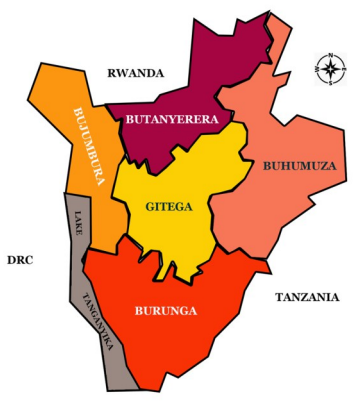




"Iteka n'Ijambo"

Approved by Ministerial Statutory Instrument N°. 530/0273 of November 10th, 1994
revising Order N°. 550/029 of February 6th, 1991

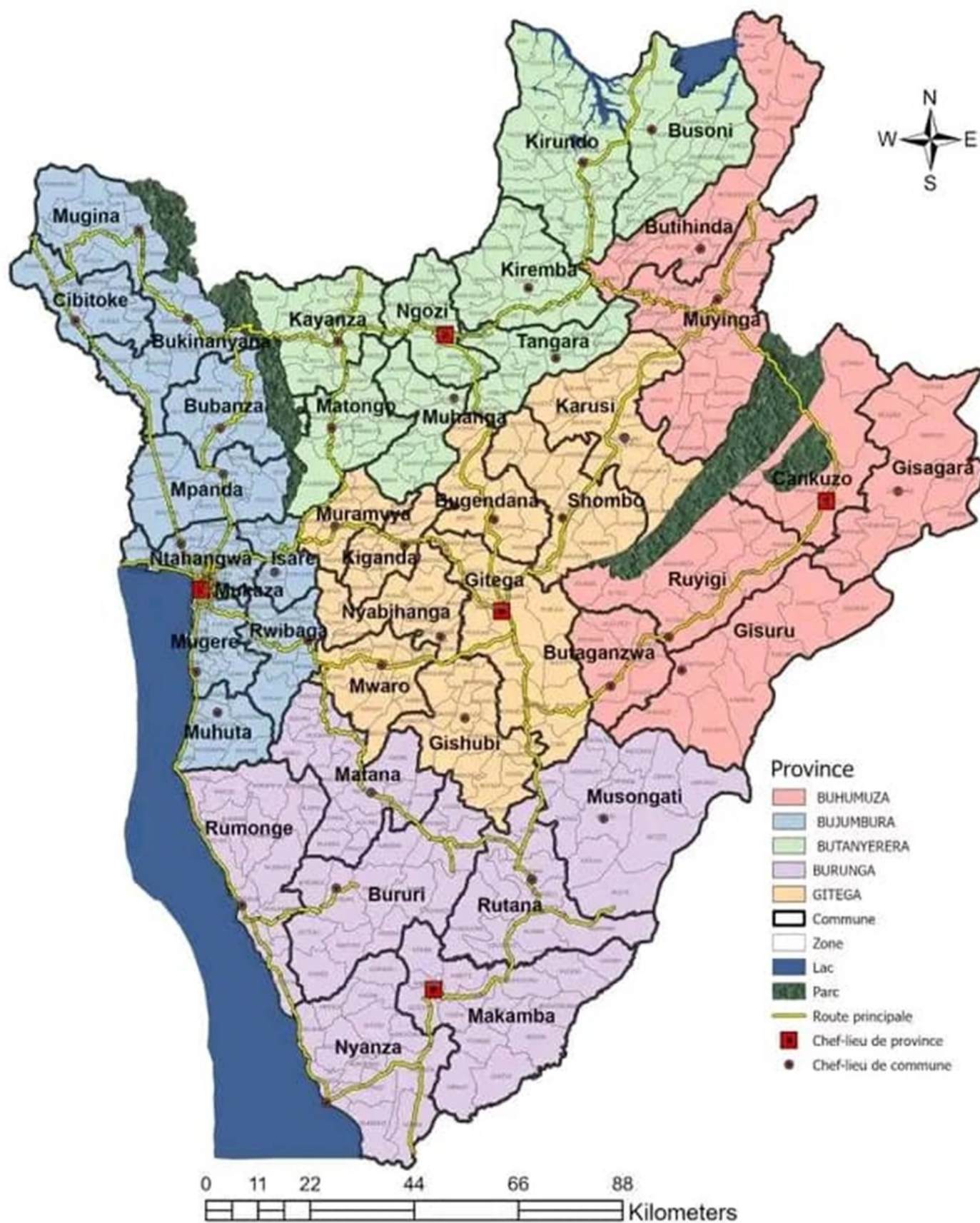


¹<https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

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ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BSR	: <i>Special Research Office</i>
CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNIDH	: <i>National Independent Human Rights Commission</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>
FAB	: <i>Burundian Armed Forces</i>
FARDC	: <i>Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
FDLR	: <i>Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda</i>
FDNB	: <i>National Defense Force of Burundi</i>
FLN	: <i>National Liberation Forces</i>
M23	: <i>March 23 Movement</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
PNB	: <i>National Police of Burundi</i>
RN	: <i>National Road</i>
SNR	: <i>National Enquiry Service</i>
TGI	: <i>High Court</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>
VSBG	: <i>Sexual and Gender-Based Violence</i>

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of September 22 to 28, 2025. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, security, judicial, and environmental context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of violations of civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least 7 people killed, including 4 bodies found deceased; 5 victims of gender-based violence, including 2 victims of sexual violence; 3 people kidnapped and/or reported missing; and 1 person subjected to arbitrary arrest in Kirundo. It should be noted that the victim is a Rwandan soldier pursuing stolen cows.

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

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Official presentation of the new municipal administrators by President Evariste Ndayishimiye

The President of the Republic, Evariste Ndayishimiye, orchestrated a series of solemn ceremonies to officially introduce several new communal administrators, events that took place in various provinces of the country. Among these new appointments is Calixte Rwarukundo, who was presented as the communal administrator of Mwaro during a ceremony at the Kibumbu stadium. The same attention was given to Eloge Najeneza, who was introduced as the communal administrator of Cibitoke during a meeting on September 24, 2025, on the grounds of the Cibitoke parish. Finally, Jérémie Simbagoye was officially appointed as the new communal administrator of Bubanza during a ceremony held on September 25, 2025, at the Bubanza stadium.

In his speeches, the Head of State reaffirmed the crucial importance of preserving national

unity, peace, and stability, elements essential to promoting sustainable and prosperous development. He encouraged students to engage in their studies with exemplary diligence and to put their various skills at the service of the country, urging them to aspire to become job creators rather than mere job seekers.

The President also called on the population to adopt a more responsible lifestyle, emphasizing the abandonment of alcoholism, the importance of personal and environmental hygiene, while promoting land protection to combat erosion. To the newly elected leaders, he delivered a message of exemplary conduct, urging them to serve their constituents with unwavering dedication and to initiate development projects to enhance well-being general populations.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

Furthermore, the President emphasized the need to value individual talents and each person's abilities to contribute to the country's development, referencing the Parable of the Talents from the Holy Bible. It should be noted that on the sidelines of the ceremony in Bubanza, the President of the Republic visited the Gahongore Mining Company, which specializes in the extraction of green amethyst quartz, overseen by the

Mobilization for the launch of the Torch of Peace caravan in Cankuzo Commune, Buhumuza province

The mobilization for the launch of the Flame of Peace caravan in the Commune of Cankuzo, Buhumuza Province, represents an interesting case study of political and community engagement. Since September 22, 2025, Gabriel TOYI, a mobilizer for the ruling CNDD-FDD party, has devoted his efforts to raising awareness among the local population to gather in order to welcome the President of the Republic, Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, while participating in the launch of activities related to the Flame of Peace. This event marks the 19th anniversary of the caravan, and the official ceremony is scheduled for September 29, 2025. It is expected to be enhanced by the presence of the Head of State, thereby highlighting the institutional importance of the event.

Every year, the Government of Burundi organizes this event under various themes, coupled with initiatives aimed at

company FANALEK. This visit aimed to support and encourage the initiatives of young people involved in the country's development. Since its launch on July 25, 2025, with the support of PAEEJ, this mining initiative has already produced results, with the extraction of approximately 100 tons of green amethyst quartz.

strengthening social cohesion. In a correspondence dated September 20, 2025, addressed to local officials, the Governor of Buhumuza Province, Denise RUHEKERE, urges the population to gather at the Buhumuza stadium for these ceremonies. However, it is relevant to note that public perception is far from homogeneous. Indeed, some citizens express distrust regarding the real meaning and significance of this event, arguing that it is difficult to speak of peace while bodies are regularly found in various parts of the province.

Other voices are rising to describe this initiative as a slogan giving the illusion of political peace, clearly motivated by goals of manipulating public opinion. In conclusion, this event raises questions about the true scope of the Torch of Peace and how it is perceived in the current sociopolitical context.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

Lack of understanding among the population regarding the new administrative division of Burundi

The misunderstanding among the Burundian population regarding the new administrative division stems from the implementation of a territorial reform initiated by the government, in accordance with the legislation governing the creation and delimitation of Provinces, Communes, Zones, Hills, and neighborhoods of the Republic of Burundi. This reorganization causes disruptions among department heads as well as among advisors and secretaries, both at the provincial and communal levels. Following the appointment of five Provincial governors by decree, many advisors find themselves in a situation of uncertainty concerning the exercise of their responsibilities. Some have been forced to move from a province to a commune, while others are migrating from communes to zones, and the number of positions does not seem to correspond to the number of beneficiaries of administrative services. For example, an

advisor, Previously responsible for legal matters in the former province of Rutana, has seen his title changed to legal advisor in the new commune of Rutana.

Moreover, the staff who worked in the former provinces of Rutana, Makamba, Rumonge, and Bururi are now integrated into the new enlarged Burunga Province. The population, including users of administrative services, feels the need for awareness and adaptation of the administrative organization to facilitate the establishment of new structures or entities that meet the requirements of the new administrative framework.

High-tension swearing-in for the new municipal administrator in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province

On September 24, 2025, the commune of Cibitoke was the scene of an inauguration ceremony marked by singing and applause. Under a blazing sun, a large crowd gathered to welcome the President of the Republic, Évariste Ndayishimiye, who came to install Éloge Najeneza as the new communal administrator. Upon his arrival, the head of state spoke with determination, emphasizing before the citizens and local officials the essential mission of administrators: to serve the public rather than their personal interests. He warned that those who neglected their duty in favor of their own business would face sanctions, prompting murmurs of approval among the audience. The president's message highlighted the importance of being close to the population and of accountability.

Moved, Éloge Najeneza then delivered a speech promising transparency and consultation. He affirmed his commitment to consult all citizens, regardless of their political affiliations, raising his right hand to signify the solemnity of his pledge. The sustained applause reflects the high expectations of the residents for their new leader. However, beneath this festive atmosphere, criticisms began to emerge. In several surrounding hills, such as Rugeregere and Munyika, residents denounced significant irregularities in the selection of hill representatives. A resident

1.3. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

Rugeregere's elder expressed his indignation: "We voted for our representatives. But the published lists did not match our choices. They are people close to the ruling party or who have paid. How can we accept this?" This feeling of betrayal was shared in neighboring districts, where part of the population demanded the return of the real elected officials, fearing that municipal decisions would not reflect the will of the people. The inauguration of Éloge Najeneza therefore

marks a turning point for the Cibitoke commune. Nevertheless, the mistrust of part of the population represents an immediate challenge for the new administrator. He will have to quickly demonstrate that his promises of closeness and listening are not just empty words in the face of political pressures. For many, the future of the commune will be determined by his ability to harmonize the expectations of citizens with the constraints of central power.

The establishment of administrative bodies was marked by irregularities in Bujumbura province

The period following the recent elections has been marked by two significant events in the administration since Burundi's independence, particularly in the province of Bujumbura. On August 26, 2025, the creation of new leadership positions within the zones was announced, followed on September 16 and 17 by the appointment of 11 department heads in all communes. However, despite this progress in administrative policy, the establishment of these bodies was marred by three major irregularities. In the context of the latest electoral process, in which the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD, monopolized all positions within the legislative and executive branches, it was expected that the establishment of the new bodies would be highly transparent, at least internally within the same dominant party. Yet, in three communes, namely Cibitoke, Bukinanyana, and Mugina, Internal tensions as well as complaints persist among those who paid bribes to party representatives in order to obtain these positions.

Another notable irregularity was the exclusion of candidates from other parties, particularly from the Tutsi and Twa ethnic groups. In these three municipalities, it is regrettable to observe that more than 95% of the positions are held by individuals of the Hutu ethnic group, with the Mugina municipality even setting a record with 100% of leaders coming from this ethnicity. The 30% standard for women, meanwhile, was not met. The corruption that characterized the formation of these bodies is particularly concerning, as more than 70% of the people chosen are known for dubious behavior and have already demonstrated incompetence in other positions they previously held. Integrity and honesty also seem to be lacking in many of them. It is important to note that, despite the existence of these bodies, the province of Bujumbura, and in particular the mentioned communes, has been completely without administration since August. Users of various services in the areas and communes denounce the difficult and costly conditions they must face to reach the officials of these institutions.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 8)

Internal tensions within the CNDD-FDD are hindering the appointment process in Muramvya

As of September 15, 2025, a decree was issued for the recruitment of administrative advisers at the communal level. However, in the Gitega province, Muramvya commune, the position of political affairs adviser remains desperately vacant, in contrast to other communes that have successfully established their teams. This delay in appointments is the result of persistent disagreements among local members of the CNDD-FDD, who are struggling to agree on the candidate to select.

Prior to the issuance of the decree, Madam Nahishakiye Justine, wife of the Prosecutor of the Republic in Muramvya, had initially been appointed to this position. Nevertheless, she ultimately requested to withdraw after being recruited as an executive at BBCI

Bank. Consequently, the position of political affairs adviser remains unoccupied. Furthermore, another clear sign of internal tensions is the appointment of Sibobandemye. Alfred, as an advisor for communication and public relations, a decision also formalized by the September decree.

Yet, in an unexpected turn of events, the administrator of Muramvya also appointed him, just two days later, to assume the position of head of the Department of Entrepreneurship, Trade, and Industry, thus giving him a dual role. Objective observers consider this political situation alarming, generating uncertainties about the political future of the locality.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

A climate of insecurity among the population in Musongati Commune, Burunga Province

As of September 25, 2025, the Iteka League was informed of a climate of insecurity among people living on the Hill and in the Gakungu Zone, which is located in the Musongati Commune, in Burunga Province.

Following this, the local administration, led by Hill Chief Jonas Ndikumana, along with his advisors and the leader of the Imbonerakure, Alfred Izobishitsa, decided to impose a curfew starting at 9 p.m. throughout the Hill. Normally, a curfew is established to maintain order and public safety. It is often enforced during crises or social unrest to assist relief operations and preserve peace. However, this is not what is happening on Gakungu Hill. According to our information on the ground, this appears to be a means for these officials to arrest and torture people

who are not part of the CNDD-FDD and even to extort those crossing the Burundian border to work in Tanzania or when they come back.

Many people say that after 9 p.m., they have already been victims of torture and extortion because they are not recognized as members of the young Imbonerakure. A local person insisted, saying that if no one knows you as a member of the ruling party, you could risk your life.

Since this hill is close to Tanzania, those who return after crossing the border to look for work are threatened with having to pay money. In short, the locals are asking the higher authorities of the Province to take action to stop these abuses and improve security.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 9)

The population accused of colluding with the M23 is being stripped of their land in the Kaboya plain, Rugombo area, Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province.

More than a hundred farming families from the sub-hills of Kaboya and Mbaza, on Rukana hill in the Rugombo area, have been expelled from their fields. Their makeshift shelters, set up to watch over their crops, were demolished by young Imbonerakure. This operation has sown fear and uncertainty among the local population. *"They want to deprive us of our harvests."*

The farmers denounce a scheme aimed at dispossessing them of their fertile fields and, above all, their harvests, which were ready to be reaped. *"We have been cultivating these lands for more than half a century. They inherited them from our ancestors,"* a farmer confides. *"Today, we are unjustly accused in order to be chased away and to have our harvests taken,"* laments another farmer.

According to our sources on the ground, it all started with a recent incident : a group, also including Imbonerakure, was intercepted while transporting goods to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

These Imbonerakure allegedly accused the farmers of Kaboya and Mbaza of collaborating with the M23 rebellion by providing them with food and supplies. The accusations are considered by the cultivators to be

"completely fabricated." For them, it is merely a pretext aimed at evicting them and taking over their land. Several local sources point to the complicity of certain administrative officials. The communal administrator of Cibitoke, Éloge Najeneza, is said to have overseen the operation alongside the Imbonerakure.

On his side, the administrator assumes responsibility and justifies the decision: *"This area is traversed by armed groups coming from the DRC. They threaten the safety of the population. The security measures taken are irreversible,"* he declared, warning the inhabitants not to return under threat of sanctions.

In total, nearly 80 hectares of crops have been abandoned, leaving more than 100 families without resources. The latter fear permanently losing their lands.

In the Kaboya plain, anxiety is palpable. The evicted families find themselves homeless, deprived of their crops, and without a clear prospect for the future. Many wonder: is this really a security measure, or rather an organized dispossession ?

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

Transfer of journalist Sandra Muhoza to the Ngozi Central Prison

The transfer of journalist Sandra Muhoza to the Ngozi Central Prison represents an important development in the Burundian judicial system. On Friday, September 27, 2025, Muhoza, who works for the newspaper La Nova, was moved from the Mpimba Central Prison in Bujumbura to the women's prison in Ngozi. This decision follows a statement from the Mukaza Court of Appeal, which ruled that it was not competent to handle her case. According to this court, the trial of Sandra Muhoza should take place in Ngozi, given that the alleged offense occurred in this locality.

The journalist was arrested on April 13, 2024, in Ngozi after receiving a call from an individual identified as Manirakiza Marc, nicknamed Poshéni. He presented himself as an agent of the national intelligence service in the Butanyerera province and allegedly mentioned a reporting topic before Muhoza

was apprehended for unclear reasons and taken to Bujumbura. In the first instance, the judicial decision resulted in a 21-month prison sentence. However, the Attorney General at the Mukaza Court of Appeal requested that the initial 12-year prison sentence be upheld.

Muhoza faces serious charges, including threats to the internal security of the state and ethnic hostility. These allegations are supported by his exchanges in a WhatsApp group with other journalists, where there was discussion of a potential distribution of machetes to the youth of the Imbonerakure movement, associated with the ruling CNDD-FDD party.

This situation raises crucial issues concerning freedom of expression and the safety of journalists in a tense political context.

A person beaten in Kirundo commune, Butanyera province

On September 24, 2025, a serious incident occurred on Ruhehe hill, in the Bugabira area, Kirundo commune, where Reverien Uzobahiga suffered severe physical violence, resulting in bloodshed. This attack is the manifestation of a long-standing property-related conflict that has long been a source of tension within the commune. Indeed, Nzakaha, Reverien's grandfather, had granted housing to Matabaro, a Rwandan refugee, in 1959. Following Matabaro's return to Rwanda in 1994, the Bugabira commune illegally seized the Nzakaha family's lands.

In 2019, the National Commission for Land and Other Property (CNTB) decided that the Nzakaha family was entitled to compensation in the form of the restitution of 9 hectares.

However, the implementation of this decision was hindered by various administrative complications, and the Bugabira commune continued the illegal exploitation of these lands.

In July 2025, a decision by the Ngozi Court of Appeal demanded the immediate cessation of this illegal exploitation; however, the lands in question had already been allocated to members of the armed forces and the Bugabira police. When Révérien attempted to enforce this decision by confronting those who were illegally cultivating the lands, he was subjected to violence, which resulted in his hospitalization at Kirundo Hospital. It is therefore clear that the judgment issued by the court

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 11)

Ngozi's appeal was not carried out, thus highlighting the deep shortcomings in the

respect for legislation and judicial decisions in this region.

1.4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Destruction of houses due to torrential rains accompanied by wind in Matana Commune, Burunga Province

In the Matana Commune, located in the Burunga province, torrential rains accompanied by strong winds have caused major destruction to homes and surrounding infrastructure. About fifteen houses, including those of families connected to schools, suffered significant damage as a result of this storm, as did many agricultural fields and several churches in the Ndago areas.

The impact of these extreme weather conditions has also affected almost all the schools in the Muheka region, leaving students and teachers in deep distress. The

weather events that occurred between Friday night and Saturday have left the community in an unprecedented state of distress. As a result, many residents, severely affected by this natural disaster, are expressing hope for the future by requesting urgent assistance to meet their immediate needs.

The officials of both areas, fully aware of the extent of the destruction and the suffering of the population, are issuing a desperate appeal, seeking the intervention of benefactors capable of providing valuable assistance, as well as the essential support of the government to help the severely affected families and restore the dignity of those who have lost everything.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

A man was killed in the Commune of Karuzi in the Province of Gitega

This Monday morning 22/09/2025, around 6 a.m., a young man named Bivugire over 30 years old, from Cigati hill in the Mayenzi area in the Karuzi commune, surrendered to the police in the Buhiga area. According to a source close to the police, he said he had killed his father Muhitira, who was over 60 years old. When asked the motive, he revealed that since he got married, he has already given birth to 3 children but all of them were killed by their grandfather through bewitchment. And the most recent

case is the 3rd child of 2 years old that he killed last August when his son asked him to at least leave him this little boy but he told him that he will not have children as long as he is still alive. According to this man, he said that he decided to eliminate him with machetes on the night of this Sunday 21/09/2025 and asked the police to imprison him as they wish, fortunately he eliminated his family enemy. For now, he is in the police cell in Buhiga awaiting the next steps in his case.

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE (the following of page 12)

A man was nearly killed in the Commune and Province of Gitega

On Wednesday, September 24, 2025, around 6 p.m., a man named Juvénal, 52 years old, from Muremera hill, Giheta zone, Gitega province, left the Church of Friends after a prayer. While returning home, he received a phone call asking him to urgently go to RN15 (Gitega–Ngozi axis) to discuss tree seedlings, an activity in which he specializes through a nursery.

After leaving, he did not return home. Around 9 p.m., his relatives, worried about his unusual absence, began searches without success as his phone was turned off.

According to our source on the ground, on the morning of Thursday, September 25, 2025, his torn clothes and phone were discovered abandoned along the same road in some bushes. According to the same source, at around 10 a.m., a seriously injured man was

found on the RN2 naked and with his arms tied behind his back, at a place called Kunyambeho of Gisuru Hill in the same area (Gitega-Bujumbura axis). It was M. Juvenal.

The victim was in agony and had injuries in the blows that suggest that he died.

Currently, Mr. Juvénal is hospitalized at the Gitega Regional Hospital, where he is receiving emergency medical care.

According to information gathered this afternoon, the police have opened an investigation, starting with the analysis of the phone number that contacted the victim before his abduction. It should be noted that the victim is a member of the CNDD-FDD.

II.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED IN SETTLEMENTS OF SCORES

A woman killed in Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province

On September 26, 2025, at around 6 a.m., on the Buye hill and zone, Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province, Emmanuella MINANI, mother of 3 children, was killed, shot with a machete by Evariste KAMWENUBUSA. According to witnesses from the locality, the deceased was a native of Hayiro Hill and lived on Nzove Hill, neighboring hills in the same Buye area. The same witnesses mention that the named Evariste KAMWENUBUSA surprised the

widow Emmanuella MINANI while she was in her field and jumped on her, starting to inflict machete blows on her. After this crime, our local source said that the alleged perpetrator of the crime had gone to a nearby police position. Land conflicts are believed to be behind this murder because Emmanuella is married to Evariste's family and he does not want her to continue to farm her husband's land.

One person killed in Karusi commune, Gitega province

On September 21, 2025, on Cigati hill, Mayenzi area, Karusi commune, Gitega province, MUHITIRA, over 60 years old, was killed with a machete by his son BIVUGIRE over 30 years old. According to local witnesses, the alleged perpetrator surrendered to the police of the In the

BUHIGA area, he asked the police to imprison him because he wanted them to eliminate his family's enemy. When asked about his motive, he said that since he got married, he has had three children, but all of them were killed by their grandfather through witchcraft.

II.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED IN RETALIATION (the following of page 13)

The most recent case involves his third child, a 2-year-old, who was killed last August. When his son asked him to at least let this

little boy live, he replied that he will not allow anyone to have children as long as he is alive. For now, he has been transferred to the cell at the KARUSI police station.

II.1.3. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

The lifeless body of a young boy was found in Karuzi Commune

On Wednesday, September 24, 2025, around 5 p.m., at Rwingoma Hill in the Ndurumu River, the body of a 10-year-old boy named Kentin, originally from Gashanga Hill, Bugenyuzi Zone of the Karusi Commune and a student at ECOFO Buhiga 1, was found. According to a close source, the child was

swimming on his way home from school around 1 p.m., but he drowned, and the guards of the Ndurumu dam had already suffocated him. He was completely naked, but what is worrying is that no one saw where he had put his clothes and with whom he was swimming. He is the son of Majambere Dieudonné and Euphrasie.

A lifeless body found in Cankuzo Commune, Buhumuza province

On 27/9/2025 at around 7 a.m, on Gatungurwe Hill, Zone and even Commune of Cankuzo in Buhumuza Province, a body was found in a house by neighbors. It was an old man named Ntiyandondye, a widower living alone in this house. His 2 daughters have made the rural exodus.

His body was beginning to decompose and was inside very close to the shower; Maybe he was showering according to sources on the spot.

The municipal administration proceeded with the burial of the body in collaboration with the Red Cross and the Civil Protection Police.

Two lifeless bodies found on Rusiga hill, Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province

As of 27/9/2025, two corpses in an advanced state of decomposition were found in the trees located near the Rusizi River, at the cross-section of Rusiga Hill, in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province.

The alert was given by a military patrol operating in this border area. Alerted by an unbearable smell, the soldiers ended up locating the scene of the tragedy. On the spot, they discovered the bodies of two men, abandoned in the bush. Their identities remain, for the time being, unknown.

According to initial findings, the victims were killed about five days earlier before

being left on this isolated site. Local authorities, police officers and members of the ruling party's youth league, the Imbonerakure, quickly went to the scene.

Given the state of decomposition of the remains and the health risk, the municipal administration ordered their immediate burial.

According to the shocked population, this is not the first time that such events have hit Rusiga Hill. Several lifeless bodies were found in the same region, without any investigation having made it possible to identify those responsible. "Every time, we find corpses, but no one knows who kills and why.

II.1.3. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS (the following of page 14)

We live in fear," said a resident who requested anonymity. This macabre repetition fuels a climate of insecurity that weighs heavily on the population and adds to a series of unsolved murders that regularly shake the border area with the Democratic

Republic of Congo. The fear is growing, as the population awaits credible investigations and clear answers. In the meantime, fear remains strong in Rusiga. For many, the bodies found are not just anonymous victims: they are also a symbol of a fragile security situation from which the residents hope to finally be freed.

II.1.4. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

A 38-year-old man kidnapped in the city center of Bujumbura

On Wednesday, dated 09/24/2025, a man named MUGISHA Didier, 38 years old, married and living in the Nyabugete neighborhood, Mugere commune, in the province of Bujumbura, was kidnapped by intelligence service agents.

According to our sources on site, Didier had gone to BANCOBU, the central headquarters in the city of Bujumbura, to make a cash withdrawal.

Upon leaving the bank, around 11:30 a.m., he encountered intelligence agents waiting for him outside. There were six of these agents, traveling in a white Double Cabin vehicle without license plates.

Among them, two wore police uniforms, while the other four were in civilian clothes. They then forcibly seized Mugisha Didier and made him get into the vehicle, which drove off at high speed. His relatives tried to search for him in all the police stations in the city, to no avail, and they fear for his safety.

A young man kidnapped from his home in Gikoto, Musaga neighborhood, Mugere commune in Bujumbura province

As of September 26, 2025, a young man named Thierry Niyomwungere, 24 years old and residing in Gikoto, in the Musaga neighborhood of Bujumbura, in Bujumbura province, was abducted from his home. According to our sources on the ground, 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 without delay. As soon as he stepped outside, they immediately seized him by force, dragged him, and took him to a vehicle that they had hidden not far from there. The vehicle in question was a white double-cabin truck with tinted windows and no license plate, which left the location immediately for an unknown destination. Thierry's family fears for his safety.

II.1.4. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES (the following of page 15)

A former soldier kidnapped in Mutakura, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province

Information received by us 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 from Nyamiyaga Hill, in the Gisozi commune, former Mwaro province, now part of the new Gitega province. He worked at the hospital called "Kwa Binagana." He is married and currently lives in Mutakura, in the Ntahangwa 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 the phone, with someone asking him where he was. It was at that moment that a police van, without a license plate, arrived. It carried three policemen in the back and two in the front. The policemen caught up with him and forcibly took him away. The van, which had been heading toward Mutakura, then turned back. His family searched for him in the Cibitoke zone detention cells as well as at the intelligence service in Bujumbura, near the Regina Mundi Cathedral, but without success.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. RAPES

An 8-year-old girl raped by her grandfather in Ruganza, Matongo commune, in Butanyerera province

On 20/09/2025, on Ruganza hill, Ruganza zone, Matongo commune, Butanyerera province, a 68-year-old man named Kagisye Vincent raped his little daughter K.L of 8 years old who came to visit him as his grandfather.

The child's mother who lives in Kayanza town took her little girl to her grandfather's house and continued to Bujumbura in her friend's wedding party saying that she will come the next day to return to Kayanza with the child.

At night, the grandfather told his granddaughter to sleep together because he is a widower and said that he has a great

nostalgia for his little girl because he hasn't seen her for a long time.

In the morning, the grandfather went to the first mass, leaving his little girl at home. Her mother came around 10 a.m. to pick up her daughter. The child was still in bed and told her mother that she could not walk.

The child told his mother what had happened. The mother quickly took the child to the Matongo Health Center for medical care and alerted the Matongo police to arrest the perpetrator. The child spent two days at the Matongo Health Center. The perpetrator was arrested and is now at the Kayanza police station.

II.2.1. RAPES (the following of page 16)

A minor girl raped in Nkuba, Gitaza zone, Muhuta commune, Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka league on 24/9/2025, indicates that a minor girl named I. D. D was raped on September 15, 2025, by Leopard Ntirampeba, a 24-year-old man.

According to local sources, Leopard Ntirampeba lured the girl by offering her a ripe banana, before taking her to a bush located on Nkuba hill, in the Gitaza zone, Muhuta commune, Bujumbura province. It is there that he is said to have committed the heinous act, without fear or remorse.

The victim, a child with mental disorders, then told the scene to her mother, who, while examining her clothes, discovered traces of blood on her underwear. Alerted by this discovery, the mother informed the local authorities and community relays.

II.2.2. OTHER GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A person injured in Karusi commune, Gitega province

On September 23, 2025, around 10 p.m., on Rwingoma hill, in the Buhiga area, Karusi commune, Gitega province, a man named NKESHIMANA J. Marie, aged 32 and a member of the CNDD FDD, was injured on the head by his wife, NZEYIMANA Annonciate, aged 28.

According to eyewitnesses, the reason for their dispute was that the man had bought a

Thanks to the mobilization of the Imbonerakure youth, affiliated with the ruling party, the suspect was arrested on September 16, 2025. . He was first held in the Gitaza area jail, then transferred to the communal police station jail in Rumonge.

After his hearing, the case was taken under deliberation before the court rendered its verdict on September 24, 2025.

The court found Léopard Ntirampeba guilty of rape and sentenced him to life imprisonment, and he was also ordered to pay 10 million Burundian francs to the victim as compensation for the harm suffered.

bottle of alcohol called HOZAGARA and gave it to his wife, but took it back before she could drink it. According to the same witnesses, the quarrel escalated, and they fought when the wife took a stone and threw it at her husband's head, causing him to fall to the ground bleeding. The injured person was taken to Buhiga Hospital, where he remains hospitalized, while the wife stayed at home.

A wife mutilates her husband in Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province

On the night of September 21 to 22, 2024, on Kibati Hill, in the commune of Bukinanyana, in the province of Bujumbura Rural, Anatole Haramateka, a sixty-year-old man, was seriously injured by his wife, Juliette Nahimana. She reportedly acted out of anger and jealousy, after accusing her husband of

being unfaithful and mismanaging the family assets.

This violent act shocked the nearby residents, highlighting in a very concerning way the reality of domestic violence within families in Burundi and the urgent need to protect people's rights.

II.2.2. OTHER GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (the following of page 17)

It was around 11 p.m. when neighbors heard the victim's screams. According to several sources and testimonies, Mr. Haramateka was found with serious injuries. His wife would have horribly injured his genitals using her teeth, according to the first observations.

After being rescued, the man was first taken to a local health centre before being transferred to a hospital in Bujumbura,

where his condition remains very serious.

Worried about possible reprisals from the shocked residents, the police quickly arrested Juliette Nahimana, who is now in detention in the Masango area. In front of the investigators, she confessed what she had done, saying that she had suffered for a long time: "I acted because I was angry. For forty years, our house has been nothing but arguments," she is said to have said.

A woman beaten by her husband in the Musongati commune, Burunga province

On September 26, 2025, on Kabingo hill, Butezi zone, Musongati commune, Burunga province, Abel Buregeya, a trader, mistreats his wife, Victoria Kabura, a farmer, every time, telling her that she is worthless and that he does not want to stay together with her. According to sources on the ground, they were legally married and it had been a long time since it was at the civil registry or at the Catholic Church.

On the night of September 26, 2025, at around 9 p.m., having finished his business of the day, he beat his lady Victoria Kabura who spent the whole day at home in household activities. In addition, her husband burned all of his lady's fabrics to penalize her. Thus, Abel Buregeya bought a

plot of land in Gitega and built on it without informing his wife, except that he sent his three eldest children away to go live in Gitega without their mother. On the morning of September 27, 2025, local authorities tried to make this family listen, but the husband refused, saying he didn't need anyone in his home except his fellow traders. According to sources close to him, the traders gathered to give them advice. But since he is a wealthy and fearful man, peaceful resolution remains futile, and his wife requested a divorce, even though these people do not have that authority.

In conclusion, Victoria Kabura needs legal and moral assistance. .

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS

A soldier of Rwandan nationality was arrested in Kirundo Commune

On 09/24/2025, a Rwandan soldier was arrested by the Burundian police at the Gasenyi border post. He is accused of crossing the border with his bicycle while still on the Rwandan side.

According to the information gathered, he was leaving the Gako tavern (located 1 km

from the border) on an unpaved road in Kamabuye (Rwanda) that extends along the Rwandan border. Some say he was drunk, but others say he was chasing his cows that had been stolen by the Imbonerakure since 09/23/2015. According to our source, these cows are kept in the Busoni Commune.

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS (the following of page 18)

This soldier was transported by the Head of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Butanyerera Province around 4:30 PM to the

Kirundo Prosecutor's custody, where he underwent 2 hours of interrogation since 1 PM. It is worth noting that this Rwandan soldier is named Sadiki Emmanuel.

II.4. RIGHT TO PROPERTY

Expropriation of land in the former municipality of Bugabira

On September 24, 2025, on Ruhehe Hill, Bugabira Zone, in the current Commune of Kirundo in Butanyerera Province, a certain Uzobahiga Reverien, 54 years old, a member of CNDD-FDD working as a mason, was beaten until he bled following a conflict with the Commune of Kirundo. Nzakaha, Reverien's grandfather, had given housing to Mr. Matabaro, a Rwandan refugee from 1959. After his voluntary return to his native country in 1994, the Bugabira Commune of the former Kirundo Province seized the Nzakaha family's property. In 2019, the CNTB ordered that the Nzakaha family be given property equivalent to 9 hectares. However, the implementation of the decision

made by the CNTB It has been a tough situation. The Bugabira Commune continued the illegal exploitation of the said property. In July 2025, the Ngozi Court of Appeal ordered the immediate cessation of the illegal exploitation of this property. However, it had been granted to soldiers and police officers native to Bugabira for exploitation. When Révérien tried to stop those who were cultivating there, he was seriously beaten. He is now hospitalized at Kirundo Hospital, and the judgment of the Ngozi Court of Appeal has not been enforced. Rumors say that the family betrayed the country by giving hospitality to Rwandan Tutsis, hence the non-execution of court decisions.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

In Burunga province: the spoilage of corn in warehouses, a problem without a solution

In the province of Burunga, farmers mobilized to produce corn now find themselves with tons of unsold crops that are deteriorating. They denounce the government's inertia and the lack of concrete solutions.

In the provincial capital of Burunga, the atmosphere was tense on Wednesday during a meeting dedicated to promoting major agricultural and livestock projects. Prime Minister Nestor Ntahombaye opened the session by calling on investors to strengthen their commitment to this sector, presented as

the key to the national economy.

But behind the official speeches, frustrations erupted. The participants, mostly agricultural producers, painted a bitter picture: the mobilization imposed for corn cultivation has led to a dramatic deadlock.

In the Giharo area, farmers had been encouraged by the local administration to engage massively in corn farming. . ANAGESSA, the national agency for managing food stocks, had promised to purchase the production. But the reality is quite different.

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE (the following of page 19)

"Out of 7 warehouses built to store the harvest, only one has been filled," laments Désiré Hakizimana, zone chief of Giharo. For lack of buyers, the maize piles up and begins to deteriorate.

A farmer shares his distress: "I have more than 10 tons of maize from the mobilization. Today, my entire harvest has rotted. How do you expect me to restart production when the government does not honor its commitments?"

The producers are also upset about the government's decision to suspend maize exports to Tanzania. In this neighboring country, a kilogram of maize sells for 700 shillings, or 2,100 Burundian francs, well above the 1,700 francs offered locally by ANAGESSA.

"Why forbid us from selling our products abroad if no one buys them here?" asks a participant, visibly exasperated. For many, the State should at least allow exports in exchange for tax payments, instead of imposing what they call a "double embargo":

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Fraud in teacher recruitment in Mugere, Bujumbura province

In the commune of Mugere, in the province of Bujumbura, a scandal is making waves. The representative of the Imbonerakure youth in this commune, NTUNZWENIMANA Salvator, is accused of having received between two and three million Burundian francs from exam candidates in exchange for good grades.

Several beneficiaries are named, including: Timothée from Gaseru, Alexandre from Kirari Bac, Christophe from Murambi,

a ban on selling abroad and no buyers at home.

The crisis is worsened by the behavior of financial institutions. Several stakeholders criticized the slowness of banks in granting loans, as well as interest rates considered exorbitant. Without adequate financing, it is impossible to invest in modern techniques or purchase quality inputs.

Other voices have advocated for the creation of specialized insurance companies, capable of protecting farmers and livestock breeders against repeated losses related to market or climate hazards.

On immediate problems, such as the rotting corn harvest, the suspension of exports, and the producers' distress, Nestor Ntahombaye offered no concrete solution. He explained that the suspension of exports results from "irregularities observed" in the process, without further details. "If the State does not change its way of acting, we will go from crisis to crisis," summarized one participant, to the applause of his peers.

Nadine Nahimana, Odette, Éric from Burima, and Frédiane Ndayisaba from Gaseru. Fraudulent volunteer certificates are also said to have been distributed.

These practices have sparked numerous complaints, denouncing an injustice that deprives the most deserving of job opportunities. The population is now demanding a thorough investigation and exemplary sanctions in order to restore transparency in the recruitment of educational staff.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 20)

Students without benches and overcrowded classrooms in a state of educational distress in Karurama, Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province

In Karurama, in the commune of Cibitoke, the primary schools I and II dramatically illustrate the state of distress in the educational system. Crowded classrooms, dilapidated infrastructure, and a glaring lack of materials turn each school day into a true ordeal, both for the students and the teachers.

From the very first hour, the scene is striking: rows of children are sitting on the floor, their notebooks precariously balanced on their laps. In some classes, there are over 180 students crammed around a single teacher.

« "We are doing our best, but it's almost a mission impossible," says a teacher, his voice tired. Under such conditions, it is impossible to move between the rows, let alone provide individual and effective educational support.

The lack of desks and overcrowding have visible physical and psychological consequences. Children go home with aching backs, their uniforms worn out from the floor, and their notebooks damaged.

"My son comes home exhausted every evening. How can he learn under these conditions?" wonders a father, visibly

concerned for his child's future. Overcrowding directly affects the quality of education received.

With more than 2,400 students spread across only 13 classes, Karurama I School is heavily overcrowded. The headmaster, Manassé Nsabiyaemye, is sounding the alarm. :

"We have space to build new buildings, but we lack resources. We need benches, teachers, sanitation, running water... Everything is a priority."

The problem of school overcrowding in Cibitoke is a national challenge observed in many regions. The municipal education officer, Jérémie Sibomana, admits the seriousness of the situation: "Overcrowding is a reality in several schools. A reorganization of the education system is underway," he assures. Nevertheless, on the ground, teachers and parents fear that concrete solutions will take too long to materialize.

Deprived of decent learning conditions, the children of Karurama see their future compromised. The school, which should be a gateway to hope and opportunity, becomes for many a place of discouragement. In this working-class neighborhood, the promise of quality basic education for all remains, for now, a distant prospect and uncertain.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

The shortage of medicines in public health facilities in Gitega Province

It has been observed, through numerous testimonies, that there is a shortage of medicines in public health facilities. Citizens complain about spending long hours in the queues at hospitals and health centers without having access to the necessary treatments.

The most concerning issue, according to patients, is that after spending hours and hours consulting, they return home without receiving any medication. This situation is observed in several facilities, notably at the district hospital as well as in the health centers of Bugendana, Bisangana, Nyakeru,

and Cishwa in the Bugendana commune of Gitega province. What astonishes the population even more is that private pharmacies have these same medicines in sufficient quantities. Unfortunately, prices rise day by day in these pharmacies, making access to healthcare even more difficult for poor families.

This shortage in public facilities, combined with the high cost in the private sector, seriously endangers the health of many citizens. Those who cannot afford to buy medicines see their health deteriorate, leading to deaths in several localities.

V. CONCLUSION ET RECOMMENDATIONS

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

To the Government of Gitega:

- ⇒ Conduct thorough investigations into human rights violations and prosecute those responsible, including administrative officials, police officers, military personnel, and Imbonerakure youth of the ruling party;
- ⇒ Guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary so that it can handle human rights violation cases fairly;
- ⇒ Cease forced transfers of refugees and respect their right to choose their place of residence;
- ⇒ Order an independent and immediate investigation into allegations of bribery and corruption regarding the appointment of department heads and local area officials in the communes of Cibitoke, Bukinanyana, and Mugina.
- ⇒ Cancel appointments tainted by proven corruption or favoritism and ensure that vacant positions are assigned solely based on competence and integrity.
- ⇒ Suspend the expropriation of people from their lands without public utility cause in the Kaboya plain (Cibitoke) and open a dialogue with the farmers.