

# 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*

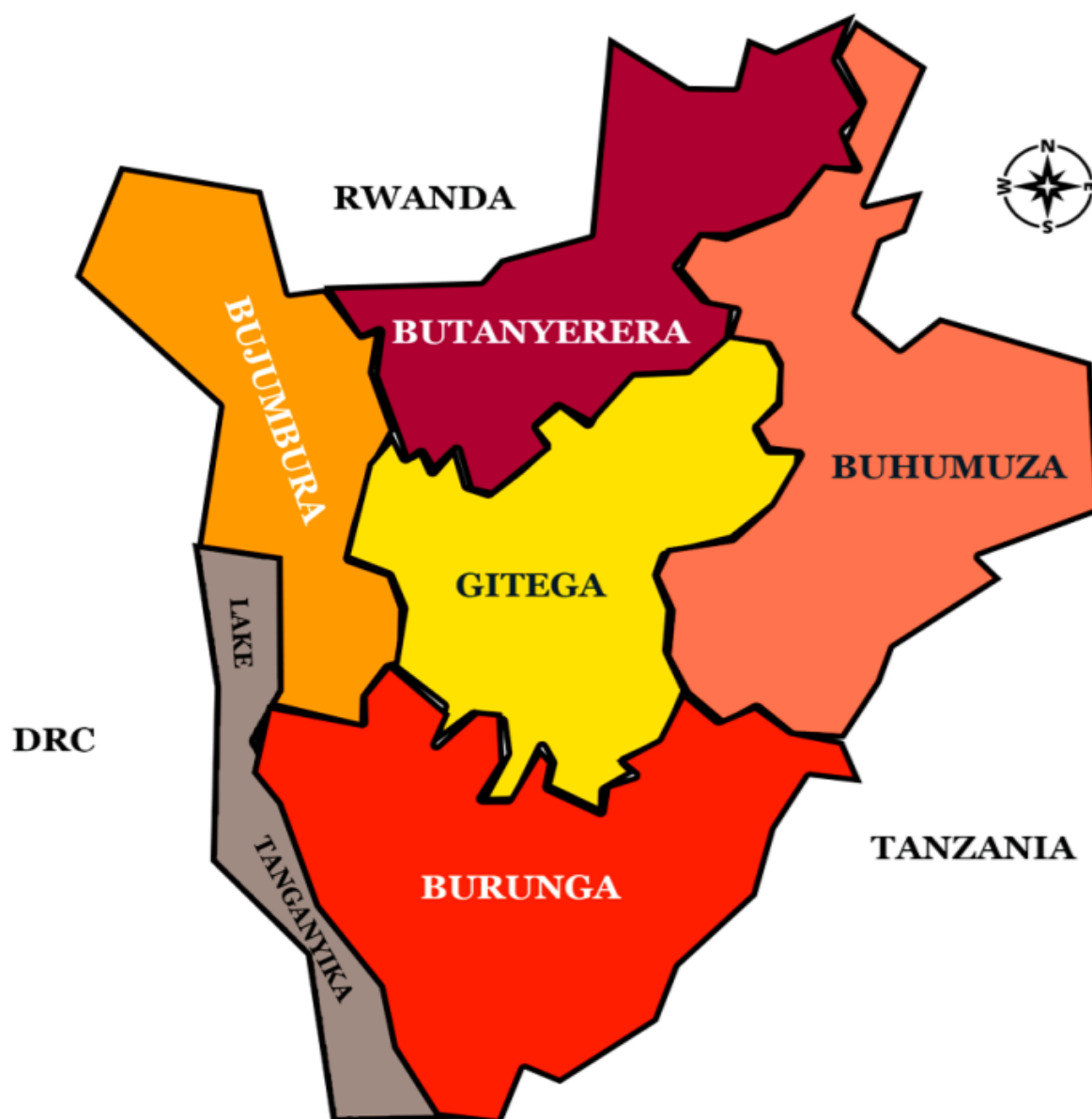
## ***REPORT OF THE ITEKA LEAGUE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2025***



*In memory of Madame Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to September 28, 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 (WGEID) has already communicated to the government of Burundi about at least 252 victims<sup>1</sup>.*

<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 affiliated 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.
- ♦ Is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections."



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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CDP</b>	: <i>Council of Patriots</i>
<b>CECI</b>	: <i>Independent Communal Electoral Commission</i>
<b>CENI</b>	: <i>Independent National Electoral Commission</i>
<b>CEPI</b>	: <i>Independent Provincial Electoral Commission</i>
<b>CNDD-FDD</b>	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Defense Forces</i>
<b>CNL</b>	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
<b>DESC</b>	: <i>Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights</i>
<b>DRC</b>	: <i>Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>
<b>ECOFO</b>	: <i>Primary School</i>
<b>FRODEBU</b>	: <i>Front for Democracy in Burundi</i>
<b>GBV</b>	: <i>Gender-Based Violence</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>
<b>VB</b>	: <i>Voting Office</i>

## 0. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT

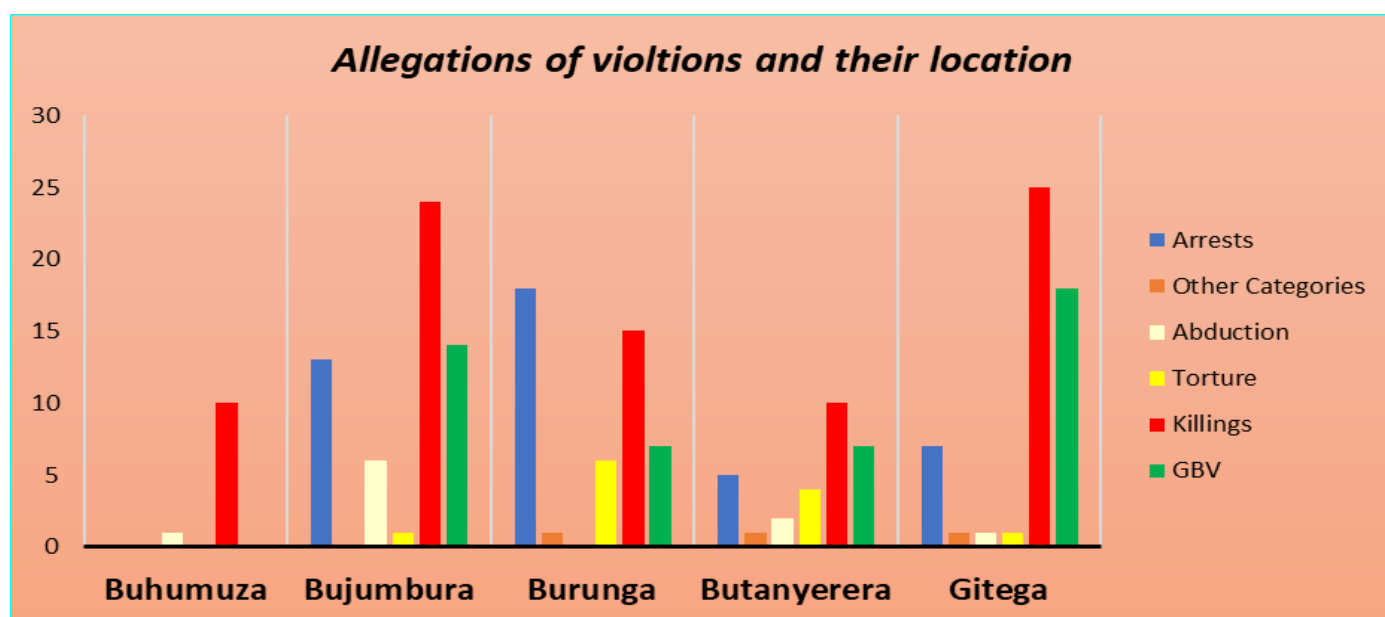
This report on the human rights situation in Burundi from July to September 2025 examines the political, judicial, governance, security, economic, and humanitarian contexts. It also reviews civil and political rights, as well as social, economic, and cultural rights. The present report concludes with a conclusion and recommendations.

Thus, the human rights situation was reported as follows: at least 84 people killed, 37 bodies found, 46 victims of gender-based violence (GBV) including 23 cases of sexual violence against minors (22 cases), 12 people tortured, 10 people kidnapped and/or missing, as well as 43 people arbitrarily arrested.

Members of political parties were not spared, as follows: 12 members of CNDD-FDD (including 5 cases of arrest, 1 person kidnapped, 1 person tortured, 4 cases of killings, 1 victim of GBV) and 3 members of the UPRONA party were victims of torture (2 cases) and killings (1 case). ) as well as the CNL party (1 case of torture).

Members of the Imbonerakure militia, administrative staff, SNR agents, soldiers and police are singled out as alleged perpetrators of most of these allegations of human rights violations and killings.

**Figure 1: Graph illustrating the main cases of human rights violations observed in Burundi during the period from July to September 2025**



Out of a total of 198 victims of documented violations during this third quarter of 2025, 84 were killed, 46 were victims of GBV including 23 victims of sexual violence, 12 were tortured, 10 were abducted, and 43 were arrested.

Bujumbura province ranks first with 58 victims of violations, including 24 killed, 1 case of torture, 14 victims of sexual and gender-based violence, 6 victims of abduction, and 13 people arrested and illegally detained. Gitega province follows with 53 cases, including 25 killed, 18 victims of GBV, 1 case of torture, and 7 arbitrarily arrested.

Burunga province ranks third with 47 victims of violations, including 15 killed, 7 victims of GBV, 2 cases of abduction, 6 cases of torture, and 18 arrested. Fourth comes Butanyerera province, which recorded 29 victims. , including 10 people killed, 7 cases of GBV, 4 victims of torture, 2 people kidnapped, and 5 people arrested, and another case placed in another category being an attempted

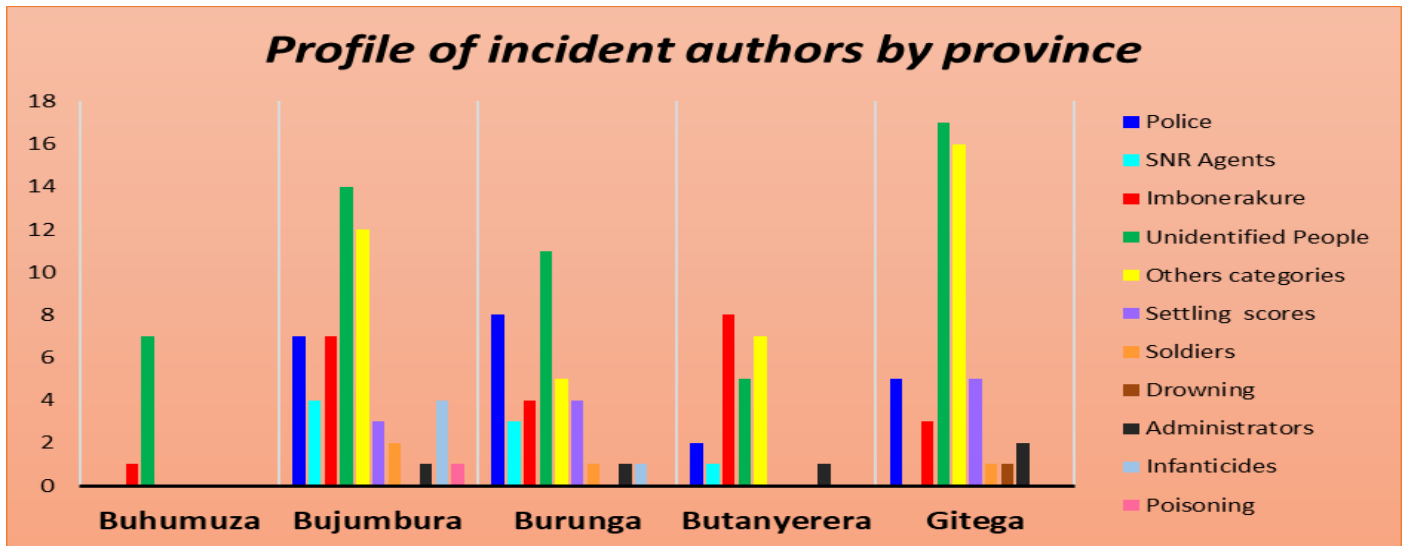
## 0. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT (the following)

Gender-based violence against a man by his wife and children.

Buhumuza province comes last, with 11 victims, including 10 people killed and 1 person kidnapped.

Regarding gender-based violence (GBV), among 46 cases, 23 cases are rapes, including 22 minor girls and one adult victim.

**Figure 2: Chart illustrating the main authors of human rights violation claims observed in Burundi during the period from July to September 2025**



Out of a total of 198 documented victims, 164 incidents of violations were recorded during the period of this report. 54 cases were committed by unidentified individuals, 23 cases by the Imbonerakure, 22 cases by police officers, 40 cases by other categories (ordinary citizens, including merchants, Popular Justice, infanticides, poisonings). SNR agents accounted for 8 cases, military personnel for 4 cases, 12 cases were due to settling scores, and administrative authorities (5 cases).

## I. CONTEXT

### 1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

The political context in Burundi between July and September 2025 was marked by significant events. The election of the National Assembly bureau on July 31 saw Daniel Gélase Ndabirabe re-elected with 109 out of 111 votes, with no opposition for the other positions. A campaign against bushfires, launched on July 26, sparked reactions, as did incendiary remarks by MP Shabani Nimubona on the need to execute people suspected of fraud, raising questions about judicial independence. The population of Muyinga, as well as other municipalities, has suffered from deficient administration since the June 2025 elections, leading to dissatisfaction over the inability to obtain essential administrative documents. The unexpected replacement of the communal administrator in Muhuta has raised concerns about instability within the CNDD-FDD.

Apparent tensions in Gitega, including the distribution of dissenting leaflets, exacerbate citizens' mistrust of the administration, prompting a call for solutions. Democracy is in crisis, and fundamental rights are regularly challenged. On August 4, acts of discrimination against opposition members, such as Kagoma Elias in the Musongati commune of Burunga province, were reported, illustrating an escalation of political intolerance and recalling previous acts of violence.



### ***1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT( the following)***

On August 5, during a meeting of senators, Gervais Ndirakobuca was elected President of the Senate. The country also witnessed a ministerial reshuffle and threats of intimidation against political figures, reflecting the repression of opponents. The communal council elections revealed irregularities, heightening doubts about the integrity of the electoral process.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin's visit aimed to promote reconciliation, but the 20th anniversary of the CNDD-FDD highlighted rifts between the ruling party and the opposition. In September, President Évariste Ndayishimiye participated in an extraordinary session of the ECCAS to address security challenges. The expulsion of Davis Leyssens, Director of ENABEL, brought attention to censorship and infringements on freedom of expression. On September 11, the National Assembly approved the amendment of the law on the National Independent Human Rights Commission, but doubts about its independence remain. The violence in Giharo reinforces mistrust towards the authorities. The appointment of new administrative officials in Cankuzo raises questions about transparency and the influence of the CNDD-FDD, highlighting the disparity between peace rhetoric and the reality of violence.

### ***1.2. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT***

During the third quarter, governance in Burundi is going through a particularly chaotic period: in July 2025 in Rumonyi, in Bururi province, residents feel an urgent need for electricity after more than a decade of unanswered requests. This situation leads to serious repercussions, such as schoolchildren abandoning night studies and an increase in crime. Development projects suffer, and requests for electric meters are ignored, leaving the population disappointed. People put pressure on REGIDESO, noting that other regions are making progress in electricity provision. At the same time, growing tensions are being felt between the police and the Burundi Revenue Authority (OBR), particularly in the southern part of the country. On July 21, a security meeting organized by Governor Parfait Mboninyibuka aims to combat tax fraud. Commissioner Jérôme Ntibibogora highlights irregularities within the OBR, mentioning the disappearance of 45 million Burundian francs, raising accusations of a lack of transparency. In response, the OBR denies these accusations through its spokesperson, Florian Bukeyenzeza. Two days later, the regional OBR official dismisses the embezzlement rumors. At the same time, merchants accuse some police officers of collusion in frauds, creating divisions within the law enforcement forces.

The governor calls on everyone to act responsibly and announces sanctions for those who would break the law. This climate of mistrust further complicates the fight against tax fraud and increases mutual suspicions. In the province of Burunga, entrepreneurs express their frustration with severe banking restrictions on withdrawals, not allowing amounts exceeding one million Burundian francs. Withdrawals at COOPEC are subject to even stricter restrictions, causing serious economic consequences, such as hoarding, threatening the viability of financial institutions. Clients express their dissatisfaction, disrupting economic development and complicating transactions. Although the reasons for this crisis are unclear, its effects manifest in economic stagnation and a collapse of tax revenues.

In August 2025, further economic disruptions occur with power outages affecting several cities, including Bujumbura. From August 4, REGIDESO explains these outages as being due to connection works, but the legitimacy of these interruptions raises doubts, affecting the lives of residents.

## ***1.2. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following)***

A statement on August 10 announced a reduction in power outages, but these outages complicate access to water, increasing the risk of diseases caused by unclean hands, such as cholera. Organizations, including the Iteka League, highlight the harmful effects of this lack of electricity on vital sectors such as banking and healthcare. Institutions like BBCI and Bancobu have suspended their services, and hospitals, such as the morgue of Prince Regent Charles Hospital, are facing serious challenges. These crises occur following announcements from REGIDESO concerning energy improvement projects, such as Kabu 16 and the Rusumo Falls.

In this troubled context, the commune of Nyanza, located in the province of Burunga, is engulfed in a fund embezzlement scandal involving the former administrator, Madame Manirankunda Goreth. Over 100 million FBU are reported to have been misappropriated following a change of power, funds that were initially intended for the rehabilitation of water drainage systems. This embezzlement, although reported by several organizations, remains outrageously unresolved.

## ***1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT***

In the third quarter of 2025, Burundi experienced judicial events that revealed systemic issues. In July, the High Court of Rutana sentenced Havyarimana Emmanuel and Eric Irankunda to 15 years in prison for aggravated theft, after being caught stealing goods. Melchiade Ndayisenga and Léonidas Niragira of Rutana were also sentenced to seven years for similar crimes, despite previously serving sentences for serious offenses. The court also ordered compensation of 400,000 francs for the victim. The arrest of an octogenarian in Nyamurunga, accused of poisoning her child, has sparked calls for exemplary sanctions, while a decision concerning a massacre in Gasarara by members of the ruling party has raised questions about the integrity of the judicial system and respect for human rights. The apparent impunity and allegations of collusion reveal the state's challenges in ensuring accountability. Pascal Hakizimana, sentenced to five years for human trafficking, illustrates the persistence of this problem. Other violent cases include Ndayikengurukiye Béatrice, sentenced to life imprisonment for homicide.

The events of August highlighted persistent dysfunctions, demanding urgent reforms to strengthen the administration of justice and the protection of fundamental rights. Detention conditions in Rumonge are alarming, with noted overcrowding. The conviction of Amon Mpawenayo for assaulting law enforcement officers underscored the uneven application of the law. Cases like that of Tuyihimbaze Asmani, convicted for possession of smuggled fuel, reveal different considerations depending on the individuals involved, while Anicet Niyonkuru, president of the CDP party, was arrested for fraud. The social climate has intensified with these arbitrary behaviors.

In September 2025, the absence of judicial services in Bururi and Matana during the holidays increased frustrations, leading to disastrous outcomes during hearings. Arbitrary arrests also continue to undermine the integrity of justice. Recent events highlight a complex judicial system perceived as corrupt, unaccountable, violating human rights, and lacking resources, worsening the situation for citizens and political actors in the country.



## ***1.4. ECONOMIC CONTEXT***

The economic context of Burundi during the third quarter of 2025 is characterized by several significant events. In July, the country's economic climate was marked by incidents that highlight deep-seated issues. On July 10, a newborn was abandoned in the Gahahe neighborhood of Bujumbura, shedding light on worrying realities. The story of Odette Niyonkuru, a resident of the Ntahangwa commune, illustrates the socio-economic concerns that drive some young mothers to abandon their children due to lack of resources. This incident, far from being trivial, reveals a deterioration in living conditions and growing despair.

Between July 14 and 20, the government tried to address an alarming budget deficit of more than 436 billion Burundian francs through decrees aimed at restructuring the finance law for 2025-2026. The Minister of Finance, Nestor Ntahontuye, thus initiated measures to increase the state budget to 5,227.06 billion BIF, representing a 10.5% increase compared to the previous year. However, the excessive reliance on domestic financing has been criticized; the Court of Auditors warns of its potential negative impacts on the private sector, which is deprived of essential resources for its development.

Moreover, certain ordinances introduce administrative and regulatory standards, particularly regarding reports on public assets and the taxation of construction in urban areas, reflecting an intention to improve economic management. In addition, an ordinance aimed at establishing a special contribution for the educational and health sectors raises questions about its practical implementation, fluctuating between voluntarism and legal obligation, leaving room for concerns about impositions by various civil society organizations.

The recent unrest in Butihinda, caused by illegal gold mining, highlights the decline of public order. The arrests of suspected bandit groups during citizen interventions illustrate a troubling dynamic where security forces become involved in criminal activities. At the same time, the decision by the governor of Buhumuza to ban the sale of fuel on the black market, announced on July 23, exacerbates the situation for residents relying on this practice to cope with the fuel crisis, adding another layer of complexity to daily life.

The increase in taxes on the sale of pets in the province of Gitega is intensifying an atmosphere of economic despair, as citizens, already strained by inflation, quickly find themselves powerless in the face of drastic price hikes. The fuel shortage since July 28 has led to a slowdown in economic activities, trapping travelers and threatening the local economic fabric.

In August, new concerns arose with police operations highlighting attempted fraud, as well as a prolonged power outage in Mwaro disrupting business activities. Farmers are worried about delays in fertilizer distribution, compromising future harvests despite government promises. While the laying of the first stone of a railway funded by the African Development Bank represents a glimmer of hope for regional trade, payments owed to coffee growers remain pending, exacerbating their economic vulnerability.

Finally, the water supply difficulties at Anders Gahore Hospital illustrate worrying implications for public health, while the fight against oil smuggling in Bugendana shows a willingness to regulate a sprawling market. In short, Burundi faces a set of structural challenges ranging from fraud to shortages, thereby affecting the daily lives of its citizens.

## ***1.5. SECURITY CONTEXT***

The security context in Burundi during the third quarter of 2025 is marked by a series of tragic and alarming events, deeply impacting the stability of the region. In July 2025, the situation worsens following various incidents. On June 30, a tragic collapse in the Kigarama neighborhood of Ngozi causes significant human losses, including that of an infant. This tragic event prompts an immediate response from emergency services but leaves the community deeply grieving. In an equally worrying context, the actions of Evariste Ndayishimiye's government in the Democratic Republic of Congo create tensions, particularly in Masisi-South Kivu, where Burundian civilians find themselves endangered due to gold mining activities. The Burundian army, alongside the Imbonerakure militias, stands out, leading to the flight of more than 100,000 refugees to Burundi, Rwanda, Zambia, and Uganda.

Personalities such as Prime Niyongabo and Ildephonse Habarurema are collaborating with Evariste's regime to strengthen the recruitment of Burundian minors for mining, raising major human rights concerns. Another major incident occurs on July 10 in Gashanga, where a group of villagers attacks two women accused of witchcraft, revealing heightened community tensions. On July 11, the situation escalates in Rusororo-Mugina, where armed clashes surround the issue of gold panning, reflecting growing violence. On July 18, the death of Ndikumana during a mining-related incident heightens concerns about safety linked to mining operations.

In an effort to counter this spiral of violence, a peace awareness event takes place on July 17 in Gisagara, while the controversial return of a man accused of murder raises fears of intimidation tactics ahead of the elections. On July 23, a grenade attack in Cibitoke results in a casualty, highlighting rising security tensions. In August, the presence of armed Imbonerakure youth groups, unsupervised by the army, raises concerns about the erosion of state authority and the potential for community instability. The month ends with violent incidents such as the assassination of a man in Bukinanyana and tensions among the Imbonerakure over unfulfilled promises.

The month of September reports significant events, mainly a conflict within the CNDD-FDD during the elections, where violence is felt. Cattle thefts in Gitega and the deployment of military troops reveal preparations for military operations that raise questions about regional security. Furthermore, tragedies such as landslides in Kibira cause human losses, while domestic violence related to land conflicts shows a deterioration of security within communities.

The evictions of farmers in Kaboya and the allegations of collusion with rebels highlight concerning power dynamics. The establishment of curfews by the Musongati administration seems more a means of control than a genuine security measure. In this context, developments in the third quarter of 2025 underscore a period of increasing tensions, marked by widespread insecurity and an urgent need to reform conflict management and human rights in Burundi.

## **I.6. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT**

The period from July to September 2025 in Burundi was marked by an influx of Congolese refugees fleeing conflicts in the border communes of the DRC, including Cibitoke, exacerbating social tensions and challenges in protecting refugees' rights under the administration of Evariste Ndayishimiye. In September 2025, Bujumbura experienced a police operation targeting refugees, particularly in the Cibitoke area. From September 8, the police, in collaboration with the Imbonerakure, intercepted refugees who had arrived after February 15 due to instability in the DRC. Interventions took place at several points along the border, with 152 arrests on the first day at Gasenyi-Buganda, followed by 426 the next day, and 578 other refugees were forced to flee from other localities. Police forces restricted movement, blocking roads and surrounding homes. The authorities have offered refugees the option to join official UNHCR camps or return to Uvira in the DRC. Some refugees fear life in these camps, which are considered unmanageable, while a police source expressed concerns about links between refugees and armed groups such as the M23.

Returning to Uvira has become difficult due to a blockade by Wazalendo fighters, leaving hundreds of refugees in Gatumba in precarious conditions. Their unofficial presence increases economic tensions, exacerbated by international aid perceived as unequal. Sending refugees back to an unstable region of the DRC raises concerns about their safety and could trigger a humanitarian crisis. The continuation of operations could heighten tensions between Burundian authorities, local populations, and Congolese refugees. Mediation with UNHCR and regional organizations is essential to prevent a humanitarian disaster. On September 19, an operation in Munyika led to the arrest of 152 refugees, violating their fundamental rights to choose their place of residence. The refugees report inhumane conditions without assistance for more than a week, calling on Burundian authorities to honor their commitments. They oppose being transferred to the Rutana camp due to deplorable conditions there, preferring to return to the DRC rather than live under such circumstances.

## **II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

Burundi is among the countries that are parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1965) and its Optional Protocol (1976) without any reservations since May 9, 1990. In the context of its implementation, Burundi has taken measures in domestic legislation, notably in its Constitution of June 7, 2018 (Main Law), in 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 established, including the Penal 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.

### **II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE**

#### **II.1.1. VOLUNTARY HOMICIDE**

*The law guarantees it; human dignity must be respected and protected by the State, and in case of violations, sanctions should be applied to the alleged perpetrators, according to Article 21 of the country's constitutional law.*

During the period under review, the Iteka League documented at least 84 people killed, including 61 men and 23 women. Among the 84 victims, 52 people were killed by unidentified individuals and found dead. 5 cases were committed by police officers, 3 cases by Imbonerakure, 10 cases due to personal vendettas, 1 case by the military, 1 case by administrative staff.

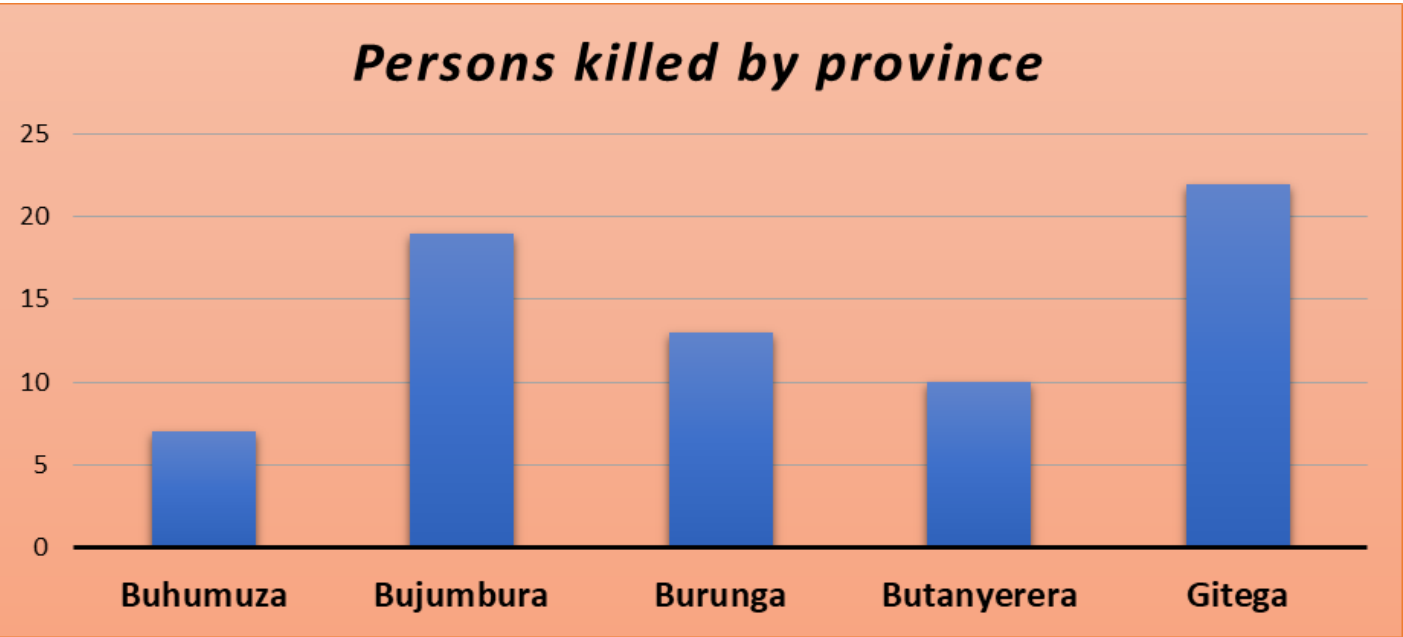
**II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES (the following)**

administrative cases, 4 cases of infanticide, 8 cases are classified under other categories involving poisoning, landslides in mining sites...).

The provinces most affected are Gitega and Bujumbura with 25 and 24 cases respectively, followed by Burunga with 15 victims, and finally the provinces of Buhumuza and Butanyerera with 7 victims each.

These alarming figures reveal a lack of political will to protect human rights in Burundi.

**Figure 3: Graph of people killed by unidentified people, killed by state agents, killed as a result of settling scores, killed as a result of mob justice, killed as a result of infanticide and other child murders**



**Illustrative Case :**

**Example 1 :** On the night of September 10 to 11, 2025, around 11 PM, a tragic event occurred at the house of G d on Ngaruko, located on Karira Hill in the Gahogo neighborhood, in the center of the Musinga commune, in the province of Buhumuza. 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 household, his wife, and their grandson.

The explosion also destroyed their residence, wiping out the place where they had built their life. Local residents' testimonies highlight the unacceptability of this act, calling it a serious violation of the right to life. The motives behind this attack remain uncertain, although hypotheses, including accusations of witchcraft, personal disputes, or banditry, have been suggested. The administrator of the Musinga commune emphasized that, whatever 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 are expressing an urgent demand for concrete measures, beyond mere commitments, calling for swift, fair, and transparent investigations. They insist on the need to ensure that those who commit such acts are held accountable.

### **II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES (the following)**

**Ex2 :** Information received by the Iteka League on September 8, 2025 indicates that a lifeless body of Appolinaire Nduwamungu, a member of the UPRONA party and retired soldier, 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 his 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.

**Ex3 :** On September 2, 2025, around 5 p.m., on the Nyabisaka sub-hill, Ntobwe hill, in the commune and province of Gitega, Rémégie MUREKAMBANZE, a native of Rweza hill, Mungwa zone, motorcycle driver, and a CNL party militant supporting Agathon Rwasa, was shot and killed with 22 bullets by Butoyi Elie, a police officer who had just arrested him. According to local witnesses, the victim was in the company of his friend Irakoze Salatiel in a bar owned by Nzayumaze Pascal, a trader who also owns a shop. This trader demanded 87,000 FBU from Rémégie and his friend, and they disputed the amount, instead requesting a receipt for what they had consumed.

The shopkeeper then contacted police officer Butoyi Elie, reporting that a member of the CNL was causing a disturbance. The officer, accompanied by a colleague, arrived and ordered the two young men to get on two motorcycles in order to be taken to the police station in the Mungwa area for questioning. Rémégie Murekambanze was arrested by the police without prior explanation and was taken on a motorcycle, then asked the officer transporting him to stop briefly so he could buy phone credit to notify his family that he had been stopped. According to the same witnesses, the policeman did not accept this proposal and after a brief discussion, this policeman pushed Rémégie Murekambanze, riddled him with 22 bullets and then died on the spot. The body of the victim 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 policeman had already fled.

The OPJ Manirakiza Dismas wrote in his report that the policeman had fired because the victim wanted to snatch his weapon from him but this version is disputed by all the witnesses present, who affirm on the contrary that it was a premeditated murder.

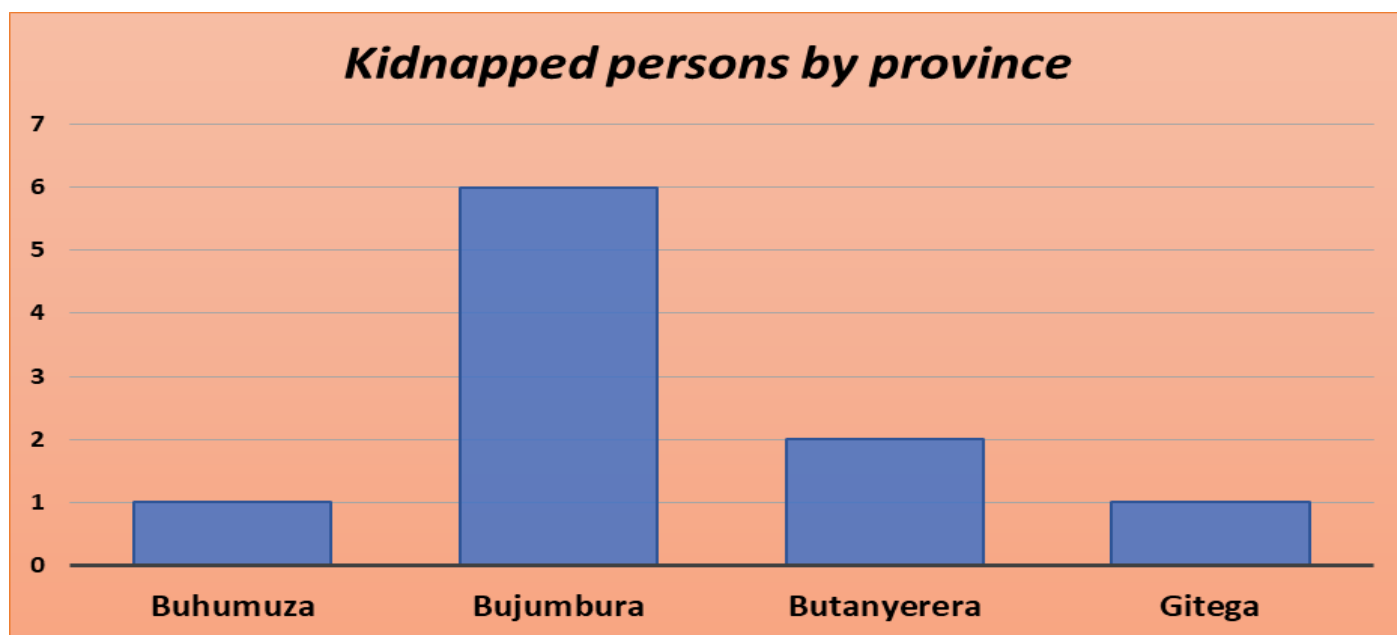
### **II.1.2. KIDNAPPINGS AND/OR MISSING PERSONS**

The constitutional law of Burundi guarantees in its Article 38 that every individual benefits from a fair trial and that their case is heard and judged within a reasonable time. Nevertheless, on the ground, alarming irregularities in this regard are observed.

During this quarter from July to September 2025, the Iteka League recorded at least 10 people who were kidnapped and/or missing, mainly in Bujumbura province with 6 cases, Butanyerera with 2 cases, and Gitega and Buhumuza with 1 case each. The alleged perpetrators are police officers in 3 cases, SNR agents in 2 cases, and unidentified individuals in 5 cases, whose circumstances suggest the involvement of the latter, including the Imbonerakure. Among the victims are one woman and 9 men.



**Figure 4 : People abducted and/or missing in Burundi from July to September 2025**



### **Illustrative Case :**

**Ex1:** Information received by the Iteka League on August 18, 2025, indicates that on August 17, 2025, at the Rusengo market, in the Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province, a woman known as Maman Salah was abducted by individuals not yet identified. According to local sources, this woman, a mother of five children, was taken in a white double-cabin Toyota pickup truck with no license plate. The victim was abducted on August 17, 2025, while she was at the Rusengo market in the Ruyigi commune.

It should be noted that this woman lives on the Nyamutobo hill in the same commune of Ruyigi. According to the same sources, this woman was found five days after her disappearance in the commune of Kayanza, Butanyerera province, very close to the building of the former governor of the former Kayanza province.

After five days of searching for the victim, her family learned that she might be held in one of the houses in the main town of the commune of Kayanza. Upon arriving in the town of Kayanza, they learned that she was kept in one of the houses near the previously mentioned house. When they approached, they saw a vehicle with tinted windows leaving the gate with someone inside the same vehicle shouting for help, and they pursued the vehicle on a motorcycle.

The vehicle in question took the road in the direction of Ngozi commune. When they arrived about 5 kilometers from the city of Kayanza, they opened the door of the vehicle and dropped the victim on the ground because they noticed that there are people who are chasing them with the help of a motorcycle. The victim's face was bandaged. The family got theirs back but was in critical condition from the torture they suffered.

She is currently hospitalized at the Rema Hospital in Ruyigi, her home province. Family conflicts are believed to be behind this kidnapping. One of the members of his family known as Muverema has been arrested for investigative reasons, he is currently in the dungeon of the provincial police station of Ruyigi.

**Ex 2:** On July 24, 2025, the Iteka League received information regarding the disappearance of Claver BAKUNDUKIZE, a 42-year-old police officer assigned to the General Inspectorate of the National Police, located in Ngagara. He disappeared on July 9, 2025. Originally from Ndago Hill in the Buraza commune, within the province of Gitega, he lived at the Buyenzi camp, also known as 1st GMIR. A former member of the Ex-FAB, he had joined the police following the reforms carried out.



**II.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR MISSING PERSONS (the following)**

At the beginning of July, Claver had taken a week off to return to his hometown. He was scheduled to return to Bujumbura on July 9 to resume his duties. On that day, Claver left Gitega, but he never reached his destination. His attempts to make contact by phone received no response. On July 10, the family, increasingly alarmed by the situation, tried to reach him numerous times, but to no avail. Anxiety grew within Claver BAKUNDUKIZE's family, who feared that he might have been the victim of a criminal act on the road connecting Gitega to Bujumbura.

**EX 3:** Information received on September 23, 2025, indicates that a former Burundian soldier named Audace Icoyitungiye was reportedly abducted on September 21, 2025.

According to our sources, Audace is originally from Nyamiyaga hill, in the Gisozi commune, formerly part of Mwaro province, now integrated into the new Gitega province. He worked at the hospital called 'Kwa Binagana.' He is married and currently resides in Mutakura, in the Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province. Around 4 a.m., Audace Icoyitungiye was returning from a prayer at the Ngagara camp. He was accompanied by his young child. When they reached the Nyabagera bridge, near the place called 'Kwa Komine,' on the road leading to Mutakura, he was frequently answering his phone, with someone asking him where he was. It was at this moment that a police van, without a license plate, arrived. It carried three police officers at the back and two in the front. The police caught up with him and forcibly took him away. The van, which had been heading towards Mutakura, then turned back.

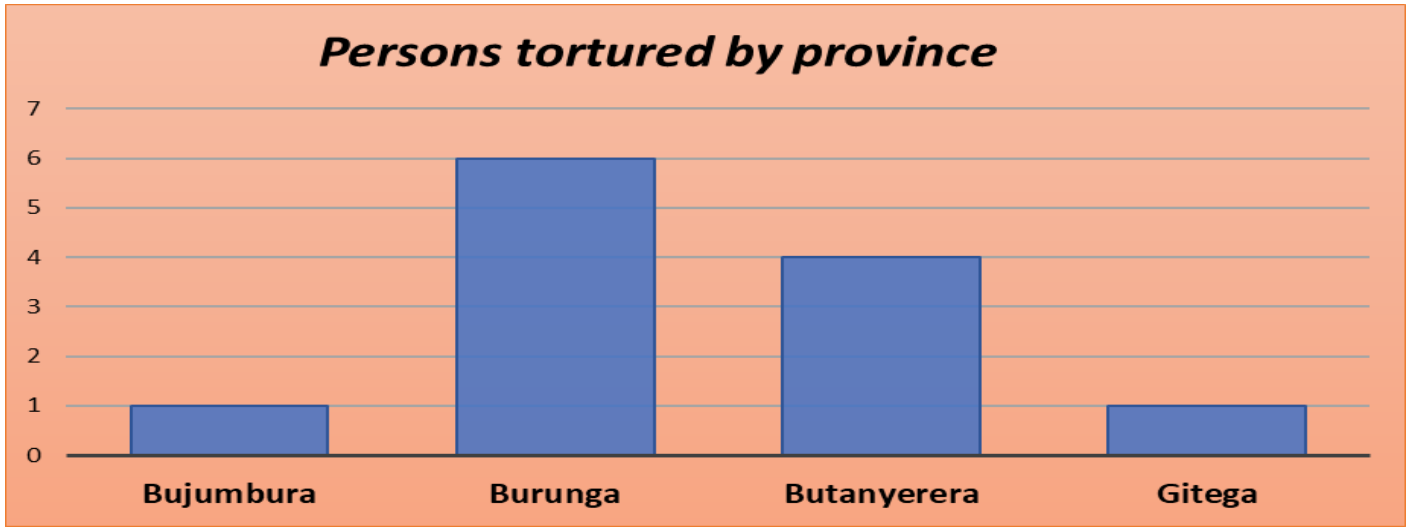
His family searched for him in the dungeons of the Cibitoke area as well as at the intelligence service in Bujumbura, near the Regina Mundi cathedral, but without success.

**II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY**

The right to physical integrity is protected in Burundi by several constitutional and legislative provisions, as well as by international commitments. The Constitution of Burundi guarantees the right to life, liberty, and personal security. It prohibits torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. The Burundian Penal Code punishes violations of physical integrity, including intentional violence, assault and battery, as well as sexual assault.

**II.2.1. ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT**

**Figure 5 : Persons tortured during the period from July to September 2025 in**



### **II.2.1. ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (the following)**

As the chart below shows, during this quarter, the Iteka League documented 12 cases of tortured individuals. The most affected provinces are Burunga and Butanyerera with 6 and 4 cases respectively, followed by Gitega and Bujumbura provinces with 1 case each. It should be noted that among the victims are 3 members of political parties, including 2 from UPRONA, 1 from CNDD-FDD, and 9 whose political affiliation could not be determined. As for the perpetrators, 4 cases are attributable to police officers, 2 cases to SNR agents, 5 cases to Imbonerakure, and 1 case to the military.

#### **Illustrative Cases:**

***Ex1:** Information received by the Iteka League on August 20, 2025, indicates that since August 8, 2025, a woman living in Mitakataka hill, Bubanza commune, Bujumbura province, has been hospitalized after being beaten by a police officer serving at the Mitakataka Higher Police Institute (ISP).*

*According to witnesses, the police officer accused the victim of practicing witchcraft before beating them with a stick. Residents present during the incident claim that this behavior is all the more serious because the law enforcement officer, supposed to protect the public, turned into an aggressor. Local sources report that the police officer was intoxicated at the time of the incident. The anger of the residents was so great that they violently beat him as well, before he was narrowly extracted by his colleagues who came to reinforce him. The former zone chief of Mitakataka, Jacques Nikwitegetse, confirms these events and specifies that, despite repeated calls from residents for this police officer to be punished for his behavior deemed 'unworthy and criminal,' he continues to move about freely. His colleagues have protected him from any judicial proceedings, which fuels a deep sense of injustice and frustration within the community.*

*The residents of Mitakataka demand that exemplary measures be taken so that such abuses do not happen again and that law enforcement fully assumes their duty to protect citizens.*

***Example 2:** On September 4, 2025, on Gakungu hill and 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, using sticks and whips.*

*According to local sources, Olivier Twigumanire, whose mother is the zonal head of the UPRONA party, was tortured with accusations that he had stolen gasoline from Ruwaya, the trader of this product on the Gakungu hill as well as surrounding hills. However, the act was committed by a suspected thief known on this hill called Franck, who fled as soon as he heard that the boy Olivier had already been captured.*

*According to the same sources, after this torture, the police of this hill, along with the hill chief, civil status officer Barahekenywa J. Claude, and the zonal chief of Gakungu, Login, who was recently appointed as the zonal chief of Gakungu, Musongati commune, Burunga province, forced him to pay an amount of four hundred sixty thousand Burundian francs (460,000 BIF) to this gasoline trader.*

*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 Nkunzimana and Donatien Manirakiza, who tried to intervene by seeking assistance here and there, were arrested by police at the Gakungu hill post and were placed in the Gakungu post jail located in the main town of the Gakungu area, Musongati commune, Burunga province.*

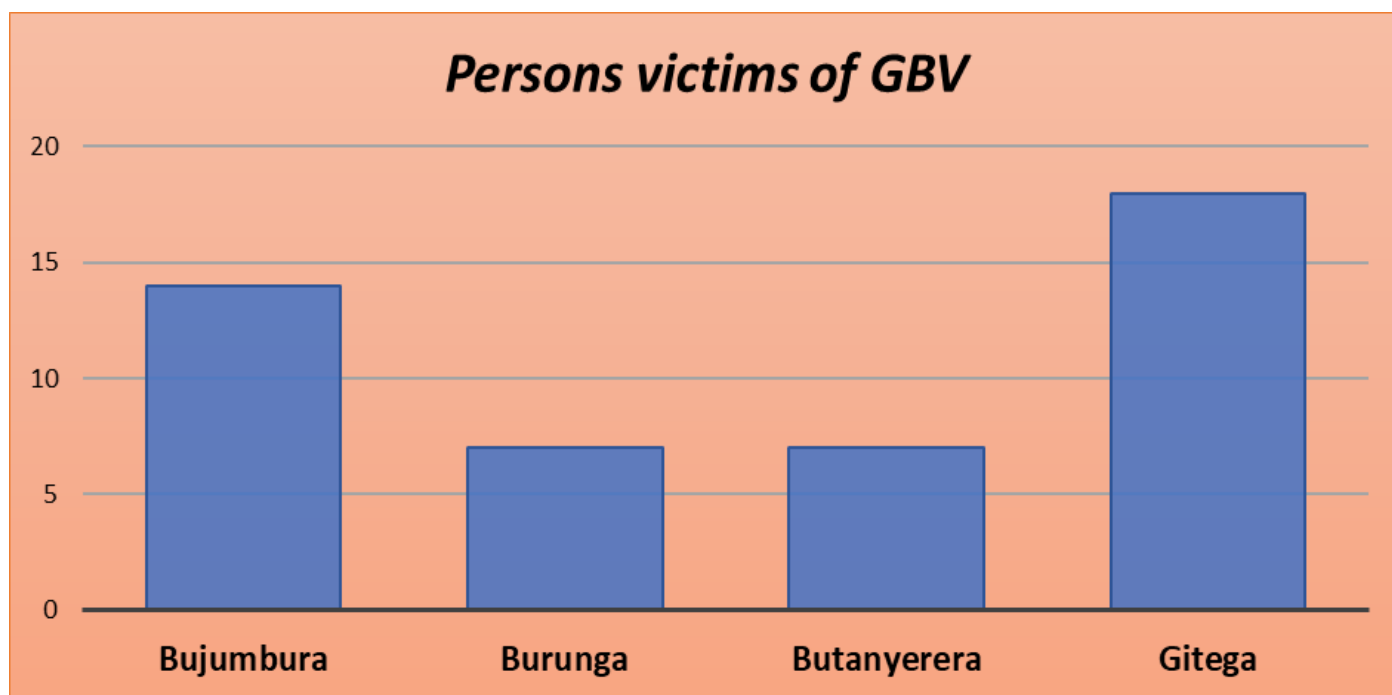
## II.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULTS

The Law on Gender-Based Violence adopted in Burundi in 2016 was a major step forward. It ensured better protection, notably by providing a definition of rape that takes consent into account and by prohibiting harmful traditional practices.

During the period covered by this report, cases of GBV have been observed at an alarming rate. The Iteka League recorded at least 46 people as victims of gender-based violence. Among these victims, 23 cases involved sexual violence.

As shown in the graph below, Gitega province ranks first with 18 cases, followed by Bujumbura province with 14 cases, and in third place, Burunga and Butanyerera with 7 cases each.

**Figure 6: Chart of people affected by gender-based violence**



### **Illustrative case:**

**EX1:** 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 invites her to his house, and it is 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 fled.

**EX 2:** Information received by the Iteka League on August 4, 2025, indicates that on July 27, 2025, on Busebwa Hill, Gatete area, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, T. B., aged 16, was raped by Dusabimana Léonce, an Imbonerakure affiliated with the ruling party. According to local witnesses, on the evening of July 27, 2025, around 7 p.m., the alleged perpetrator tricked the victim into following him to a friend's house where the assault took place.

The alleged perpetrator was arrested on August 2 and placed in provisional detention at the Rumonge police station lockup, awaiting further judicial proceedings. As for the victim, she

## II.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULTS (the following)

Until August 9, 2025, the judicial authorities had not yet provided any information on the progress of the investigation, but the Rumonge community is still awaiting justice for T. B.

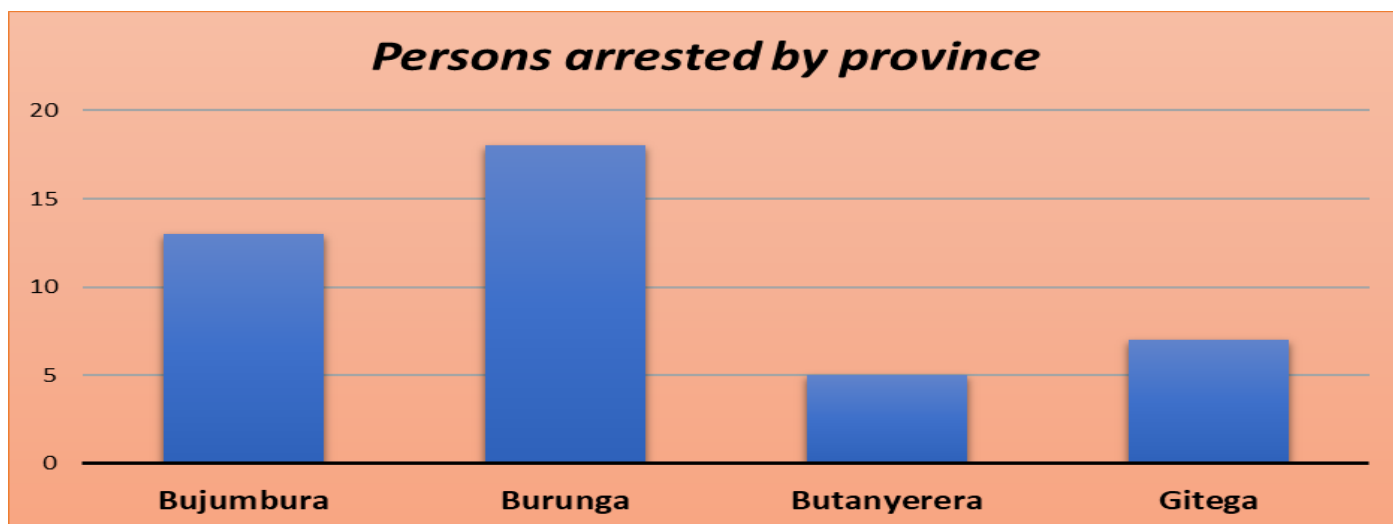
**Example 3:** On July 17, 2025, a 38-year-old man, Ndayisaba Ferdinand, a member of the CNDD-FDD party, severely injured his wife, Dusabimana Évelyne, aged 35. Reports on the events indicate that a second communion ceremony was taking place that day at Ruganza parish, where their son was among the children celebrating this event. Upon returning home after mass, their son informed his mother in these words: "Mom, dad hasn't come yet." According to the victim, the child was referring to his godfather who had not yet arrived at their home for the celebration. This statement provoked a violent reaction from Ferdinand, who accused his wife of betrayal, believing that the child was not his. He then relentlessly attacked Évelyne with punches until the neighbors intervened. After the incident, Ferdinand went to the hill chief, Thadée Nduwimana, to explain the situation. Instead of reporting him to the authorities, the chief facilitated his escape. Ferdinand was thus able to flee, while Évelyne was quickly taken to Ngozi Hospital, where she remains hospitalized. The victim's family is demanding the arrest of the hill chief, whom they consider complicit in the attacker's escape.

## II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

### II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

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

During the period covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded 15 cases of arrest involving at least 43 individuals arbitrarily detained, including 7 women and 36 men. The alleged perpetrators are police officers in 7 cases, Imbonerakure in 2 cases, SNR agents in 4 cases, and military personnel in 2 cases. The most affected province is Burunga with 18 victims, followed by Bujumbura with 13, then Gitega with 7 victims, and finally Gitega with 5 victims.



#### **Illustrative case:**

**Ex1:** Since July 31, 2025, five people RWANTORE Félix, teacher at ÉCOFO BUGENYUZI, member of CNDD-FDD; MANIRAKIZA Josaphat, director at ECOFO CUBA 2, member of CNDD-FDD; NDAYIRUKIYE SADOSCAL, teacher at ÉCOFO KANAZI, member of CNDD-FDD; GIRUNDEKE JONAS, teacher at ÉCOFO KANAZI, member of CNDD-FDD; and DAMAS, teacher at LYCE Communal BUGENYUZI, member of CNDD-FDD have been summoned by the Karusi prosecutor's office to appear without any reason mentioned.

### **II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS (the following)**

*According to witnesses in Karusi, they were heard by the first deputy prosecutor, who accused them of insolence for insulting the outgoing administrator of the former Bugenyuzi commune, MUCOWERA Jacques. The families of the victims are concerned about these baseless accusations, and sources in the Bugenyuzi area say that the same outgoing administrator claims it is a list of 11 people who insulted him, but the other 6 have not yet been identified or arrested.*

**Ex2:** *On September 3, 2025, in Nyakabiga, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, around 5 p.m., Norbert Rucabihari, a journalist for the online media Buja 24, was arrested while he was in a bar. He was approached by individuals looking for him, carrying his photo, and then taken in a taxi to the headquarters of the National Enquiry Service (SNR) in Rohero, near the Regina Mundi Cathedral.*

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

*Many wonder if the journalists of Net Press are under the scrutiny of the SNR. This event highlights a procedural flaw, as press offenses first fall under the National Communication Council before being transferred to judicial authorities. This reflects a regression in freedom of expression and opinion in Burundi.*

**Ex3 :** *On September 3, 2025, on Gatete Hill, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, Ntahondabasigiye Josephine, Niragira Caroline, Sindakirimana Donavine, MpanzamasoKazire, Mbangukirwe Séverin, Binyaruka Bernard, and Basirimba Onésime were arrested for opposing the expropriation of their land located in the Gatete area, Rumonge commune, Burunga province. As representatives of about a dozen families, these individuals are being prosecuted for rebellion against a decision of the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Republic.*

*According to local sources, these people are involved in a longstanding land dispute concerning a property located on the said hill. The land in question is claimed by twelve families, but it has been named 'Nkurunziza City' and is currently managed by a certain Benjamin Bikorimana, whom these families accuse of being responsible for their detention.*

*The case has already been brought before the Rumonge residency court, involving the representatives of the concerned families against Mr. Bikorimana. The families' lawyer denounces a clear judicial imbalance. According to him, if the court deems it necessary to suspend activities on this site, this decision should apply to both parties in conflict, not just one.*

*He also criticizes the non-compliance with Articles 154 and 155 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, stating that his clients were arrested without a warrant and without prior notification from a competent judicial authority. He requests their immediate release so that the land dispute can be examined in a fair trial.*

*The families have claimed ownership of the land since 2012 and assert that they were unjustly expropriated. They accuse Benjamin Bikorimana of using false documents to sign deeds of commitment in their name. A complaint has been filed regarding this matter. But the case has not yet been judged.*

*"We do not understand why our representatives have been arrested when the file on the false documents has not even been examined by the justice system," complains one of the residents.*



### **II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS (the following)**

*Police sources indicate that the arrested individuals continued to cultivate the land despite a formal ban issued by the public prosecutor. But the families argue that they were never legally deprived of their rights to this land, denouncing the involvement of some local authorities in their expropriation.*

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

*The Rumonge public prosecutor went to have them sign a commitment act on September 5, 2025, so that they would agree to stop exploiting these properties in order for them to be released, but these people rejected this proposal from the Public Prosecutor of Rumonge, preferring to remain in detention according to information gathered from their lawyer.*

## **III. 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 particular feature of these rights is that they are often realized gradually, unlike civil and political rights. The States parties, including Burundi, commit to ensuring the exercise of these rights according to their available resources.

### **III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE**

The analysis of economic law in Burundi during the third quarter of 2025 shows serious disruptions, notably violations of economic rights. The closure of the borders with Rwanda has created a significant economic crisis, affecting the communities of Ruhororo, Butahana, Nyamakarabo, and Rubona, and worsening relations between Burundians and Rwandans. Access to the Rwandan market is heavily restricted, leading to shortages of essential goods such as fuel, cattle, and SIM cards from operators, hindering communications. Furthermore, human rights violations are on the rise, with kidnappings and ransom demands for those attempting to cross the border. The murder of two Imbonerakure, falsely accused of selling coffee to Rwanda, appears to be the result of a plot by political officials and Enquiry agents.

Economically, the closure of borders exacerbates an already existing crisis. The beverage market, under the aegis of BRARUDI, is unbalanced, with shortages of products like Amstel and Primus beer prices reaching high levels, which worries consumers. Prices range from 5,000 to 15,000 francs, and resellers mention supplies from the DRC, fueling speculation about potential clandestine exports.

In addition, farming families in Bururi fear for the health of their livestock in the face of diseases without adequate vaccination. Food prices are also rising in Buhumuza, even during harvests, worsening household situations. Efforts to control prices are hardly effective, with conflicts between authorities and traders, and in Kirundo, the demolition of traders' kiosks is leading to complaints. The Karusi commune is suffering from a fuel shortage, impacting the cost of goods and the daily lives of residents.

In August 2025, delays in payments to coffee farmers in Kayanza threaten their livelihoods. An official cites digitalization issues, but without clear solutions. In Mugina, land expropriation for gold mining raises concerns, with authorities targeting agricultural land under threat. Power outages complicate the economic situation, affecting businesses and health services.



### ***III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE (the following)***

In Bujumbura, illegal gold mining jeopardizes the income of many families. Late payments to coffee farmers in Mpanda are also creating tensions, with farmers considering abandoning cultivation. The situation is worsened in Karuzi by fuel shortages and low wages in the tea sector, prompting employees to seek better opportunities elsewhere. The deterioration of corn stocks in Burunga Province raises concerns in the face of government inaction.

Although the Prime Minister promised tax exemptions for the agricultural sector, unfulfilled commitments have been reported regarding the purchase of maize. Farmers are frustrated by the export ban to Tanzania, which would offer fairer prices. Difficulties in accessing credit exacerbate economic challenges, leading to calls for crop loss insurance. Faced with these challenges, the Prime Minister remains vague and offers no concrete solutions, prompting growing criticism.

### ***III. 2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION***

The right to education in Burundi was severely impacted during the last quarter by various events. From July 2025, the end of the school year was disrupted by a political meeting of the CNDD-FDD in Makamba, which prevented the exams scheduled for July 3 from taking place. This event, led by Révérien Ndikuriyo and centered on patriotism, led to a significant mobilization of students, leaving teachers perplexed by the absence of students and the interruption of the school year. Some students, attracted by material incentives, chose to attend this meeting instead of taking their exams. Some teachers are concerned about potential pressures to reschedule the exams, while parents criticize political interference. The situation was highlighted by an incident at ÉCO FO Rukina, where a teacher had not communicated grades due to unpaid debts, and a tragic case involving a student injured after failing. At Ruhengeri Primary School, nearly 400 students share six classrooms, severely affecting health and learning conditions. Although improvement plans have been suggested, the lack of concrete resources perpetuates a broader crisis in the education system, particularly at ITABU School in Mutambu, where most teachers are volunteers, limiting children's access to education.

In August 2025, school closures by the Ministry of Education, led by François Havyarimana, restricted access to education due to non-compliance, primarily affecting Bujumbura. Although the ministry justifies the decision by the need to maintain educational standards, questions remain regarding its responsibility for the conditions that led to these closures. . In the province of Muramvya, the school dropout rate has increased to 7,996 students in primary classes. Causes such as poverty and early pregnancies are cited. Recent guidelines regarding the purchase of school uniforms could exacerbate challenges for low-income families.

Concerns about academic performance are growing, with the government announcing a success rate of only 35% for 9<sup>th</sup>-grade students. Learning conditions in public boarding schools are considered alarming. Additionally, Twa children are suffering severely under the impact of the Merankabandi program, while 65% of their population lives in poverty. Teacher recruitment issues in Burunga raise concerns about favoritism and injustice, with allegations of fraud during the selection process.

Recent incidents at Lycée Communal Mwaro I, where eight students were expelled following failures, as well as allegations of corruption in the hiring of teachers in Mugere, are exacerbating tensions. The overcrowding conditions in Karurama, where access to educational resources is severely limited, threaten the education of young people. Promises of educational reorganization have yet to be implemented, leaving many questions unanswered.

### **III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH**

During the last quarter, the right to health in Burundi faced significant obstacles related to several critical issues. In July 2025, the locality of Muyinga reported an increase in diseases attributable to poor hygiene conditions, exacerbated by limited access to drinking water. Citizens faced waiting times of sometimes more than a month, as a result of inefficient management of water distribution by Regideso. Corruption dominated this situation, allowing water vendors to raise prices, while vulnerable families were limited to an average of three water containers per day.

Similar conditions were observed in the Cibitoke commune, where the population was forced to consume non-potable water, thereby increasing the risk of cholera during the rainy season. In response to this worrying situation, the authorities pressured Regideso to take corrective measures. On July 16, the Iteka League raised the alarm about a shortage of rabies vaccines in Burunga, following dog bites affecting fourteen individuals, of whom only two had received the full five doses required. Additionally, a dog was euthanized in Bururi, highlighting the urgent need for strengthened control of stray animals. The Buhiga commune in Gitega was also facing a water shortage, forcing residents to travel long distances to obtain water. Implications of mismanagement within Regideso further complicated access to water, resulting in heavy bills for households often deprived of water for several weeks.

In August 2025, Cibitoke recorded blatant violations of health rights, marked by a severe shortage of CAM cards in health facilities, making access to care difficult. These cards, costing 5,000 FBU, became unavailable, with some healthcare workers suspected of reselling them. As a result, citizens called for the intervention of the Ministry of Health, with an investigation promised in response to these concerns. The AGAPE Clinic in Rugombo, despite offering free care, was also criticized for the quality of its services, which led to deaths attributed to a lack of staff. Allegations of embezzlement involving subsidies, amounting to one billion Burundian francs, were also made against the clinic.

In September, violations of the right to health worsened, particularly in Mwaro and Nyabihanga, due to medicine shortages in health centers. At the same time, a cholera outbreak was reported in Cibitoke and Bukinanyana, with 220 cases recorded, a direct consequence of limited access to drinking water. Medical teams, supported by Doctors Without Borders, were working to contain this growing crisis, while families desperately searched for water in polluted rivers. As of September 18, 1,014 cholera cases had been confirmed, with 906 patients recovered, but limited access to treatments and persistent shortages in the public sector were increasing health risks for vulnerable populations.



*Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa*

## IV. CATEGORY RIGHTS

### IV.1. RIGHT TO CHILD

Category-specific rights, particularly those related to children in Burundi, have been disrupted by various circumstances. The protection of children's rights represents a crucial priority to ensure the harmonious and equitable development of Burundian society. Despite some progress, the situation of children's rights remains alarming, hindered by a combination of socio-economic, historical, and political factors that limit their full development. The recognition of these rights is formalized in several legal instruments, both at the national and international levels, notably the Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by Burundi. However, the implementation of these commitments faces many obstacles.

Precariousness affects a large part of the population. The trafficking of children to Tanzania is a serious issue, particularly in southern Burundi. Recently, an incident was reported in the Rutana commune where four children were intercepted while being illegally transferred to Tanzania. These children were on board a Hiace-type vehicle, heading toward Burunga province. According to local information, they were reportedly abducted in Gitega province. This event took place during a meeting focused on security, led by the governor of Burunga, Parfait Mboninyibuka. Following this alert, emergency measures were implemented to halt this trafficking operation. Mboninyibuka emphasized that no form of disregard for Burundian children, who are often subjected to inhumane treatment in the United Republic of Tanzania, should be tolerated. He issued orders for the officials to be apprehended quickly. The defense and security forces were mobilized to dismantle these networks. Five individuals, including three drivers, were arrested, one of whom had already been identified by the public for previous illegal activities. An investigation is currently underway, and the suspects could be charged with human trafficking, a crime severely punished under Burundian law.

Regarding the exploitation of underage children in the construction sector in Commune Mwaro, since the beginning of the holidays, a concerning trend has been observed. Young children from economically disadvantaged families try to generate income, often under extremely difficult working conditions. On several construction sites located in Mwaro, in the larger Gitega Province, lines of children can be seen carrying bricks in plastic bags or baskets. Each brick they move earns them 20 FBu, and some of them, aged 9 to 10, mention the possibility of earning about 1,000 FBu per day. Furthermore, they report difficulties in obtaining food during the day, as this work also requires a certain level of physical strength.



*Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa*

## V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the period covered by this report, a persistent deterioration of human rights was observed in various parts of the country. This report highlights incidents related to violations of the right to life, physical integrity, and freedom, including categorical rights, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights. Furthermore, it addresses issues associated with security and the overall context of the country.

The Iteka League provides an analysis of the major events that influenced the political, judicial, governance, economic, humanitarian, and security landscape throughout the quarter. The Iteka League expresses its indignation at the impunity of observed criminal acts and presents several recommendations:

### **To the Burundian authorities :**

1. Ensure democratic governance by respecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens.
2. Demonstrate democratic leadership by integrating democratic principles into decision-making and governance actions.
3. Guarantee respect for human rights, including the right to life, physical integrity, and freedom.
4. Take measures to eradicate impunity for crimes and ensure that perpetrators of human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.

### **To the EU and other technical and financial partners of Burundi :**

1. Support the efforts of the Iteka League and other organizations dedicated to the defense of human rights in monitoring human rights violations in Burundi.
2. Use their influence to urge Burundian authorities to respect human rights and put an end to impunity.

### **To human rights organizations :**

1. Continue monitoring the human rights situation in Burundi and advocate for the protection of fundamental rights.
2. Provide support to victims of human rights violations and work to ensure their access to justice. .



*Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa*