members, the police had to arrest this man for

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Concerns of parents after the determination of the passing score in the National Exam

During its cabinet meeting on August 28, 2025, the Burundian government validated the success rate for the national examination for 9th-grade students as presented by the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research.

In its statement, signed and read by the Secretary General of State, it was specified that the minimum passing score for the national certification and orientation examination to post-fundamental education for the year 2025 is 70 out of 200, or 35%.

This score also emphasizes that only public schools with boarding facilities require a

minimum score of 98/200, or 49%, to grant access.

Parents of students and other stakeholders in the field are questioning the quality of education and expressing concern about the future of education in Burundi.

This comes at a time when several sources reveal the poor conditions in which students, in particular, and schools, in general, are located.

Basically, the Burundian government aims to create a suitable learning environment and establish adapted school programs.

II.2. RIGHT TO HEALTH

Shortage of medications in the Health Centers of the Mwaro and Nyabihanga Commune

In several Health Centers in Mwaro and Nyabihanga commune in Gitega Province, patients report a shortage of medicines when they go there for treatment. The medical staff

shows up, conducts consultations, and advises patients to go buy medications at nearby pharmacies. Some members of the medical staff hang out outside for lack of work.

IV. CONCLUSION ET RECOMMENDATIONS

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

To the Gitega government:

- ⇒ Take measures to prevent intentional homicides, including infanticides and settling of scores;
- ⇒ Investigate homicides and identify those responsible in order 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 and health for all citizens, without discrimination;
- ⇒ Break away from interference in the conflicts of other countries and protect its national borders to guarantee security for all Burundians.