



Anyone should be respected

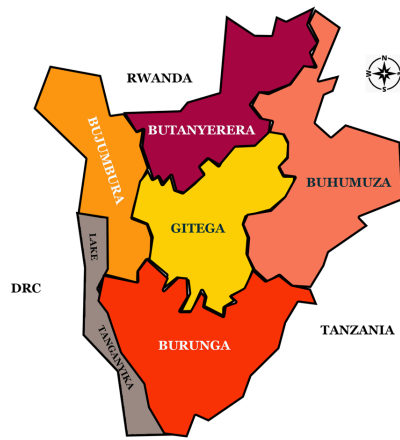
BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

*"Iteka n'ijambo"*

**N°505 from 15 to 21 December 2025**

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



*In memory of Madame Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, who has been missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to December 21, 2025, at least 848 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 86 victims have reappeared, and 764 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has already communicated at least 252 victims<sup>1</sup> to the government of Burundi.*

<sup>1</sup><https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

### The ITEKA League :

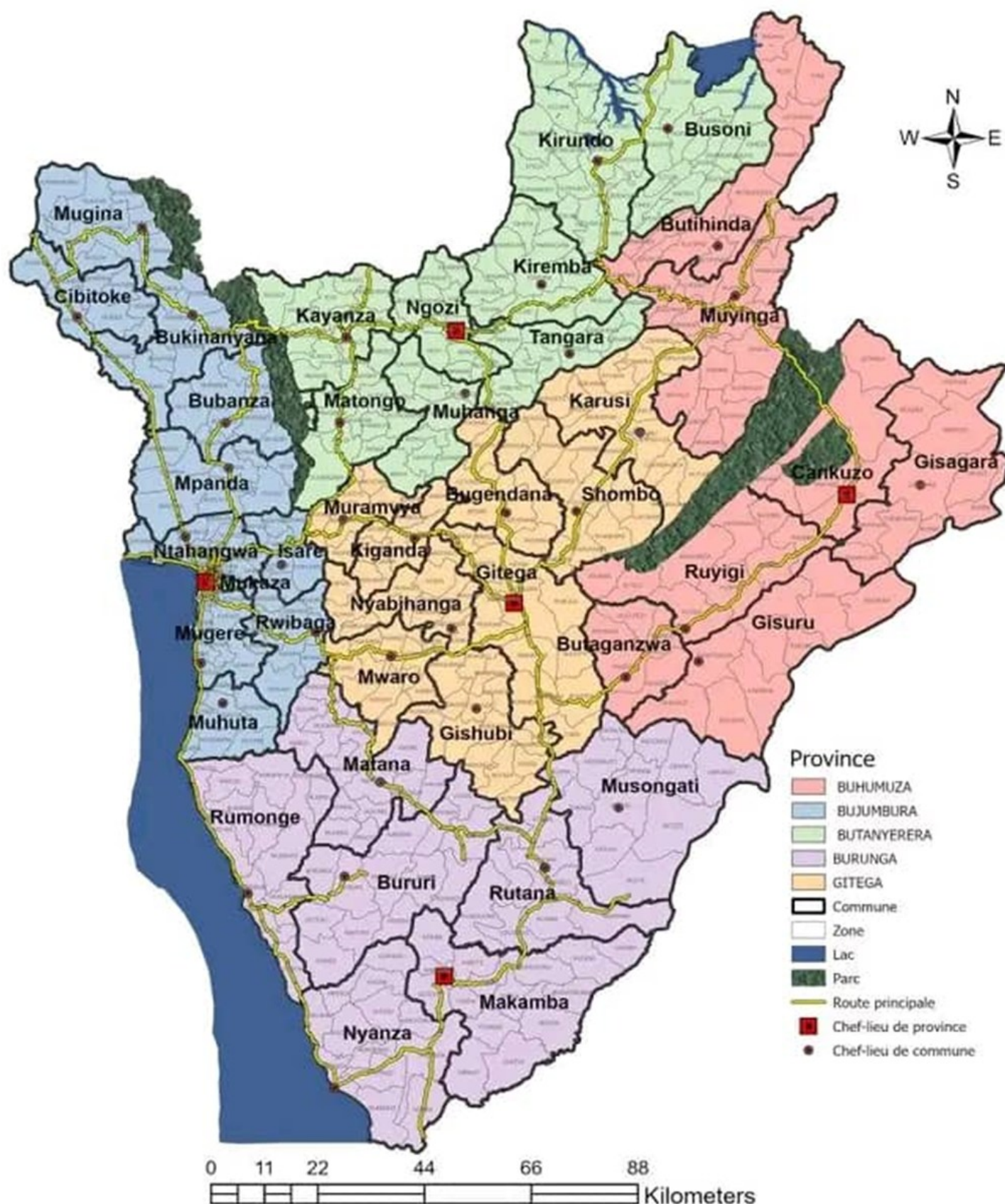
- "Is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH),
- Has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236 and is a member of ECOSOC."
-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

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# ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

*NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023*



## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AFC</b>	: <i>Alliance Fleuve Congo (coalition of rebel movements)</i>
<b>C.I.</b>	: <i>Instruction Complémentaire (military training)</i>
<b>CNDD-FDD</b>	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy</i>
<b>CNL</b>	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
<b>EAC</b>	: <i>East African Community</i>
<b>ECOFO</b>	: <i>Elementary School</i>
<b>FARDC</b>	: <i>Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
<b>FDLR</b>	: <i>Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda</i>
<b>FDNB</b>	: <i>National Defense Force of Burundi</i>
<b>M23</b>	: <i>March 23 Movement</i>
<b>OPJ</b>	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
<b>ONPRA</b>	: <i>National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons in Burundi</i>
<b>PSR</b>	: <i>Special Traffic Police</i>
<b>DRC</b>	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
<b>RN</b>	: <i>National Road</i>
<b>SNR</b>	: <i>National Enquiry Service</i>
<b>UNHCR</b>	: <i>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</i>
<b>UPRONA</b>	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>
<b>GBV</b>	: <i>Gender-Based Violence</i>

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of December 15 to 21, 2025. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, humanitarian, security, judicial, and governance context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of violations of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League during this period are as follows: at least 15 people killed, including 13 whose bodies were found, 2 people tortured, 2 victims of GBV, including 1 rape victim who is a minor under 18 years old, and 1 person arbitrarily arrested. Among the victims, there is an infant found buried alive who died from injuries at the hospital.

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

#### *Participation of the Ambassador of Burundi to Belgium in the 14th edition of the EuropAfricaInvestment Forum in Brussels*

On December 17, 2025, Burundian ambassador Ntahiraja Thérance stood before the Members of the European Parliament, ready to denounce Rwanda's alleged support for the M23 rebel movement. During his speech, he did not hide his indignation, accusing Kigali of violating the freshly signed peace agreements, agreements which, he said, had been established in the hope of lasting stability. His voice, marked by gravity, also highlighted a major humanitarian crisis, with a massive influx of Congolese refugees seeking shelter in Burundi, a situation that could no longer be ignored.

The ambassador emphatically highlighted that Burundi had honored its commitments under the Washington agreement by withdrawing its troops from the field. However, he did not fail to warn that if its territorial integrity were threatened, Burundi reserved the right to defend itself. His appeal to the European Union sounded like a cry of alarm, urging swift action and sanctions against Rwanda to prevent the conflict from spilling over and affecting the entire region.

The highlights of his speech were clear. On one hand, the direct accusation against Rwanda for its support of the M23, an act he described as an unacceptable violation of the peace agreements. On the other hand, he emphasized the humanitarian crisis that Burundi was facing, exacerbated by the influx of refugees. Furthermore, he firmly affirmed the legitimacy of defending Burundi's sovereignty, while urgently calling on the European Union for a swift response to prevent the conflict from spreading.

### ***1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)***

It is interesting to note that the ambassador's speech took place in a complex context, where the European Union had decided to maintain, until October 31, 2025, the sanctions imposed on Burundi since 2015 for various violations of democratic principles. These sanctions included travel restrictions and asset freezes on certain figures involved in human rights abuses, while suspending any direct aid to the Burundian government. The EU justified its choice by citing the lack of significant political reforms and the worrying deterioration of the human rights situation in Burundi.

### ***1.2. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT***

Due to its involvement in the crisis in the DRC last week, the humanitarian situation in Burundi has been marked by an influx of Congolese refugees seeking to escape the violence in the DRC. The refugees wish to return home but face a lack of assistance and alarming living conditions in the camps, often confronted with refusals from authorities and police to let them return voluntarily.

Despite the guarantee of universal rights, they encounter aid refusals and report forced detention in the camps. Some claim that peace has returned in certain areas controlled by the M23, while others reveal abuses by the police. They are calling for the reopening of borders for a safe return. The humanitarian situation is critical, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and authorities must intensify their assistance to prevent further losses.

The conditions in the camps, worsened by overcrowding and insufficient food aid, drive refugees to consider dangerous clandestine routes to return home. In the Ruyigi camp, on the Busuma hill, more than 10,160 refugees have no access to water or essential provisions.

Information from the Musinga commune shows that many remain trapped in the camps, facing hunger and inhumane conditions, hindered in their desire to return home. These violations of fundamental rights highlight the emergency need for effective humanitarian action.



## **I.2. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT** *(the following of page 6)*

### ***Facts illustrating the situation:***

#### ***Congolese refugees on Burundian soil are calling for voluntary return, but in vain.***

In the temporary camps of Cishemere (Cibitoke) and Kansega (Bukinanyana), the humanitarian situation of Congolese refugees remains alarming.

In one week, at least twelve people, most of them children, lost their lives due to illnesses related to a lack of drinking water, decent shelter, and medical care. Fleeing violence in eastern DR Congo, these refugees denounce insufficient assistance and remind that international law guarantees their access to health care, food, dignity, and protection. Refusing to be moved to other camps with conditions they consider similar, some are asking for dignified relocation, while others demand the right to return voluntarily and safely. Some refugees denounce being forcibly kept in the camps, which they liken to a form of detention, on the grounds that the authorities refuse to recognize their right to return home voluntarily, even though, according to them, security conditions are met.

"Everywhere the M23 has taken control, civilian populations live in calm, and peace as well as security are effective," says one of the refugees. Others claim that the police regularly use force, beating them with sticks for refusing to board the vehicles made available to them. They are thus calling for the reopening of borders so they can return to their homes freely, without conditions or constraints.

In the face of this crisis, Burundian authorities and humanitarian partners are urged to urgently strengthen support, to ensure the respect of refugees' fundamental rights, prevent further loss of life, and also promote voluntary return in complete safety.

#### ***Congolese refugees forced to go to the transit camp***

Two weeks after the AFC-M23 took control of the territories of Walungu and Uvira, Congolese people who sought refuge in Burundi are living in deplorable conditions due to overcrowding and a lack of sufficient water and food assistance. Many of these refugees, trying to escape these precarious conditions that have also been a source of illness, wanted, during the week of December 15, 2025, to respond to the call of the new occupants of these territories, who asked them to return to their country and resume their previous lives, as calm had returned to this area that had been the site of intense fighting in early December. These conflicts led to the occupation of the villages of Rubarika, Luvungi, Sange, Bwegera, Ruberizi, Kiliba, and Uvira, causing a massive influx of refugees into Burundi, particularly into the communes of Cibitoke, Bukinanyana, and Mutimbuzi.

## ***I.2. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT (the following of page 7)***

This call, coming at a time when the borders remain closed, pushed some refugees to take clandestine routes, the ones used at the Rusizi by fuel traffickers. These routes being risky, only men dared to take them, which led to increased security on the Rusizi where Imbonerakure and soldiers were ordered to shoot anyone attempting to cross the Rusizi to enter the DRC.

Elsewhere, in the temporary transit camps (Cishemere, Gatumba, and Ndava), officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, accompanied by police officers and Imbonerakure, forced these refugees to go to Cankuzo, Mwaro, and Rutana to transit camps set up to move these refugees away from the border, which they did not want. M.M., a Congolese resident of Rugombo who had visited his relatives who recently came to Gatumba and Cishemere, reported this situation to us, which he witnessed with his own eyes: *"Our families are manhandled, beaten and even some of the victims are in critical condition due to the beatings. Someone would even have died from it on Friday."* He added: *"What is even worse is that even those who have relatives in Burundi cannot welcome theirs away from the camp, in their homes. However, they only want to return to their original environments because those who have stayed and those who have been able to cross the Rusizi inform us that the situation is viable, rather than staying in these damn transit camps where some risk dying from dirt and starvation. »*

This witness also criticizes the way in which recently, Burundians were defending Congolese people by fighting the M23, but now they are the ones trying to force us to stay in the camps. *"We Congolese are calling for the reopening of the borders so that our families can return and move back and forth as before," concluded Mr. M.*

### ***Emergency call for help in welcoming Congolese refugees in Ruyigi Commune, Buhumuza Province***

Approximately 10,160 Congolese refugees have already been received on Busuma hill, in Ruyigi Commune, Buhumuza Province.

These refugees are facing a lack of drinking water, latrines, medicine, and housing, as well as a food shortage. ONPRA, the agency responsible for receiving refugees, stated that around 2,000 more refugees were expected on Monday, December 15, 2025. Organizations that help with the reception of these refugees are calling on donors to mobilize and assist them.

### ***Many Congolese refugees arrive in Ruyigi Commune, Buhumuza Province***

As of Friday, December 19, 2025, the new Congolese refugee camp had registered over 20,000 Congolese refugees. It should be noted that this camp was opened at the beginning of December 2025 on Bikinga sub-hill, Nyakayi Hill, in Ruyigi Commune (in the former Butezi Commune) and it is the third one after Bwagiriza and Nyankanda in the same commune.



## ***1.2. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT (the following of page 8)***

### **Detention of Congolese Refugees by the Police in Muyinga Commune in the New Buhumuza Province**

Since Tuesday, December 16, 2025, thousands of Congolese refugees crowded on Busuma Hill in the Kayongozi area have been stopped at the barrier at the junction of Kwisumo and Butezi roads to prevent them from returning home due to poor living conditions in exile, as they have neither drinking water, food, latrines, nor medicines or health centers. If caught trying to return to their homeland, they are imprisoned in police cells and sent back to the camp. They are asking to be allowed the freedom to return, as it is better to live at home than in a country where there is nothing to eat.

It should be noted that the denial of permission for Congolese refugees to return home by the Burundian Police constitutes a blatant violation of international law in general, and of the right to freedom of movement in particular.

## ***1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT***

### ***Repetitive meetings of the Imbonerakure in Karusi Commune, Gitega province***

This Monday morning, December 15, 2025, around 6 a.m., the national secretary of the ruling party, Révérien NDIKURIYO, was already at the CNDD-FDD office in the former Karusi province, and the meeting began around 7 a.m., gathering all party officials from the former Karusi province and the Imbonerakure. It should be noted that the points on the agenda remain secret, but there is concern among the population, who are already aware of his resignation from the Burundian Senate. A close source, who did not want to reveal everything, told Ligue Iteka that the meeting had two main points on the agenda: the moralization of the Imbonerakure by distributing military uniforms in khaki color and military boots, also in khaki.

Secondly, they were informed that they will soon be sent to the Rwandan border to ensure the country's security. The source did not want to provide further details, but it was observed that other topics were discussed, which they did not want to reveal.

### ***Public outrage over mandatory night patrols in Kirundo Commune, Butanyerera Province***

Since the capture of the city of Uvira in the DRC until today, the communal administration along with the governing bodies of the ruling CNDD-FDD party in the Commune of Kirundo have initiated young Imbonerakure to carry out night patrols with the aim of ensuring security in the border areas with Rwanda.

Those who abstain are automatically charged a fine ranging from 5,000 to 20,000 Frbu. And these fines vary depending on the locality. The sum of 5,000 BIF is imposed on residents of the Rugero, Magendo, and Ntega hills, while the sum of 20,000 BIF applies to the Bugabira area. .

### ***1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 9)***

According to our source, the residents are beginning to lament and even complain about this situation. They consider this measure completely unfair since even the organization of these patrols disrupts their daily activities.

It should be noted that many residents are protesting against this measure and are asking the government to lift these night patrols, given that there has been a significant deployment of police in these areas near the border with Rwanda.

#### ***Training of the Imbonerakure in Muyinga Commune, Buhumuza Province***

Paramilitary training and the use of firearms have been reported in several areas of Muyinga Commune. These sessions are aimed at the Imbonerakure, youths of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, in the Nyamuswaga valleys of Bwasare Hill in the Gasorwe Zone, in classrooms such as at St. André High School on Mukoni Hill, at Gashoho Communal High School, and in the rooms of the hotel of Honorable Shabani Nimubona in Cumba. The training is supervised by police officers and military personnel from the military region and the police station, including Bigirimana Désiré and a soldier nicknamed Michou, both from Mukoni. These trainings have also been reported at Franck's place in Mukoni. The population of the Muyinga commune is worried about the handling of firearms by young people and fears that violence and crimes may arise from time to time. According to a local source, they are preparing to attack Rwanda. Others say that these trainings could be related to the 2027 presidential elections, where the Reverien Ndikuriyo clan is trying to consolidate its position.

#### ***Soldiers fleeing the fighting with the M23 are creating a climate of panic among the population in Rumonge, in Burunga province***

On the night from Monday to Tuesday, December 16, 2025, eight lake transport boats disembarked Burundian soldiers at the naval position located near the fishing port in the town of Rumonge, Burunga province. Other boats full of Burundian armed forces docked at a lesser-known fishing port located on the Mbuga sub-hill in the Kizuka area, Rumonge commune, still in Burunga province. Both groups of Burundian soldiers began appearing in the town of Rumonge on Tuesday, December 16, 2025.

According to residents, they patrolled almost all the neighborhoods of Rumonge. Some were looking for food, others for alcoholic drinks. They said they were relieved to have survived the M23 attacks.

They were too young, apparently between 17 and 21 years old. A resident who recognized one of his neighbors stated that he would have undergone three months of training before being sent back to the front in the DRC.

### ***I.3. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 10)***

They were too young, obviously between 17 and 21 years old. One resident, who recognized one of his neighbors, claimed that he had completed three months of training before being sent back to the front in the DRC.

Upon their arrival in Rumonge, some of these soldiers were dressed in military uniforms, dirty and without shoes, while others wore slippers with incomplete military outfits.

Their massive influx caused panic among the population, according to a resident who was among the people gathered near the naval position to witness the scene on Tuesday morning.

The population fears that combat between the Congolese army, the Wazalendo, and the FDLR might be hidden among the Burundian soldiers. Some are requesting that they be properly identified so they can be sent back home.

***More than 3,000 fighters, consisting of Burundian soldiers, members of the FARDC, the Wazalendo, and the FDLR, gathered in a primary school in Muremera, located in the Buhayira area, Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province.***

This gathering followed their defeat against the M23 movement, which took place on December 7, 2025.

According to sources from the education sector, this school was newly built by an Indian company involved in the construction of the KAB 16 hydroelectric dam, and is expected to welcome its first students in September 2026.

The same sources indicate that all the surrounding trees were cut down to serve as firewood for the fighters.

Local residents have expressed serious concern, accusing certain elements of the FARDC, Wazalendo, and FDLR of abusive behavior, including looting bars and shops without payment, as well as putting pressure on the local population for their subsistence. The population also fears sexual violence, particularly against young girls, and is calling for the immediate withdrawal of these forces.

According to other information gathered, Burundian soldiers are said to have been gathered in this area to receive training in preparation for a return to the front in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

However, all fighters present at the site are reported to have been disarmed. Some elements of the FARDC, Wazalendo, and FDLR reportedly refused to join the regroupment sites assigned to them.



### ***I.3. SECURITY CONTEXT(the following of page 11)***

When questioned about this by our sources, the military commander of the area confirmed the presence of these forces, stating that they had been stationed to prevent their mixing with the civilian population, while acknowledging the existence of security concerns. He assures that investigations are underway and that any individual found guilty of abuses will be punished.

#### ***Gatherings of demobilized personnel in Bugabira Commune in the former Province of Kirundo.***

The information held by our source is that for the demobilized and enthusiasts from CNDD-FDD fighters, they are gathered so that if needed, they can be provided with ammunition and equipment to reinforce the army. In addition, at least 5 Imbonerakure per hill have begun to be inventoried, who will soon enter Congo. If you are a civil servant, you will be treated like a courier. The salary will be regularly paid, and upon return, one will rejoin employment. There are signs that reflect this reality. Last week, on Saturday, December 21, 2025, all the Imbonerakure from the former Bugabira commune, the Imbonerakure and the demobilized took part in a collective sport 'cross' that lasted over 5 hours with the aim of preparing them to travel long distances.

#### ***Paramilitary training of the Imbonerakure in Muyinga Commune, Buhumuza Province.***

As of December 16, 2025, the ITEKA League has learned that military-style training sessions have multiplied in the Muyinga Commune.

According to our sources, since the capture of the city of UVIRA by AFC-M23 fighters, young Imbonerakure from CNDD-FDD have been ordered to undergo military training in order to be deployed throughout the communes bordering Burundi.

These youths are being trained with the aim of securing Burundi's borders with Rwanda, and their training takes place in the Rwuya area.

According to our sources, residents are under pressure to contribute to the supply of Imbonerakure involved in these trainings. In the commune of Muyinga, an ordinary citizen is required to provide beans, while a merchant must provide rice. Those who do not comply are deprived of certain fundamental rights, such as administrative services. Others face pressure or even retaliation.

It is worth noting that the population is calling for an end to these practices, as they are already confronted with enormous challenges related to the high cost of daily living.

### ***1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT(the following of page 12)***

#### ***Grenade Explosion in Gisagara Commune in Buhumuza Province***

On the night of December 16, 2025, on Gisoko hill, in the commune of Gisagara, Buhumuza Province, a grenade exploded in a Gikombe trading center without causing any damage.

This explosion occurred at 10 p.m., when the majority of the population in this area were at home, which caused fear and panic among the residents.

The perpetrators of this act of terrorism are not known.

According to sources from the Iteka League, this grenade may have been due to an accidental explosion by young Imbonerakure, as they are the ones who conduct night patrols in this area and possess firearms.

Shortly before, on December 2, 2025, at the Gasenyi trading center, Mburi hill, in the same commune of Gisagara, a Rwandan man was apprehended at this center in the evening at 8 PM. This man was apprehended while he was looking for accommodation in a hotel, and it was at that moment that a hotel staff member alerted the administration after hearing that this person was speaking with a Rwandan accent.

A few minutes later, the administrator of the Gisagara commune, Mr. NZIRUBUSA Japhet, who is also a native of this hill, arrived on the scene. After some questioning, this person was taken by this authority in the commune's van and brought to the Gisagara communal police station for investigation purposes.

According to the same sources, this person was tortured by the administrator of the Gisagara commune before being loaded into the van. So far we have no news of this person, he spent only one night in the dungeon of the communal police station of Gisagara before being referred to the dungeon of the provincial police station of Cankuzo to continue the investigations.

#### ***Concerns of the population about acts of theft in Mwaro Commune, Gitega province***

The Congolese soldiers mixed with the Wazalendo militiamen living in the Mwaro camp, since the capture of the town of Uvira by the M23 rebels, continue to worry the inhabitants of the Mwaro commune.

On Sunday, December 21, 2025, a Congolese soldier stole a chicken at around 8 a.m. from a household on Gihinga Hill, under Muzima sub-hill, near the Camp, in the Mwaro commune. The residents of this hill let out a loud cry, and the Congolese soldier fled down to the valley below the Camp. The chicken was recovered. The soldier was punished by being put in the camp jail, but sources from Gihinga Hill say that this punishment has no effect because these Congolese soldiers do not have a record at the camp and cannot face financial penalties.



#### ***1.4. JUDICIAL CONTEXT***

##### ***Launch of a campaign to listen to the population by the Courts in Commune and Province Gitega***

The President of the Supreme Court, Ambassador Gamaliel Nkurunziza, said that the development of a country is impossible when the population spends its time in courts.

These remarks were made on Friday in the political capital, Gitega, during the official launch of a campaign to listen to the concerns of the population, aimed at reducing the need for people to travel to the Supreme Court and providing them with local access to justice.

On this occasion, he urged court and prosecutor officials to organize consultation meetings among themselves and to work effectively with the population in order to ensure fair and accessible justice.

##### ***The Ngozi Prosecutor's Office Seeks 12-Year Prison Sentence Against Journalist Sandra Muhoza***

The Ngozi High Court held a public hearing on Friday, December 19, 2025, in the case opposing the prosecutor's office to journalist Sandra Muhoza of the media outlet La Nova. The public prosecutor requested a 12-year prison sentence along with a fine of one million Burundian francs.

Sandra Muhoza is being prosecuted for threats to the internal security of the state and incitement to ethnic hatred. According to the prosecutor, these charges are based on the content of an exchange shared via the WhatsApp application, which, according to the prosecution, would constitute a serious criminal offense.

The defense, for its part, categorically rejects the charges. The journalist's lawyers believe that the alleged actions do not constitute an offense under the Burundian Penal Code and have pleaded for a full and unconditional acquittal.

At the end of the debates, the court reserved its judgment. In the courtroom, several attendees expressed their outrage, calling for the immediate release of the journalist and denouncing what they consider to be an unfounded prosecution. The Iteka League sees this as a disguised way to silence other journalists and human rights defenders.

##### ***The seven individuals from Bururi commune, Burunga province, who were illegally imprisoned, are requesting to be released.***

In Bururi commune, Burunga province, seven people have been illegally imprisoned in Rumonge prison, causing concern among their relatives. Among them is Daniel NITUNGA, nicknamed TEGERA, son of RUCUMUHIMBA and SIMBAKWIRA, born in 1970 on Mudahandwa hill. Then there is Emmanuel NDIMUBANDI, son of NDIMUBANDI Josias and NAHIMANA Roda, born in 1980 also on.



#### ***1.4. JUDICIAL CONTEXT***

Mudahandwa hill. Élie NZEYIMANA, born in 1983, is Emmanuel's younger brother. Albert NDAYISHINGUJE, son of Toyi Elias and BANYIYEZAKO Joséphine, was born in 1968 on the same hill. Lionel KWIEZERA, son of NURWUMURYANGO Janvier and Habonimana Candide, was born in 1997 on Mugozi hill. François MANIRAMBONA, son of Nkundabanyanka Hussein and Nzigo Rosalie, was born in 1994 on Nyabututsi hill, in Gitega province. Finally, Dieu Aimé NSENGIYUMVA, son of NSENGIYUMVA Paul and Ndiwokubwayo Joselyne, is originally from Mudahandwa hill.

On July 4, 2024, these seven people won their case at the Bururi Court of Appeal. What surprises their families is that they are still incarcerated in Rumonge, despite the fact that the prosecution, which had initially accused them of being responsible for the machete killings that occurred in May 2023 in the Bururi commune, did not appeal. As a result, the families have made a desperate appeal, seeking the help of human rights defenders, even at the international level, to secure their release.

#### ***1.5. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT***

At a time when the population continues to cry out about the lack of agricultural inputs, including chemical fertilizers, certain officials are being pointed out for their involvement in the fraud of these products. At the beginning of December 2025, a large quantity of urea (a type of chemical fertilizer used to develop crop foliage) was seized by the police in Butaganzwa commune while being transported to downtown Gitega (the political capital of the country). These chemical fertilizers were being transported by vehicles called Probox, and the quantity was estimated at about one ton.

After the seizure, these carriers revealed that these products belong to Mr. Onesime Ngendandumwe, current administrator of Butaganzwa commune, Buhumuza Province, and according to the information collected, these products would have been given by the police to this authority.

As a reminder, under normal conditions, at the FOMI store, a bag of 25kg of urea costs 30,000 BIF but on the black market a single kg goes to 5,000 BIF

Since the beginning of this farming season, farmers have been lamenting that they have not received chemical fertilizers; they keep the payment receipts for these products without having received them because the stocks are almost empty. Paradoxically, on the black market, these products are available but at exorbitant prices.

The population is making a heartfelt appeal to the territorial administration, especially the ministry responsible, to take this matter into consideration.

### II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

#### II.1.1. VOLUNTARY HOMICIDES

##### II.1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS OR THE IMBONERAKURE MILITIA

###### *A person killed by an Imbonerakure in Ruhande, Nyabihigo area, Kayanza commune in Butanyerera province*

Information received by the Iteka League dated December 20, 2025, indicates that on December 9, 2025, a given Bucumi Léonidas, originally from Ruhande Hill, Nyabihigo Area, Kayanza Commune, Butanyerera Province, was killed by a young Imbonerakure named Bienvenu.

On-site information states that the victim had a phone charging cable that he had entrusted to Bienvenu due to a power outage at his home, in exchange for charging his phone for free. The same sources report that on December 9, 2025, Bucumi came to charge his phone, but Bienvenu forced him to pay a sum of one thousand francs, which he refused. According to eyewitnesses, Bienvenu attacked the victim and strangled him. The victim was transferred to Ngozi Hospital, where he succumbed to the blows and injuries he had received.

The alleged perpetrator was apprehended and taken to the jail of the police station in Kayanza on the same day.

##### II.1.1.2. LIFELESS BODIES FOUND

###### *A lifeless body of TUYAGA Berchmans, member of the CNDD-FDD, found on Kanazi hill, Bugenyuzi area, Karusi commune, Gitega province*

On the night of this Sunday to Monday, December 15, 2025, on Kanzi hill, Bugenyuzi area of the new Karusi commune, an old man named TUYAGA Berchmans, a member of the CNDD FDD over 60 years old, was killed by as-yet-unidentified criminals by stab wounds when he was found in a bush 500 m from his home and his head was cut off. next to the trunk. Land problems are said to be at the origin of this murder. The deceased was a witness to his brother Nagehasi Emmanuel who is in Australia and had bought properties through his brother and sister but the latter want to divert two properties from him among 16 purchased and this deceased had defended him in court and the latter had lost and were frustrated. According to sources on the ground, no one has been arrested, but the funeral took place on Monday afternoon at around 4 p.m. and the police have said they will begin their investigations.

###### *A lifeless body of Nduwayo Cléophas found in Mwaro Commune in the new Province of Gitega*

A domestic worker named Nduwayo Cléophas was found on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 in a pit in a latrine in the family where he worked on Gasenyi hill, Makamba Area, Mwaro commune, Gitega province. This servant had just spent 5 days in this pit. He was found by the administrators at the base in collaboration with the family's neighbors. The victim's body was found by another domestic worker who was on his way to the toilet and informed the administrators at the base.

### ***II.1.1.2. BODIES FOUND DEAD (the following of page 16)***

Sources from Gasenyi Hill say that the servant was killed by his colleague, with whom he was working, using a club called 'Ubuhihi.' He wanted to take his salary because they had been paid that day. The perpetrator was arrested by the police. Three servants worked in this household, and they lived there alone since the adult children born in this household lived in Bujumbura and others in different urban centers of the country.

#### ***Discovery of 4 lifeless bodies in Cibitoke Commune, Bujumbura Province***

On December 18, 2025, worrying news reached the ITEKA League indicating that the day before, on December 17, 2025, on Rusiga Hill, at transversal 12, in the Cibitoke Area, in Cibitoke Commune, around 4 p.m., four lifeless bodies were discovered on the banks of the Rusizi River. It was a team of farmers, returning from their fields, who were attracted by a foul smell. Curious and worried, they approached and made this terrible discovery: four bodies, dressed in the uniforms of the FARDC, the loyalist army of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in an advanced state of decomposition.

Rumors quickly began to circulate within the community. According to several local sources, the causes of their deaths remain unclear, creating a climate of fear among the residents. Some speculate that these men could be Rwandan or Congolese militias, called "FDLR or WAZALENDU," who lost their lives during recent conflicts, although this hypothesis has not yet been officially confirmed.

Faced with this shocking situation, the authorities and police quickly went to the scene. Given the condition of the bodies, they ordered an immediate burial. It should also be noted that in recent days, thousands of Congolese soldiers, accompanied by Rwandan and Congolese militias, have sought refuge in Burundi after fleeing violent clashes with the AFC-M23. The number of these fighters is estimated at around 4,000.

#### ***A lifeless body of a man was found in Gisuru Commune in the new Province of Burunga***

On December 15, 2025 at 4 a.m., at Musumba Hill, Kabanga Area, Gisuru commune, former Kinyinya commune, a body of a lifeless man was discovered by passers-by in a small bush near the road.

The body of the deceased is imputed to the head and has so far been untraceable.

According to our sources, the deceased answers to the name of Léonard and he is part of the team of mineral exploiters in the Kinyinya Area.

The day before, Sunday, December 14, 2025, the deceased had spent the evening together with the others at the Musumba trading center sharing a drink. The body of the deceased was taken to the morgue of Kinyinya Hospital before his burial by his family. Regarding this assassination, no one has been apprehended to elucidate the perpetrators and motives of this crime.

#### ***A lifeless body of a newborn found in Kiganda commune***

On December 16, 2025, a lifeless body of a newborn baby was found on Musongati Hill, Kiganda area and commune. According to sources on the ground, it was around 6 a.m., when schoolchildren on their way to Ecofo Musongati saw something wrapped in a bag. They approached and discovered this body.

They called the people who were passing by who in turn called the head of the hill. The latter ordered the body to be buried. Investigations have begun but the hope of finding the perpetrator is minimal.



### ***II.1.1.2. OF DEAD BODIES FOUND (the following of page 17)***

A lifeless body of an old woman discovered in Gitega Commune and Province. A lifeless body of an unidentified old woman, aged between 60 and 70, was found on Sunday, December 21, 2025 in the Karonga River, which separates the Yoba and Zege neighborhoods in Gitega City.

According to people living nearby, the victim was found lying in the middle of the water, blocked by aquatic grasses. Some witnesses at the scene say it was difficult to determine the exact cause of her death because it was not clear if her throat had been slit or if she had drowned. We tried to contact the administrative authorities of the municipality of Gitega for more details, but without success. The body was transported by the police to the morgue.

#### ***A lifeless body of a young girl found in Burengo, Matongo commune, in Butanyerera province***

Information that reached the Iteka League on 18/12/2025, indicates that on December 13, 2025 at around 8 a.m., a corpse of an 18-year-old girl named HAKIZIMANA Francine was discovered on Burengo hill, under Burenza hill, Matongo commune, Butanyerera province, in a cornfield.

Arriving at the scene, the police accompanied by the Government's Doctor who came to the Musema hospital as well as the administrators at the base found that the lifeless body had blood in its genitals and mouth and small wounds on the thigh and neck. This shows that there was a twisting of the head with sexual violence as the doctor said in his medical report. This dead person was born on the Mugoma hill, Musigati area in Bubanza Commune but for the moment she was living with her grandmother on the Matongo hill. His parents are Nsavyimana Djuma and Nduwimana Chantal. Some information says that she was killed by a certain Nibaruta Saïdi and her companion because Saïdi's clothes as well as these shoes were found next to the lifeless body of this girl. For the moment, investigations are continuing to find the perpetrators.

#### ***Two lifeless bodies found in Bukemba commune, Burunga province***

On December 11, 2025, in Bukemba commune, Burunga province, two unidentified lifeless bodies—a woman and a child, in decomposition, bound—were found at the bridge called KWAMADIDIRI. They were buried by the Red Cross.

#### ***A lifeless body found in Musongati commune, Burunga province***

On December 12, 2025, in Musongati commune, Burunga province, a lifeless body of a man, in decomposition, was found at a place called Kubigazi, on the road leading to the former Giharo commune. He was buried by the Red Cross.

## **II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY**

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

#### ***A man wounded with a machete, found in Kanyenkoko, Rumonge commune, Burunga province***

A phenomenon of violence perpetrated by young Imbonerakures on night patrol is noticed in Rumonge commune of Burunga province, where on December 16, 2025, at Kanyenkoko hill, Karevya cell, a man was found, wounded with a machete in the legs, he could not speak. Until midday, he had not yet received any help. It should be noted that on the night of December 14 to 15, 2025, on this same hill, a young man of the Tutsi ethnic group was wounded in the forehead by young Imbonerakure who said that they were carrying out the mission of exterminating the Tutsi ethnic group. The height of misfortune is that these criminals have not been arrested.

#### ***A saleswoman violently assaulted in Mabanda, Nyanza commune, Burunga province***

Information received by the Iteka League on December 18, 2025, indicates that on December 5, 2025, a saleswoman at the Mabanda communal market in Nyanza commune of Burunga province, named Kabura, was violently attacked at the communal market by the market guard, a member of the Imbonerakure youth league. She was violently assaulted in front of customers before being thrown into a gutter.

The facts took place when Kabura refused to give up his sweet potatoes to commission agents who offered a ridiculous price. Faced with her refusal, the market manager and CNDD-FDD activist Emmanuel Niyomwungere, and the market guard who is a member of the Imbonerakure youth league violently assaulted her in front of the customers, before throwing her into a gutter. Residents point out that these two people politically affiliated with the CNDD-FDD are already free after a few days of detention at the communal police station in Mabanda.

Alerted by the public on the day of the incident, the authorities intervened and apprehended the two men. However, several witnesses claim that they were released shortly afterward, reinforcing the sense of impunity in this case.

The residents stress the importance of respecting every merchant's right to freely sell the fruits of their labor and call for the justice system to act impartially. According to them, the release of the perpetrators without exemplary punishment sends the wrong message and could encourage the repetition of such acts of violence in the country's markets, especially since the victim was attacked by the market officials.

The population of Mabanda is therefore calling on the authorities to act quickly and firmly, so that this case serves as an example and the safety and freedom of traders are fully guaranteed in all Burundian markets.

## ***II.2.2. RAPE***

### ***A student was raped in Mishiha Commune in Buhumuza Province***

On December 18, 2025, the ITEKA League received disturbing news about a student at Mishiha Primary School, who was raped in the Gishungu health center in early December 2025. According to a well-informed source, the victim, aged 17, had accompanied a classmate who had fallen ill. Upon arrival at the health centre, they were immediately taken to the housing block for the nurses still on duty. Several employees of this center confirm the events, although they were caught in the act.

The individual implicated is said to be a laboratory technician working at the same CDS. Parents of students did not hide their astonishment at the silence of the Ecofo director in the face of this heinous act. According to our source, one parent even accused the director of having received bribes from the laboratory technician to cover up this matter.

It is important to remember that rumors are circulating suggesting that this director had already been mentioned in other similar scandals, where he allegedly accepted money to protect rapists. The parents express their firm intention to see justice prevail, demanding severe penalties for both the rapist and the Ecofo director.

## ***II.2.3. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE***

### ***Domestic violence within a couple of police officers in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province***

On December 17, 2025, in the Nyabagera neighborhood, located in the Gihosha area of Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province, a financial dispute within a couple, whose union was not recognized by civil authorities, turned tragic when the woman, Suavis Nshimirimana, burned her husband, Pierre Nihorimbere, with boiling water. They are both police officers.

According to a witness, the origin of the conflict lies in a loan of 6 million Burundian francs recently taken out by the wife from a bank. The husband demanded a share of this sum. This tension led to a dangerous escalation: the couple returned to their family home armed with rifles, each trying to defend themselves or intimidate the other.

It was in this climate of armed violence that the woman ended up committing the irreparable, using hot water as a weapon of defense or attack.

The consequences of this act are severe. The husband, suffering from burns, is currently hospitalized at the police hospital, CHANIC. The wife, meanwhile, has been taken into custody to answer for her actions before the justice system. Amid this chaos, the fate of the couple's four children is causing deep concern. Neighbors are now calling for urgent assistance for the children, who are left to fend for themselves in the absence of both parents.



*Anyone should respected*



## **II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM**

### **II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS**

#### ***A person arrested in Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province***

On December 2, 2025, around 8 p.m., at the Gasenyi trading center, Mburi hill, Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province, an unidentified man of Rwandan nationality was apprehended at this center in the evening.

This man was apprehended while he was looking for accommodation in a hotel, which is when a hotel agent alerted the administration after hearing that this person was speaking with a Rwandan accent. According to sources on the spot, a few minutes later, the administrator of the Gisagara commune, Japhet Nzirubusa and at the same time a native of this hill arrived on the scene, after a few minutes of interrogation, this person was taken by this authority in the commune's van and taken to the Gisagara communal police station for investigative reasons.

According to the same sources, this person was tortured by the administrator of the Gisagara commune before being loaded into the van.

Until today, there has been no news about this person; they spent only one night in the cell at the Gisagara communal police station before being transferred to the cell at the Cankuzo provincial police station to continue the investigation.

## **III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

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

#### ***The surge in fuel prices is disrupting the economic life of transporters and users in Bubanza and Mpanda in Bujumbura province***

In Bubanza and Mpanda, the skyrocketing fuel prices are plunging transporters and the population into a very critical economic situation. For nearly two weeks, a 1.5-liter bottle of gasoline, locally called ikibuni, has been selling for between 30,000 and 40,000 Burundian francs, compared to 15,000 to 20,000 francs before the city of Uvira was taken over by AFC-M23.

This surge in prices is severely disrupting the transport sector. Drivers and motorcyclists are denouncing supply costs that have become unbearable, forcing them to reduce their trips or even suspend their activities. Commuters, for their part, are facing higher fares and a shortage of transportation options.

At the root of this crisis is a prolonged shortage at local gas stations, which have been without fuel for over a month. Supply routes from the east of the DRC are also paralyzed due to insecurity linked to armed clashes.

Faced with this situation, transporters and residents are calling on the authorities for urgent intervention to restore fuel supply and ease the burden on a population already struggling with the high cost of living.

## III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

### *Schools on the Verge of Collapse in the Burunga Province*

The school district of Burunga is experiencing a deep educational crisis that seriously threatens the future of thousands of students. The difficulties are structural, human, and financial, and have worsened over the years. According to sources at the provincial education department, in terms of infrastructure, the situation is alarming. The province faces a shortage of 74,000 desks and approximately 20,000 classrooms. Added to this are hygiene conditions considered extremely concerning.

In many schools, the lack of drinking water and functional latrines exposes students and teaching staff to serious health risks every day.

The issue of funding remains just as critical. In primary schools, each student pays a tuition fee of 7,000 Burundian francs per term, while the government provides only 500 Burundian francs per student per term for operating expenses.

According to directors of primary and post-primary schools, these amounts are far from sufficient to cover the purchase of chalk, paper, registers, and other teaching materials, especially in a context of widespread price increases.

On top of these difficulties are multiple contributions, required both by the CNDD-FDD party and by certain municipal education departments, which increases financial pressure on already weakened institutions, particularly post-primary schools with low enrollment.

The 2025–2026 school year was also marked by a massive defection of 150 to 200 teachers, including several school principals, in the first few weeks. To address this problem, the use of substitute teachers in each municipality is being considered. But according to sources at the Burunga provincial education department, the province needs 2,449 new teachers for the current school year. Another worrying observation: the last distribution of textbooks took place nearly ten years ago.

Since then, enrollments have increased, curricula have evolved, and the books have deteriorated significantly. In several schools, only one textbook is shared among multiple students, when any are left at all.

Faced with this multidimensional crisis, actors in the education sector are making an urgent appeal to the authorities and technical and financial partners. They are specifically requesting the construction and rehabilitation of classrooms, latrines, and drinking water points, a review of school funding, the rapid recruitment of the 2,449 missing teachers, the distribution of school textbooks, and the rationalization of contributions imposed on schools. Without immediate action, they warn, the Burunga school district risks sacrificing entire generations.



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### **III.3. RIGHT TO FOOD AND FOOD SECURITY**

#### ***Risks of reduced corn production caused by pests affecting this crop in Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province***

Farmers who planted corn crops on the hills of Sanzu and Ruhwago in the Ruyigi Zone and Commune in Buhumuza Province are worried because their corn crops are infested with pests. They report not knowing the exact cause and are requesting monitoring by agronomists in order to achieve a good harvest. The officer in charge of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Environment within the Ruyigi communal administration has not yet commented on the matter.

## **IV. CATEGORY RIGHTS**

### **IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

#### ***A newborn found alive then deceased at the GAO reference hospital in Kayogoro, Makamba commune in Burunga province***

A male newborn was found alive, though in critical condition. According to circulating accounts, the infant had been buried in the ground before a passing child made the terrible discovery. Immediately alerting the adults, the child set off a chain of events that would prove desperate.

The baby was quickly taken to a local health center. However, his condition required emergency care, and he was transferred to a private hospital that currently serves as a referral center in Kayogoro. Doctors and medical staff worked tirelessly to try to save his life, but their efforts were in vain. Around 8 p.m. that same evening, they were forced to announce his death.

Murmurs of outrage began to spread through the community, calling for the mother of the child to be found, as well as the biological father, deemed complicit in this heinous act of abandonment. As residents band together to demand answers, an investigation has been launched to uncover the mysteries of this heartbreaking tragedy, determined to bring clarity to this dark affair.



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## V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

### **To the Government of Burundi :**

- ⇒ Take measures to prevent intentional killings, particularly settling of scores;
- ⇒ Conduct investigations into homicides, the phenomenon of bodies being found in various locations across the country, and identify those responsible to punish them according to the law;
- ⇒ Take measures to protect victims of rape and provide them with adequate support;
- ⇒ Take all possible measures to find a sustainable fuel solution and strengthen the regulation of public transport fares to prevent abusive speculation that affects the most vulnerable populations;
- ⇒ Strengthen the discipline and control of young Imbonerakure to prevent assaults and abuses of power observed in various localities;
- ⇒ Strengthen medical and health care to stop mortality in the camps;
- ⇒ Ensure the physical integrity of refugees by ending the use of force during transfers and allow the freedom for refugees who wish to return home.