

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY BULLETIN

"Iteka n'Ijambo"

N°502 from 24 to 30 November 2025

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In memory of Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to November 23, 2025, at least 847 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 86 victims have reappeared, and 762 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 affiliated member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH),
- Has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236 and is a member of ECOSOC."
- The ITEKA League is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections.

SUMMARY

0. INTRODUCTION	P.5
I. CONTEXT	P.5
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS	
III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS	P.14
IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	

ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CNDD-FDD : National Council for the Defense of Democracy–Forces for the Defense of

Democracy

CNL : National Congress for Liberty

DCE : Communal Directorate of Education

EAC : East African Community

FDNB : National Defense Force of Burundi

FOMI : Organo-Mineral Fertilizers of Burundi

M23 : March 23 Movement

OBR : Burundi Revenue Office

PAEEJ : Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment Program

PSR : Special Traffic Police

RDC : Democratic Republic of Congo

RN : National Road

SNR : National Enquiry Service

TGI : High Court

UPRONA : Union for National Progress

TABLE OF CONTENTS

0. INTRODUCTION	5
I. CONTEXT	5
1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT.	5
I.2. ECONOMIC CONTEXT	6
I.3. ECONOMIC CONTEXT	7
I.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT	8
I.5. HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT	8
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS	9
II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE	9
II.1.1. Voluntary Homicides	9
II.1.1.1. People Killed in Revenge Attacks	9
II.1.1.2. BODIES FOUND DEAD	10
II.1.1.3. SUICIDE	.11
II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY	.11
II.2.1. RAPES.	11
III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS	.12
III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE	.12
III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION	.13
III.3. RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY	13
IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	.14

0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of November 24 to 30, 2025. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, judicial, economic, and governance context, as well as the human rights situation. 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 for this period: at least 6 people killed, including 3 found dead and 1 suicide, and 2 rape victims who are minors under 18 years old.

Members of Imbonerakure from the ruling CNDD-FDD party, agents of the SNR, police officers, and administrative officials are accused of being the main alleged perpetrators of these human rights violations.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Approval of the new Attorney General of the Republic by the Burundian Senate

On Tuesday, November 25, 2025, the Senate of Burundi met in an extraordinary session presided over by its President, the Honorable Gervais Ndirakobuca. During this session, the members of the Senate decided to unanimously approve the candidacy of Rose Nkorerimana for the position of Attorney General of the Republic of Burundi. It is

important to note that Rose Nkorerimana previously held the position of President of the Judicial Chamber at the Supreme Court, thus demonstrating solid experience in the legal field, and she succeeds Léonard Manirakiza in this important role. She hails from the former commune of Gihogazi, which is located in the current Province of Gitega.

Community development work has become forced labor in Muramvya Commune, Gitega Province

Since Saturday, November 22, 2025, the situation has worsened for the residents of Muramvya. The 'Community Development' works have become a dreaded obligation. The communal administration, through the zone leaders, has set up a monitoring system that forces everyone to participate. Each household must purchase a booklet called 'Agakaye k'ibikorwa vy'iterambere Rusangi' for 2,000 Fbu. This booklet is important and must be shown every Saturday at 8 a.m. An

Imbonerakure must sign it to prove that the work has been done. There were many rumors about the sanctions for those who do not show up, but the details of these punishments remained unclear. Even schoolchildren are not spared, as the Imbonerakure require the youth to participate according to school lists. Meanwhile, businesses, restaurants, and shops are closed, waiting for the end of these hard works. A heavy question hangs in the air: where will all this lead us?

I.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

Continued detention of journalist Sandra Muhoza by the Ngozi Court of Appeal

On Monday, December 1, 2025, the Ngozi Court of Appeal decided to keep journalist Sandra Muhoza in detention. She is known for her work with the newspaper La Nova. This decision follows a request made by the Public Prosecutor during the public hearing on November 19, 2025. Maître Rémy Nsabimana, of Sandra's lawyers, one expressed his disappointment at this verdict, despite the defense's relentless efforts to highlight the irregularities surrounding numerous her arrest and detention. The lawyers, determined,

now plan to delve deeper into the case at the Ngozi High Court.

It is important to recall that Sandra Muhoza is being prosecuted for undermining territorial integrity and ethnic hostility. Her judicial journey began with her arrest on April 18, 2024, in Ngozi, before being taken to the central prison of Mpimba in Bujumbura. After more than a year of incarceration, the Mukaza Court of Appeal decided that it was not competent to hear the case, which led to her being sent back to Ngozi to be tried there.

A man sentenced to life imprisonment for intentional murder in Dusasa, Rugezi area, Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province

On November 28, 2025, the Kayanza High Court sentenced a resident of Dusasa hill, in the Rugezi area, to life imprisonment for voluntary manslaughter. He must also pay ten million Burundian francs in compensation. According to the case file, the man allegedly strangled an individual he caught in the act of adultery with his wife on the night of

November 16. The latter was found guilty of complicity and sentenced to two years in prison. In court, both defendants denied the charges. The accused claimed he acted in self-defense during an altercation. His wife stated that the victim was in a room adjacent to their business and that the situation had escalated. The court upheld the charge of voluntary homicide.

Hearing in flagrante delicto before the TGI of Rutana in Burunga Province

On 26/11/2025, around 4 p.m., the High Court of Rutana sentenced Habonimana Félix and Niyonkuru Pelouse, both from Gihofi Hill, Bukemba Zone in Burunga Province, in a flagrante delicto hearing, to a fine of one million, which will be transferred to the public treasury account. They are accused of disturbing the state's wealth by seizing fuel

(210 liters of gasoline) to sell it at an exorbitant price.

On November 25, 2025, the High Court of Kayanza sentenced a resident of Muhweza hill to five years in prison. The man, prosecuted for violently beating an individual to death on November 9, must also pay a fine of 100,000 FBu as well as 5 million FBu in damages to the victim's family.

I.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

A man sentenced to five years in prison for fatally beating a person on Muhweza Hill, Kayanza commune, in Butanyerera province

During the hearing, the defendant admitted to the facts while asserting that he had not intended to kill. He stated that he had mistaken the victim for a criminal attacking his home. One detail, however, aroused curiosity: the victim's body was found on another hill, far from the scene of the assault, a detail that continues to puzzle the locals. Many attended the trial, and residents and neighbors received the verdict with mixed reactions. While some say they are satisfied with the decision, others consider the sentence too lenient given the seriousness of the facts and believe that a life sentence would have been more appropriate.

I.3. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Sugar Shortage in Muyinga Commune, Buhumuza Province

In recent days, the residents of Buye Hills, Kibonera, Cibari, and other areas in the Muyinga Commune have been complaining about the rising price of sugar. In addition to this increase, they report a shortage of this product on the market and explain that they have not received this sugar, which is very important for their children, for some time. According to the residents' testimonies, they accuse the authorities of receiving and distributing sugar illegally. They also note that the price has risen sharply: one kilogram is now sold for between 8,000 and 10,000 FBU,

whereas the normal price should be 6,000 FBU.

Some sources indicate that certain hill chiefs take bags of sugar to distribute themselves in order to sell them to merchants or restaurants for money, and the latter resell them at very high prices. It should be noted that on several hills, sugar is unavailable, and residents are wondering if the distribution of sugar has been stopped. They are asking the authorities to find a solution to this problem.

I.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Two bus drivers from Transport were apprehended in Rumonge commune, Burunga province

Jean Claude Ndayirukiye and Selemani Amisi, taxi drivers, recently found themselves in a tricky situation. On November 28, 2025, they were arrested while transporting passengers on the roads connecting Rumonge to Bururi and Rumonge to Bujumbura. The authorities suspected them of not adhering to the official transport fares, which caused tensions in the community.

Jean Claude had demanded an amount of 15,000 Fbu per person for a trip whose official price was set at 6,000 Fbu. For his part, Selemani refused to take on passengers wishing to travel from Rumonge to Bujumbura, also asking them to pay 15,000 Fbu while the regulated fare was 7,000 Fbu. As a result of these actions, the two men were

detained at the Rumonge provincial police station.

This situation followed a meeting organized by the administrative authorities of the Rumonge municipality, who had taken measures to ensure compliance with official transport fares. However, a number of transport operators opposed these decisions. arguing that despite the recent availability of fuel, they were still operating in a difficult environment precisely because ofthe roads. deplorable the Thev state of complained about the frequent damage to their vehicles, leading to significant repair costs. Thus, while the official fare for the journey between Rumonge and Bujumbura was 7,000 FBU, the abuses by the two drivers caused an uproar in the community.

I.5. CONTEXT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Review of Burundi by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD): progress, but concerns remain

On November 25, 2025, a crucial meeting was held where the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) reviewed the report presented by Burundi. This report revealed not only encouraging progress but also significant concerns regarding certain marginalized groups within the country. On one hand, Burundi had made notable strides in promoting peace and harmony, striving to eradicate all forms of discrimination. The country's Constitution, as well as its Penal Code, clearly prohibited hate speech based on race and ethnic superiority. Moreover, key

institutions, such as the Independent National Human Rights Commission, had been established to ensure the protection of these rights.

However, during this session, many concerns were raised. Among them were the persistence of hate speech and acts of violence primarily directed against some communities, such as the Tutsi, the exclusion of the Batwa, and political opponents. The challenges faced by refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, and stateless persons were also worrying issues, hindering their protection.

I.5. CONTEXT OF HUMAN RIGHTS (the following of page 8)

Women from marginalized groups, particularly those from the Batwa communities, refugees or displaced persons, as well as those with albinism, face multiple forms of discrimination and have limited access to essential services.

The Burundian legislative framework provided for a distribution of positions based on an ethnic quota, requiring 60% for Hutus and 40% for Tutsis, which had the effect of excluding the Twa community from this dynamic. In response to these challenges, the Committee issued recommendations to address suggested that them. It was strengthen measures against violence and child exploitation, and improve access to education and healthcare for every child, especially those from rural areas and the most vulnerable.

Moreover, it was imperative to protect the rights of refugees, migrants, asylum seekers,

and stateless persons by taking concrete measures against the inequalities and discrimination affecting members of ethnic communities, including the Twa.

It should be noted that the Burundian delegation to the CERD was composed of several key representatives: Mr. Édouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Elisa Nkerabirori, Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations in Geneva, and Mr. Léonard Manirakiza, Attorney General of the Republic, among others, not to mention representatives from the ministries of justice, public health, and education, as well as those from various organizations and the Independent Human Rights Commission and national committees dedicated to human rights and the fight against genocide. This meeting marked an important step in the dialogue on human rights in Burundi.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. Voluntary Homicides

II.1.1.1. People killed for a settling of scores

A man killed while returning home on Myugariro hill, Kayanza commune in Butanyerera province

Information received by the Iteka League on November 26, 2025, reports that a man named Nyabenda Benoît, a 62-year-old farmer and resident of Myugariro hill in the Kayanza commune, was killed by Nyandwi Gaspard on November 9, 2025, while returning home.

Witnesses at the scene indicated that the victim had spent his day in Kayanza and, on returning home in the evening, was attacked by Nyandwi Gaspard, who struck him with a stick. This was confirmed by the victim's wife, Niyonizigiye Matrone.

Nyabenda's body, which had visible injuries on the face and back, was discovered the next day, on November 12, by passersby, including his neighbor Miburo André, near the place where he had been attacked. Gaspard was arrested on November 12 and was held at the Kayanza police station during the investigation.

On November 25, the murderer was tried, and the Kayanza High Court sentenced him to ten years in prison, a fine of one hundred thousand francs, and moral compensation of five million to be paid to the victim's family.

II.1.1.1. People killed as result of a score-settling (the following of page 9)

A man killed on Rusasa Hill, Rugazi area, Kayanza commune, in Butanyerera province

On November 24, 2025, on Rusasa hill, Rugazi area (former Kabarore commune) Kayanza commune, a man whose nickname Ruzindana was killed by a man and his wife who were sellers of drinks called kiki and other unauthorized bossons. Ruzindana had borrowed 2,500,000 francs from this family who sold drinks and they were neighbors.

As of November 24, 2025; around 10 a.m., Ruzindana told about this family at their home because it was the day to repay the money.

The man led Ruzindana into the House and his wife brought a wire and the man wrapped the son down Ruzindana's throat and the two of them engorged Ruzindana in an attempt to falsify the debt. The victim's brother heard the screams and came running to find the victim already dead. The administration was alerted and the two alleged perpetrators were arrested and taken to the police station of Kayanza Commune. The trial of flagrancy took place on November 27, 2025.

II.1.1.2. LIFELESS BODIES FOUND

A lifeless body of a SNR agent found in the soquartier district, Kamenge area, Ntahangwa commune, in the province of Bujumbura

As of November 29, 2025, the lifeless body of Innocent Nimpagaritse, an agent of the Burundian National Intelligence Services and a native of Gihanga, was found in the Soquartier area, Kamenge zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province. According to

sources on the ground, this SNR agent is believed to have been brought there already dead and dumped in that location. Known for involvement in killings and harassment of protesters in 2015, this enquiry agent was killed by unknown persons, according to the police and local authorities who reported the incident.

A lifeless body of a fetus found in Kanyenkoko, a town and commune in Rumonge, in Butanyerera province

On the morning of November 28, 2025, a fetus of about four to five months was discovered on Kanyenkoko Hill, in the Rumonge commune. Local residents made the discovery and immediately informed the local authorities.

According to the initial information gathered on site, the local administration, with the help of the police, went to see what was happening to carry out the first checks. An investigation has been launched to try to find out who abandoned the fetus. So far, the search has not

succeeded in finding the person responsible or in fully understanding what happened.

In response to this situation and following the usual procedures in such cases, the municipal administration organized, in the afternoon of the same day, the burial of the fetus at the Rumonge cemetery. Local authorities are asking the public to cooperate with investigators to clarify this matter and encourage anyone with useful information to come forward.

II.1.1.1. People killed as result of a score-settling (the following of page 10)

A lifeless body found in Kirundo Commune, Butanyerera Province

The ITEKA league was informed that on November 25, 2025, a farmer named Victor from Nyamabuye Hill, Kiyonza Area of the former Bugabira commune currently Kirundo in the Province of Butanyerera; went to look for food for his cattle in the Kanyaru swamps, more precisely in the tempo zone located on Rugasa Hill. That same day, Victor did not return to his home according to his relatives.

On Wednesday, November 26, 2025. investigations began and Victor's body was found in this swamp, decapitated, with his head and trunk separated. The local administrators have succeeded as well as the municipal commissioner. The family of the deceased took him back to bury him at their home. No one was arrested. In the past, he was suspected of being a thief. Maybe that would be the reason for his death.

II.1.1.3. SUICIDE

A man committed suicide in Ngozi Commune in Butanyerera Province

Tuesday, November 25, 2025, a 64-year-old man ended his life after burning the clothes of his wife Gloriose Nkundabanyanka and their children.

According to a local source, his name was Jonas Mazindaraheze and he lived in the Rukeco Zone, Ngozi Commune, in

Butanyerera Province. A witness also reported that local authorities, including the head of the Rukeco zone, the police, and a doctor, found his body hanging in his living room.

Authorities are encouraging people to speak up when they face problems in their daily lives.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. RAPES

A minor girl was raped in Gitega Commune and Province

This Wednesday, November 26, 2025, around 3 p.m., in the Nyamugari district, in the commune and province of Gitega, little I. A, 7 years old, daughter of Nsengiyumva Francine and Niyonzima Venant, was a victim of sexual violence.

According to the testimonies collected, the mother of the child, a member of the Child Protection Committee (CPE), had gone to the market that day. When she returned, around 4 p.m., the girl immediately told him about the facts she had just suffered. Three young boys are accused of having

committed the attack, Nihezagire Fabrice 20 years old, Niyitunga Setance 23 years old and Nihorimbere Revis 21 years old.

The child stated that the three suspects had given her donuts to convince her to follow them into a house under construction, where the abuse was committed by one of them while the others guarded the door. That same evening, the three alleged perpetrators were apprehended. The victim was taken urgently to Gitega Hospital, then referred to the HUMURA Center, which specializes in

II.2.1. RAPES (the following of page 10)

Care for victims of sexual violence.

The victim's mother informed us that the juvenile police officer at the Humura Center has already prepared the legal file. The three suspects are currently held in the detention cell of the Gitega Provincial Police Station, pending the continuation of the procedure.

A man impregnated a 14-year-old girl in Karusi Commune of Gitega Province

A man named Nduwayezu Jean, a member of the CNDD-FDD over 46 years old, a pensioner of the FDNB impregnated a young girl who worked in his home as a maid and looked after his children. Her name is K.N, 14 years old, according to her, who confirms that the pregnancy is already 3 months old. It is exactly on the Buhiga Hill, Gatare District, Buhiga Zone of the Karusi Commune where this man who has a wife and five children lives. The girl claims that the man did not rape her but that it was a consensus.

So, this Friday, November 21, 2025, this man had an argument with his wife who was already aware of this incident and decided to send this girl back to her home on Ruyaga Hill, Mayenzi Zone of Karusi Commune but she refused to return. And the author of the pregnancy gave her a sum of one hundred thousand francs (100,000 FBU) but preferred to go to the head of Colline Nizigiyimana Emmanuel who listened to them. The man acknowledged the pregnancy and wrote a note of acknowledgment that he gave to the girl and went home.

This Sunday, November 23, 2025, the girl's mother came with her daughter to see if what she had told them is real even if the man hid. In addition, they went to the hill chief who confirmed the case and went back to see her at the Health Centre and wait for her to give birth. Although she is still a minor, the man remains free.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

The poor management of agricultural inputs disrupts economic life in the Buhumuza province

Rugata Hill, located in the commune of Biyorwa within Buhumuza Province, was in turmoil following accusations of mismanagement of agricultural inputs. On November 26, 2025, the first alert sounded, revealing that a fraud orchestrated by young members of the Imbonerakure league,

affiliated with the ruling party CNDD-FDD, had been discovered. It all began on November 14, 2025, when the local population noticed two motorcyclists from the commune of Ruyigi, who had come to pick up agricultural inputs from a local pharmacy.

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

The poor management of agricultural inputs disrupts economic life in Buhumuza province

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The community's concerns took a more serious turn when a member of the Imbonerakure, the hill chief Musenga, as well as the two motorcyclists, were apprehended by the local police officer of the Zone, with the bags of agricultural inputs loaded on their

motorcycles. These bags were supposed to be distributed by Miss Inteyiteka Sandrine, daughter of Kabura Donatien, known as OBR, the CNDD-FDD party's zonal secretary. She had been tasked by her father with supervising the receipt and distribution of the inputs, but instead, she disappeared with the tokens given by the population. In addition, other individuals were transferring money to her Lumicash account, leaving the residents uncertain about how they would eventually receive these inputs.

Furthermore, the residents reported that a FOMI truck, unloaded in Muriza by Donatien, had its sacks disappear into thin air, fueling the population's suspicions and anger, who felt betrayed and abandoned in the face of this situation.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

An influx of fees is increasing school dropouts in many schools in the Burunga province

In the province of Burunga, many schools are facing a worrying phenomenon: the rise in school dropouts, exacerbated by an influx of fees. Students, whether in primary or post-primary education, are often forced to cover these costs to finance various extracurricular activities. These expenses include paying part-time teachers, construction fees, costs related to sports tournaments, and the salaries of supervisors.

These financial contributions, which can reach up to 2,000 Burundian francs per

student, become a heavy burden for families, especially as the population faces significant economic challenges. In cases where activities are fewer, these contributions can be reduced to 500 francs, but this is not enough to lighten the load. Faced with this situation, it is imperative that the government implements genuinely free education to ensure that all students have the opportunity to continue their education without the fear of dropping out due to financial difficulties.

III.3. RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY

Employees at the Vyanda mining sites are demanding membership in insurance companies so that they can be compensated in case of an accident

The employees of the Vyanda mines are in a worrying situation. They express their desire to have access to insurance companies, wishing to be compensated in the event of an accident. Since July 31, 2025, the Migera mining cooperative has been extracting amethyst, supported by the Youth Economic Empowerment and Employment Program (PAEEJ) at the Migera and Marera sites, in the Bururi commune, Burunga Province.

However, the safety of the 105 workers at these sites is increasingly compromised due to landslides caused by heavy rainfall. Moïse Ndayishimiye, the operations manager, reported that five employees had already been injured as a result of collapses.

During a meeting held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, led by Albert Niyukuri, a delegate of PAEEJ, the employees' concerns were highlighted. They shared their worry about the threat posed by landslides, especially since they are not affiliated with any insurance company. They then requested insurance contracts to protect themselves from accidents. Additionally, they requested the acquisition of a tractor to remove the unstable soil that endangers them. According to Moïse Ndayishimiye, the harvesting efforts had already managed to extract 803 tons of amethyst so far.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

To the government of Gitega:

- ⇒ Take measures to prevent intentional killings, particularly revenge killings;
- ⇒ Carry out investigations into homicides, the phenomenon of corpses being found in various localities across the country, and identify those responsible to punish them according to the law:
- \Rightarrow Take measures to protect victims of rape and provide them with adequate support.