

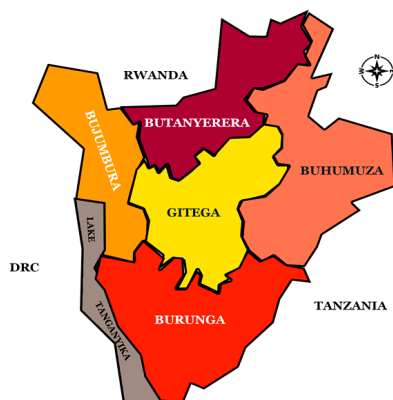


Anyone should be respected

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS “ITEKA”

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

REPORT OF THE BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA" ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2025



In memory of Madame Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to October 26, 2025, at least 845 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 85 victims have reappeared, and 760 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has already communicated to the government of Burundi about at least 252 victims¹.

¹<https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

The Iteka League:

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

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ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BRARUDI	: <i>Burundi Brewery and Soft Drink Company</i>
CEEAC	: <i>Economic Community of Central African States</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNIDH	: <i>Independent National Human Rights Commission</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
DESC	: <i>Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Elementary School</i>
FDLR	: <i>Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda</i>
FRODEBU	: <i>Front for Democracy in Burundi</i>
ISABU	: <i>Burundi Institute of Agricultural Sciences</i>
OBPE	: <i>Burundi Observatory for Environmental Protection</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
PNB	: <i>Burundi National Police</i>
SNR	: <i>National Enquiry Service</i>
TGI	: <i>High Court</i>
UN	: <i>United Nations</i>
UNGA	: <i>United Nations General Assembly</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>
VSBGs	: <i>Sexual and Gender-Based Violence</i>

0. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT

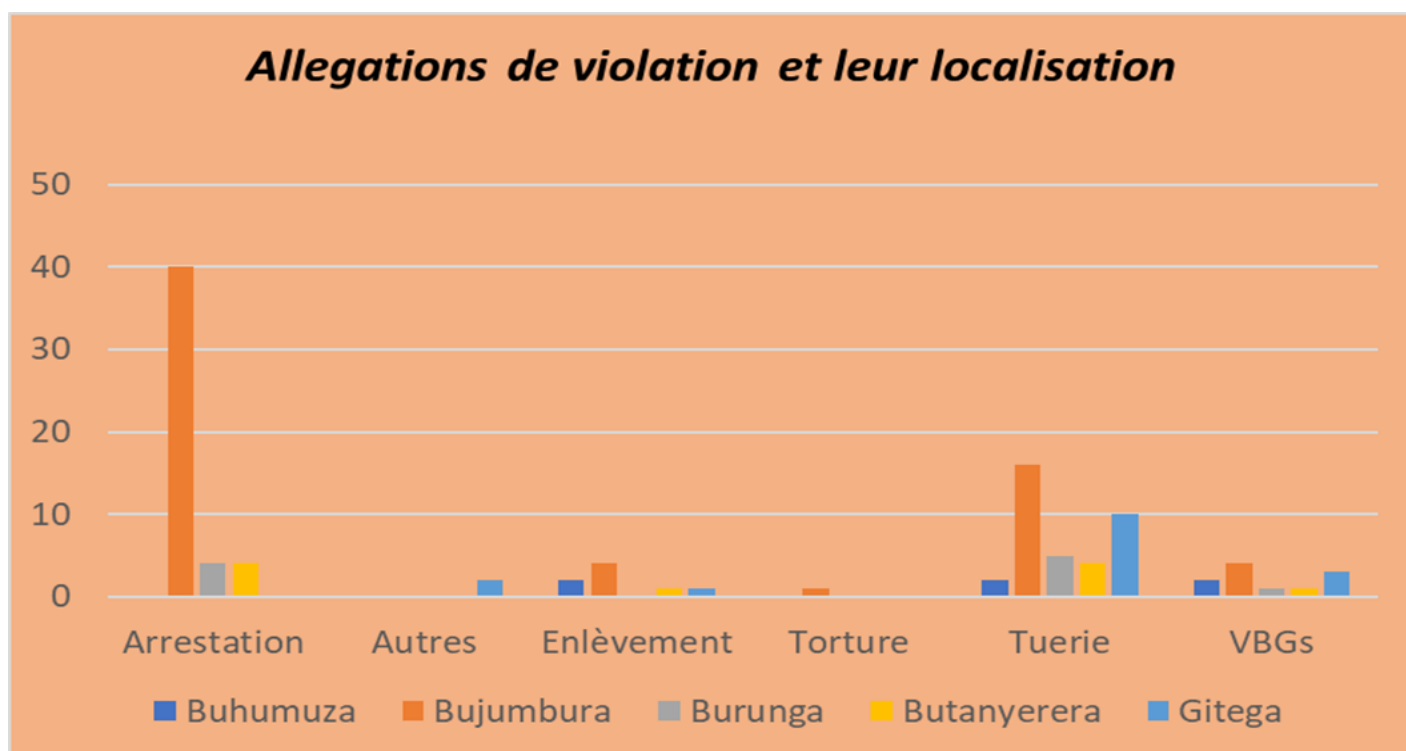
This monthly report for October 2025 is a summary of the weekly Iteka n'Ijambo bulletins from issues 494 to 498. It covers the political, security, judicial, governance, humanitarian, and environmental context that marked this period. It also reviews civil and political rights and economic, social, and cultural rights. Finally, this report concludes with a summary and recommendations.

The situation of civil and political rights during the period covered by this report can be summarized as follows: 37 people were killed, including 27 bodies; 1 person was tortured; 9 people were abducted, including one who reappeared; 11 people were victims of gender-based violence, including 7 girls who were raped, 6 of whom were minors; and 48 people were arbitrarily arrested and detained. It should be noted that among those arrested, 40 were arrested during a raid in Bujumbura in the Rumuri “Ancienne Nyakabiga” neighborhood and detained in the Special Investigation Office (BSR).

Imbonerakure, police officers, administrative agents, SNR agents, and soldiers are being singled out as the alleged perpetrators of most of these human rights violations and murders.

0.1. Mapping of allegations of civil and political rights violations

Figure 1: Graph illustrating the main cases of alleged civil and political rights violations observed in Burundi during the month of October 2025

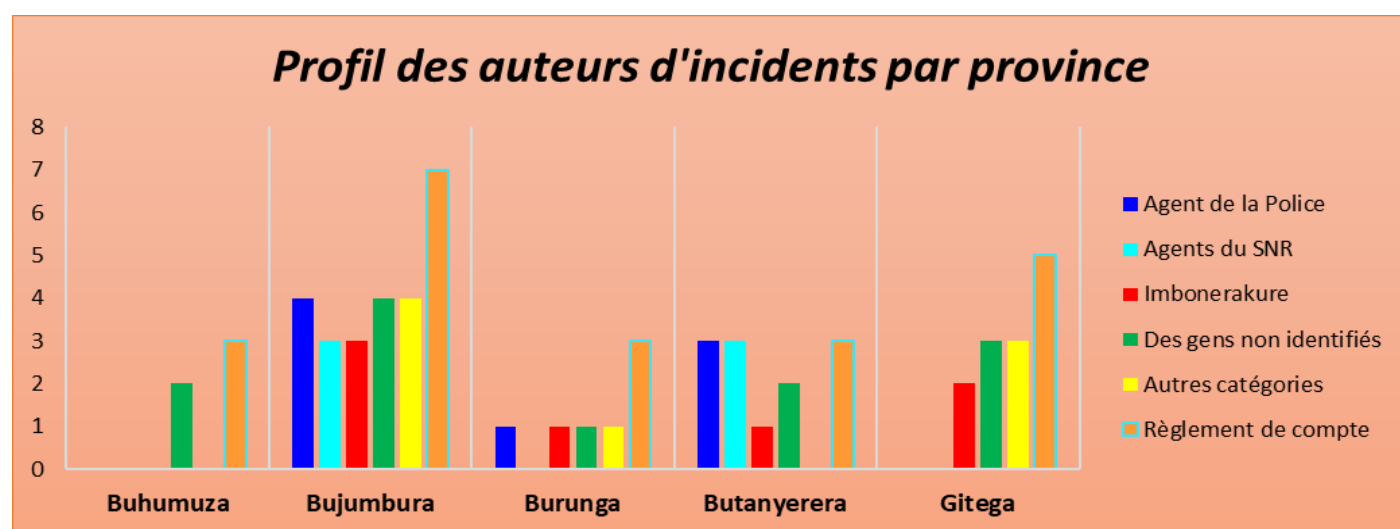


The graph above illustrates the five categories of violations in the five different provinces of the country, with Bujumbura experiencing the most allegations of human rights violations with 65 cases, followed by Gitega with 16 cases, Burunga and Butanyerera with 10 cases each, and finally Buhumuza with six cases.

Thus, during the month of October 2025 covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded 107 victims of alleged civil and political rights violations throughout the country. These allegations of human rights violations are mainly distributed as follows: 37 people killed, 8 people abducted, 11 people victims.

of VBG, including 8 underage girls who were raped, 1 person tortured, and 48 people arbitrarily arrested. We note 2 victims of serious assault and battery by unidentified individuals who, according to the information gathered, are believed to be young members of the presidential party.

Figure 2: Graph illustrating the main alleged perpetrators of civil and political rights violations observed in Burundi during the month of October 2025



According to the graph, of all the violations recorded during this period in October 2025, cases of settling scores were the highest with 21 cases, followed by cases perpetrated by unidentified individuals with 12 cases. Police officers committed 8 cases, SNR agents 6 cases, Imbonerakure 7 cases, and 8 cases in other categories are attributed to individuals, including merchants, domestic violence, and gender-based violence.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

October 2025 in Burundi was marked by a troubled political atmosphere, with several events taking place. In the northern provinces, the situation was complex, particularly with regard to the clandestine recruitment of soldiers. In the province of Gitega, in Karuzi, local Imbonerakure leaders had been running a program for a month to recruit young people, allowing them to join the army without a call for applications, as was usually the case. A local witness reported seeing an Imbonerakure official from the Buhiga area attaching a passport photo to a photocopy of an identity card and sending the files to Gitega. Reports indicate that the Imbonerakure leader had more than 35 similar files in his possession. A source close to the CNDD-FDD revealed that this recruitment was taking place throughout the country, requiring only a photocopy of an identity card and a passport photo, with no other formalities required. In Butanyerera, in the commune of Kirundo, informal recruitment of rank-and-file soldiers was taking place under the aegis of the Imbonerakure, who were busy collecting documents enabling supposed Hutu members to claim fraudulent classifications, adding a layer of disorder to the situation.

On October 13, Burundi commemorated the assassination of Prince Louis Rwagasore with a mass celebrated at the Catholic Church in Cankuzo, where Father Ndikuryayo Antoine quoted the prince's speech on independence, emphasizing the importance of youth engagement. The celebration of the 64th anniversary of his death was marked by significant participation from high-ranking officials, who laid wreaths at the independence monument.

The governor and the administrator, in a rare show of unity, joined forces to pay tribute, demonstrating a certain solidarity. However, the reality remained bleak, as the official discourse of peace and security drew criticism in the face of ongoing violence.

On October 17, the President of the Republic visited Kirundo, expressing optimism about the country's economic future while introducing a new administrator. Yet, amid this atmosphere of hope, a tragic incident occurred in which a man killed his wife. Political speeches followed, highlighting the successes of the CNDD-FDD. During an inauguration ceremony, Évariste Ndayishimiye vehemently denounced the opposition, calling for unity around his party. Also in October, in Muyinga, the administrator presented a committee lacking in diversity, with all the appointed officials coming from the same party, demonstrating what was perceived as a disregard for the constitution and the principles of power sharing. Later, the ceremonies marking the 32nd anniversary of Ndadaye's assassination in Cibitoke were solemn, but public engagement was lacking, with citizens lamenting an event they perceived as disconnected from their daily realities.

Finally, at the end of October, the climate of political intolerance intensified, as demonstrated by the tragedy on Giharo Hill, where Madame Capitoline was savagely attacked following a dispute with a member of the CNDD-FDD. This tragedy illustrates the atmosphere of impunity prevailing in the commune of Musongati, where violence against those not affiliated with the ruling party seemed to be the norm, leaving the population in a climate of fear.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

In October, the security situation in Burundi deteriorated with disturbing events. In Karusi, Gitega province, several nighttime burglaries disrupted residents' lives. Between September 30 and October 3, 2025, five houses were attacked, and thieves stole valuables and food. At the Buhiga market, three shops were also looted, resulting in significant losses for traders. The authorities took no significant action, despite growing concerns among residents about a group of Imbonerakure claiming to be patrolling for security.

In Buhumuza province, Governor Denise Ndaruhekere stated at a meeting that there would be zero tolerance for those claiming plots of land already compensated by the state. She encouraged local leaders to raise awareness of this issue and stressed the importance of obtaining development permits from the Burundian Housing Office. Tensions are mounting in Muyinga, where staff at the Higher Islamic Institute of Muyinga (ISIM) are being intimidated. The rector and the academic director fear for their safety in the face of reprisals from the Imbonerakure, exacerbated by financial irregularities in the nursing program and an ongoing investigation.

On October 13, measures were taken to identify residents considered “irregular” in Mutambara, aimed at countering the growing insecurity fueled by unexplained violence. In the education sector, Green Hills International College experienced unrest with the questioning of 25 students in connection with a fire. In addition, the principal of Lycée Communal Mwaro I caused tensions by ordering students to work in a field.

Police also conducted searches in Karusi and Rutana to combat the illegal sale of fertilizer and unauthorized weapons, but these actions generated further tensions. A climate of fear and unrest prevails in Burundi, jeopardizing the safety of citizens, who are calling for intervention to restore order following reports of violence and tragedies affecting innocent families.

1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

In October 2025, Burundi was rocked by significant legal events. On October 7, at the Ngozi High Court, the hearing of journalist Muhoza Aline Sandra raised doubts about the proceedings. Her lawyers challenged the jurisdiction of the Bujumbura Court of Appeal and denounced the lack of a warrant for her imprisonment. Despite the defense's arguments, the prosecutor attempts to uphold the charges, prompting the court to adjourn the case. Two days later, in Rutana, Eric Niyonzima is sentenced to two years of penal servitude for child trafficking, while Muhoza remains in detention despite the irregularities in her proceedings. On October 14, new charges are brought against her, threatening her integrity. On October 17, in Rutana, a confrontation illustrates ethnic tensions, recalling tragic events of the past. Tharcisse, the deputy prosecutor, denounces the aggressive behavior of the Imbonerakure while proposing a compromise. A new confrontation session is scheduled for October 27.

On October 23, an explosive situation erupts in Gitega, where police intercept 25 students after a fire at Green Hills International College. Families must compensate for the damage, but tensions arise over preferential treatment given to certain parents. The Attorney General orders the transfer of students to various prisons, leading to releases and redistributions. On October 29, the Rutana High Court sentenced Alexis KWIZERA and Ferdinand MANIRAKIZA to six months in prison for disrupting economic security, while a police officer received a life sentence for the murder of Nishimwe Faustin.

On October 27, young people from the CNDD-FDD are arrested on Mwange hill, suspected of plotting against the hill chief. Their arrests exacerbate political tensions. Finally, Nibizi Eric, a Bible teacher, was imprisoned for sexual assault against a student, raising questions about justice in Burundi. The atmosphere of uncertainty and tension persists in the country.

1.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

In Burundi, October was marked by tensions over governance, particularly difficulties in distributing chemical fertilizers in Karusi and Gitega. Farmers are suffering from a lack of fertilizer as harvest time approaches, with some already in the midst of harvesting while others have not received their orders. This situation calls into question the government's commitment to its citizens. At the same time, irregularities in the distribution of sugar in Muramvya have been observed, with Imbonerakure monitoring points of sale and limiting access to sugar to CNDD-FDD members only, creating palpable anger among those excluded.

Another problem concerns job offers for teachers in Mugere, where irregularities have emerged with NTUNZWENIMANA Salvator, former representative of the Imbonerakure, linked to questionable recruitment practices. Public services are lagging behind following the appointment of new officials, making access to administrative documents difficult and costly. At the Malagarazi border with Tanzania, erosion caused by rainfall is causing concern, with accusations of land appropriation by Tanzanians.

On October 6, 2025, the Rutana High Court convicted fifteen people for destroying an SOSUMO dam, acting on orders from the Tanzanian military. Meanwhile, the situation in Musongati is worsening for UPRONA members, with an assassination attempt against Usuel Ntakarutimana and widespread impunity for political attackers. Criticism is mounting against Cyriaque Komezurugendo, accused of embezzling corn seeds.

Abusive sanctions in Kirundo for non-participation in a meeting are fueling discontent, while the Ministry of Finance is attempting to improve transparency with a new problem reporting system, facing obstacles such as corruption. Farmers in Kirundo suffer from a shortage of manure, and at Mwaro High School, a principal imposes unauthorized fees for hairdressers, increasing student discontent. All of these injustices underscore a lack of hope for meaningful change in the country.

1.4. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

In October 2025, the humanitarian situation in Burundi was particularly worrying for Congolese refugees who had sought refuge there, numbering around 100,000, notably in sites such as the Rugombo stadium and the Musenyi camp. These refugees faced precarious conditions, with limited access to healthcare and education, and suffered gender-based violence. The Banyamulenge, a Congolese subgroup, were particularly discriminated against. Many lived in sheds without drinking water, and the Musenyi site had only one ambulance. Approximately 9,000 children were unable to access education due to inadequate infrastructure. Violence against women and children often originates in the camps or from armed groups. Most refugees depend on unpredictable humanitarian aid, with the Banyamulenge often stigmatized and suspected of being involved in conflicts. In response to this distress, humanitarian organizations such as the Denise Nyakeru Tshisekedi Foundation have begun to intervene, distributing food to refugees, particularly in Musenyi. United Nations representatives have also participated in these efforts. UNHCR representative Brigitte Eno Mukanga highlighted the ongoing difficulties, particularly for families without drinking water and children without access to school. The Iteka League has called for better infrastructure in the camps and protection for the Banyamulenge, women, and children, while also calling for their refugee status to be recognized in order to guarantee access to essential services.

1.5. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

From an environmental perspective, Burundi experienced tragic events in October 2025 that caused great suffering in the affected areas. On October 29, heavy rains and strong winds hit the commune of Makamba, in the province of Burunga. This deluge caused widespread destruction, flooding the land and leaving people helpless. Initially, two people were reported dead and 117 houses completely destroyed. Two classrooms at the ECO FO Gashonge school also collapsed, adding to the suffering of the inhabitants. Livestock was also affected, and heavy losses were reported by owners.

The commune of Rutana was also affected, although the extent of the damage is not yet known. Meanwhile, local authorities were celebrating the arrival of the new commune chief of Nyanza, in the presence of President Évariste Ndayishimiye. In this climate of disaster, those affected are asking for help, desperate to find shelter and begin rebuilding.

Another unfortunate incident occurred on October 28, 2025, when it was reported that a young girl had lost her life due to the collapse of a house on Musave Hill in the town and commune of Kayanza, Butanyerera province. This event occurred on October 26, when torrential rains hit Kayanza. An eight-year-old girl, a pupil at Murago Primary School, was the victim of this incident while visiting her family. The house she was in collapsed due to the bad weather. On that day, five classrooms at Nkonge and Gitwa schools, located in Muruta and Nyabihogo, were also severely damaged. School officials, distraught, quickly sought help from the authorities, urging emergency action to repair the buildings and provide a conducive learning environment for students. In addition, three other children were injured when the roofs of their classrooms were blown away by the storm and had to be evacuated to a health center to receive the necessary assistance.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

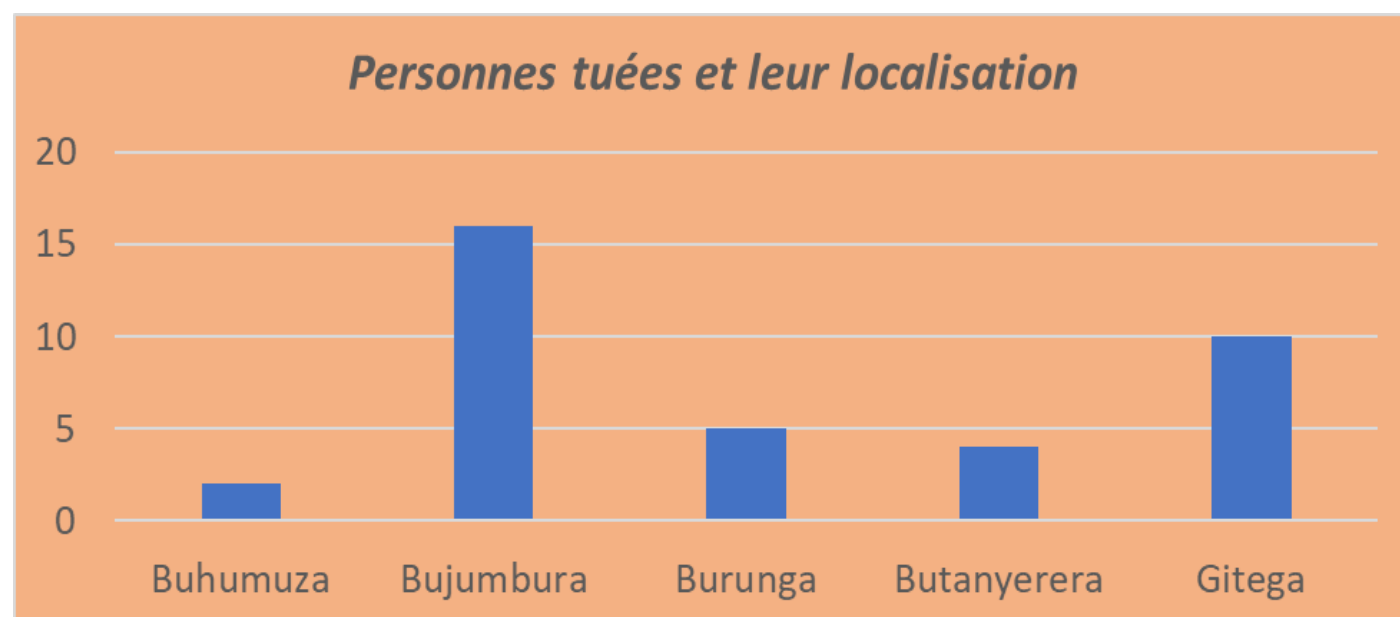
Burundi is one of the countries that acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1965) and its Optional Protocol (1976) without reservation on May 9, 1990. As part of its implementation, Burundi has taken measures in its domestic legislation, notably in its Constitution of June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

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

During the period covered by this report, a total of 37 cases of intentional homicide were recorded by the Iteka League throughout the country. Among the victims, 17 were men, 12 were women, and 7 were infants whose sex is unknown. Of the 37 victims, 2 were killed by national police officers, 33 were killed by unidentified individuals and/or found dead, and 1 case was attributed to military personnel, 8 cases of infanticide.

The provinces most affected are Bujumbura with 16 victims, Gitega with 10 victims, and Burunga with 5 victims. Butanyerera and Buhumuza follow with 4 and 2 victims, respectively.



Illustrative examples :

Ex1 : On October 18, 2025, a man named Faustin NISHIMWE, a resident of Colline Gasozo, Mageyo Zone in Mubimbi Commune in Bujumbura Province, was killed by a Burundian police officer.

That day, Faustin Nishimwe had decided to go to downtown Bujumbura to sell his goat. As he was with his brother and they arrived near the presidential palace, they were stopped by a drunk police officer. The officer demanded that they give him a receipt (for the goat). Faustin tried to explain that the goat belonged to him and had been raised at their home. The police officer refused to listen. Instead, he decided to confiscate the goat and take it to a small bush near the palace. As they followed the police officer, asking him where he was taking

their goat, the police officer shot him four times in the head after he fell to the ground following the blows with a baton that the same police officer had inflicted on him before committing this crime. He died instantly.

His brother was saved by a group of soldiers who were in the vicinity, according to our source.
Ex2: On Saturday, October 25, 2025, at around 6:30 a.m., the lifeless body of a woman named Ndereyimana Jeanine was discovered in the Magarama neighborhood, on 2nd Avenue, in the commune and province of Gitega. According to initial statements taken from the Magarama neighborhood chief, Mr. Nzibarega Léandre, the victim died as a result of consuming prohibited alcohol, as, according to him, she had been heavily intoxicated the night before. However, this information is disputed by several neighborhood residents, who claim to have observed injuries to the victim's neck. These witnesses suspect a criminal act, possibly committed after a sexual assault, given that the woman lived alone and had been divorced for 15 years.

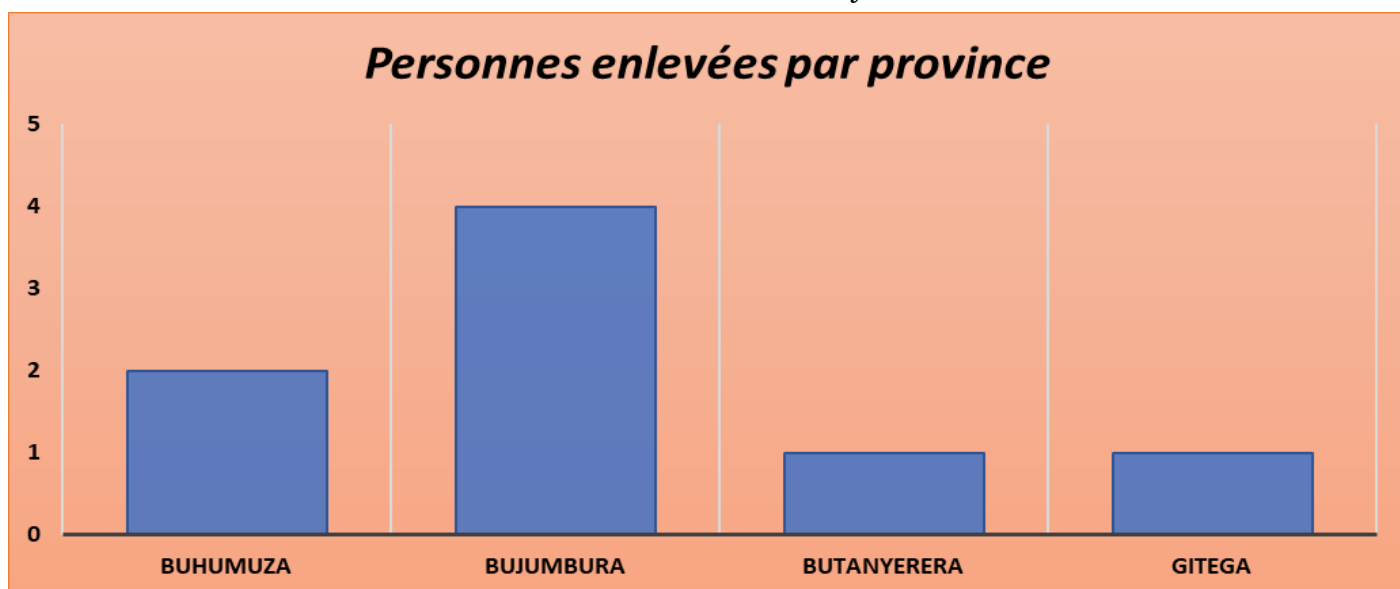
The witnesses acknowledge that the deceased frequently consumed alcohol, but they insist on the suspicious nature of the circumstances surrounding her death.

The victim, originally from Kirempera Hill in the Giheta area of the same province of Gitega, lived alone in Magarama. The funeral took place on the same day on the orders of police officer Iradukunda Jean Claude and the neighborhood chief.

II.1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING

The Constitution of Burundi guarantees all individuals a fair trial, as well as a hearing and judgment within a reasonable time, as stipulated in Article 38.

The Iteka League has recorded eight people kidnapped, six men and two women, with four cases in Bujumbura province and two in Buhumuza province, while Gitega and Butanyerera have seen one case each. Among the victims, four cases were perpetrated by SNR agents in collaboration with the Imbonerakures and three others by unidentified individuals.



Illustrative examples :

Ex1 : Two men from Gasebeyi hill, in the municipality of Mugina, Bujumbura province, were arrested on October 30, 2025, by intelligence agents, in collaboration with Imbonerakure youth. Since then, their families have had no news of them, exacerbating fears of enforced disappearances in the region.

The two men, Égide Nishimwe, hill chief, and his neighbor Ndikumana, were abducted in front of several witnesses. According to them, police officers surrounded their homes before taking them away in a vehicle driven by the head of the Cibitoke municipal intelligence service. After multiple searches at police stations, the families have found no information about their fate. Some police sources insinuate that the two men are linked to the Red Tabara rebel movement, a claim rejected by their relatives, who say they had left the CNL to join the CNDD-FDD.

An Imbonerakure who participated in their arrest raised “doubts” about their loyalty, which does little to reassure their families, who fear the worst. These disappearances are part of a series of similar arrests reported in recent months in Mugina, where several people have been captured without their families knowing where they are. The municipal administrator, Anicet Saidi, confirms that he has been informed of the arrests but does not know which unit is responsible. In Gasebeye, a climate of fear reigns. Residents, fearing reprisals, whisper their concerns.

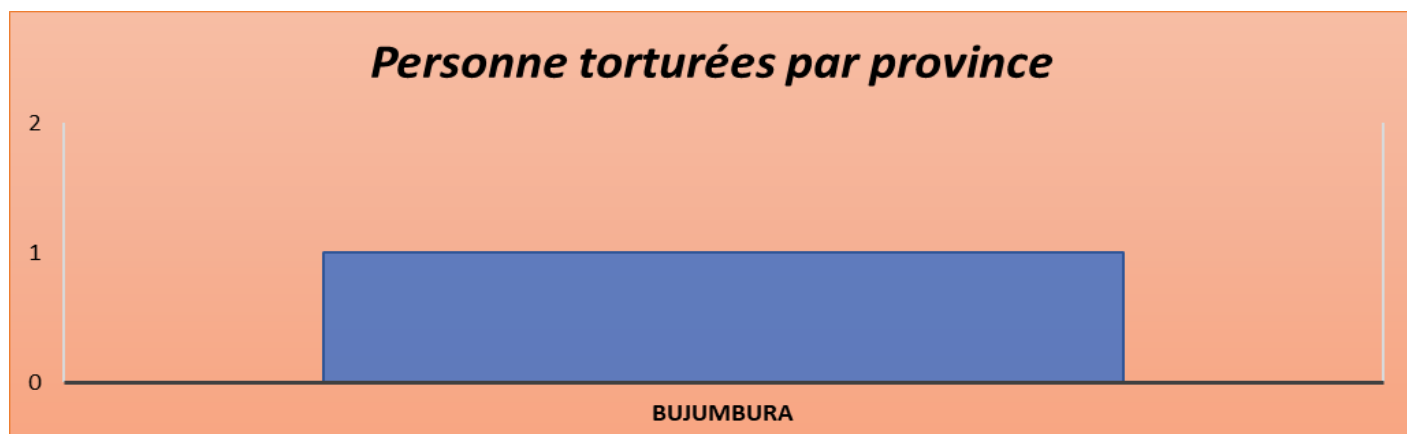
The relatives of the disappeared are not giving up and are demanding answers from the authorities about the safety and rights of those arrested. The families hope to see their loved ones again or, at the very least, to know their fate. These disappearances fuel the debate about the responsibility of the security forces towards suspects. Human rights organizations regularly call for investigations into arbitrary arrests and secret detentions. In the meantime, Gasebeye's family is appealing for any information that could help them find their missing loved ones.

Ex2 : *On October 1, 2025, a 43-year-old woman named Henriette Bayubahe, wife of Jonas Ruzuba, a teacher at ECOFO Camazi II, was abducted and has been missing ever since. 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, a mother of five, lives on the hill and in the Camazi area, Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province. It should be noted that the victim returned home at around 8 p.m. on October 7, 2025. She appeared to be in good physical health, but she did not want to say where she had been for a whole week.*

II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

Article 21 of the Burundian Constitution stipulates that “No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.” In addition, Law No. 1/04 of June 27, 2016, on the protection of victims defines the rights of victims and provides for measures to protect their physical and mental integrity. This clearly demonstrates the country's commitment to protecting the physical integrity of its citizens.

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



In total, one case of torture was recorded by the Iteka League throughout the country during the period covered by this report. This case was attributed to the Jeunes Imbonerakure in the province of Bujumbura. The victim is a young man from a family that supports the UPRONA party.

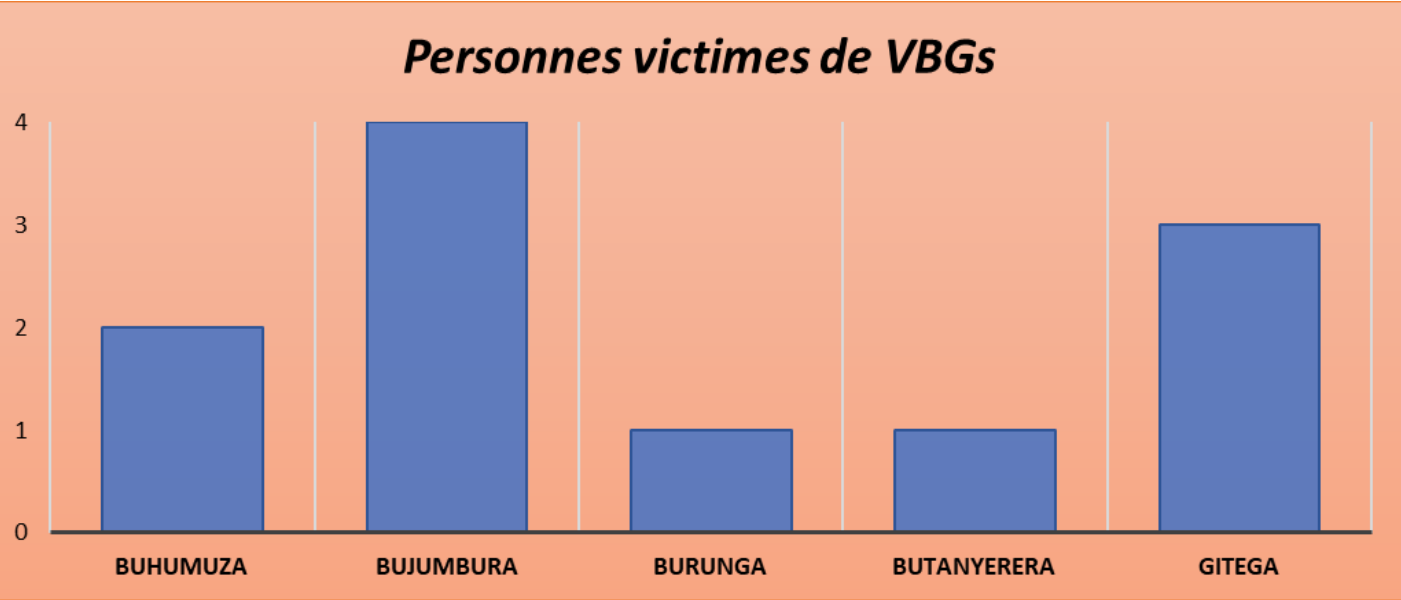
Illustrative examples :

Example 1 : *An act of violence took place on October 14, 2025, in the Maramvya neighborhood (new Mutimbuzi neighborhood), Mutimbuzi commune (new Ntahangwa commune) in Bujumbura province, where a young Imbonerakure member of the CNDD-FDD named Simon attempted to burn a citizen by pouring gasoline on him. The victim, who had a small amount of fuel for domestic use, was accused by Simon of illegal trade. Thanks to the rapid intervention of neighbors, the fire was extinguished, saving the victim's life. He was taken to a clinic for intensive care.*

The residents, shocked by this brutal act, wanted to attack the assailant. The police had to fire shots into the air to disperse the crowd and evacuate Simon. The police said he would be prosecuted, but the population doubts that justice will be served, believing that Simon will enjoy impunity because of his affiliation with the Imbonerakure. Residents are demanding justice and that Simon pay for the victim's medical care, while calling for an end to Imbonerakure violence in the area.

II.2.2. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE/RAPE

During the reporting period, the Iteka League recorded 11 cases of victims of GBV, including 7 cases of girls who were raped, 6 of whom were minors. Among the victims were 3 men and 8 women, including 7 girls who were raped. The provinces of Bujumbura and Gitega were the most affected, with 4 and 3 victims respectively. Buhumuza followed with 2 victims, while Burunga and Butanyerera each had 1 case.



Of the 11 cases of GBV/rape recorded nationwide, 1 case was committed by members of the Imbonerakure, 1 case by a police officer, 8 cases were committed by private individuals (including shopkeepers, domestic workers, and neighbors of the victims), and 1 case of rape was committed as a form of revenge.

Illustrative examples :

Ex1 : On the evening of October 5, 2025, on Mutambara hill, in the Rumonge area and commune, Burunga province, H. M., aged 10 and from the same hill, was raped by Léonidas Minani, aged 40, a member of the CNDD-FDD party.

According to local sources, the alleged perpetrator took the girl to his house before committing the act, under severe intimidation. After the incident, he reportedly went outside to check the surroundings, leaving the girl inside the house. It was then that neighbors, suspecting something unusual, hid to observe the situation.

They then saw the girl leave the house. The neighbors proceeded to arrest the alleged perpetrator and took him to the nearest police station. He was then transferred to the Rumonge police station jail.

The girl was taken to the Humura center for holistic care. The trial was scheduled to take place on Wednesday afternoon, but it was postponed until October 15, 2025, as the defendant stated that he had a witness.

Ex2 : On October 11, 2025, on Matongo Hill in the Matongo commune of Butanyerera province, an 18-year-old girl named N.N., daughter of N. Th and Ns. D., was raped by a police officer named Alfred.

According to information gathered at the scene, N.N. was spending a few days in the Matongo commune jail, held for judicial investigation after being accused of stealing household goods in Bujumbura, where she worked as a maid. According to the same information, Alfred, the police officer guarding the cell, sneaked into the Matongo communal women's cell to rape her. When she cried out for help, the police officer fled, leaving behind his weapon, which was recovered the next day, October 12, 2025, by the Matongo communal commissioner.

A total of five cases of arrests involving 48 victims were recorded throughout the country during the period covered by this report. The province of Bujumbura recorded 40 victims. The provinces of Burunga and Butanyerera each had four victims. Of these five cases, one was committed by the SNR and the other four were attributed to police officers.
Illustrative examples:

Ex1 : On October 20, 2025, in Colline Bushasha, Kirundo Commune, Butanyerera Province, a member of the CNL Rwasa Agathon wing named Muhigirwa Theogene, a supervisor at Kanyinya High School, was arrested by the provincial police commissioner and detained in the Kirundo police station cell on charges of soliciting girls from the high school. However, he spent five days in the cell without any charges because he demanded that the girls in question be brought in, but no one even summoned them, and he was released without conditions.

Example 2 : Information received by the Iteka League on October 8, 2025, indicates that on October 4, 2025, evangelists Bizimana Thierry, Bigirimana Zabulon, and Harushimana Gédéon were arrested by police officers.

According to witnesses, the internal conflict between the Reverends and Pastors of the Pentecostal Church, divided for some time into two camps, that of Kirembe and that of Kayogoro, following the death of Reverend Pastor Ndikunkiko Élie, also known as the high priest, has reached a critical level.

That Sunday, a group of three evangelists from the Kiremba camp, belonging to the Cunamwe branch on Mugina Hill, where worshippers were kneeling to pray under a sheet set up on property belonging to the Pentecostal Church of Kiremba, were arrested at around 7:15 a.m. by a group of police officers acting under the orders of the municipal police commissioner based in Mabanda. The evangelists were taken to the office of Police Inspector Fabrice for questioning.

Once there, the commissioner told them that the site belonged to the Kayogoro Pentecostal Church and that they did not have the right to carry out their religious activities there, despite presenting their legal administrative documents. A small group of worshippers accompanied them to the detention center before returning home around 6 p.m.

The next day, SNR agents from the Nyanza commune went to the detention center to inquire about the situation. Later, another group of believers led by Pastor Pierre from the Kiremba camp arrived early at the police station to speak with the police officer, who agreed to release the evangelists and allowed them to resume their prayer activities without hindrance. The same scenario was repeated on Muyama Hill, in the Buhema area, where amateur videos that went viral on social media show chaotic scenes marked by intimidation and tensions between the faithful of Kiremba and those of the Kayogoro camp.

The police also arrested evangelist Jean Bosco, who spent the night of October 4, 2025, in a cell at the Kayogoro police station. Upon his release on Monday, October 5, he was instructed to resume worship activities after the brick construction of their branch was completed, as the foundation had already been laid, in order to avoid the use of tents.

According to some sources, the divisions within this church stem from ethnic, political, and financial differences initiated by certain leaders in the Kayogoro camp, including two reverend pastors from the Nyanza-Lac Pentecostal Church, both from the Vugizo area and members of the CNDD-FDD party. The latter refuse to collaborate with the Reverends of Kiremba, whom they accuse of being followers of the former leaders Reverend Madendo and Reverend Ndikunkiko Élie.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

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

III.1. DISRUPTION TO ECONOMIC LIFE

Economic rights in Burundi underwent serious upheaval last October, with disturbing events. On October 1, 2025, the “torch of peace” passed through Buhumuza, raising concerns about the resources mobilized for the event, while the population suffered from a shortage of essential goods such as fuel and BUCECO cement. Many felt that these funds should have been used to better meet the needs of the population.

On October 5, corn farmers in Butanyerera complained about the unfair distribution of seeds, suffering discrimination during the distribution of seeds orchestrated by local leaders, particularly those known to be opposed to the CNDD-FDD party. In Burunga, complaints about the insufficient distribution of PAB 53 seeds added to the discontent, with accusations of favoritism against certain officials for their political proximity to CNDD-FDD members.

Growing concerns about dependence on imported seeds prompted farmers to call for a return to local seeds. However, fears of a breakdown in trade agreements highlighted their vulnerability to a potential food crisis. In the commune of Cibitoke, farmers were victims of repression for alleged links to an armed group (accused of collaborating with RED TABARA), threatening their food security.

Despite attempts to subsidize corn seeds, farmers in Mugina and Cibitoke struggled to buy them due to exorbitant prices. Accusations of speculation in the local administration exacerbated their situation. In the health sector, embezzlement at the Makamba hospital center highlighted administrative corruption, with three arrests for stealing nearly ten million francs.

Discontent was growing among communities, such as in Kirundo de Butanyerera, where the lack of manure had devastating effects on crops. Farmers, caught in a spiral of economic distress, feared for their future. In Mugina, in Bujumbura province, the passing of the torch of peace disrupted economic activities, leaving families uncertain about their children's education.

In Cibitoke, in the province of Bujumbura, a conflict over public land formerly owned by the ROGOFURM company diverted attention from the real issues, revealing the impunity of corrupt officials. Thus, the complex interaction between politics, economics, and daily life in Burundi painted a picture where hope was rare, as were the resources essential to the population's survival.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

In October 2025, the right to education in Burundi was profoundly disrupted by a series of significant events. On October 5, at the Lycée Communal Mwaro I in Gitega province, a meeting was convened at which the principal, Célestin Nduwimana, announced a new requirement: each student would be required to pay 5,000 Burundian francs to contribute to the purchase of school computers. This decision was met with strong opposition from the parents present, especially since elementary school students, who are traditionally exempt from tuition fees, were also affected. The parents challenged this measure, pointing out its lack of justification. It should be noted that a year earlier, computers donated to this school by the Ministry of Communication had been transferred to the University of Mwaro, raising questions about the management of educational resources.

At the same time, an alarming situation developed in primary schools in Gitega province, which found themselves without chalk, an essential tool for teaching. Information received by the Iteka League on October 5 indicated that, despite available stocks in provincial warehouses, distribution was lacking. This was worrying parents, as teachers were finding it difficult to deliver their lessons under these conditions. They wondered how subjects such as mathematics could be taught without the possibility of writing on the blackboard. This lack of resources had fueled growing anger, especially as sixth-grade students were also struggling to access textbooks, a situation that further complicated teaching.

In another context, on October 6, schoolchildren in the commune of Bururi were mobilized to welcome the torch of peace, participating in official events instead of attending classes. This mobilization provoked the anger of children's rights advocates, who denounced the practice as a violation of their right to education.

In the province of Bujumbura, visible tension arose at the ECOFO Cuzwe elementary school, where an incident pitted Catholic students against the Protestant administration of the school. On October 8, students wearing rosaries had their items confiscated and destroyed, sparking outrage among parents and the community, who denounced this as unacceptable religious intolerance. The municipal director of education promised to organize a meeting to clarify the situation.

Governance issues within the Municipal Education Department in Ruyigi were also highlighted, as a shortage of teachers directly affected the quality of education. Parents expressed concern about their children's stability and called for urgent replacements. Finally, security tensions arose at the Higher Islamic Institute of Muyinga, where the administration denounced extortion practices by student representatives. Although an investigation was launched, the situation became complex and led to threats of reprisals against the school's administration, fueling a climate of insecurity.

Thus, in October, various events in Burundi highlighted alarming shortcomings in the education system, marked by disruptions that called into question children's fundamental right to education.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

In October 2025, the right to health in Burundi was affected by worrying events. A cholera epidemic struck the municipalities of Cibitoke and Bukinanyana, causing 13 deaths out of nearly 480 cases, according to the Iteka League. The Ministry of Health reported 479 confirmed cases and 9 patients hospitalized. The epidemic, reported on September 4, spread to hills such as Mparambo and Nyakagunda, where seven deaths were recorded. Despite the seriousness of the situation, local authorities imposed a silence, fearing a negative image. This code of silence caused frustration and mistrust among residents, who felt that hiding the truth was harmful to their health. Organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and the Red Cross attempted to support medical teams, but the situation remained complex, with complaints about freedom of expression and the silence of NGOs. The district chief medical officer identified the use of polluted water as an obvious cause, but access to safe drinking water remained a challenge. Despite apparent stabilization, the risk of recurrence loomed over the affected areas, which were often isolated and poorly equipped. Experts predicted new cholera outbreaks without essential investments in drinking water and sanitation, highlighting the flaws in Burundi's health system, particularly in rural areas.

At the same time, a water shortage persisted in Burunga province, affecting the Anders Gahore hospital and several educational institutions. Students and patients reported fatigue due to this shortage, making emergency care impossible. Local authorities were working to remedy this disastrous situation. In Ruyigi, an alarming increase in cases of diarrhea and vomiting raised fears of an undeclared epidemic, with reports highlighting problems of access to water, exacerbating inequalities between neighborhoods. In Kizuka, cases of cholera were on the rise, endangering the health of the population, who were often forced to use dirtied water.

At Saint-Augustin Hospital in Gihanga, health workers were disinfecting the homes of sick people, but the lack of drinking water hampered their prevention efforts. In Burunga, promises of free healthcare were hampered by overcrowded hospitals and overwhelmed staff. The gap between political rhetoric and reality was widening, illustrating the collapse of an already fragile medical system. Testimonies from families and caregivers revealed the urgent need for adequate support.

Finally, in Kirundo, hospitals were in crisis, lacking essential medicines and equipment. Healthcare workers lived in uncertainty, and the authorities' promises seemed empty. These testimonies painted a worrying picture of public health in Burundi, illustrating the struggles of a population facing structural, water, and sanitation obstacles.

IV. CONCLUSION ET RECOMMENDATIONS

During the period covered by this report, the deterioration of the human rights situation continues to be observed in different parts of the country. This report highlights cases of violations of the right to life, physical integrity, and freedom, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights. This report also lists issues related to security, as well as the political, judicial, humanitarian, and environmental context prevailing in the country. It also reviews civil and political rights and economic and socio-cultural rights in terms of their disruption and expresses concern. The Iteka League protests against the impunity of the crimes observed and recommends the following:

To the Government of Burundi :

1. Guarantee respect for human rights, including the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty.
2. Take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.
3. Guarantee access to basic services, including water, health, education, and justice, for all citizens.
4. Take swift and adequate measures to combat the cholera epidemic that is spreading in various parts of the country, particularly in the greater Bujumbura province.

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

1. Support the efforts of Ligue Iteka and other human rights organizations in monitoring human rights violations in Burundi.
2. Use their influence to compel the Burundian authorities to respect human rights and end impunity.