



Anyone should be respected

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY BULLETIN

"Iteka n'ijambo"

N°494 from 29 September to 05 October 2025

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



In memory of Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to October 5, 2025, at least 840 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 85 victims have reappeared, and 755 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGIDE) has already communicated at least 252 victims to the government of Burundi.

¹<https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

The ITEKA League :

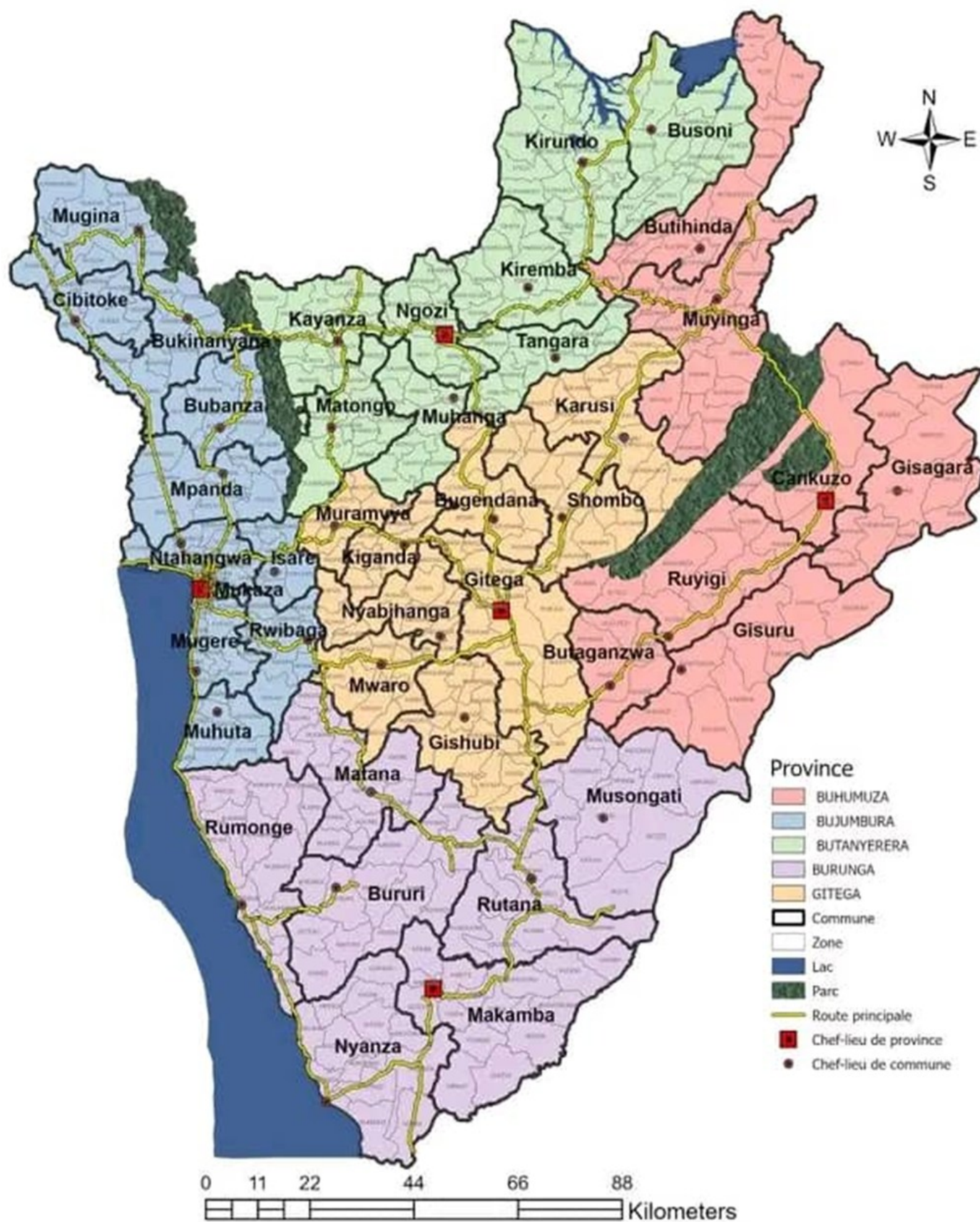
- ♦ "Is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH),
- ♦ has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236, and is a member of ECOSOC."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

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ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDISTRICTING OF MARCH 16, 2023



SIGLES ET ABBREVIATIONS

AFC	: <i>Alliance fleuve Congo (Congo River Alliance)</i>
BBCI	: <i>Banque Burundaise pour le Commerce et l'Investissement (Burundian Bank for Trade and Investment)</i>
BSR	: <i>Brigade Spéciale de Recherche (Special Investigation Brigade)</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy)</i>
DPEAE	: <i>Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Elementary School</i>
FAB	: <i>Burundian Armed Forces</i>
FDLR	: <i>Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda</i>
FDNB	: <i>Burundi National Defense Force</i>
ISABU	: <i>Burundi Institute of Agricultural Sciences</i>
MSF	: <i>Doctors Without Borders</i>
M23	: <i>March 23 Movement</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
RN	: <i>National Road</i>
SNR	: <i>National Enquiry Service</i>

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of September 29 to October 5, 2025. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political and security context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of violations of civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as specific rights, in particular children's rights. The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least eight people killed, including six whose bodies were found; two people kidnapped; three victims of gender-based violence, including one victim of sexual violence; and more than 40 victims of arbitrary arrest.

Among the victims, three women were killed and another was kidnapped. Two fetuses were thrown into toilets, a girl was raped, four boys were victims of human trafficking, and two newborns were found abandoned by their mothers.

Imbonerakure members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, SNR agents, police officers, soldiers, and administrators are accused of being the main alleged perpetrators of these human rights violations.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Imbonerakure were deployed to ensure security during the launch of the torch of peace in Buhumuza province

On September 29, 2025, a landmark event took place in the capital of Buhumuza province, at the Buhumuza stadium. On that day, the President of the Republic launched a torch of peace, a national initiative that promised to unite hearts and minds. The surrounding hills overlooking the town of Cankuzo became the scene of a long-awaited ceremony. However, the day before, a noticeable presence of the Imbonerakure had been felt. They were ensuring the security of the site, keeping a close watch on bush fires and making sure the ceremonies went smoothly.

The Imbonerakure, coming from neighboring hills such as Muterero, Nyakivumu, Muyaga, Nyabisindu, Kabeza, and Gatungurwe, took care not to be recognized by the local inhabitants, thus reinforcing their surveillance role on this special day. In this climate of vigilance, anyone caught going about their agricultural activities risked getting into trouble. Farmers caught in the act were often forced to pay a ransom to regain

their freedom or had to wait until nightfall after the ceremonies to be released.

On Muterero hill, a man named Gorihenda, aged over 70, was working alongside his wife and daughter, Goreth, when they were apprehended. Threatened with imprisonment, they were asked to pay 50,000 FBU for their release. In desperation, Gorihenda's son intervened by telephone, and after lengthy negotiations, he managed to reduce the amount to 5,000 FBU, allowing the family to leave.

Another illustrative case involved Barega Tharcisse, a 68-year-old man also living in Muterero. While he was busy burning weeds in his field, he was intercepted by the same Imbonerakure. He was taken to the CNDD-FDD party headquarters, where he was detained until 6 p.m. that evening. Several other farmers suffered similar treatment.

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

similar intimidation in the fields, being forced to abandon their work, in an atmosphere disrupted by these guardians of peace.

I.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

Cases of nighttime thefts in Karusi commune, Gitega province

From the night of September 30, 2025, until October 3, 2025, in a single center on the hill and in the Buhiga area, in the commune of Karusi, Gitega province, five homes were burglarized by individuals who have not yet been found. These thieves took household items such as cushions, televisions, and food such as beans, corn, and rice.

According to local reports, three (3) shops in the Buhiga market were also looted. In the shop of a vendor named J. Paul Munyonge, 500 kg of beans and 100 kg of rice disappeared. At Séverin's, 300 kg of beans

were taken, and at Jado's, 200 kg of rice and 40 liters of cotton oil were stolen. The homes that were burglarized include those of Aimable, nicknamed "Commissioner," Issa, Donatien, Barasokoroza, and Nzomwitakuze. Although the authorities are aware of the situation, no action has been taken, while a group of Imbonerakure, led by their hill chief named Gibril, patrols at night claiming to ensure security. The inhabitants are very worried, especially at night.

Eighty-one children admitted to the rehabilitation center in Mishiha, Buhumuza province

On October 4, 2025, starting at 11 a.m., at the municipal police station, the municipal police carried out a convoy of children rounded up from the streets of Bujumbura City Hall to the rehabilitation center located in Buhumuza, specifically in Mishiha. In total, there were 81

children, including 76 boys and 5 girls. The convoy is under the command of the Deputy Commissioner in charge of operations at the municipal police station. However, most of these children desert the center.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II. 1.1. Intentional homicides

II.1.1.1. Persons killed by State agents

A man shot dead in the Gisyo neighborhood, Kanyosha area, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province

On October 3, 2025, in the Gisyo neighborhood, within the Kanyosha area of the city of Bujumbura, Christophe Nimbona, a man from Mutambu in the province of Bujumbura, was shot dead at the home of police colonel Stany Niyizonkiza. According to eyewitness accounts gathered at the scene, at dawn, around 4 a.m., gunshots rang out within the colonel's residence.

When questioned about the incident, the colonel said that the victim had been trying to steal chickens from his property, taking advantage of a power outage. Alerted by the noise, he allegedly took his gun and, in an impulsive act, shot Nimbona, killing him instantly. The victim's body was then transferred to the morgue at King Khaled Hospital, where an autopsy and the appropriate legal procedures were carried out.

II.1.1.2. People killed as a result of settling scores

A young man killed on Ntobwe hill, Gitega district and commune in Gitega province

On September 4, 2025, at around 5 a.m., on Ntobwe Hill, in the Gitega area and commune, in Gitega province, in an orphanage located in the area commonly known as AGROBU, a 16-year-old boy named Doris Bimenyimana, a student in the 2nd year of secondary school, son of Aloys Vyubusa and Evelyne Kwigize, born in Rusiga, Cibitoke commune,

Bujumbura province, was killed by Saltière Nshimirimana, aged 18, son of Ntawumenya and Sabimana, born in Nyarunazi Kivoga, Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province.

The latter is in police custody and the victim has been taken to the morgue at Gitega Regional Hospital.

II.1.1.3. Dead bodies found

A lifeless body found in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province

On September 30, 2025, between 9 and 10 a.m., a dead body was found in the Gikungu Rural neighborhood, Gihosha area, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province. The victim is an unidentified man, estimated to be between 50 and 60 years old. The body was found lying below the residence of a colonel known by the nickname Ryara.

Initial findings indicate that the victim's hands and feet had been tied. The presumed cause of death is severe head trauma, characterized by a wound observed at the back of the skull, suggesting the use of a blunt object. Following the discovery, the body was transported to the morgue at King Khaled Hospital

The lifeless body of a man found in the Shatanya neighborhood, city and province of Gitega

Information received by the Iteka League on October 1, 2025 indicates that on September 2, 2025, at around 6 a.m., in the Shatanya neighborhood of the city of Gitega, a lifeless body known as Jean Marie, originally from Nyamagana hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, a night watchman at one of the pharmacies located in Shatanya, was found on

a soccer field in Shatanya. According to sources on the scene, the body was found lying on its side, with no signs of injury but with blood in the mouth. The body was taken to Gitega Hospital. According to the police, investigations are ongoing.

The lifeless body of a young girl found on Dusasa Hill, Rugazi area, Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province

Information received by the Iteka League on October 2, 2025, indicates that on September 15, 2025, the lifeless body of a young girl named Denise Niyonasavye, originally from Kibati hill in the Rugazi area of Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, was found bound and decapitated in the valley known as mu Rwinzovu, on Dusasa hill, located in the Kibira nature reserve.

According to information provided by the Dusasa hill chief, Dieudonné Nsabimana, his children discovered the body of the deceased while they were herding cows on the evening of September 15, 2025.

According to the same information, the victim was killed on September 8, 2025, by her fiancé Audace Ntirugirinzigo, alias Makado, a native of Buyumpu hill in the same Rugazi area as the victim.

II.1.1.3. Dead bodies found (the following of page 7)

He allegedly invited her to meet him to discuss the rent for the house where they would live after they got married, but his real intention was to kill her because he accused her of infidelity.

The alleged perpetrator was arrested on the night of September 15, 2025, and detained in the police station in Kayanza while his case was being investigated. On October 1, 2025, Audace Ntirugirinzigo appeared before the

Kayanza High Court and, following the closing arguments of Isaac Ningabira, public prosecutor in Kayanza, the Kayanza High Court sentenced him to life imprisonment and ordered him to pay ten million in moral damages to the victim's family.

The lifeless body of a woman found near the Nyamuswaga valley, Mahwa hill, Ryansoro area, Gishubi commune, Gitega province.

Information received by the Iteka League on September 30, 2025 indicates that a dead body was found on September 20, 2025, close to the road (RN16) and near the valley commonly known as Nyamuswaga, Mahwa sub-hill, Mahwa hill, former Ryansoro commune.

According to the report, the body was found

lying on its back. It was female and had a deep wound near the left eye. The authorities ordered the body to be buried. The police officer who made the report was Sergeant Bayubahe Ernest.

A 6-month-old fetus thrown into the toilet by its mother in Nyambuye, Bukiransazi area, Gishubi commune, Gitega province

Information received by the Iteka League on September 30, 2025 indicates that on September 25, 2025, a 19-year-old girl named Florianne Niyomwungere, daughter of Claver Ngenzirabona and Marie Nahimana, residing on Nyambuye hill, Bukirasazi area, Gishubi commune, Gitega province, killed her newborn baby after giving birth and then threw it into her older brother's toilet.

The alleged perpetrator admitted that she had a natural abortion on September 14, 2025, at six months of pregnancy and threw the fetus into the toilet. A thorough investigation has already begun, and the alleged perpetrator is in custody at the Bukirasazi police station.

A 4-month-old fetus thrown into the toilet by its mother on Mugitega Hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province

Information received by the Iteka League on September 29, 2025 indicates that on September 26, 2025, a woman named Florence Nshimirimana, aged 28, mother of two children, from Mugitega hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, killed her 4-month-old fetus and threw it into her toilet. According to local sources, during her interrogation she confessed that this

happened on September 26, 2025, adding that it was due to fatigue because she had been doing a lot of work in the fields. It should be noted that the municipal administration, in collaboration with the police, was able to remove the fetus from the toilet.

II.1.2. Abductions and/or enforced disappearances

A woman reported missing in Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province

Since October 1, 2025, a 43-year-old woman named Henriette Bayubahe, wife of Jonas Ruzuba and teacher at ECOFO Camazi II, has been missing.

Since October 1, 2025, at around 6 p.m., Henriette Bayubahe left her home and has

not returned. As of October 5, 2025, her family has not heard from her. This woman is the mother of five children and lives on the hill in the Camazi area, Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province.

A person kidnapped in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province

On October 3, 2025, in the commune of Mukaza, Bujumbura province, Pascal Nshimirimana, aged 43, a former FAB soldier (corporal), originally from Ndava hill, Mahwa area, Matana commune, Burunga province, was abducted from his place of work (doorman at the King David Polyclinic) located opposite the BBCI bank by agents of the Burundian intelligence service. According to sources close to him, people in a Toyota Probox with tinted windows jumped on him

and Pascal Nshimirimana tried to resist, asking why he was being arrested. According to the same witnesses, other individuals in police uniform who were in a pickup truck parked not far from the gate of the polyclinic quickly got out to help the first group catch Pascal Nshimirimana. The victim was taken away in the first vehicle (the Probox), which sped off in the direction of the road passing close to the offices of the former Bujumbura City Hall. Since that day, Pascal Nshimirimana has been missing.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. Rape

A girl raped in Rumonge commune, Burunga province

On September 30, 2025, at around 3 p.m., on Rukinga Hill, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, F.N., a 4-year-old girl from the same hill, was raped by Cossan Niyonyishu, alias Assan, a 15-year-old domestic worker from the neighborhood, originally from Ntega, Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province. The alleged perpetrator had just spent nine months working as a goat herder. The alleged rapist took advantage of the child's parents' absence to open the house and bring her inside, then committed the crime. The child came out crying, her clothes pulled up, and told her aunt, who was nearby, that Niyonyishu had hurt her, while gesturing to

show her. Looking at her, her aunt noticed fluid running from her genitals down her legs and called her parents to take her to the hospital. The local authorities arrested the alleged perpetrator and his accomplice, Nzisabira Révérien, also a domestic worker from Kirundo. They were taken to the Rumonge police station, while the victim was taken to Rumonge Hospital and the Humura Center for holistic care. However, due to the severity of the antiretroviral drugs, the government doctor did not place the girl under preventive care, but first asked to examine the alleged perpetrator to assess his state of health.

II.2.2. Other gender-based violence

A man chases his wife away after cheating on her, in Muramvya commune, Gitega province

On October 1, 2025, on Mwegera Hill, Mbuye area, Muramvya commune, Gitega province, Méthode Habarugira, aged 39, a farmer, invented a pretext to chase his wife away.

The couple, who lived on Mwegera Hill, had been in conflict for months, as the husband was spending the family income on his own. According to local sources, on October 1, he called his wife, Diane Niyonkuru, aged 35, on the phone around 6 p.m. to ask her to join him for a drink at a bar.

According to the same sources, at around 8 p.m., the husband ordered a second bottle for his wife and returned home secretly. His wife waited for him in vain, and he had turned off his phone. She then decided to return home accompanied by a friend of her husband's.

When she arrived home, her husband refused to open the door, and she stayed elsewhere. The next day, she called the authorities, and her husband was taken to the police station, where he was detained.

A mother and her son injured following cohabitation in the commune of Butihinda, in the province of Buhumuza

On October 1, 2025, on Masaka Hill, Kamaramagambo area of Butihinda commune, Buhumuza province, a group of people including Jean Ntahonsohokera (the victim's husband), Kamikazi Laetitia with their children, and Minani Joséphine with her sons, armed with machetes, sticks, and clubs, attacked and injured Isabelle Nkurunziza and her son Gordien Sindahabaye. According to local sources, Isabelle Nkurunziza was abandoned by her husband, who left the family to live in an illegal union with his concubine. Her son Sindahabaye Gordien tried to rescue her, but in vain. Both were fatally beaten with machetes and sticks.

These people are supported by the local chief and the presiding judge of the Butihinda

Residence Court, Mrs. Liliane, and the police officer in charge of the Kamara area, due to the bribes they receive each time the threatened family presents its grievances. However, the law specifies that cohabitation is an offense and that the cohabiting partner must be immediately repudiated as she is the cause of this insecurity. The administration and the justice system are complicit and support Jean Ntahonsohokera's behavior. Isabelle Nkurunziza's family is demanding that justice be done, that the perpetrators be severely punished, and that the concubine be punished in accordance with the law so that the legal wife has the right to land ownership, as all the family land is cultivated by this concubine.

II.2.3. Children's rights

Four boys victims of human trafficking in Rumonge commune, Burunga province

On September 29, 2025, at around 9 a.m., in the commune of Rumonge, Burunga province, four boys who had been victims of trafficking returned home. Their recruiter, Zubeda Munezero Mariam, was arrested in mid-September and was forced to return them after their parents filed a complaint.

According to local sources, these boys are Fabrice Niyonzima from Birimba, aged 17; Jean Marie Bayubahe, aged 15, from Birimba, a student in 5th grade at ECOFO Mugweji, Rumonge commune, Burunga province; Fiston Ntunzwenimana from Birimba, aged 17; and Elvis Irumva, aged

II.2.3. Children's rights (the following of page 10)

in 8th ECOFO Mugweji, Rumonge commune, Burunga province. According to witnesses, these victims were recruited on August 30, 2025, and then transported to Tanzania via the Mugina border in the south of the country. They were taken to the town of Ilalanguru, Kigoma province, where they were recruited for farm work. As it was in the forest, they found it difficult to adapt and called for help by telephone. Their parents then filed a complaint with the Rumonge provincial police station. It should be noted that there were 11 boys at the time of transport. When the four

were interviewed by the police, they said that there were other boys among them who asked them to plead with their parents to intervene so that they too could return.

Other parents are still searching for their children who were taken to Tanzania and sold by the same perpetrator.

The route is Rumonge, Nyanza, Mabanda, Mugina, and then arrival in Tanzania. On their return, they were arrested by the Tanzanian police, who took them to the Burundian border.

Newborn found in Mwaro commune, Gitega province

On the night of October 2, 2025, in the Nyarukinya neighborhood, Gisozi area, Mwaro commune, Gitega province, a newborn less than 1 month old was found in the bushes near the road, not far from the ISABU offices.

According to local witnesses, the baby was covered with two loincloths and was taken to the Gisozi health center. Investigations have been launched to identify the child's mother, according to the same sources.

A newborn baby found in Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province

On the evening of September 29, 2025, near the Islamic school in Cankuzo, in Buhumuza province, a baby was found close to the Buhumuza stadium where the President of the Republic was holding the solemn opening ceremonies for the torch of peace. This was at a time when dance ceremonies with DJs and individual receptions were taking place freely

and legally. The baby's mother was unknown, and the child was taken to Cankuzo Hospital for medical care. The municipal administration transferred the baby to the Muremera Orphanage located in Kigamba commune, Buhumuza province.

II.2.4. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.2.4.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

A person arrested in Matana commune, Burunga province

On September 30, 2025, at around 8 p.m., on the hill and in the Mahwa area, Matana commune, Burunga province, Yves Mperejimana, aged 26, was arrested at his shop.

According to sources on the ground, he was arrested by Audace Ndayizeye, head of the Mahwa police station, accompanied by other police officers.

According to the same sources, the police justified the arrest by citing an order from the Gitega prosecutor. Residents present at the

scene reportedly attempted to oppose the arrest, claiming that the young man had done nothing wrong. In response, the police attempted to shoot anyone who resisted, causing panic and prompting witnesses to escape.

That same evening, the victim was taken and imprisoned in the Ndava jail in the commune of Ryansoro. The next day, October 1, 2025, the victim's wife went to the jail to ask for an explanation. She learned that her husband was accused of "escaping from Gitega central prison," even though he had in fact already

II.2.4.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS (the following of page 11)

had been detained in the past for stealing a microscope from the Mahwa Health Center but had been acquitted in November 2024

Faced with this accusation, his wife immediately presented a release order (release ticket) issued on November 22, 2024, certifying that her husband was no longer wanted.

Despite this legal evidence, the police demanded payment of five hundred thousand Burundian francs (500,000 BIF) as a condition of his release. Even though the money was paid, as of October 3, 2025, the victim remains incarcerated and under pressure to have his family continue to provide money

More than 40 people arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province

On October 3, 2025, a search operation was conducted in the Nyakabiga area, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, specifically targeting the Rumuri neighborhood (formerly Nyakabiga 3).

According to eyewitnesses, the operation began around 3 a.m. with the deployment of soldiers who set up roadblocks at the neighborhood's access and exit points. Around 5 a.m., police forces arrived and began making arrests.

All the people encountered, including those in hotels and bars, were systematically loaded into vehicles and more than 40 people were arrested. The majority of those arrested were young people, including both Burundian and Congolese citizens.

In total, around five trucks and three pick-up trucks filled with young people were seen leaving the scene to be taken to the BSR (Special Investigation Brigade). Once in detention at the BSR, it is reported that the release of individuals was conditional on the payment of a sum of money: 20,000 Burundian francs for Burundians, and 200,000 Burundian francs or more for Congolese, the latter sum being particularly demanded in the absence of valid identity papers. Some individuals were released after payment, while others are reportedly still in detention for reasons that have not yet been disclosed.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. DISRUPTION TO ECONOMIC LIFE

Economic embezzlement following the launch of the torch of peace in Buhumuza province

On October 1, 2025, the torch of peace was passed on to the municipalities of Buhumuza province.

Economic analysts lament the enormous resources used for this activity, while the population continues to cry out for basic

necessities such as fuel, BUSEKO cement, chemical fertilizers, etc.

According to some, the resources could be used to provide the population with these products, which are scarce and expensive on the market.

Discrimination in seed distribution in the province of Butanyerera

Information received by the Iteka League on October 5, 2025 indicates that in Butanyerera province, corn farmers who have been waiting for seeds since August are complaining because they have not received enough seeds to cover their fields. To obtain them, the new hill chiefs must visit the fields, make a list for

each hill while selecting members of the CNDD-FDD party, then draw up the list at the new zone chief's office, who also selects whether he has any opponents on the list and forwards the list to the director of the DPEAE.

III.1. DISRUPTION TO ECONOMIC LIFE (the following of page 12)

For example :

-In Busoni commune, the list of displaced persons from Rutabo, including Rutagaba, Sekamana, Muhimpundu, Godelieve Nshimirimana, and Thaddée Sinzotuma, were removed from the list by the hill chief because they were opponents.

-In the commune of Kirundo, some farmers considered to be opponents, such as Rutikanga, Masabo, Marcel, Minani, and Kanyarugabo from the hill of Ruhehe, did not receive seeds.

Irregularities in the distribution of corn seeds, which could lead to food insecurity and economic disruption in Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka League on October 5, 2025 indicates that in Burunga province, the distribution of PAB 53 corn seeds, intended to support farmers in preparation for the new growing season, is causing heated controversy. Beyond the scarcity of these seeds, it is mainly the methods used by certain neighborhood and hill leaders that are causing outrage and anger among the population.

out discreetly, without public announcement, allowing officials to favor their relatives or those with whom they share common interests. Elsewhere, each elected official draws up their own list, without consultation, leading to discrepancies: some farmers discover that they have been relegated to the bottom of the lists, even though the operation did not start at the same time for everyone.

Scarce seeds to meet immense needs :

According to the data collected, some hillsides have received only 100 to 120 kilograms of seeds, an amount that can barely cover 50 or 60 households. However, the agricultural population often exceeds 1,000 households per hill or neighborhood. This disproportion fuels frustration and creates fertile ground for abuse by local officials, who choose to favor certain citizens who are members of the ruling party, to the detriment of the majority.

Is the process being politicized ?

Voices are also being raised to denounce political manipulation. According to some reports, certain elected officials tend to use this operation to assert their influence, making access to seeds conditional on financial or political “arrangements.” These accusations reignite the debate on corruption and clientelism at the grassroots level, which was already criticized during the last local elections.

Accusations of injustice and favoritism :

Many residents denounce arbitrary practices in the selection of beneficiaries. In some neighborhoods, officials allegedly demand favors in return or deliberately complicate the registration process.

The issue of forgotten local seeds :

Beyond the irregularities, farmers are directly challenging the government on its strategic choices. Many are calling for local seeds, which were once used successfully, to be promoted more widely instead of favoring only imported varieties such as PAN 53. Some are asking: what would happen if the supplier country were to suspend its agreements with Burundi? For them, external dependence is a serious threat to food sovereignty.

Opaque and selective registration :

The farmer registration process is also criticized for its lack of transparency. In some hillside areas, registrations are carried

III.1. DISRUPTION TO ECONOMIC LIFE (the following of page 13)

A risk of food insecurity :

Behind this controversy lies a broader concern: if the rains are late and distribution remains unfair, many fields may not be sown in time. However, the province of Burunga is heavily dependent on corn for its food

security. There is therefore a high risk of a food crisis, exacerbated by the scarcity of local seeds, which have now been abandoned by a large part of the population.

An economy that would be disrupted following a politically and militarily motivated hunt for farmers in Rukana, Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province

Information received by the Iteka League on October 5, 2025 indicates that in Bujumbura province, farmers, most of whom are from Rukana and other localities in the Cibitoke commune and who cultivate various food crops and cotton, have been driven from their land, which will lead to famine for their families.

The explanation given was that these farmers from Kaboya, a locality on the hill and in the Rukana area, were collaborating with the AFC/M23 armed group.

These accusations began with the arrest of a resident of Kaboya who used to travel between Burundi and the DRC.

As this area is one of the few crossing points leading to the secure part of South Kivu occupied by the M23, this resident had traveled to the DRC to sell his goods.

On his return, he was arrested by Imbonerakure and soldiers and accused of having links with the M23 rebels. Shortly afterwards, the authorities banned the farmers of Kaboya, who have been cultivating more than 50 hectares of land since the 1980s. A few houses were demolished, the measure being justified by the need to monitor the area for security reasons.

According to consistent information obtained

from the Imbonerakure and Burundian intelligence sources, this location was chosen by the FDN because, first, it is isolated; second, many of the farmers who live nearby or frequent the area are Hutu (who are not expected to disclose secret military information); and finally because this location facilitates a short and quick passage from the DRC to the hills of Cibitoke and Mugina, where Rwandan FDLR rebels can pass unnoticed to reach Kibira and other military positions near the Rwandan-Burundian border.

This hunt, which will have serious socio-economic consequences, comes at a time when intense discussions are taking place between the regimes in Kinshasa and Kigali, and among the points discussed is a joint hunt for the FDLR rebel group by the two regimes. With Burundi believed to be the rear base, Rukana would serve, according to the same sources, as an exit point for these rebels, who are accustomed to using this location for their comings and goings between Burundi and the DRC.

The farmers of these lands in Kaboya, estimated to number more than 100, say they are victims of injustice after being banned from returning to their farmland since the second week of September 2025.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Parents of students asked to contribute to the purchase of computers in Mwaro commune, Gitega province

On October 5, 2025, during a parents' meeting at Lycée Communal Mwaro I, located in the Mwaro district and commune, Gitega province, a measure was taken by the school's principal, Célestin Nduwimana, requiring each student to pay 5,000 Burundian francs for the purchase of a school computer. This measure applies to all students, including those in elementary school (grades 7-9) who do not pay tuition. Each parent will have to pay an amount

corresponding to the number of children they have at this school.

The parents of students present at the meeting rejected the measure because it was not justified.

It should be noted that a year ago, computers that were at this school (which were donated to the school by the Ministry of Communication) were moved to the University of Mwaro, located in Kibumbu.

Primary schools without chalk despite available stocks in Gitega province

Information received by the Iteka League on October 5, 2025 indicates that in Gitega province, since the start of the 2025-2026 school year, elementary schools in the municipality and province of Gitega have been operating without chalk, a tool that is essential for the smooth running of classes. This situation has outraged parents, especially since large stocks of chalk are reportedly available in provincial warehouses.

Stocks blocked in warehouses:

According to information gathered, the chalk shortage is not due to a lack of national supply but rather to a lack of local distribution. Large quantities have reportedly been stored for several months in warehouses in the province of Gitega, without reaching the schools.

Parents concerned about academic delays: In schools, the lack of chalk is seriously complicating the work of teachers. Parents now fear the consequences for their children's learning.

"How can a teacher explain a math or grammar lesson without writing on the board? Our children risk falling behind the others," worries one parent. Parental discontent is all the greater as this

is not the first difficulty encountered this year. Since the start of the school year, sixth-grade students have also been lacking textbooks, following the recent curriculum reform. In some classes, a single textbook is shared by an entire class, making teaching even more difficult.

A crisis that raises questions about educational management:

For many parents, these repeated shortcomings are evidence of a governance problem. They are calling on the government to ensure better planning and regular distribution of teaching materials. "We demand that our children's education be a priority. Without chalk or books, how can we educate a competent generation?" asks one mother.

Silence from education authorities:

When contacted, the provincial education official declined to comment on the situation. This silence only serves to heighten the incomprehension of teachers and parents.

While waiting for concrete measures to be taken, students in Gitega continue to attend classes in precarious conditions, without chalk to write on the blackboard, and with their academic future seemingly dependent on the distribution of a simple teaching tool.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

Cholera epidemic strikes the municipalities of Cibitoke and Bukinanyana in the province of Bujumbura: 13 deaths and nearly 480 cases reported

Information received by Ligue Iteka on September 4, 2025, indicates that since the beginning of September, a cholera epidemic has been severely affecting the communes of Cibitoke and Bukinanyana in northwestern Burundi.

According to the most recent data from the Ministry of Health, 479 cases have been recorded, including 13 deaths. Nine patients are currently hospitalized at the Rugombo cholera treatment center.

An epidemic spreading across several hills : The epidemic was first reported on September 4, gradually affecting several hills: Mparambo, Nyakagunda, Samwe, Munyika, Rusiga, Rukana, Kagazi, Gasenyi, Ndava, and Nyamitanga

Of the 13 victims, five are children and eight are adults : The hill of Nyakagunda, in the sub-hill of Rubuye, alone has suffered seven deaths, while in Rukana, in the Binyange sector, five people have succumbed to the disease. A final victim was reported in Rusiga.

Silence imposed on local authorities :

Despite the seriousness of the situation, a climate of official silence surrounds the management of the crisis.

Several local sources claim that the basic administrative authorities have been instructed not to communicate about cholera-related deaths.

“We have been forbidden to talk about the deaths because it would make a bad impression,” said an official from an affected hill, speaking on condition of anonymity.

This enforced discretion fuels the mistrust of the inhabitants.

“If the figures are hidden, people will not take precautions,” lamented a father from Mparambo.

Doctors Without Borders and the Red Cross are hard at work, but hamstrung:

On the ground, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) and the Red Cross are supporting local medical teams in treating patients and disinfecting homes.

However, several caregivers complain about a lack of freedom of speech: humanitarian organizations are not allowed to make public statements.

This lack of transparency fuels a feeling of opacity and misinformation among the population.

Contaminated water, the main cause of the scourge : For the chief medical officer of the Cibitoke health district, the cause of this epidemic is clear: ***“The inhabitants use water from rivers and marshes, which is often polluted by agricultural chemicals. That is the source of the problem,”*** he explains.

The health authorities, with the support of MSF and the Red Cross, are conducting awareness campaigns, disinfecting homes, and distributing hygiene products. But resources remain limited and access to safe drinking water remains a major challenge.

A stable but fragile situation : While health services assure that the situation is now under control, the threat of a resurgence persists.

The affected areas, often isolated and lacking adequate sanitation infrastructure, remain extremely vulnerable.

Without sustainable investment in access to drinking water and sanitation, experts fear that new cholera outbreaks will occur in the coming weeks. In short, this epidemic highlights the persistent flaws in Burundi's health system, particularly in rural areas.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH (the following of page 16)

A prolonged water shortage is causing diseases from dirty hands after the drilling system in Bururi, Burunga province, stopped working

Information received by Ligue Iteka on September 4, 2025, indicates that patients at the Anders GAHORE hospital of the Pentecostal Church in Kiremba, students at Kiremba South High School and Kiremba Technical High School in Bururi commune, Burunga province, say they are very tired due to the lack of drinking water.

Employees at the hospital say that this shortage has been ongoing for two months. When they resorted to using water from boreholes, this system has been out of service for a month, according to sources on site.

Nurses draw water from streams, as do more than 1,500 students from these schools, as we ourselves observed just after classes at

around 2 p.m. on September 29, 2025, below these boarding schools, where students rush to a very small river. These students say that the taps have not released a single drop of water since the start of the school year and that they waste a lot of time looking for water. Some who drink this very dirty water and are afraid of catching diseases from dirty hands are sounding the alarm and asking the Bururi municipality to do everything possible to find a solution to this problem. This water shortage is also evident in most households in Kiremba. The administrator of the Bururi municipality, Godelive Ntakirutumana, explains that municipal employees responsible for water management are working to repair the broken water supply system.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Iteka League strongly condemns the continuing deterioration of human rights in Burundi and condemns the impunity of perpetrators of crimes. It calls on the Burundian authorities to take all possible measures and recommends the following:

The Government of Burundi should:

- ⇒ Prohibit intimidation activities carried out by the Imbonerakure;
- ⇒ Guarantee the protection of fundamental rights and put an end to the violence committed by the Imbonerakure;
- ⇒ Immediately cancel any directive prohibiting local authorities and humanitarian organizations (MSF, Red Cross) from communicating on cholera statistics; transparency in health matters is vital for prevention;
- ⇒ Launch a national accelerated investment program for access to drinking water and sanitation in Cibitoke province;
- ⇒ Ensure the availability of school textbooks and especially chalk for students in order to prevent dropouts and academic delays.