



Anyone should be respected

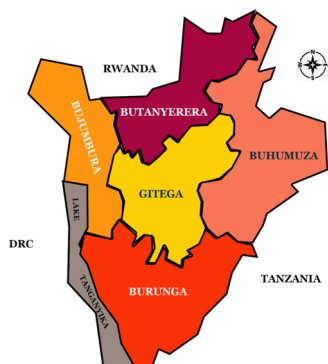
BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY BULLETIN

"Iteka n'Ijambo"

N°491 from 8 to 14 Septembre 2025

Approved by Ministerial Statutory Instrument N°. 530/0273 of November 10th, 1994 revising Order Nr. 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 September 14, 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 victims to the Government of Burundi.

¹<https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

The Iteka League:

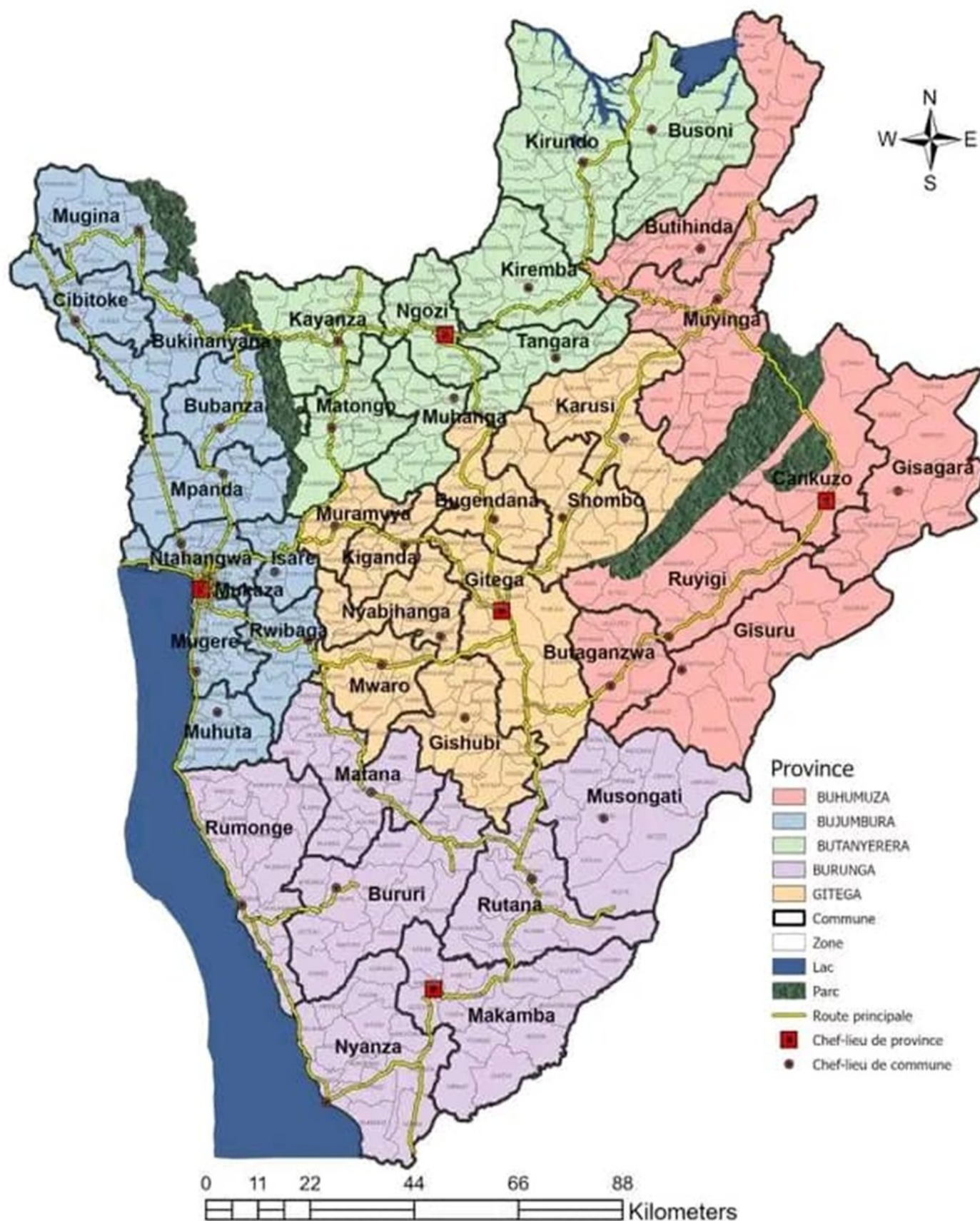
- ♦ "Is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH),
- ♦ has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236 and is a member of ECOSOC.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

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ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BSR	: <i>Special Research Office</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy - Defense Forces of Democracy</i>
CNIDH	: <i>Independent National Commission on Human Rights</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Freedom</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental 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>
ISABU	: <i>Institute of Agronomic Sciences of Burundi</i>
M23	: <i>March 23 Movement</i>
OBPE	: <i>Burundian Office for Environmental Protection</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
PNB	: <i>National Police of Burundi</i>
RDC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</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>

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the situation of human rights in Burundi during the week of September 8 to 14, 2025. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, security, judicial, humanitarian, and environmental 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 Iteka League are as follows : at least 10 people killed, including 6 bodies found lifeless, 2 tortured individuals, 5 victims of GBVs including 2 victims of SGBV. It should be noted that 14 artisanal miners died as a result of a landslide in a gold deposit in Kibira, Butahana area, Mugina commune in Bujumbura province.

The main suspects of these violations are administrative agents, police officers, military, and young Imbonerakure of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Adoption of a bill aimed at amending the law of January 5, 2011 establishing the National Independent Commission on Human Rights (CNIDH)

The National Assembly of Burundi made a unanimous decision to adopt a draft law on September 11, 2025, regarding an amendment to the law of January 5, 2011, relating to the establishment of the National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH). This legislative initiative follows a climate of contestation concerning the autonomy of the CNIDH. The fact that this reform was approved unanimously by the deputies demonstrates a consensus on the need to readjust the functioning of the commission.

It should be noted that the CNIDH recently renewed its composition with the addition of seven new commissioners, who were chosen after the collective resignation of their predecessors, the latter having faced accusations of dysfunction. This situation led to a swift reorganization of the commission. Among the new members, Monsignor Martin Blaise Nyaboho was appointed president, receiving 93 votes out of 114, alongside vice-president Gérard Rugerintwaza and secretary

Béatrice Nkurunziza, as well as four other members.

However, the new composition of the CNIDH raises questions about its independence and effectiveness, mainly due to its close relationship with the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD, and the lack of diversity in the opinions and backgrounds of the members. The election of Monsignor Nyaboho to the presidency raises concerns regarding his alleged closeness to the ruling party, as well as doubts about its ability to lead a truly independent CNIDH.

Critics also point out a lack of diversity in approaches and references regarding human rights within the commission. Although the presence of four Hutus and three Tutsis is seen as an effort at inclusivity, it does not seem sufficient to ensure the independence and effectiveness of the commission.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

Furthermore, the CNIDH finds itself in a critical situation marked by internal tensions and political pressures. The former president of the CNIDH has been forced to flee the country, and the new leadership is facing increasing challenges that threaten its ability to act independently and effectively. The evaluation of the new team leaves some observers perplexed, who fear that it lacks

the necessary skills to effectively advocate for human rights. These elements fuel doubts about the CNIDH's ability to protect human rights independently and impartially. In conclusion, the Iteka League emphasizes that these various factors raise legitimate questions regarding the independence and effectiveness of the CNIDH, as well as its ability to adequately defend human rights in Burundi.

A UPRONA party member mistreated in the Musongati commune, Burunga province

On the hill and in the Giharo area of the Musongati commune, Burunga province, Désiré Hakizimana, the chief of the Giharo area and an influential member of the CNDD-FDD party, has illegally seized arable land belonging to Elias Kagoma, who was cultivating this land in the Munyundo swamp. The latter had begun to transplant rice seeds when Hakizimana abruptly interrupted his activities.

According to local testimonies, Hakizimana indeed stopped Kagoma's farming under the pretext of his position as area chief. Subsequently, during the appointment of local authorities as 'area chiefs, Hakizimana was re-elected to his position, which resulted in threats against Kagoma. He expressed his intention to expel Kagoma from the Munyundo swamp, claiming the right to act by any means necessary, even going so far as to threaten his life.

In this context, Hakizimana took possession

of the contested arable land and began to cultivate it coercively. Furthermore, he hired an individual named Bède to demolish Kagoma's kiosk, in order to build his own, clearly obeying Hakizimana's orders. After these actions, Elias Kagoma turned to justice, where Judge President Eliphaz was assigned to the case. Despite the call for a judicial resolution, the situation remained unchanged, with Bède continuing his constructions without any decision being rendered.

A notable aspect of this matter is the absence of communication from Judge Eliphaz, despite Kagoma's requests for information about the progress of his complaint. Meanwhile, Bède's illegal activities continue unchecked, leaving Elias Kagoma in a critical situation. He finds himself in need of external assistance to rectify this injustice of which he is a victim at the hands of Hakizimana.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

The security context during the period of this report was characterized by the following highlights:

14 gold miners dead following an accident at a gold site in Kibira, Butahana area, Mugina commune in Bujumbura province

On September 11, 2025, an accident occurred after heavy rains caused a landslide that swept away 14 gold diggers according to the testimony of survivors who requested anonymity. This most serious accident took place in Kibira, Butahana area, Mugina commune, in Bujumbura province where Burundian President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE has been leading extensive and intense gold mining activities since the beginning of 2025.

These survivors, fearing reprisals from the presidential guard troops supervising these activities, remain trapped in their homes because their testimony differs from that of the military, who reported only one death.

For this accident, the military refused a police investigation or any descent by the administrative authority.

The only person declared dead is from Gasebeyi, Ruhororo area. The others, who are not yet identified because they remained underground, are from the Butahana area,

Mugina commune. Their families, without news of their loved ones, remain in fear and prefer to keep silent for fear of being the target of reprisals by the military who have denied access to the administration, even to rescuers.

According to a military source, these activities have brought in over 40 kilos to the president in 7 months. A controversy arose from this quantity which caused a lot of noise, which was one of the reasons for the replacement of Ibrahim UWIZEYE, who was reportedly a close collaborator of President NDAYISHIMIYE in the fraudulent sale of gold from the BRB as well as that from the DRC and Kibira, whose main suppliers are the FDLR rebels.

According to the same source, this accident is the second in less than two months, where the first one claimed the life of a gold panner from Ruhororo, in the Ruhororo area of Mugina municipality.

A mother and her daughter injured by a machete in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province

On September 9, 2025, on Bubondo Hill, in the area and former municipality of Mugina, was the scene of an attack of violence that shocked the community. A mother and daughter were injured with machetes as a result of the ongoing land disputes.

According to testimonies collected on the spot, Mrs. Immaculée Mukeshimana, 65, and her daughter Calinie Nzokira, 22, had just arrived in their one-hectare field. This land had recently been acquired after a long legal battle. As they were about to work on it, they were violently attacked by people armed with machetes. A resident of Bubondo, still in shock, said: "We heard screams coming from

the field. When we arrived, they were bathed in their blood.

The Mukeshimana family had alerted their neighbours: for several days, they had been receiving death threats. "They were told clearly that they would be killed if they dared to cultivate this land," confided another local source. The two victims were rushed to a health center for treatment, according to doctors.

Local sources are pointing fingers at two young men from the hill, known by the names Ntakiruta alias Kayuki and

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

Mani alias Gikoko. They are said to be affiliated with the ruling party among the Imbonerakure and fled immediately after the assault.

Contacted, the administrator of the Mugina commune confirmed the opening of an investigation in collaboration with the police. "We call on the population to remain calm. Justice will do its job," he stated. The hill of Bubondo

is no stranger to tragedy. In just three months, two women and one man have already lost their lives in similar violence. Land disputes, frequent in this fertile area, lead to bloody settling of scores. A notable from Mugina is worried: "If nothing is done, these conflicts risk igniting the entire commune. Families live in constant fear."

A house burned down on Kaguhu hill, Bwasare area, Muyinga municipality, in the Buhumuza province: a fundamental right violated

On September 10, 2025, during that significant night, a tragic event occurred on Kaguhu Hill, in the Bwasare region. The house of Jean Claude Bangayijunja, who was absent that day, was set on fire. All of Jean Claude's belongings were destroyed in this disaster, which, beyond the material losses, represents a severe violation of the right to safety and private property. Preliminary investigations point to the existence of a marital conflict, highlighting the ex-wife of the owner as a potential suspect. If this hypothesis is confirmed, it would reveal a case

of domestic violence, shedding light on the fragility of many families who must face social tensions and the lack of adequate protective measures. Members of the local community express their outrage at the inaction of law enforcement agencies as well as local security organizations, including the Imbonerakure, often associated with such serious criminal acts. The residents call on the authorities about their fundamental responsibility to ensure safety and to protect individual rights against any form of violation.

1.3. HUMANITY CONTEXT

Congolese refugees massively arrested in Cibitoke, in the Bujumbura province, a security and humanitarian concern

Since September 8, the province of Bujumbura has been the scene of a large-scale police operation, carefully orchestrated in collaboration with the imbonerakure. This initiative aims to target Congolese refugees who crossed the border since February 15, in response to the growing instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). On the ground, testimonies reveal that the police forces of Bujumbura, with the support of the provincial police station of Cibitoke and the imbonerakure, have engaged in sweep operations in various border sectors, notably in Gasenyi-Buganda (Bukinanyana municipality) and the Rukana area (Cibitoke municipality). From the first day of this operation, 152 refugees have been

apprehended. The next day, September 9, the number of arrests saw an explosion, reaching 426 people expelled. Additionally, in the areas of Nyakagunda (kera yitwa Mparambo I), Rubuye, and Kaswahili, 578 more refugees were forced to leave their homes. In just two days, a total of 578 Congolese were captured in this province. Residents of the affected areas report that at dawn, movement restrictions were imposed: vehicles were immobilized, streets were blocked, and houses were surrounded. Police forces offered refugees to head to the official camps of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or return to Uvira (DRC).

1.3. HUMANITY CONTEXT (the following of page 8)

A Congolese refugee encountered in Gasenyi-Buganda expressed his great distress by stating: "We did nothing, we lived in peace with our Burundian neighbors. The camps are unlivable. If we are forced to stay there, we would rather return to Congo despite the dangers."

A police source, who chose to remain anonymous, expressed concerns about a possible collusion between some refugees and armed groups in eastern Congo, particularly the M23. This source indicated that "some receive external aid, which creates jealousy. But most importantly, we have information about possible links with rebel movements, thereby threatening the country's security." Regarding the return to Uvira, a major obstacle arose when the first convoys of refugees halted at Buganda and Rukana were unable to pass due to a blockade apparently set up by the Wazalendo fighters on the other side of the river.

Currently, hundreds of refugees are held in the police yard in Gatumba, without any immediate solution. Witnesses report that families are crammed there, lacking food and

without any guarantee of safety. The prolonged presence of these refugees outside the camps seems to exacerbate the socio-economic frustrations of the Burundian residents, further fueled by the perception that international aid favors refugees at the expense of local populations. The alleged involvement of the M23 and other transboundary armed groups further complicates security management in this situation. The repatriation to an unstable region of the DRC exposes these refugees to potential armed violence. Their forced detention in Gatumba is thus leading to an imminent humanitarian crisis. The continuation of this police operation could intensify tensions between Burundian authorities, local communities, and Congolese refugees. It is therefore imperative to initiate mediation involving the UNHCR and regional organizations to prevent a worsening of security and a humanitarian disaster at the border between Burundi and the DRC.

1.4. ENVIRONEMENTAL CONTEXT

Environmental and economic losses due to bushfires in the Mwaro and Nyabihan-ga municipalities of Gitega province

The province of Gitega has recently suffered significant damage. Between July and August, more than 189 hectares of forests and pastures were destroyed by fires in the communes of Mwaro and Nyabihanga. The Burundian Office for Environmental Protection (OBPE) attributes this situation to certain risky agricultural practices and acts of vandalism. Local authorities also emphasize an impunity that contributes to this issue. Among the most affected areas is the experimental site of the Institute of Agricultural Sciences of Burundi (ISABU) in Gisozi, where more than 60 hectares have been completely destroyed. A communal official of the OBPE stated that this loss is considerable for both research and forest conservation. The causes of the fires seem to be multiple. Part of the incidents is

associated with the burning practices carried out by farmers during the plowing season, a method that is often difficult to control. Additionally, environmental authorities also mention cases of vandalism. According to the same official, the reckless use of fire in fields could quickly lead to uncontrollable fires. On the side of administrative authorities, impunity is highlighted as a contributing factor. A local official, wishing to remain anonymous, reported that some suspects receive political protection. He stated that even when individuals are Apprehended, they are quickly released thanks to their links with the CNDD-FDD party. Consequently, the repetitions of incidents increase, leaving the population with a feeling of abandonment.

I.4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT (the following of page 9)

In these affected hills, concern is growing. The losses concern not only the environment but also impact the local economy: reduction of pastures, threat to crops, and weakening of forest cover. Residents are calling for strict measures, with a local herder stating that it is necessary to impose severe penalties to deter these irresponsible behaviors that disrupt the province's economy. As fires become an annual occurrence, the question of the authorities'

responsibility is raised once again. The inhabitants demand concrete actions in terms of prevention, sanctions, and awareness. Indeed, in the municipalities of Mwaro and Nyabihanga, the dry season has not only brought high temperatures but has also left a devastated landscape, a witness to an environmental and economic crisis that needs to be managed more effectively.

The fragility of environmental protection in the Vugizo area, Nyanza municipality, Burunga province

In the Vugizo area (Former Vugizo commune) of the large Nyanza commune in the Burunga province, environmental protection is flawed and still fragile due to bushfires that are ravaging forests and natural reserves in the eyes of the local administration and the population, due to the lack of drastic preventive measures before the dry season, but also due to insufficient environmental personnel in this area.

Indeed, since 10/9/2025, the artificial reserve of Mount Nkojima, composed of trees planted under the World Bank project in 1986, has been on fire without any intervention from either the population or the environmental service employees.

Thousands of trees are being unprecedentedly destroyed by these bushfires and adverse consequences are expected from this environmental destruction, particularly

erosion and drought; destruction of the fields of local residents and so on. Still concerning the environment, the commercialization of juices from Burundian or Tanzanian production stored in plastics poses future dangers to the environment if nothing is done; single-use plastics are multiplying day by day and within a few years, all the hills will be covered with these plastics, leading to air pollution and total destruction of the environment.

As for the observers of the DH; the best would be to come together with the owners of these juice manufacturing plants in order to find mechanisms to regularly burn these plastic waste before damage occurs. The ministry responsible for environmental protection must take the lead on this initiative in collaboration with the operators of these juice manufacturing plants.

1.5. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

An abnormal situation observed at the high court of Kayanza, in the province of Butanyerera

For some time now, a concerning phenomenon has been observed in Kayanza: an increasing number of traders are appearing before the court of first instance, more specifically before the prosecutor's office. Notably, these proceedings mainly take place in the evening, after daily activities have closed.

Upon their arrival, most of these traders are presented with an arrest warrant issued by the police. The charges against them vary: unjustified price increases, fraud, sale of prohibited beverages, or other practices deemed illegal. This procedure raises many concerns about the regularity of the methods used.

Indeed, it appears that in several cases, the individuals apprehended are not directly taken to prison but are held until they pay a sum of money, commonly referred to as

'bribes', to the prosecutor. Those who comply are released in the night, while those who refuse to comply are incarcerated.

It is also reported that the prosecutor extends his activities late into the night, sometimes until 11 PM, carrying out releases or incarcerations based on the payments made. This mode of operation fuels a widely held perception that the prosecutor in question systematically accepts bribes, thereby compromising the credibility and impartiality of the judicial institution.

These practices constitute a serious violation of the rule of law and undermine citizens' trust in justice. They highlight the urgent need to strengthen mechanisms of control and transparency within judicial institutions to ensure fair and impartial treatment of litigants.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE

A community leader killed on Karanzi hill, Muramba area, Bubanza commune in Bujumbura province

On September 10, 2025, the Iteka League received information about a tragic event that occurred on September 7, 2025, on the hill of Karinzi, in the Muramba area of the Bubanza commune, in the province of Bujumbura. A young community leader was attacked by 6 young imbonerakure, including a girl. The attack happened around 9 PM as the victim was returning home with a friend, who managed to escape. The victim did not survive the blows inflicted by these assailants.

The atmosphere in this agricultural locality is very heavy, and the usual silence of the area is disturbed by whispers mingled with fear and faces marked by concern. The victim, a

respected community leader for his commitment to health and solidarity, was well known to everyone. A neighbor, visibly affected by this loss, said: 'He was a good man, always ready to advise, help families, and mobilize young people for community initiatives.' According to witnesses, the attack was swift and brutal.

Residents say the motive for the attack could be linked to the girl and the other young Imbonerakure, with one resident saying that "they were trying to force her into prostitution."

II.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE (the following of page 11)

In an attempt to conceal their crime, the young people reportedly decided to make the two men who had seen them disappear. Although this hypothesis requires investigation for confirmation, it is causing growing anger among the families and the community.

The very next day, the situation was taken over by local authorities, who arrested the five young people trying to flee to Kabarore on September 9, 2025. The young girl was placed in police custody at the Bubanza police station. The district administrator promised a 'quick and thorough' investigation. However, in the hills, residents already fear that this case will be forgotten.

In front of the victim's house, tears and angry speeches intertwine. An elderly man, surrounded by agitated youth, declares: "It is

a barbaric murder. We want neither compromise nor backdoor negotiations." The population demands exemplary justice, with several speakers mentioning the controversial role of the Imbonerakure, often linked to political and social violence. A mother warns: "If the state does not take its responsibilities, such atrocities will happen again." In the paths of Karinzi, a climate of fear prevails and residents hesitate to go out at night.

The memories of the tragedy still haunt the witnesses. For these people, only transparent and public justice could alleviate their suffering. In the meantime, the hill is marked by anxiety and funerals, as well as calls to denounce the barbaric acts committed by the young Imbonerakure.

II.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS

Three people killed by a grenade in the Gasorwe area, Muyinga commune, Buhumuza province

On the night of September 10 to 11, 2025, around 11 p.m., a tragic event took place at the home of Gédéon Ngaruko, located on Karira hill in the Gahogo neighborhood, in the center of the Muyinga municipality, in the Buhumuza province. A grenade was thrown by individuals whose identities remain unknown, resulting in the immediate death of three members of the same family: the head of the family, his wife, and their grandson.

The explosion also destroyed their residence, obliterating the place where they had built their life. Testimonies from local residents emphasize the unacceptability of this act, deeming it a serious violation of the right to life. The motives for this attack remain uncertain, although hypotheses, including accusations of witchcraft, personal disputes, or banditry, have been put forward. The administrator of the municipality of Muyinga

emphasized that, regardless of the reasons, they can never justify the loss of human lives. He urged the population to maintain peace and promised to bring the perpetrators of these acts to justice. However, the residents express an urgent demand for concrete measures, beyond mere commitments, asking for swift, fair, and transparent investigations. They insist on the need to ensure that those who engage in such acts are held accountable.

This tragedy highlights the vulnerability of human rights in certain areas of Burundi. The residents of this locality demand enhanced security, better protection for communities, equitable access to justice for victims and their families, and active measures against impunity. Moreover, they advocate for the promotion of social peace and community harmony.

II.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS (the following of page 12)

A resident, expressing his outrage, warned: "If justice does not manifest, we will remain exposed to dangers, and everyone could be

tempted to take the law into their own hands, which could lead to an escalation of violence."

A person killed in the commune of Karuzi, Gitega province

On September 7, 2025, on Ruhata Hill, Nyaruhinda Zone, Karusi Commune, Gitega Province, MVUKIYE Michel, a member of the CNDD FDD, over 60 years old, was killed with machetes by people who have not yet been identified. According to witnesses in the

locality, his wife was able to escape with two machete blows to the arms. According to the same sources, they were accused of bewitchment. Police say they have already begun investigations.

The lifeless body of a retired military man found in Matana municipality, Burunga province.

Information received by the Iteka League on September 8, 2025 indicates that a lifeless body of Apollinaire Nduwamungu, a retired military member of the UPRONA party, from Gozi hill in the Mwumba zone, Matana commune, Burunga province was discovered on the morning of September 4, 2025 in the Murembwe valley on the Gitsinda hill of Mugamba. Sources on the scene also confirmed by the police indicate that on the

victim's head were many wounds and part of the head was open. The same sources say that he was killed with large clubs on the night of September 3, 2025 when he was returning home on Gozi Hill. Land conflicts are believed to be at the origin of the police in Mugamba. No alleged perpetrator of this murder has already been arrested, although the police confirm that they have already begun investigations.

A lifeless body was found in Lake Tanganyika, on the Rumonge side, in the Burunga province

Information received from the Iteka League on 9/9/2025 indicates that on the morning of Sunday, 7/9/2025, a lifeless body was discovered in Lake Tanganyika on the Rumonge side of Burunga province.

The person in charge of the fishing port of Busambi, located on the hill of Gatete in Rumonge municipality, Bururi province, reported that the body has been identified as that of a fisherman named Minani, who fell victim to a hippopotamus attack in Lake Tanganyika.

According to this administrative source, he becomes the 9th victim of hippopotamus attacks

in a span of two months in Rumonge municipality.

At the office of the Burundian Office for Environmental Protection (OBPE) in Rumonge, fishermen are advised not to fish near hippopotamus shelters as these animals feel threatened and develop a defense and retaliation system.

The local population is asking the authorities to take necessary measures to prevent more victims from being killed by these aquatic animals.

II.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS (the following of page 13)

The lifeless body of a man was found on Gitwaro hill, Binyuro area, Bururi municipality in Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka League on 9/9/2025 indicates that a lifeless body of a man known as Manirakiza Athanase, a hardened bachelor who was a National Police officer, son of Ryeko Bernard and Kakira Marie was discovered on the morning of Thursday 4/9/2025 in a tripsacum field ten meters from the road on his native hill Gitwaro Binyuro zone in Vyanda in Bururi commune BURUNGA province.

A member of his family says that he had been missing since Tuesday 2/9/2025, the day he went to the post office in Rweza to collect

his salary. The same sources say that he was strangled (traces on his neck and blood in his nose and mouth) by hitherto unknown people who even stole his salary because there was no money in his pockets while he had been seen collecting his salary at this post office in Rweza.

His family is asking the police to do everything possible to find out the truth about his murder. At the level of the police in Bururi, it is confirmed that investigations have already begun.

A lifeless body was found on the Gitsinda-Mugamba hill, Matana commune in the Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka League on 10/9/2025 indicates that the body of a retired military man named Appolinaire Nduwamungu, a member of the Uprona party, originally from Gozi hill in Mugamba, Matana province, BURUNGA, was found on the morning of Thursday 4/9/2025 in the Murembwe valley on Gitsinda hill in Mugamba.

head and part of his head was open. The same sources say he was killed with heavy clubs on the night of 3/9/2025 while returning home to Gozi hill. Police indicate that land conflicts may be the cause in Mugamba. No suspected perpetrator of this assassination has been arrested yet, although the police confirm they have already begun investigations.

Sources on site, also confirmed by the police, report that he had numerous injuries on his

A lifeless body found in a gutter in Ngagara, Ntakangwa commune of Bujumbura province

As of 10/9/2025, a lifeless body of a man whose identity remains unknown was found around noon, in a gutter located along Buconyori Avenue, in district 6 in the Ngagara zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province.

The motive for the crime is not yet known. According to witnesses, the body was transported from another location before being abandoned there.

The victim, completely naked and wrapped in a bag, apparently bore no visible signs of injuries, which further intrigues the inhabitants. The local administrative

authorities, including the Ngagara zone chief, quickly removed the body, which was taken to the morgue of a King Khaled hospital in Kamenge.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time that such an incident has occurred in the neighbourhood. Last August, another body was found in similar circumstances. Neither of the two men could be identified, and residents are worried about the increasing insecurity in the Ngagara area. "*Criminals kill people elsewhere and come to dump the bodies here,*" laments a resident.

II.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS (the following of page 14)

An investigation is expected to shed light on this new case and identify the perpetrators of this macabre act.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. TORTURED PERSONS

A woman and her daughter attacked with machetes by Imbonerakure in Mugina commune, Bujumbura province

On 9/9/2025, Bubondo Hill, in Mugina commune, was hit by a violent attack, seriously injuring a mother, Mrs. Immaculée Mukeshimana, 65, and her daughter Calinie Nzokira, 22. The two women, who recently bought a one-hectare field after a long dispute, were attacked as they were preparing to farm. The attackers, young Imbonerakure armed with machetes, were described by witnesses who heard screams and found the victims bloodied. The family had previously received death threats regarding the exploitation of the land. The victims were rushed to hospital and remain in critical condition. Young men, identified as

Ntakiyiruta and Mani, are suspected of being the aggressors and fled after the crime. The administrator of Mugina has announced the opening of an investigation. In the last three months, similar violence has already cost the lives of two women and one man, exacerbated by land conflicts in this fertile area. A local notable is concerned that, if the situation persists, it could lead to a general outbreak of violence in the municipality, while the victims' families demand justice. Residents are calling for a strengthened police presence, expressing their desire to cultivate their lands in peace.

II.2.2. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A 15-year-old girl raped in Ruyaga, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province

On 09/09.2025 at around 10 a.m., a girl named M. L, 15 years old, daughter of Jean Claude Bigirimana and Christine Manirakiza, resident of Gashinge sub-hill, in the Ruyaga sector, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province and 9th grade student at the basic school (ECOFO) of Bigwa, was raped by a shop trader named Nsavyimana Félix.

The latter had known her at this shop

because she often came to buy products in his shop, sent by her parents.

Afterwards, Felix invited her to his house, and it was there that he sexually abused her. The child tried to scream, but without help because the door was locked. When she returned home, she told her parents what had happened to her. She received the necessary care at the Seruka Center and as for the alleged perpetrator, he escaped.

A man injured with a machete on Kirema hill, Kayanza municipality in Butanyerera province

On September 9, 2025, around 7 PM, on Kirema hill in the Kayanza area, Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, a woman named Nduwimana Julienne injured her

husband with a machete. She struck him on the left shoulder and in the face.

The reason for this incident is that her husband came home without bringing food.

II.2.2. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (the following of page 15)

When he arrived, he asked his wife to come and sleep with him. She thought he wanted to give her money to go and get food. But the man tried to have sex aggressively, so the woman took a small machete that was in the

bedroom to defend herself. That night, the man went to the clinic, but the woman stayed at home. It is important to note that the woman was not arrested.

An allegation of sexual exploitation and impunity in the Holly Church of Kinanira, Mugere municipality in the province of Bujumbura

Serious facts implicate a certain Jean-Marie, Evangelist at the Church called Holly Church of Kinanira, accused of having exploited young girls of the same Church for the purpose of prostitution, in collaboration with an individual identified as a "boss".

One victim, K, was forced into these practices before falling ill. His parents, in search of justice, discovered that opaque financial transactions had taken place between Jean-Marie and his accomplice. Despite the seriousness of the accusations, including pimping, sexual exploitation, embezzlement, Jean-Marie continues to enjoy total impunity.

The senior pastor tried to protect the Church and excluded Jean-Marie. The latter retaliated with false accusations and misleading material claims (18 chairs donated, when there were only 4). The authorities, although informed, took no action, leaving a strong suspicion of corruption hanging.

The parents of the young girls who attend this church, as well as the Christians, are asking the judicial authorities to open an impartial investigation and to bring Jean-Marie and his accomplices to justice. They also request that law enforcement act diligently and break away from corrupt practices.

A woman seriously injured in Rugunga, Mudubugu zone, Mpanda Commune, Bujumbura Province

On 9/9/2025, on Rugunga hill, in the Mudubugu zone, Mpanda commune, Bujumbura province where a woman was seriously injured in the face by her husband.

According to sources on the ground, a domestic dispute broke out in the household following the land disputes. During the argument, the man allegedly hit his wife in the mouth, causing serious injuries. Part of his lower lip was even torn off. The victim, in critical condition, was immediately transported to a hospital where he is receiving intensive care.

The perpetrator of the attack was arrested shortly after the incident and taken to the Gihanga police cell. The head of the Rugunga hill confirmed that the case is now in the hands of the courts.

For women's rights organizations in Bubanza, this tragedy illustrates an alarming trend. They denounce the rise in domestic violence and regret that in many cases, the perpetrators escape any punishment.

"We demand that justice acts firmly in this case. This man must answer for his actions. It is a strong signal that must be sent to put an end to the impunity of violence against women,"

pleads a local activist. While the victim is still fighting for her health, civil society insists on the need for an exemplary response from the judicial authorities. Because beyond this personal tragedy, the entire community is questioning the safety of women in their homes, which are supposed to be a place of protection and not danger.

II.2.2. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (the following of page 16)

A woman assaulted in the commune of Karuzi, Gitega province

On September 10, 2025, at around 6 PM, on Magamba hill, in the Buhiga area of the Karuzi commune, Gitega province, Nyanziiriye, who is 40 years old and a member of the CNDD FDD, hit a woman who was his neighbor, Nshimirimana, aged 43, while she was with her husband, Ndayisenga, in a bar on the hill. People who witnessed the scene noted that the husband did not react, which surprised the woman.

Frustrated, on the following day, September 11, 2025, she decided to report him to the leaders of her hill, who then summoned the

aggressor. They listened to him the next day, and he justified his actions by saying that he was carrying out a mission entrusted to him by the woman's husband. He explained to the leaders that Ndayisenga, the victim's husband, had gone to consult a sorcerer to find out how to make his wife obey him. When the leaders questioned her husband, he denied everything and was ordered to pay an amount of 20,000 Fbu, while the one who hit was sentenced to pay 30,000 Fbu. to the victim

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Children from the Twa social component forced to leave school in Burunga province

In the province of Burunga, people benefiting from the Merankabandi program are asking for it to be extended.

According to statistics, about 65% of people in Burundi still live in poverty, and the Batwa families are among the most affected. However, they say they are not receiving all the help they need. Manassé Bigirimana, who speaks for the Batwa in the former province of Makamba, is saddened to see that his community is not receiving help: "The Batwa are among the poorest, but many do not receive assistance. And women with few resources turn to prostitution, while their children drop out of school."

In Rumonge commune, the advisor responsible for social and legal affairs also notes a worrying situation: due to lack of money, women are turning to prostitution and children are leaving school, endangering the future of an entire generation.

The situation is even worse due to the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika, which have destroyed homes, agricultural land, and

several essential infrastructures in the municipalities of Nyanza and Rumonge. Families already in difficulty have lost their last sources of income.

Currently, the Merankabandi program assists 250,000 households, amounting to about 1.25 million people living in 2,664 hills and neighborhoods. However, according to Bigirimana, this number is too low in relation to the needs, particularly for communities like the Batwa who are left behind.

Michel Nyabenda, who coordinates the program at the national level, acknowledges that resources are limited. They are in talks with the World Bank to consider increasing the monthly aid, which is currently 36,000 Burundian francs.

In the meantime, on the ground, some say that one meal a day has become common for some families. Mothers, already very tired, try to find precarious part-time jobs while making sacrifices to take care of their children.

III.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 12)

The people who benefit from the program, as well as those who do not have access to it, are making an urgent appeal: social assistance must be strengthened and expanded, especially in the most affected areas like Nyanza-Lac and Rumonge, to prevent an even more serious humanitarian crisis. This was stated on September 10, 2025, at the provincial capital of Burunga during a workshop for individuals involved in the implementation of this program in the province of Burunga.

IV. CONCLUSION ET RECOMMENDATIONS

The Iteka League firmly denounces 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:

- ◆ Investigate intentional homicides and discovered dead bodies, 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 victims of rape and provide them with adequate support;
- ◆ Ensure access to education for all citizens without discrimination;
- ◆ Break with its interference in the conflicts of other countries and protect its national borders to guarantee security for all Burundians.