



*Anyone should be respected*

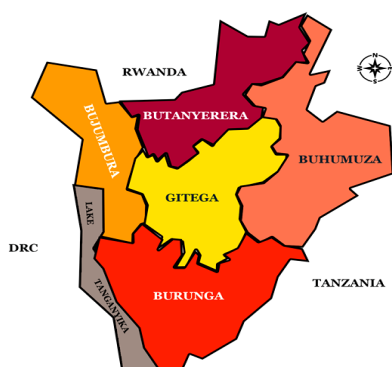
# BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS “ITEKA”

Approved by Ministerial Order No. 530/0273 of November 10, 1994,  
revising Order No. 550/029 of February 6, 1991

***KU GICANIRO n°2/2025***

*Ku Gicaniro is a program run by the Iteka League that focuses on all areas of life in the country.*

## REPORT AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2025



*In memory of Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to September 30, 2025, at least 838 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 85 victims have reappeared, and 753 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGIDE) has already communicated at least 252 victims<sup>1</sup> to the government of Burundi.*

<sup>1</sup><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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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>BRARUDI</b>	: <i>Burundi Brewery and Soft Drink Company</i>
<b>CNDD-FDD</b>	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy</i>
<b>CNL</b>	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
<b>DRC</b>	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
<b>ECOFO</b>	: <i>Elementary School</i>
<b>ESCR</b>	: <i>Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</i>
<b>FDLR</b>	: <i>Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda</i>
<b>FRODEBU</b>	: <i>Front for Democracy in Burundi</i>
<b>GBV</b>	: <i>Gender-based violence</i>
<b>ITABU</b>	: <i>Agricultural Technical Institute of Burundi</i>
<b>M23/AFC</b>	: <i>March 23 Movement / Congo River Alliance</i>
<b>OPJ</b>	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
<b>PNB</b>	: <i>National Police of Burundi</i>
<b>SNR</b>	: <i>National Enquiry Service</i>
<b>TGI</b>	: <i>High Court</i>
<b>UNGA</b>	: <i>United Nations General Assembly</i>
<b>UPRONA</b>	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>

## **0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Between August and September 2025, Burundi experienced significant human rights violations, mainly perpetrated by state agents and individuals, in a context of blatant impunity. Despite condemnation from civil society, the government appears indifferent to calls for accountability and serious investigations into these abuses. According to data compiled by the Iteka League during this period, 50 people were killed, including 38 men and 12 women. Statistics indicate that Gitega province was the most affected, with 19 murders, followed by Bujumbura (13 cases), Burunga (11 cases), and finally Buhumuza (7 victims), including 6 children.

In addition, abductions and enforced disappearances in Burundi have highlighted serious issues in security and political practices. Several documented cases show that individuals considered to be opponents or suspects have been abducted by members of the security forces or militiamen from the ruling party. These victims have often disappeared in mysterious circumstances, leaving their families in total distress as to their fate. The Iteka League has recorded seven cases of abductions across the country, with a particular concentration in Bujumbura (four cases) and Butanyerera, Gitega, and Buhumuza (one case each).

As for torture, the months of August and September 2025 continue to be cause for concern. Several incidents involving security forces in acts of torture were reported by the Iteka League, which recorded six cases of torture, involving five men and one woman. The provinces of Burunga and Butanyerera recorded two cases each, while Bujumbura and Gitega recorded one case each. The main perpetrators identified in these acts were the Imbonerakure with three cases, followed by police officers (two cases) and soldiers (one case).

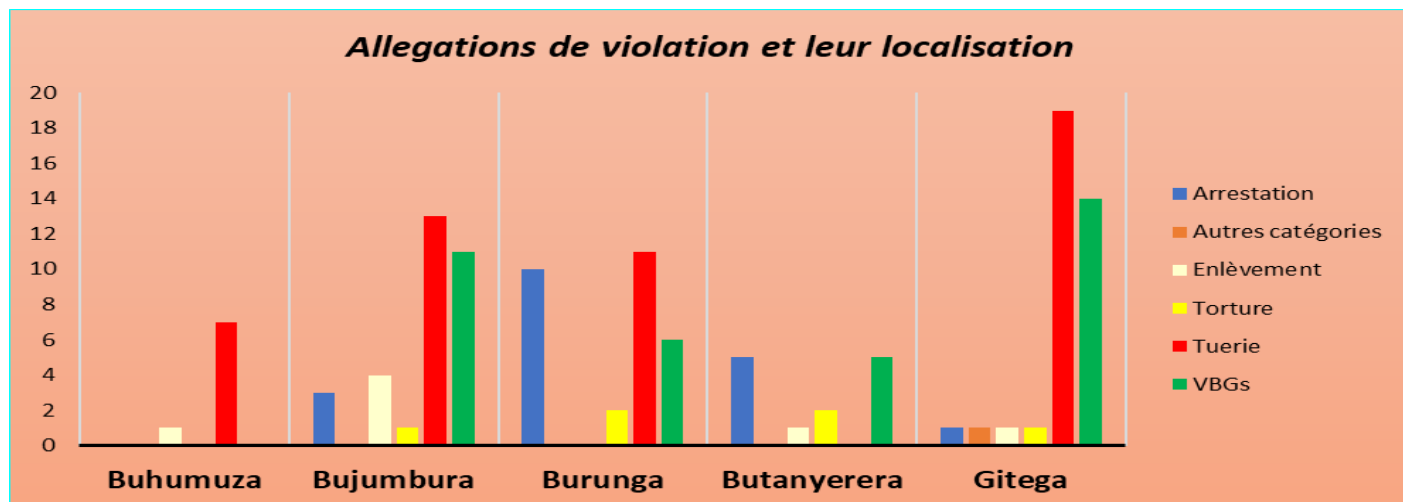
Over the entire period analyzed in this report, the Iteka League documented 36 incidents of gender-based violence (GBV), affecting 36 victims (29 women and seven men). Among these victims, 19 people were subjected to sexual violence, including 17 minors and 2 adults. The province of Gitega recorded the highest number of cases, with 14 incidents, followed by Bujumbura (11 cases), Burunga (6 cases), and Butanyerera (5 cases). The Imbonerakure are often identified as the main perpetrators, with 8 victims, while other offenses were attributed to unidentified actors or individuals, including merchants and domestic violence, totaling 27 incidents.

Finally, the Iteka League also noted 7 cases of arbitrary arrests, resulting in 19 victims, with Burunga being the most affected province (10 victims), followed by Butanyerera (5 victims), Bujumbura (3 victims), and Gitega (1 victim), of which 16 were men and 3 were women.

## Illustrative graphs :

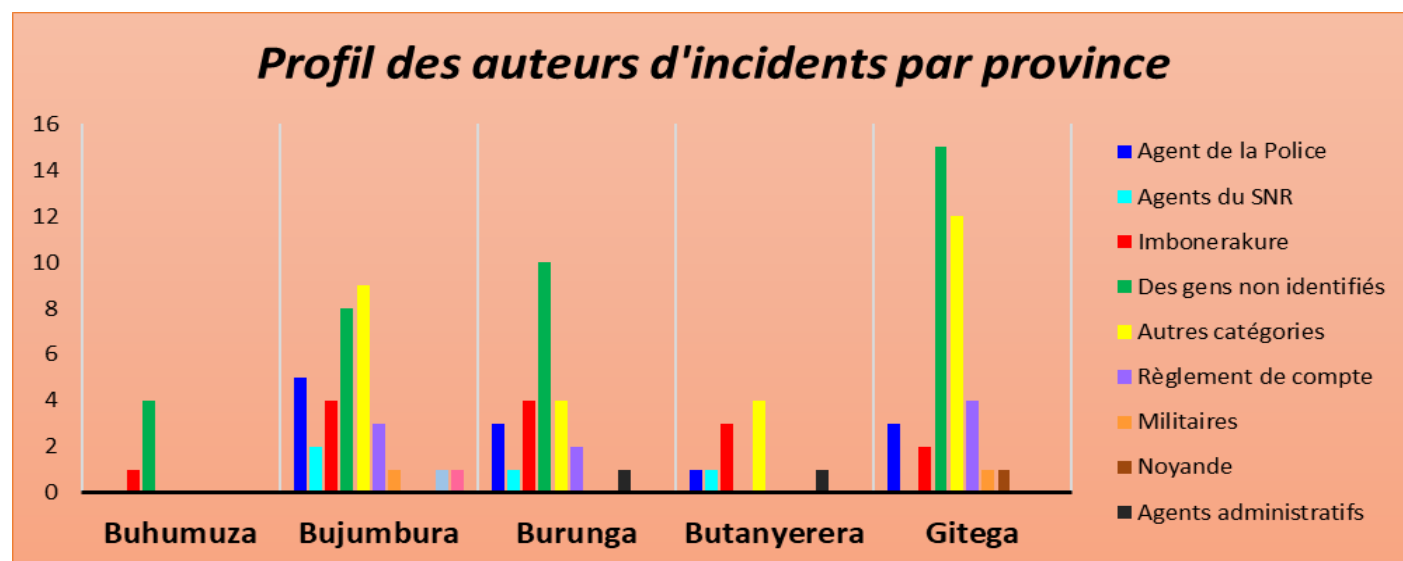
Out of a total of 103 incidents recorded during the period under review, 119 individuals were targeted in these incidents.

**Figure 1: Illustrative graph of allegations of violations and their location**



The Imbonerakure, along with members of the police force, the military, the administration, and agents of the SNR, are often cited as the alleged perpetrators of most of these violations and killings.

**Figure 2: Graph illustrating the perpetrators of these violations and their location**



Out of a total of 103 cases of allegations involving 119 victims (see graph above), 12 cases are attributable to police officers, 2 cases to military personnel, 4 cases to SNR agents, 12 cases to imbonerakure, and 35 cases to unidentified individuals. 38 cases are attributed to the category “others,” which includes “settling of scores, infanticide, and specific individuals.”

As for socio-economic rights, in an alarming context, the Iteka League noted serious violations of socio-economic rights in Burundi between August and September 2025. Coffee producers in Kayanza are suffering from late payments, compromising their food security. In Bujumbura, mining is destroying land and power cuts are damaging public health.

Farmers in Mpanda and Bubanza are abandoning coffee cultivation because of these delays, and in Gitega, many producers are still waiting for their payments. The fuel crisis is complicating agricultural transport, and tea workers' pay conditions are affecting their productivity. The food situation in Burunga is deteriorating without adequate solutions. The Prime Minister's fiscal promises are facing structural challenges. School closures are causing students to drop out, and poor results in national exams highlight educational problems, particularly affecting the Batwa community.

The health crisis is worsening, with a shortage of CAM cards increasing transportation costs for patients. In September, drug shortages and cholera outbreaks highlighted an urgent need for adequate infrastructure, limiting access to care and causing tensions between the public and private sectors. Emergency interventions are vital, particularly in Cibitoke, to protect vulnerable populations.

## **II. RECOMMENDATIONS**

During the period analyzed in this report, there has been a continuous deterioration in the human rights situation in various parts of the country. This report highlights violations of the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty, as well as violations of economic, social, and cultural rights. In addition, it identifies issues related to the electoral and socioeconomic context in which these violations occurred.

The Iteka League expresses its concern about the persistent impunity for the crimes observed and makes the following recommendations in this regard:

### **To the Gitega Government:**

1. Guarantee respect for human rights, in particular the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty;
2. Set aside any differences of opinion or partisan interests and organize a frank dialogue with all actors and social representatives on all issues related to the crisis with a view to finding a rapid, consensual, and lasting solution.
3. Adopt measures to eradicate impunity for various human rights violations so that the perpetrators are held accountable.
4. Ensure the protection of children's rights and severely punish those responsible for trafficking and exploiting them, particularly those who send them to Tanzania for farm work;
5. Encourage economic development to improve citizens' living conditions and take measures to eradicate social inequalities;



6. Guarantee equitable access to basic needs, such as water, health, education, and justice, for every citizen.

**To political parties:**

1. Strictly refrain from any action or statement that could lead to the crystallization of positions and political and security violence.

**To the international community, in particular Burundi's partners, including the EU, AU, EAC, and states accredited to Burundi, it is recommended that they:**

1. Use their influence to urge the Burundian government to organize a frank dialogue with all social actors and representatives on all issues related to the crisis with a view to finding a rapid, consensual, and lasting solution.

2. Compel the Burundian authorities to respect human rights and end impunity.

3. Support the efforts of the Iteka League and other human rights organizations to monitor violations in Burundi;

**Human rights organizations are urged to:**

1. Continue to monitor the human rights situation in Burundi while advocating for their protection;

2. Provide tangible support to victims of human rights violations and ensure their access to justice.

### ***III. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT***

The Iteka League produces this two-month summary report on the socio-political-economic context and human rights in Burundi with the following objectives:

- ⇒ To enable other actors to monitor developments in the context and human rights in Burundi over a specific period, identifying trends, challenges, and progress made
- ⇒ Inform policymakers, human rights organizations, and international actors in their decision-making and actions concerning Burundi.
- ⇒ Raise national and international public awareness of critical issues related to human rights and security in Burundi, and advocate for specific reforms or actions.

## IV. METHODOLOGY

The Iteka League regularly publishes weekly bulletins entitled Iteka n'Ijambo, as well as monthly, quarterly, annual, thematic, and summary reports on the human rights and security situation. These documents are shared with various partners, in particular with the Government of Burundi and its various institutions.

This report is the result of ongoing observation by volunteers and observers from the Iteka League, who work on behalf of human rights through 17 provincial federations and 32 sections. The members of this organization are guided by ethical and humanitarian principles, committing themselves to preventing human rights violations while continuing to monitor and document abuses and violence committed by the ruling power against its population.

The research methodology adopted to analyze the human rights situation in Burundi under the regime of Ndayishimiye Evariste is based on several complementary and rigorous approaches. A qualitative approach was favored, which includes gathering information and conducting interviews with key actors, such as human rights defenders, members of civil society, and government representatives. This method allows for the collection of diverse perspectives on the human rights situation in Burundi, providing a nuanced view of the challenges encountered and the progress made since Ndayishimiye came to power in 2020. In addition, interviews were conducted with victims of human rights violations in order to gather first-hand accounts, thereby enriching the analysis by anchoring the data in lived experience.

However, through its weekly newsletter Iteka n'Ijambo, this report compiles data covering the two months of August and September 2025. The organization's database, in which all data is encoded, was used for the graphs and illustrative examples.

## V. OVERVIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI: June and July 2025

### V.1. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

*Burundi is one of the countries that acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1965) and its Optional Protocol (1976) without reservation on May 9, 1990. As part of its implementation, Burundi has taken measures in its domestic legislation, notably in its Constitution of June 7, 2018 (Main Law) in its Article 19, which guarantees that all rights proclaimed and guaranteed by duly ratified international texts are an integral part of this constitution. Implementing texts have been put in place, notably the Criminal Code of December 29, 2017, and the Code of Criminal Procedure of May 11, 2018, and other institutions for the protection of human rights in Burundi have been created.*

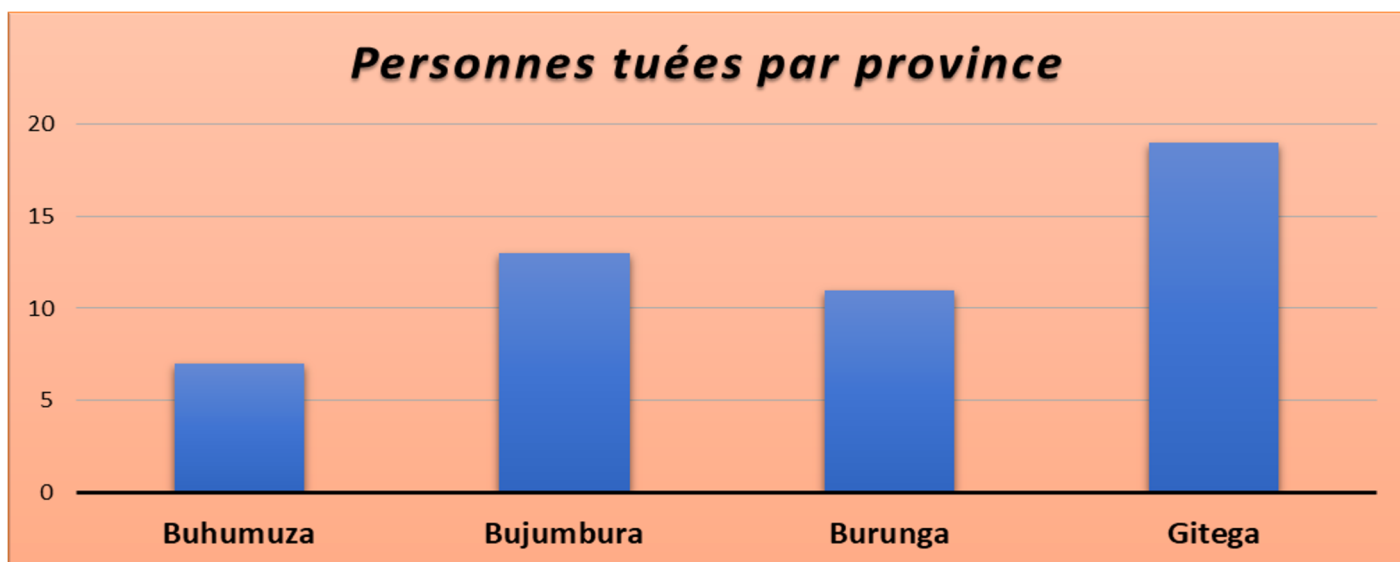


### **V.1.1. RIGHT TO LIFE**

#### **V.1.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES**

During the period from August to September 2025, the Iteka League recorded 50 people killed on national territory, including 38 men and 12 women. As the graph below shows, Gitega province was the most affected with 19 cases, followed by Bujumbura province with 13 cases, Burunga in third place with 11 cases, and finally Buhumuza with 7 victims. It should be noted that six of the victims were children.

**Figure 3: Graph illustrating the number of people killed during the period August and September 2025**



#### **Notable cases:**

##### **Cases of people killed by the Imbonerakure:**

**Example 1 :** On August 30, 2025, at around 8 p.m., on Rugerero hill, in the commune of Gisagara, 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.

When they arrived at the scene, the administrator of the commune of Gisagara, accompanied by the commune police commissioner of Gisagara, found that the two individuals were in critical condition.

*They took them to Murore Hospital in the Gisagara municipal van. 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.*

### **Cases of people killed by police officers:**

**Example 2:** *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 Rwaso 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 escaped.*

*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.*

### **Cases of people killed by unidentified individuals:**

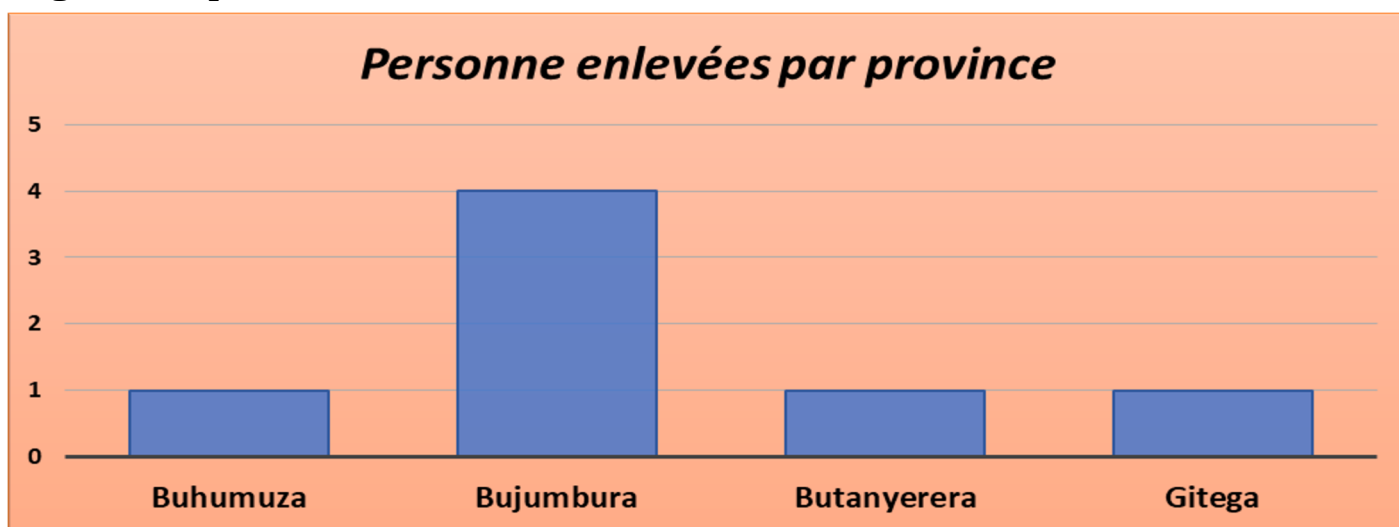
**Example 3:** *Information received by the Iteka League on September 8, 2025, indicates that the body of Apollinaire Nduwamungu, a member of the UPRONA party and retired military officer, originally from Gozi hill in the Mwumba area, Matana commune, Burunga province, was discovered on the morning of September 4, 2025, in the Murembwe valley on Gitsinda hill in Mugamba. Sources on the ground, also confirmed by the police, indicate that there were many wounds on his head and part of his head was open. The same sources say that he was killed with large clubs on the night of September 3, 2025, as he was returning home to Gozi Hill. According to the police in Mugamba, land disputes are believed to be the cause. No suspects have yet been arrested, although the police confirm that they have already begun their investigation.*

### V.1.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

During the period covered by this report, cases of abduction and/or enforced disappearances in Burundi revealed a major problem in the country's security and political practices. Several documented cases illustrate situations where individuals perceived as opponents or simply suspects were abducted by security forces or their allies, “young people from the ruling party.” These victims often disappeared to unknown locations, leaving their families in complete uncertainty about their fate or whereabouts.

During the two months covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded seven people abducted throughout the country, particularly in the provinces of Bujumbura, which recorded a high number of four victims, and Butanyerera, Gitega, and Buhumuza, with one case each.

**Figure 4: Graph illustrating the number of people abducted during the period from August to September 2025**



#### **Illustrative cases:**

##### **People abducted by police officers/SNR agents**

**Example 1:** Since August 11, 2025, at the Nyabikere center in the commune of Shombo, Gitega province, Daniel, a member of the CNDD-FDD, aged over 30, originally from Butamenwa hill in the Nyabikere area, now part of the commune of Shombo, has disappeared and is in police custody. According to local witnesses, the victim ordered a meal costing 2,000 francs in a restaurant in the Nyabikere center but only had 1,000 francs in his pocket. The restaurant owner, Jean Marie, called the police commissioner instead of giving him time to go and get the rest of the money. After the meal, he told the restaurant owner that he was waiting for his employer to arrive to pay him and settle the bill. According to witnesses, the police came and began to beat him, then took him to the Nyabikere detention center, where he was placed in his own cell after being beaten again. The same source adds that other prisoners protested that a person in critical condition could not be incarcerated. The police then decided to take the victim to the Nyabikere health center, but the nurses refused to admit him because he was in critical condition. Since then, no one has seen him. Residents of the Nyabikere area fear for the fate of Daniel and are asking for clarification.

**Ex2 :** On September 26, 2025, a young man named Thierry Niyomwungere, aged 24 and residing in Gikoto, in the Musaga district of Bujumbura, in the province of Bujumbura, was abducted from his home.

According to our sources on the ground, at around 5:00 a.m., three individuals dressed in civilian clothing arrived at his home, knocked on the door, and asked him to come out. Thierry opened the door without delay. As soon as he stepped outside, they immediately grabbed him by force, dragged him away, and took him to a vehicle they had hidden nearby. The vehicle in question was a white double cab with tinted windows and no license plate, which left the scene immediately for an unknown destination. Thierry's family fears for his safety.

### **V.1.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY**

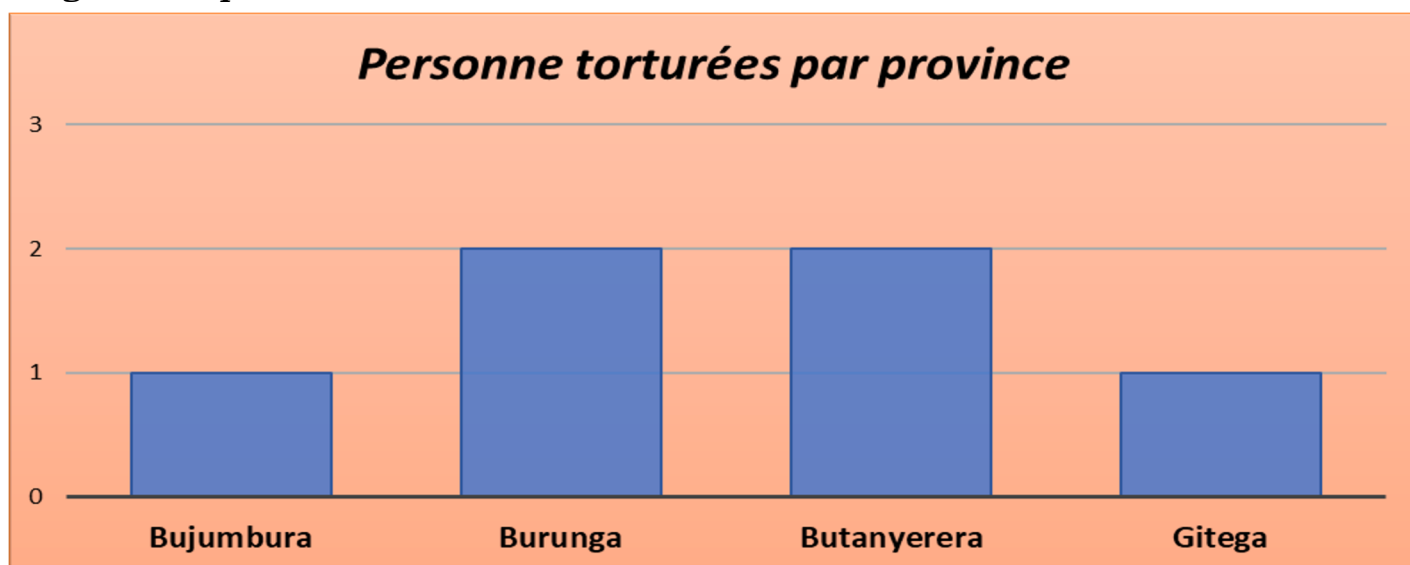
The right to physical integrity is a fundamental right recognized by the Burundian Constitution and international treaties ratified by Burundi. The Burundian Penal Code punishes attacks on physical integrity, including intentional assault and battery. Burundian law prohibits torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

#### **V.1.2.1. ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT**

Cases of torture in Burundi in August and September 2025 continue to be a major concern. Several incidents have been reported by the Iteka League involving security agents and armed forces in cruel acts targeting detainees or suspects.

During the period covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded six cases of victims of torture, including five men and one woman. The provinces of Burunga and Butanyerera were the most affected, with two cases each. They were followed by Bujumbura and Gitega, with one case each. As for the alleged perpetrators of these acts, the Imbonerakure were responsible for three cases, followed by the police with two cases and finally the military with one case.

**Figure 5 : Graph illustrating the number of people tortured during the period from August to September 2025**



### ***Illustrative cases:***

#### ***Ex1: People tortured by Imbonerakure:***

*On August 10, 2025, on Nyenzi Hill, Busoni commune, Butanyerara province, Barinakandi was found in a ditch with injuries to her neck and unconscious. According to local witnesses, there was a group of three Imbonerakure, including Karorero Felix, Rugema, and Salvator, who were doing night patrols around the area where he was found. His family reported them, but they were never summoned, while his bicycle, 20 kg of beans, and 70,000 were never found, and they are seeking justice. Neighbors also testified to the presence of these Imbonerakure that same night. The police officer in charge of the case told the family to report the incident to the head of the Imbonerakure in the commune, but the perpetrator's family refused.*

#### ***Example 2: People tortured by police officers***

*On September 4, 2025, on the hill and in the Gakungu area, Musongati commune, Burunga province, Olivier Twigumanire, aged 17, was beaten by police officers J. Baptiste Niyongabire and Jonas, son of Maheshwa, Imbonerakure from the same Gakungu hill, with sticks and whips.*

*According to local sources, Olivier Twigumanire, whose mother is the regional head of the UPRONA party, was tortured and accused of stealing gasoline from Ruwaya, a merchant who sells this product on Gakungu hill and the surrounding hills. However, the act was committed by a known thief in the area named Franck, who fled as soon as he heard that Olivier had been captured.*

*According to the same sources, after being tortured, Olivier Twigumanire was forced by the police officers in the area, along with the local chief, civil registrar Barahekenywa J. Claude, and the Gakungu zone chief, Login, who was recently appointed as the head of the Gakungu zone, Musongati commune, Burunga province, forced him to pay a sum of four hundred and sixty thousand Burundian francs (460,000 BIF) to the petrol dealer.*

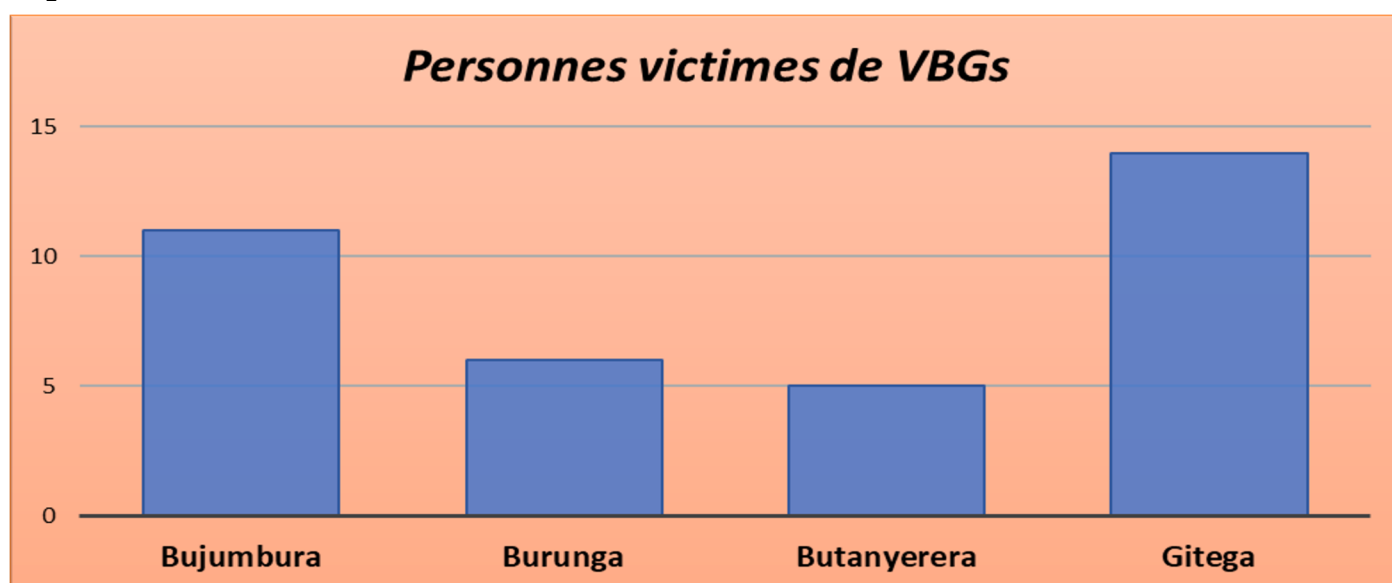
*As a result, in order for Olivier to be released from the case, he sold the plot of land given to him by his father. His older brothers, Sylvain Nkunuzimana and Donatien Manirakiza, who tried to intervene by asking for help here and there, were arrested by police officers from the Gakungu hill station and put in the Gakungu station jail located in the capital of the Gakungu area, Musongati commune, Burunga province.*

### ***V.1. 2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/RAPE***

During the period covered by this report, a total of 36 incidents involving 36 victims were recorded by the Iteka League, including 29 women and 7 men. Of the 36 people, 19 are adults and 17 are children. Among the 36 victims of GBV, 19 people were victims of sexual violence, including 17 minors and 2 adults. Gitega province was the most affected with 14 cases, followed by Bujumbura with 11 cases, and Burunga province in third place with 6 cases. Finally, Butanyerera province had 5 cases. The alleged perpetrators are mainly young Imbonerakure, with 8 victims. One case was committed by unidentified individuals. Another category includes individuals such as traders, domestic violence, etc., with a total of 27 cases.



**Figure 6 : Graph illustrating victims of GBV during the period from August to September 2025**



**Illustrative cases :**

**Ex1 :** A 15-year-old girl raped in Ruyaga, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province. On September 9, 2025, at around 10 a.m., a 15-year-old girl named M. L., daughter of Jean Claude Bigirimana and Christine Manirakiza, resident of Gashinge sub-hill, in the Ruyaga sector, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, and a ninth-grade student at the Bigwa elementary school (ECOFO), was raped by a shopkeeper named Nsavyimana Félix.

He had met her at his shop because she often came to buy products there, sent by her parents. Félix then invited her to his house, where he sexually abused her. The child tried to scream, but no one came to her aid 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, while the alleged perpetrator fled.

**Ex2 :** On August 14, 2025, in the Kajiji neighborhood of the Knyosha area, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, K. E., aged 16, a domestic worker in the Kajiji neighborhood, was raped by her employer, Reverien Nzigamasabo, a member of the CNDD-FDD. According to local witnesses, he abused her while his wife was away for a medical appointment. Before assaulting her, he tried to manipulate her by promising her 50,000 Burundian francs and a raise in salary. After the assault, the victim, deeply shocked and suffering from physical pain, decided to confide in her neighbors. They accompanied her to the ADRA Health Center, located in the same neighborhood of Kajiji, so that she could receive appropriate medical care. Reverien NZIGAMASABO learned that the facts had been revealed and fled.

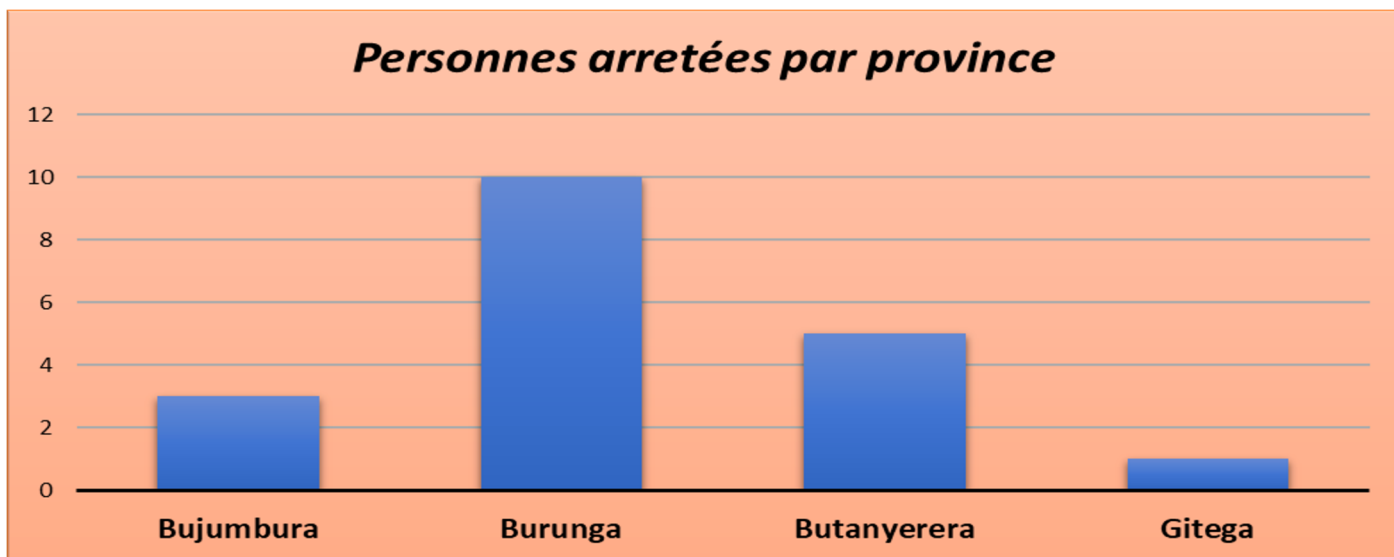
### V.1.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

*The right to individual liberty is a fundamental right recognized by the Burundian Constitution and international treaties ratified by Burundi. Burundian law provides guarantees for the protection of individual liberty, including the obligation for security forces to present an arrest or detention warrant, as well as regulations on the length of preventive detention.*

#### V.1.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS

*International and national laws in Burundi recognize the principle of innocence until proven guilty, and that detention should be an exception.*

During this period, the Iteka League recorded seven cases of arbitrary arrests involving 19 victims. The province of Burunga was the most affected with 10 victims, followed by the province of Butanyerera with 5 victims. Bujumbura came in third with 3 victims and finally Gitega with 1 victim. Of the 19 victims, 16 were men and 3 were women.



**Illustrative cases:**

#### **People arrested by SNR agents**

**Example 1:** *On September 3, 2025, in Nyakabiga, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, at around 5 p.m., Norbert Rucabihari, a journalist for the online media outlet Buja 24, was arrested while in a bar. He was approached by individuals who were looking for him, armed with his photo, and then taken in a taxi to the headquarters of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Rohero, near Regina Mundi Cathedral.*

*According to sources who followed the case, he was questioned about information published by the Net Press newspaper concerning the war in eastern DRC. He was cleared after proving that he no longer worked for that media outlet and showing his press card.*

*Many are wondering whether Net Press journalists are being targeted by the SNR. This incident highlights a procedural flaw, as press offenses are first dealt with by the National Communication Council before being transferred to the courts. This is evidence of a regression in freedom of expression and opinion in Burundi.*

## **V.2. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

*Economic, social, and cultural rights, known as second-generation rights, are set out in the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Burundi ratified this covenant on March 14, 1990, and incorporated it into its 2018 Constitution, notably in Article 19. A distinctive feature of these rights is that they are often realized progressively, unlike civil and political rights. Signatory states, including Burundi, undertake to guarantee the exercise of these rights in accordance with their available resources.*

Socio-economic and cultural rights in Burundi are deteriorating at an alarming rate, as illustrated by significant violations in August and September 2025. Coffee producers in Kayanza, for example, have not been paid since March, exposing them to the risk of famine with no prospect of adequate solutions. In the Mugina commune of Bujumbura province, the illegal expropriation of land for gold mining is depriving local communities of their vital resources, and recurring power cuts are compromising both public health and commercial activities. Payment delays are also affecting farmers in Mpanda and Bubanza, leading some of them to abandon coffee cultivation. In Gitega, farmers continue to wait for payments despite the opening of dedicated accounts. Fuel shortages are causing transport disruptions, while workers in the tea sector face inadequate wages, undermining overall productivity. Farmers in Burunga are seeing their corn reserves rot in storage without the government offering any solutions. Prime Minister Nestor Ntahontuye's promises of tax exemptions on agricultural imports seem illusory in the face of persistent structural problems.

In the field of education, the closure of schools in August, particularly in Bujumbura and Gitega, due to failure to meet the required standards, is causing serious concern. School dropout rates are reaching critical levels, exacerbated by poverty and unwanted pregnancies. The introduction of new guidelines on school uniforms could accentuate inequalities and, as a result, increase dropout rates, particularly among the most disadvantaged schoolchildren. National exam results reveal poor performance, raising questions about the quality of education. Children from the Batwa community are particularly affected by the lack of appropriate assistance programs.

The crisis in the health sector is also evident, characterized by an extreme shortage of CAM cards required in health facilities, resulting in prohibitive transportation costs for patients. In addition, allegations of malpractice concerning cards and medical care are emerging, further aggravating an already critical situation. In September, the frequency of drug shortages and cholera epidemics intensified, exacerbated by the lack of adequate infrastructure. The population faces increased barriers to accessing healthcare, creating growing tension between the public sector and the costs of private care. The worrying situation in areas such as Cibitoke requires immediate intervention by the authorities and humanitarian organizations, as the health risks for the most vulnerable remain considerable.

## ***VI. CONCLUSION***

An analysis of the human rights situation in Burundi during August and September 2025 highlights systematic violations that continue despite increased international monitoring. The Iteka League, alongside other independent entities, has documented cases of arbitrary detention affecting opposition activists, often associated with acts of torture and disappearances, highlighting the chronic instability in the protection of fundamental freedoms. The facts revealed demonstrate the existence of a repressive policy clearly aimed at crushing political opposition. Freedom of expression is under significant constraint, marked by rigorous control of the media. The rights of women and children are also subject to severe violations. Although the international community's response has been varied, it appears insufficient to change the current oppressive dynamic. The Iteka League, having closely monitored this situation and documented these abuses, is calling for essential reforms. This period has seen a continuation of violations, with a deterioration observed in various sectors. It is imperative to undertake coordinated action, initiate an inclusive national dialogue, and strengthen human rights protection mechanisms.