



Anyone should be respected

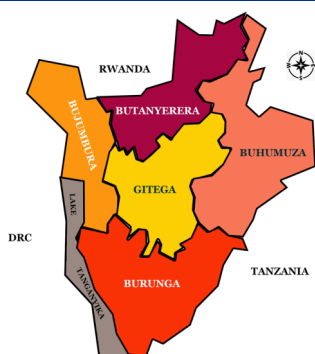
BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY BULLETIN

"Iteka n'ijambo"

N°492 from 15 to 21 Septembre 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."

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ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BSR	: <i>Special Research Bureau</i>
CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy - Defense Forces of Democracy</i>
CNIDH	: <i>National Independent Commission on Human Rights</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Freedom</i>
FAB	: <i>Burundian Armed Forces</i>
FARDC	: <i>Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the 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>National Police of Burundi</i>
RDC	: <i>Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>
RN	: <i>National Road</i>
SNR	: <i>National Enquiry Service</i>
TGI	: <i>Court of First Instance</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>
VSBG	: <i>Sexual Violence and Gender-Based Violence</i>

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0. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the situation of human rights in Burundi during the week of September 15 to 21, 2025. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, security, judicial, humanitarian, and social context. It also analyzes illustrative facts of violations of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights, including category-specific rights, particularly the rights of children.

The human rights violations noted and documented by the Iteka League are as follows : at least 3 people killed, all found dead; 5 people tortured; 4 victims of gender-based violence, including 1 victim of sexual and gender-based violence. We also note a street child who died as a result of a road accident.

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

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Intimidation and kidnapping of UPRONA Party members in Musongati Commune in Burunga Province

On September 15, 2025, around 1:45 PM, on Kibimba hill in the Butezi area of Musongati, a family was attacked by a group of young Imbonerakure from the CNDD-FDD party.

This family belongs to a member of the UPRONA party, named Juma Théoneste, who is a farmer living in the Butezi area and a representative of the UPRONA party. On that day, Juma was working in his field with his wife Judith Mbonimpa and their two daughters, Sarah and Léaline Niyangwanira. A neighbor, Madame Giheburwa, the wife of Minani Thomas, was helping them as a day laborer for money. While they were all in the field, a group of Imbonerakure led by Léonard

Ruhoranyi, the hill representative of the CNDD-FDD party, arrived and began to beat them with sticks. They were mistreated for an hour without any help being provided.

According to witnesses on the scene, Juma's wife sustained a fractured left eye and bruises on her back.

According to our source, during the elections, Ruhoranyi and another leader named Nyandwi Rukondogoro had promised they would harm those who refused to vote for the CNDD-FDD party. Subsequently, they were taken to the local police station.

Appointment of department heads in Cankuzo municipality, Buhumuza province

On September 17, 2025, the municipal council of Cankuzo held a special meeting in the DCE hall, located on the hill of Cankuzo. Chaired by the Municipal Administrator, the Honorable Marie Rose Hatungimana, this meeting aimed to approve the heads of the various departments of the municipality.

The objective was also to apply the provisions of Article 8 of Law No. 1/18 of June 7, 2024, which stipulates that the Municipal Administration must plan, execute, and monitor various activities in the municipality.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

Decision No. 531.0103/002, adopted at this meeting, validated the appointment of 11 individuals, consisting of 2 women and 9 men, as heads of departments of the Cankuzo Municipality. These new officials will be responsible for supervising and implementing various projects within the municipality.

However, this appointment raises criticisms within the community. Some members believe that the Municipal Council has lost its authority, insinuating that its members are

merely validating impressive lists presented by the CNDD-FDD Party. Furthermore, opinions are emerging regarding the role of the Municipal Administrator in appointing the heads of departments, while they have major responsibilities for the functioning of communal life. It is worth noting that the appointment of members exclusively from the CNDD-FDD party raises doubts about the impartiality and diversity of viewpoints within the communal administration.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

The population alerts about several cases of thefts in Muyinga Commune, Buhumuza Province

Last week, a resurgence of thefts was observed in various homes and establishments in the Muyinga area. A particularly striking incident occurred on the night of Friday to Saturday, September 19, 2025, when armed criminals with knives attacked the home of Kabuji Emile, the manager of a bar.

This establishment is located on Kibogoye hill, very close to the road connecting Muyinga to Kobero. Unidentified individuals entered the bar, stealing several crates of drinks, as well as a radio receiver and a solar panel, among other items. Furthermore,

residents of Kinyota Hill report that similar events have been occurring frequently lately. This observation comes in a context where young members of the ruling party regularly engage in nighttime patrols aimed at ensuring safety within communities. This situation raises questions about the dynamics of theft, casting doubts on a possible involvement of these young Imbonerakure in these criminal acts. Consequently, the community emphasizes the urgency of establishing stricter security measures to address this issue. .

Discovery of mass graves in the municipality of Kirundo

On September 20, 2025, a mass grave, dug in 2015 as a toilet, was discovered at the top of Rugero hill. With a diameter of 1.30 meters and a depth of 10 meters, this grave is located 300 meters from the ECOFO Rugero school, in the municipality of Kirundo, Butanyerera province, amidst eucalyptus plantations.

Since 2015, the population had mentioned the existence of these mass graves, but their location remained difficult to determine.

According to information gathered from the locals, paramilitary training was conducted there, and the Imbonerakure received

rifles once their training was completed. The discovery of these pits would be linked to the discontent of the Imbonerakure, who expressed their frustration over the delay in their salaries. It is reported that these pits were specifically intended for opponents of the CNDD-FDD party.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

A family attacked by criminals in the Cankuzo commune of Buhumuza Province

A family of Paulin Bivugire, who lives on the hill of Rutoke in the municipality of Cankuzo, is calling for help. Their house was set on fire during the day by wrongdoers. The fire destroyed their clothes, their pets, and their provisions. Neighbors managed to save a young child who was sleeping inside the burning house. The child, who sustained burns to the head, arms, and legs, was hospitalized for two weeks at the Cankuzo District

Hospital. The rest of the family, now homeless, has lost their belongings and food supplies.

This family is seeking help for the reconstruction of their house, assistance with clothing and food, and also asks the authorities to facilitate the acquisition of new birth certificates for their children, as all documents were destroyed in the fire.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

A judgment after the murder of a well-known man in the Bubanza commune, Bujumbura province

On September 18, 2025, in the commune of Bubanza, Bujumbura province, on the hill of Karinzi, in the Muramba area, Thérance Bimenyimana, a respected person in her community, was killed with sticks on 7/09/2025 (cf. bulletin 491). Its six attackers were sentenced to spend the rest of their lives in prison.

According to witnesses, it all started with a small argument that quickly turned violent. The six attackers surrounded Thérance and her brother Joseph, then attacked them with sticks. "It was incredibly cruel. We tried to help, but we couldn't do anything," said a resident of Karinzi, still shocked by the events.

Thérance died instantly, while Joseph was injured and had to be rushed to Bubanza Hospital, where he is recovering from his injuries.

On Wednesday, September 17, the courtroom of the High Court of Bubanza was packed. Families, neighbors, local authorities, and

onlookers came to witness this trial, which for many represented a fight against impunity. After several hours of hearing, the court announced its decision: the six defendants will go to prison for life and must pay 36 million Burundian francs in compensation to the victims.

At the end of the hearing, the Bimenyimana family expressed both sadness and a certain relief. "We still mourn for our brother, but at least justice has been served. Now we can bid him a dignified farewell," said an emotional family member.

The funeral, which had to be postponed awaiting the judgment, is expected to take place in the coming days, with the presence of the entire community.

The president of the court emphasized that this decision was meant to "set an example." "Any attempt to disrupt peace through violence will be punished strictly," he asserted, emphasizing that justice will stand against any form of lynching or harm to life.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

Denial of justice in Burunga reinforces the feeling of impunity

On Giharo Hill, in Musongati commune, Burunga province, manifestations of injustice toward UPRONA party members are becoming increasingly apparent. The experience of Mr. Elias Kagoma clearly illustrates the climate of tension in this region. As a recognized farmer and spokesperson for the Munyundo Marsh farmers, he invested considerable effort in maintaining his rice field, including plowing, fertilizing, and seed preparation. However, just as he was about to begin transplanting, the area chief, Désiré Hakizimana, violently burst in to prevent him from continuing his activity.

Shortly after this incident, Hakizimana, who remained in his position despite criticism, reportedly publicly expressed his intention to eliminate Mr. Kagoma from the Munyundo Marsh, claiming to have the "right of life or death" over the residents because of his position. Specifically, he usurped Mr. Kagoma's arable land to exploit it for his own profit. In addition, he ordered an individual named Bède to destroy a kiosk belonging to Mr. Kagoma in the Rubaho market, in order

to build his own infrastructure. Although the president of the Giharo court, Mr. Eliphaz, initiated legal proceedings, Bède's work continues without intervention, illustrating a judicial slowness that fuels a sense of impunity.

For many residents, the reasons behind these aggressive actions are considered obvious: Mr. Elias Kagoma is suffering reprisals for his political activism. A former influential member of the CNDD-FDD during the armed conflicts, he later joined UPRONA, now establishing himself as a respected voice. He is particularly recognized for his determination to restore access to the Munyundo Marsh for local communities, after some CNDD-FDD members attempted to appropriate its use. Currently, Mr. Kagoma, a victim of persecution and dispossession, finds himself isolated in the face of a system designed to hinder him. His struggle transcends personal issues, illustrating the systemic pressures placed on UPRONA members in certain localities, where they face intimidation, land grabs, and judicial injustices.

The case of the UPRONA party leader continues to cause a stir in Burunga province

The case of Théoneste Juma, the leader of the UPRONA party in the Butezi zone (Musongati commune), is taking a worrying turn. A few days after he was attacked in the fields by a group of people, testimonies collected on September 18, 2025, highlight ongoing intimidation.

According to his friends and family, Théoneste went to the OPJ offices in the morning, as planned. But while he was scheduled to be questioned at 8:00 a.m., his political rivals did not arrive until 11:00 a.m. His family describes a hostile atmosphere: *"Instead of being heard as a victim, he was*

told to go home, claiming that he was the source of the problems," they say.

Another incident sparked anger: Sylvain Nzikoruriho, the provincial secretary of the CNDD-FDD party, reportedly arrived at the Giharo communal office that same morning. According to several local sources, he gave instructions directly to the police officer in charge of the case, then remained near the office until the alleged attackers left.

Théoneste's relatives also accuse Sylvain of being behind a campaign of harassment against him since he left

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 8)

his party to join UPRONA. "He accuses him of sharing his secrets and revealing his abuses. That's why he wants to destroy him politically and humanly," confided a relative.

Théoneste's family expressed fear for his safety, speaking of threats of reprisals that could force them to leave their hill. "We are trapped. If nothing changes, we will have to

flee for our lives," they confided, alarmed. For local observers, this case once again highlights the political violence that continues to damage relations between the different parties in Burunga province.

It is worth noting that Juma Théoneste and his family were already attacked last Monday, raising concerns about their safety and respect for the rights of opponents.

1.4. SOCIAL CONTEXT

Discrimination against the Batwa in inter-ethnic marriages in Muyinga Commune of Buhumuza Province

The Batwa community of the Kwibuye hill in the Muyinga commune denounces cases of discrimination. These acts are said to be committed not only by some administrative officials but also by other residents of different ethnicities.

According to testimonies, the chief of the hill, Gérard Nkurunziza, is one of the main perpetrators of these discriminations.

Gérard Nkurunziza is sharply criticized by the Batwa community for his discriminatory behaviors. This discrimination is particularly evident during inter-ethnic marriages.

If a boy from another ethnicity wishes to marry a Twa girl, he often faces criticism and social exclusion. Similarly, a mutwa girl who marries a Hutu or a Tutsi faces significant challenges in integrating into the community. These situations create an atmosphere of mistrust and division.

Therefore, the Batwa community calls on the administrator of the Muyinga commune, the honorable Amédée Misago, to intervene. The Batwa ask him to call the hill chief to order, whose segregationist remarks and behavior are harming the social harmony and peaceful coexistence of the various ethnic groups in the area.

1.5. HUMANITY CONTEXT

Congolese refugees arbitrarily arrested in Munyika, Rugombo commune, Bujumbura province

On September 19, 2025, police surrounded several neighborhoods and hills in the Munyika area, Rugombo commune, Bujumbura province, searching for Congolese refugees living among the local population. This operation led to the arrest of 152 refugees, who were then forcibly transferred to the Cishemere transit site, Buganda zone, Bukinanyana commune.

The Congolese refugees denounced this violation of their fundamental rights, recalling that, under international law, a

refugee has the right to freely choose their place of residence in the host country. They pointed out that this was not the first time the police had organized such roundups: other refugees had already been forcibly taken to the same site, where living conditions were inhumane. For more than a week, they claimed, they had received no support.

is provided: no food, no water, and no shelter, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and fundamental human rights.

1.5. HUMANITY CONTEXT (the following of page 9)

They call on the Burundian authorities to respect their international commitments and allow those who wish to return to live in the local communities where they had already peacefully integrated with Burundians. However, they categorically reject the idea of being transferred to the Rutana refugee camp, known for its extremely precarious conditions.

The refugees still at large say they now live in constant fear, because in the place where they had found refuge and coexisted peacefully with locals, they are now being persecuted. Many say they would prefer to risk their lives by returning to the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo rather than be forced to survive in these degrading conditions.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS

A lifeless body of a man found in Kiremba, Bururi commune in Burunga province

On September 16, 2025, the lifeless body of a man known by the nickname Ndegeya was found among the bushes where he sometimes slept in the town of Gwankona on Kiremba Hill, Bururi Commune, Burunga Province.

Sources on the ground indicate that the body was decomposing, and his full identity is unknown, but he is believed to be from Mutaho Commune, Gitega Province.

According to the same sources, the hill chief, Jean Marie, ordered the body to be buried that same day in the Kagomogomo cemetery on Muzima Hill, in the same commune. He justified this decision by citing the body's state of decomposition and the lack of evidence of homicide, without having sought to notify the family.

A lifeless body found on Gabiro-Ruvyagira hill, Rugombo zone, Cibitoke commune in Bujumbura province

Early in the morning of September 16, 2025, a lifeless body in an advanced state of decomposition was found on Gabiro-Ruvyagira hill, in the Rugombo area, Cibitoke commune. The victim, an unidentified man, was apparently brutally executed before being abandoned in the bush.

According to initial evidence gathered at the scene, the victim's throat had been slit and the body covered with grass, as if to conceal the crime. Investigators believe the man may have been killed several weeks ago, given the state of decomposition. The neck was even found separated from the rest of the body, a sign of a particularly brutal killing.

A police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "It's likely that criminals

murdered him before abandoning him in the bush. For now, we have no concrete evidence to draw on. It's a murder without a name."

The gruesome discovery quickly fueled fear and outrage among residents. Many fear that this crime will remain unsolved and call on the authorities to act immediately. "*We want to know the truth. This is not the first time such crimes have been reported here, but too often*" "Investigations often fail," complained a resident encountered near the scene of the tragedy. For the population, this was clearly a premeditated murder. Some even fear that this murder is linked to a settling of scores or broader violence in the border region of Cibitoke, which is regularly marked by insecurity.

II.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY STATE AGENTS (the following of page 10)

The municipal administrator, Éloge Najeneza, confirmed the discovery of the body and assured that law enforcement had already opened an investigation.

Body found in Buheka, Nyanza commune in Burunga province

On September 19, 2025, the body of Gomère Nishememizimana, a 16-year-old boy, was found on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, in Nyanza commune. Originally from Gasorowe, in Buhumuza province, he had been living in Nyanza since August 2024 and was residing on Buheka hill, where he was looking for work.

At the time of his death, Gomère Nishememizimana was employed as a domestic

worker at Verias Bigure in the Bogorwa district, a job he had held for six months.

According to reports from the public, the victim allegedly took his own life due to a bad relationship with his employer, who allegedly refused to pay him a bonus of 170,000 BIF. Other neighbors, however, claim that Gomère Nishememizimana was murdered after revealing that his employer had brought another man to his home.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

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

A family tortured in Musongati commune, Burunga province

On September 15, 2025, in Butezi zone, Musongati commune, Burunga province, Théoneste Juma, UPRONA party leader in Butezi zone, Musongati commune, Burunga province, was detained along with his family members while working in their field in the same area.

During the fieldwork, local sources revealed that Théoneste Juma and his family were surrounded by a group of Imbonerakure who

beat them. Juma, his wife Judith, and their three children, Sarah, Nasson, and Léarine, were injured and taken to Giharo hospital. Théoneste Juma and his family were attacked on the orders of Sylvain Nzikoruriho, secretary of the CNDD-FDD party in Burunga province. Relatives of this family say that their persecution dates back to 2019 when Théoneste Juma renounced the CNDD-FDD party to join the UPRONA party.

A person attacked in Bugongo, Buhanda zone, Mugere commune of Bujumbura province

On September 16, 2025, in Bugongo, Buhanda zone, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, a man named Emmanuel Manyaga was attacked by individuals who began throwing stones at him upon his return home. He was injured but survived. He is currently

bedridden, his body fully bandaged. The perpetrators of the attack are believed to be the young Imbonerakure of the ruling party, as he had been harassed by them because of his membership in the CNL party.

II.2.2. RAPES

A girl raped in Nyamurunga, Rumonge commune, in Burunga province

After September 10, 2025, on Nyamurunga Hill, in the commune of Rumonge, N.D., a 15-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by an unknown man, who left after the incident.

According to the victim's relatives, the girl had gone to collect firewood. The perpetrator

kidnapped her to rape her. She cried for help, and passersby intervened, but unfortunately, the alleged perpetrator fled. The victim was taken to the Mudende CDS for medical treatment.

II.2.3. OTHER GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Woman has abortion after being beaten by her husband in Muramvya commune

On September 12, 2025, on Murambi Hill, Muramvya Zone and Commune, Gitega Province, around 8 p.m., Annick Nshimirimana, 41, a farmer, was beaten by her husband, Salvator Niyongere, 60, a farmer, and nearly lost her life.

According to local sources, the couple had been living together for many years. The husband abused his wife, accusing her of having given birth to a child before their

marriage. So, that day, as he came home very drunk, Salvator grabbed a pestle and began beating his wife. According to the same sources, the woman immediately had an abortion on the spot. She was taken to Muramvya Hospital, and her husband was arrested the next day.

He spent three days in the police cell in Muramvya before being taken to the Muramvya Central Prison on September 16 where he is being held on remand.

Woman injured by her husband in Musongati Commune, Burunga Province

On September 19, 2025, on Buyaga Hill, Musongati Commune, Burunga Province, Sylvie Ndayizeye was assaulted by her husband, Jean Minani. He accused her of

having relationships with other men and injured her. According to available information, the man is currently wanted and has reportedly fled to Tanzania.

Man injured by his wife in Karusi Commune of Gitega Province

On September 18, 2025, around 11 p.m., a man in his thirties was nearly fatally stabbed by his wife in the Buhiga area. The attack reportedly stemmed from an argument: the man, a photographer, had spent the day away from home for a funeral, but his wife accused him of infidelity.

Neighbors intervened and transported the victim to Buhiga Hospital, before he was transferred to the Cinquantenaire Hospital in Karusi. Surprisingly, the man refused to allow his wife to be arrested and even asked that she become his nurse. She remains by his side at the hospital.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Controversies surrounding teacher recruitment in Burunga

In Burunga, voices are increasingly being raised against alarming irregularities that allegedly occurred during the recent teacher recruitment tests, sparking serious concern within the community. Several candidates, frustrated and outraged, are clearly and specifically stating that certain applicants received special favors, thus calling into question the long-awaited transparency of this process.

Disturbing testimonies are circulating, highlighting that fictitious certificates of volunteering were used to obtain additional points, up to 15, semi-clandestinely, to the advantage of certain privileged applicants only. Others, even more audacious, denounce questionable practices, citing the retaking of tests with new copies, improperly obtained through influential and often connected members of the CNDD-FDD party.

Criticism and outrage intensified, particularly during exams at the Makamba High School of Excellence, where candidates had the unfortunate opportunity to observe blatant laxity in proctoring, sometimes casually, with some even consulting their cell phones to search for answers, a situation that undermined the integrity of the exams.

One candidate, visibly disappointed, spoke out about his unfortunate experience witnessing this blatant cheating, calling into question the fairness and future of the education system. Faced with these serious accusations, some education officials found the courage to admit the facts, like Anicet Niyonzima, who publicly apologized after validating blatantly false certificates. In response to the situation, Makamba provincial authorities decided to warn the population that perpetrators of such practices risk severe sanctions, which could include dismissal, a measure that could have a significant impact on the educational landscape.

However, some of the officials involved deny any involvement in these cases, instead citing stories of stamp and signature theft, thus attempting to disassociate themselves from the wrongdoing. The aggrieved candidates, for their part, are urging the relevant authorities to seriously investigate and exclude the cheaters, demanding that only deserving candidates be granted access to this essential and honorable profession. A competent and committed teacher emphatically emphasized that cheating to enter the profession is condemning an entire generation to an uncertain future, a poignant call to restore the lost integrity in the education system.

Refusal to register students authorized to repeat a year in Mwaro Commune, Gitega Province

As of September 15, 2025, a significant milestone was reached with the official start of the 2025-2026 school year across the country. At the Mwaro I Communal High School, located in the Kagoma district of Mwaro commune, Gitega province, the school's principal, Célestin Nduwimana, decided to refuse the possibility of repeating the year to 8 students in the 3rd Sc class of Post-Fundamental, who had failed the State

Examination, 2025 Edition.

This decision sparked debate and questions among students and their parents. The reason given by this principal was that the previous year, these same students had opposed the idea of this principal, who also teaches the biology course, coming to teach them on a Saturday so they could make up some missed classes.

III.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 13)

This catch-up should have taken place during the past school holidays. This Monday, for his part, he finally decided to grant a repeat place to only two students among those who had previously protested.

Calls began to be raised, suggesting that these two beneficiary students were affiliated

with the ruling party's Youth League, Imbonerakure, within this school. It is important to note that this principal is also a fervent and committed member of the ruling party, a situation that raises concerns about the fairness and impartiality of student treatment within the school.

III.2. RIGHT TO HEALTH

The cholera epidemic is spreading in the municipalities of Cibitoke and Bukinanyana in Bujumbura province

Since the beginning of September, northwestern Burundi has reported more than 220 cases of cholera, representing an alarming situation primarily resulting from poor access to drinking water and inadequate hygiene infrastructure. Health facilities, overwhelmed by this epidemic, are receiving discreet but crucial support from Doctors Without Borders (MSF). According to the district health chief of Cibitoke, 226 cases were confirmed between September 4 and 18, with 84 patients currently receiving treatment in the Rugombo cholera center. Meanwhile, 130 cured patients have been able to return home.

Residents' accounts highlight a drinking water supply crisis, revealing that in some areas, standpipes remain dry for several weeks, forcing families to draw their water from rivers considered contaminated, such as Nyakagunda, Nyamagana, Muhira, Kaburantwa, Rusizi, as well as from marshes. Residents also report the presence

of agricultural pesticides in these water sources, exacerbating health risks.

This situation is all the more worrying given the lack of sanitation infrastructure, as many households lack adequate latrines, which facilitates the spread of the infection. The hills of Mparambo, Rubuye, Kagazi, Rusiga, Ruhagarika, Nyakagunda, Samwe, Munyika, Dogodogo, Rukana, Ndava, and Nyamitanga stand out as areas particularly affected by the epidemic.

As local medical teams and MSF intensify their efforts to control the spread of cholera, health authorities and humanitarian organizations must redouble their efforts. It is imperative that access to safe drinking water, the construction of latrines, and continued awareness-raising campaigns be prioritized interventions to contain this epidemic. According to data from the Ministry of Health, as of September 18, 2025, the country has recorded a total of 1,014 cases of cholera, with 906 patients cured, while 102 cases remain active.

IV. CATEGORY RIGHTS

IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Tragic death of a child in an accident in Karusi commune, Gitega Province

On September 16, 2025, on Rwingoma Hill, in the Buhiga area of Karusi commune, a tragic incident led to the death of Ingabire Don Divin, 8 years old, son of Célestin Ngabenziza and Chantal Nsabimana.

The road accident is linked to a broader context: that of children living on the streets. According to information gathered, Don Divin had been exposed to this reality and often mingled with other children in risky behaviors, such as riding on the back of tractor-trailers, a common practice among these young people in the center of Buhiga.

The accident occurred around 5:00 p.m. when Don Divin, after climbing aboard a truck,

accidentally collided with a motorcycle while getting off, resulting in his immediate death. Furthermore, it is crucial to note that the child's family situation is striking: his father left for Tanzania in search of work, while his mother, living in extreme poverty, encountered significant difficulties organizing his funeral. As a result, neighbors had to step in to finance the purchase of a mat, allowing the child to be buried on Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

It is essential to highlight the alarming reality of children living on the streets. Despite their growing numbers, the administration seems to be unaware of the challenges and suffering they face daily.

A newborn abandoned in Gitega Commune and Province

According to information gathered this Sunday, September 21, 2025, around 7 a.m., on Songa Hill, in the commune and province of Gitega, a still-alive newborn was found in a bush some twenty meters from the road, wrapped in a bag. It was thanks to the child's cries that worshippers on their way to the local Pentecostal Church were able to hear him.

They approached and discovered the newborn in an extremely alarming situation. Our source, a member of the Child Protection

Committee (CPE) of the said hill, confirmed the facts to us. Immediately alerted, the Chief of this hill, Jean Belchimans Ntahondereye, intervened quickly and arranged for the child to be transported to Songa Hospital, commonly known as Bethany, for urgent medical care.

On the evening of September 21, 2025, the newborn breathed again and is now out of immediate danger, although continued medical and social care remains essential.

V. CONCLUSION ET RECOMMENDATIONS

The Iteka League strongly 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 necessary measures and recommends the following:

To the Government of Gitega:

- ⇒ Conduct thorough investigations into human rights violations and prosecute those responsible, including administrative officials, police officers, military personnel, and young Imbonerakure members of the ruling party;
- ⇒ Guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary so that it can handle cases of human rights violations fairly;
- ⇒ Cease the forced transfer of refugees and respect their right to choose their place of residence;
- ⇒ Provide clear and official information to the families of soldiers killed in combat in the DRC;
- ⇒ Take concrete and effective measures, including prevention and sanitation, to fight against cholera.