



BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS “ITEKA”

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

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



In memory of Madame Marie Claudette Kwigera, treasurer of the Iteka League, who has been missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to December 31, 2025, at least 851 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 86 victims have reappeared, and 767 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has already communicated at least 252 victims¹ to the government of Burundi.

¹<https://docs.un.org/en/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 the reference number OBS.236 and is a member of ECOSOC.
- ♦ is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections."

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

0. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT

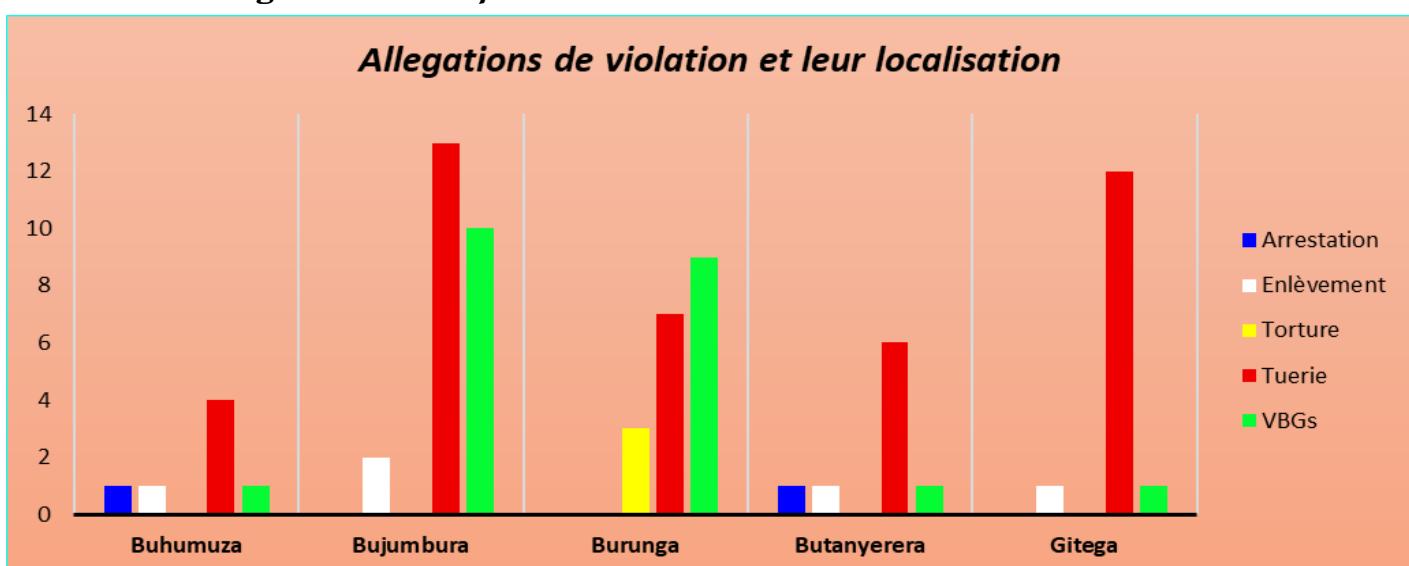
This December 2025 monthly report is based on a summary of the Iteka n'Ijambo weekly bulletins from issue 503 to 507. This report covers the political, security, judicial, governance, humanitarian, and environmental context during this period. It also reviews civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights. The present report concludes with a conclusion and recommendations.

Thus, the situation of civil and political rights for the period covered by this report is illustrated as follows: 42 people were killed, including 35 bodies recovered; 3 people were tortured; 5 people were abducted; 22 people were victims of GBV, including 21 girls under 18 who were raped, and 2 people were arbitrarily arrested and detained.

Imbonerakure, police officers, administrative agents, SNR agents, and military personnel are being pointed out as the presumed perpetrators of most of these human rights violations and murders.

0.1. Mapping of recorded violations and their alleged perpetrators

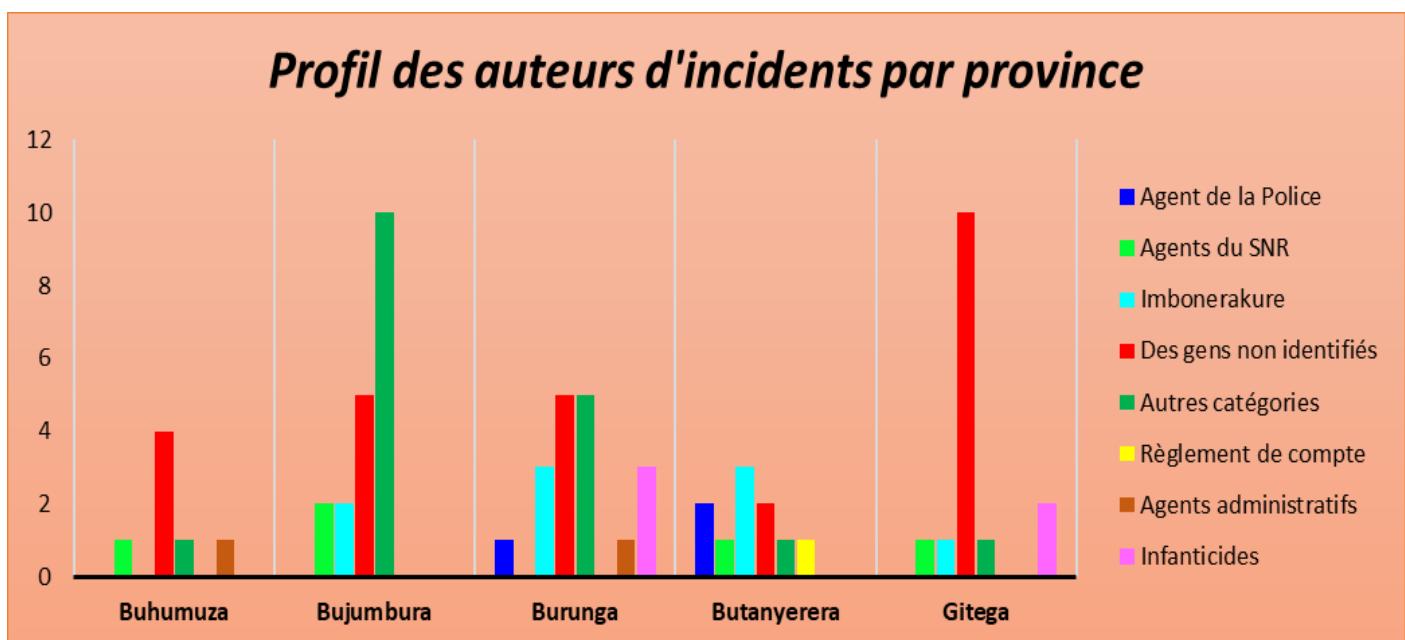
Figure 1: Chart illustrating the main cases of human rights situations observed in Burundi during the month of December 2025



The chart above illustrates the 5 categories of violations in the 5 different provinces of the country, with Bujumbura experiencing the most allegations of human rights violations with 25 cases, followed by Burunga with 19 cases and Gitega with 14 cases. Butanyerera comes in fourth position with 9 cases, and finally Buhumuza with 7 cases.

Thus, during this month of December 2025 covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded 74 victims of allegations of civil and political rights violations across the national territory. These allegations of human rights violations are mainly distributed as follows: 42 people killed, 5 people abducted, 22 people victims of GBV, 3 people tortured, and 2 people arbitrarily arrested.

Figure 2: Graph showing the main alleged perpetrators of civil and political rights violations observed in Burundi during December 2025



According to the chart, of all the recorded cases of violations during this month of December 2025, cases committed by unidentified individuals stand out as the highest with 26 cases, followed by those committed by a category labeled 'others,' notably including private individuals such as traders, domestic violence including GBV with 18 cases, 9 cases committed by Imbonerakure, 5 cases by SNR agents, 3 by the police, administrative personnel with 2 cases, and 1 case of revenge killing. It should be noted that among the allegations, there are 5 cases of infanticide.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

December 2025 was marked by significant events in the Burundian political landscape. At the center of this, President Evariste Ndayishimiye took part in a summit in Washington aimed at signing peace agreements between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, a crucial moment orchestrated by U.S. President Donald Trump. This ceremony, held on December 4, provided President Ndayishimiye with the opportunity to meet with his Congolese counterpart, Félix Tshisekedi, to address challenges related to regional security and stability.

The two leaders clearly reaffirmed their commitment to peace, while the Washington Agreements, which included a declaration of principles and an economic framework, aimed to ease security tensions between the two nations. Paul Kagame, the Rwandan President, hailed these agreements as an "invaluable roadmap," and Félix Tshisekedi emphasized their historic significance.

The beginning of the month was also marked by a press conference organized on December 1 by the President's Office, where Ndayishimiye addressed various political topics. However, the journalists present noticed the absence of discussions on crucial issues such as the lack of foreign currency, fuel, or even electricity and water cuts. It appeared that this conference was another opportunity for the President to avoid serious public concerns, such as human rights issues, in front of the population. The residents of Nyabihanga, in Gitega province, made their voices heard by complaining about the intimidation they faced from local authorities and the ruling party.

the CNDD-FDD. They denounce being forced to participate in various activities, preventing them from meeting their daily needs. Numerous testimonies report exhaustion caused by these obligations, exemplified by a schedule where several days are dedicated to tasks imposed by the party.

At the same time, in Muyinga, Denise Ndaruhékere, the governor of Buhumuza province, launched a fundraising campaign for the construction of a new provincial building. This initiative raised concerns, as intimidating department heads threatened citizens with severe sanctions if they did not contribute, placing everyone under a strict and unequal scale.

The resignation of Réverien Ndikuriyo from the Senate, the Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD, has also drawn attention. This departure, announced on December 10, is reportedly linked to strategies related to the 2027 presidential elections, adding another layer of complexity to the current political dynamics.

The displaced people from the 1993 war living in Bugendana have faced a persistent threat of eviction due to an airport project. This site, rich in historical memory because of the 1996 massacres, is now under pressure as experts work on the ground. A meeting regarding this project took place, where authorities tried to reassure the residents. However, the fear of seeing the victims' remains left without justice threatened to reopen old wounds.

On December 17, 2025, the Burundian ambassador to Belgium spoke before the European Parliament, denouncing Rwanda's alleged support for Congolese rebellions while highlighting a growing humanitarian crisis. This speech took place in a complex context, as the European Union maintained sanctions against Burundi for human rights violations.

Finally, on December 19, 2025, during a traditional ceremony, President Ndayishimiye made serious accusations against Rwanda, calling the country a "bad neighbor" and warning of potential threats. This tense atmosphere led to calls to prioritize diplomacy and peace over armed conflict, a perspective that elicited various opinions among observers.

I.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

In December 2025, the security situation in Burundi proved to be complex, marked by a series of troubling incidents. On December 2, a lifeless body was discovered in the commune of Kirundo, Butanyerera province, raising concerns among the population. Gunshots were heard on Kiri hill around Lake Cohoha, a point of contact between Burundi and Rwanda. Two days later, Rwandan fishermen were directly affected, one of them being killed following an altercation that allegedly spilled over the border. This tragic event was confirmed by a local leader, who clarified that the confrontation was a result of pre-existing tensions.

Already in a tense climate, another incident occurred on December 1, 2025, when a teacher, Yvette Nduwimana, was assaulted at Rutumo 2 Primary School in Rumonge. She was beaten by a student's parent and his brother due to a misunderstanding in which they believed she was responsible for their child's injury, which was merely a tragic coincidence. The incident happened while she had been tasked with taking the injured student to a health center, making this moment a true ordeal for the teacher, who ended up hospitalized. This tragedy echoed the school principal's lament, decrying the lack of respect that educators receive.

In another municipality, Gitega, violence also struck on December 5, when a teacher, Jeanne Suavis Hakizimana, was assaulted by students while supervising an exam. Witnesses indicate that harassment is only one aspect of the tensions permeating the school environment, which has become increasingly hostile for those who have chosen to educate young people. More broadly, the climate was marred by clashes along the borders with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Since December 2, fighting between the M23 movement and the FARDC has caused palpable tension near the Rusizi River. Residents of the hills expressed the fear gripping them, exacerbated by the sounds of explosions growing closer. The terror intensified when families tried to flee the fighting, only to be turned back by Burundian soldiers guarding the border.

The worrying atmosphere reached its peak with an explosion on Mparambo Hill that injured children amidst the prevailing tensions, putting the residents in ever-growing anxiety. Meanwhile, in Bujumbura, the situation seemed scarcely better, where the FARDC-FDNB armed coalition was engaged in ongoing military encounters.

As security forces' repression was felt in Kirundo with nightly patrols imposed on the youth, the fear of rising violence prevailed. In this context of despair, the echoes of political deliberations on trust and security failed to soothe the spirits, which tormented themselves until the dawn of the new year.

Thus unfolded this December in Burundi, tinged with violence, uncertainty, and despair, epiphenomena of a deeper crisis that threatened to erupt at any moment.

I.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

In December 2025, the judicial landscape of Burundi was marked by significant events. Three judges, Léonard Nizigiyimana, Antoine Ngendakumana, and Irène Mukeshimana, requested their reinstatement to the Bururi court after being imprisoned since August 16, 2023, for temporarily releasing inmates accused of murder. After a charged trial, they were released on October 22, 2024. However, despite repeated requests to the Minister of Justice, their reinstatement did not occur, and they live in financial hardship.

On December 2, 2025, the Cibitoke Court sentenced Jean Bosco Bukuru, a teacher, to three years in prison for attempted rape of a student. This trial drew attention, with mixed reactions. Bukuru also faced legal costs, while his accomplices received varying sentences. Observers criticized the leniency of the punishment and called for harsher sentences to ensure the safety of students.

In the commune of Gitega, an initiative to listen to the concerns of the population by the courts has been launched. The President of the Supreme Court, Gamaliel Nkurunziza, emphasized the need to reduce travel to the courts to improve justice. In Ngozi, journalist Sandra Muhoza faces a 12-year sentence for charges related to WhatsApp exchanges, which has sparked outrage among human rights defenders.

Finally, seven people from Bururi, who had won their appeal case on July 4, 2024, are still illegally imprisoned. Their situation has raised concerns among their families, who are calling for international assistance for their release.

I.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

In December 2025, governance in Burundi was marked by several notable events. In the commune of Ruyigi, Buhumuza Province, a statement issued by the management of Light and Life High School in Butezi on December 1, 2025, revealed that a monthly contribution to the CNDD-FDD party would soon be mandatory for all staff. Starting in November 2025, each employee would have to make a contribution in accordance with a directive from the communal education officer. The amounts to be paid depend on the positions held: the principal must pay 10,000 FBU, while the heads of studies, discipline, and the bursar will each pay 5,000 FBU. Secretaries, librarians, and teachers will pay 2,000 FBU, and doormen, night watchmen, and cooks, 1,000 FBU. All employees, whether members of the CNDD-FDD or not, must comply with this requirement to avoid being seen as opponents. At the same time, the population was voicing its discontent over a shortage of agricultural inputs, particularly chemical fertilizers.

In early December 2025, the police intercepted a shipment of urea, a vital fertilizer for crops, being transported to Gitega, the country's political capital. Estimated at around one ton and loaded into probox vehicles, this shipment belonged to Mr. Ngendandumwe Onésime, the administrator of the Butaganzwa commune. It was reported that this shipment had been handed over to him by the police. To give an idea of the prices, a 25 kg bag of urea normally costs 30,000 FBU at FOMI, while on the black market, the price per kilogram can reach 5,000 FBU. Farmers, lamenting the lack of fertilizers, are carefully keeping their receipts as proof of payment, while stocks are empty and prices on the black market are soaring. They are urgently calling on the authorities, particularly the relevant ministry, to intervene.

In the province of Burunga, the situation is hardly any more enviable. Administrative officers and elected officials are facing severe financial problems, compromising their ability to manage the locality effectively. Many have not been paid for months, or even since the start of their careers. Hill chiefs are also in a precarious position, having not received a salary since August, which plunges many families into extreme poverty. Many of the hill councilors have stopped attending meetings, unable to bear the cost of transportation. Morale is at its lowest, and a climate of fear is palpable, fueled by rumors of potential suspensions on social networks.

Salaries, when they are paid, remain meager, ranging from 25,000 to 40,000 FBU per month for hill chiefs and only 10,000 FBU for councilors, a remuneration considered humiliating by these elected officials, who note that an agricultural worker can earn as much in a single day. This feeling of exploitation and threat does not only affect individuals but jeopardizes the management of an already weakened administration as a whole. Thus, the area agents, hill chiefs, and councilors of Burunga are making an urgent appeal for the payment of their salaries, clarification of their status, and an increase in their income, warning that without a response, the proper functioning of the local administration would be severely compromised.

1.5. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

The consequences of the crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo were becoming increasingly worrying in Burundi, especially last December, a period marked by extraordinary events. The unexpected arrival of Congolese refugees worsened an already critical humanitarian situation. Since December 2025, more than 100,000 people have fled their country in search of safety, with many settling in the communes of Ruyigi, Musongati, Cibitoke, and Rumonge. The Busuma camp, in the commune of Ruyigi, was hosting around 70,000 refugees, mostly women and children, far beyond its capacity. Living conditions there were very difficult, with a lack of food, drinking water, medical care, and adequate shelter. Despite their arduous journey, these refugees were at risk of contracting diseases such as cholera and monkeypox due to inadequate sanitary facilities.

The accounts of these refugees, fleeing the conflicts between the M23 movement and the Congolese army, were full of fear and anxiety. Even though some areas had not experienced violence until now, the fall of the city of Uvira had created a climate of panic. Upon their arrival, these people had to build makeshift shelters in improvised locations, such as in Magara and at the Rumonge commercial port. Conditions remained dire, with a lack of water, food, and medicine. Women and children slept on the ground, without any protection from the elements. In response to this crisis, law enforcement was present to prevent the refugees from integrating into local communities. Knowing that reception facilities were largely overwhelmed, the authorities had issued a call for humanitarian assistance. In Muhuta, they asked residents not to take in refugees, with sanctions in place. They were also asked to follow hygiene standards to prevent the spread of cholera. At the same time, an atmosphere of fear prevailed in Kirundo, where a discreet meeting discussed the need to secure the border with Rwanda, seen as a threat.

Moreover, a worrying number of Congolese fighters were reported in Bukiyananya, increasing residents' concerns. In the Mwaro region, armed groups, possibly linked to Congolese forces, were appearing, heightening residents' distrust of potential instability.

In this troubled context, the human rights situation in Burundi was deteriorating, exacerbated by the war in South Kivu and the expulsion of Burundians to Tanzania. Thousands of Congolese crossed the border in deep despair. Despite the arrival of aid, the reality on the ground remained tragic, marked by a rise in cholera outbreaks and insufficient access to healthcare. Migrants, often neglected and living in very poor conditions, suffered from assistance that did not meet their enormous needs. The stories of those trying to return home, eager to escape the harsh conditions of transit camps, told of a desperate struggle to survive, often in danger. The police questioning of refugees and their reluctance to accept transfers raised concerns about their fundamental rights. In this turmoil, an urgent appeal was made for Burundian authorities and humanitarian partners to strengthen their support in order to protect the dignity and lives of refugees in distress, while ensuring their right to a safe and voluntary return to their country.

Nevertheless, organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the RED CROSS, CARITAS, and TPO were present to provide emergency aid in response to this critical situation. To reduce tensions in the camps, the Burundian government had designated a new site in Bweru and was implementing measures to improve living conditions, including the distribution of tents, toilets, and water tanks.

I.6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Last month, Burundi experienced tragic events, including a severe drought that hit the Kirundo commune in Butanyerera province. According to information provided to Ligue Iteka, since November 2025, rainfall has become scarce, causing major difficulties for farmers whose crops have been compromised, leading to famine. Many have tried to obtain travel documents to go to Tanzania to help their families. Residents' accounts indicate a meager harvest, increasing the risk of theft in homes and fields. In the absence of aid, the situation could worsen, leading to murder and malnutrition. The province of Gitega was also affected by this drought. Farmers, who had prepared their fields hoping for rain, saw their bean crops cause great concern, as they lacked chemical fertilizers, calling for government assistance and modern irrigation systems.

On the night of December 29 to 30, the commune of Muramvya suffered significant damage caused by torrential rains and strong winds. Corn plantations were devastated and twelve houses destroyed, while six electric poles collapsed, plunging the region into darkness. Although no lives were lost, the victims are requesting urgent help. On December 27, other tragedies affected Bubanza and Muramba, resulting in loss of life and considerable material damage. A 15-year-old boy drowned, while three others were injured, including one by lightning. More than 359 houses, including three schools, were destroyed. The population was forced to act quickly to try to repair the damage. A call for solidarity was launched, while authorities promise swift action for the rehabilitation of infrastructure.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

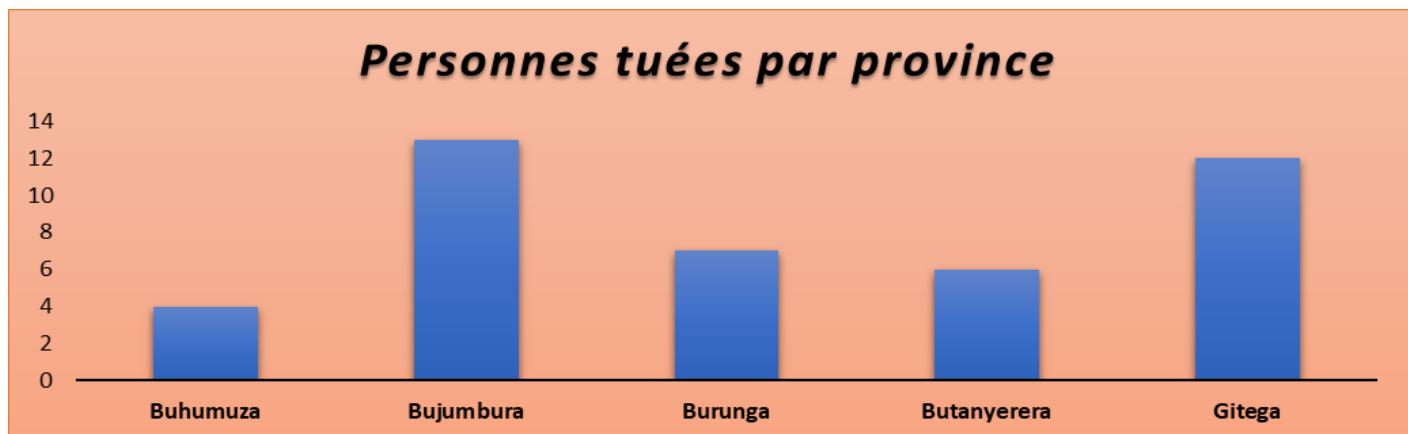
Burundi is among the countries adhering to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1965) and its Optional Protocol (1976) without any reservations, on May 9, 1990. In the context of its implementation, Burundi has taken measures in its domestic legislation, notably in its constitution of June 7, 2018 (Main Law), in Article 19, which guarantees that all rights proclaimed and guaranteed by duly ratified international texts are an integral part of this constitution. Implementation texts have been established, notably the Penal 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. MURDER

During the period covered by this report, a total of 42 cases of intentional homicides were recorded by the Iteka League across the country, among which 38 of the victims were men and 4 were women.

The most affected provinces are Bujumbura with 13 victims, Gitega with 12 victims, and Burunga with 7 victims. Butanyerera had 6 victims, followed by Buhumuza with 4 victims.



Ex1: Information received by the Iteka League on December 20, 2025, indicates that on December 9, 2025, a certain Bucumi Léonidas from Ruhande hill, Nyabihigo zone in Kayanza commune of Butanyerera province, was killed by a young Imbonerakure named Bienvenu. On-site information reports that the victim had a phone charger cable which he had entrusted to Bienvenu due to a lack of electricity at his home, in exchange for charging his phone for free. The same sources state that on December 9, 2025, Bucumi came to charge his phone, but Bienvenu forced him to pay a sum of one thousand francs, which the victim refused to pay. According to eyewitnesses, Bienvenu jumped on the victim and slit his throat. The victim was transferred to Ngozi Hospital, where he succumbed to the injuries sustained.

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

Ex2: A lifeless body of a young girl found in Burengo, Matongo commune, in Butanyerera province

Information that reached the Iteka League on December 18, 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 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 reports say that she was killed by an imbonerakure 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.

Ex3: A lifeless body found in Rwibaga commune, in Bujumbura province On December 8, 2025, at around 7:30 a.m., a lifeless and naked body of a young man who has not yet been identified was discovered. The body was found in the Kinanira valley, on Buhoro hill, Jenda zone, Rwibaga commune, Bujumbura province. The police of the municipal police station immediately went to the scene to ascertain the facts.

Police found that the body showed visible evidence that the deceased had been shot elsewhere in an inhumane manner by as-yet-unidentified criminals.

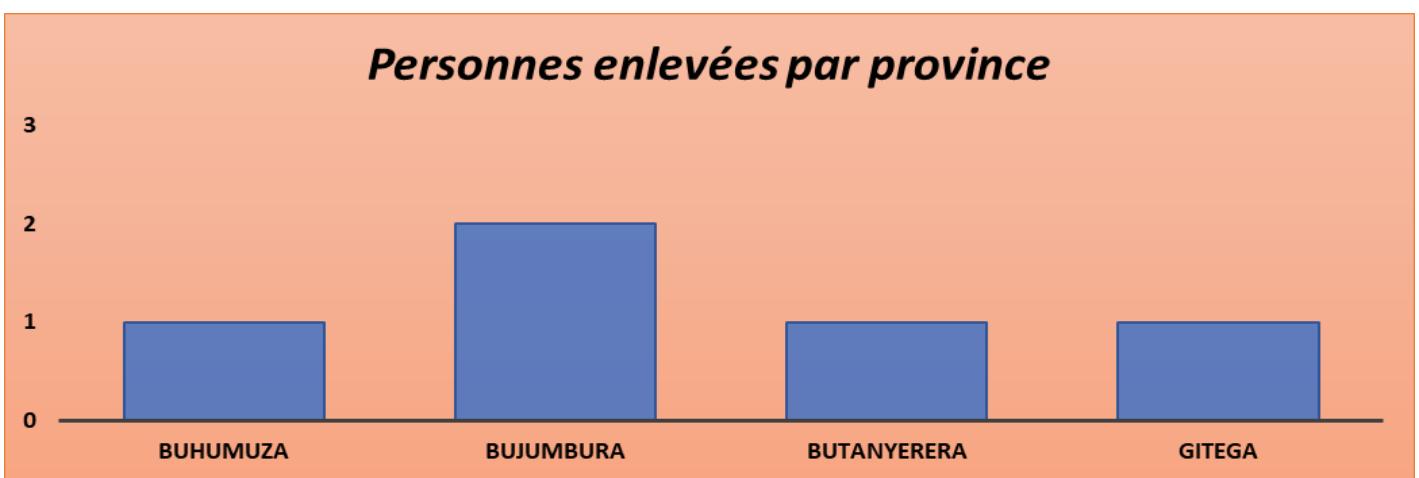
The identity of the victim could not be established. Police said even locals confirmed that the person was unknown to them.

Faced with the inability to immediately identify the body, the administration transferred it to the morgue of Jenda Hospital. Information will be widely disseminated so that relatives can come forward for the burial process. The population of Buhoro is asking the police to conduct thorough investigations to establish the truth and ensure that the perpetrators of this crime are apprehended and brought to justice.

II.1.2. ABDUCTED AND/OR MISSING PERSONS

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 recorded 5 abducted persons, 3 men and 2 women, 2 victims in Bujumbura province and, respectively, Buhumuza, Gitega, and Butanyerera with 1 victim each.



Illustrative examples :

Ex1: On December 25, 2025, the Iteka League received troubling information regarding the sad fate of Juliette Havyarimana, a woman from the Nyabihogo hill and area in the commune of Kayanza, Butanyerera province. On December 15, 2025, while returning from Rwanda where she had settled after her marriage in 2013, she was abducted by police colonel Pascal Nshimirimana. Juliette, who had been working in Rwanda since 2007 and had started a family with a Rwandan, now had four children.

According to reliable sources, that day, she had returned to participate in wedding ceremonies in her hometown. After walking to the Kabarore area in the Kayanza commune, she was exhausted and decided to take a taxi. But instead of taking her to the urban center of Kayanza, the driver alerted the police. Colonel Nshimirimana himself came to pick up Juliette. After searching her luggage, which contained only clothes, he took her to a mysterious place, which is still unknown, leaving doubts about her abduction and disappearance.

The family of Juliette, in a desperate cry, sought to find out where she was, but to this day, no news of her has been received. The colonel, when he saw the relatives visiting the detention sites in the urban center of Kayanza, remained silent, not wishing to comment on the situation.

Example 2: On December 14, 2025, in the morning, on Kariba hill, Kanka area, Mwaro commune, Gitega province, Tharcisse Ndrekuramba, a man in his forties and a teacher, known as an active member of the CNL party and close to Agathon Rwasa, was forcibly taken from his home by individuals who, according to local information, would be from the SNR.

The perpetrators of the abduction were traveling in a double-cabin van with tinted windows. They were accompanied by two young Imbonerakure from the area, Augustin, Director of ECOFO Rubamvyi, and Ndayizeye Sostène, a very zealous Imbonerakure who is an advisor to the municipal administrator in charge of legal affairs.

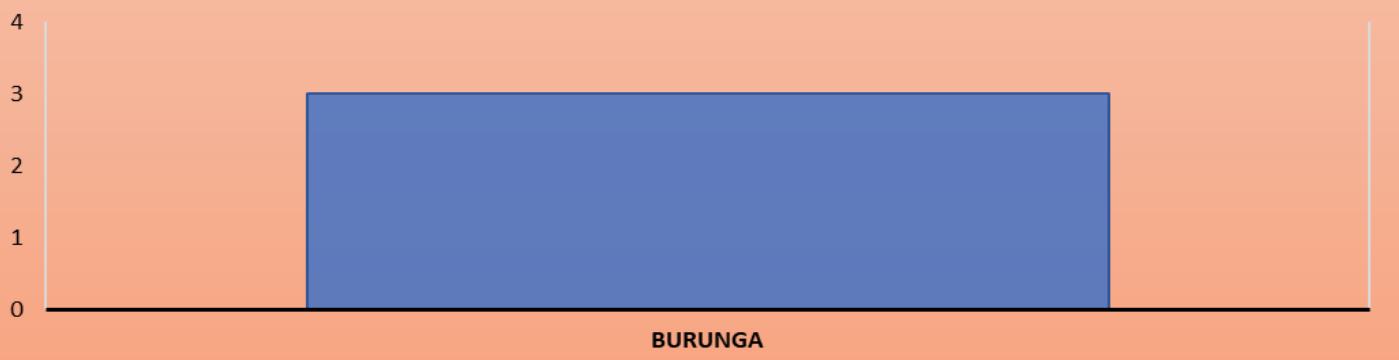
The destination to which Tharcisse Ndrekuramba was taken is unknown, and his relatives fear for his safety.

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

The Burundian Constitution in its Article 21 states that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment." In addition, Law No. 1/04 of June 27, 2016, on the protection of victims defines the rights of victims and provides 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 PUNISHMENTS AND OTHER TREATMENTS

Personnes torturées par province



A total of 3 cases of torture were recorded by the Iteka League throughout the country during the period covered by this report. Among the victims, there are 2 men and a woman. All the victims are registered in the province of Burunga.

Illustrative examples:

Ex1: Information received by the Iteka League on December 18, 2025 indicates that on December 5, 2025, a vendor at the Mabanda communal market, in the commune of Nyanza in the province of Burunga, named Kabura, was violently assaulted at the communal market by the market guard, a member of the Imbonerakure youth league, who assaulted her in front of customers before throwing her 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 his refusal, the head of the *Market and CNDD-FDD activist Emmanuel Niyomwungere, and the market guard 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.*

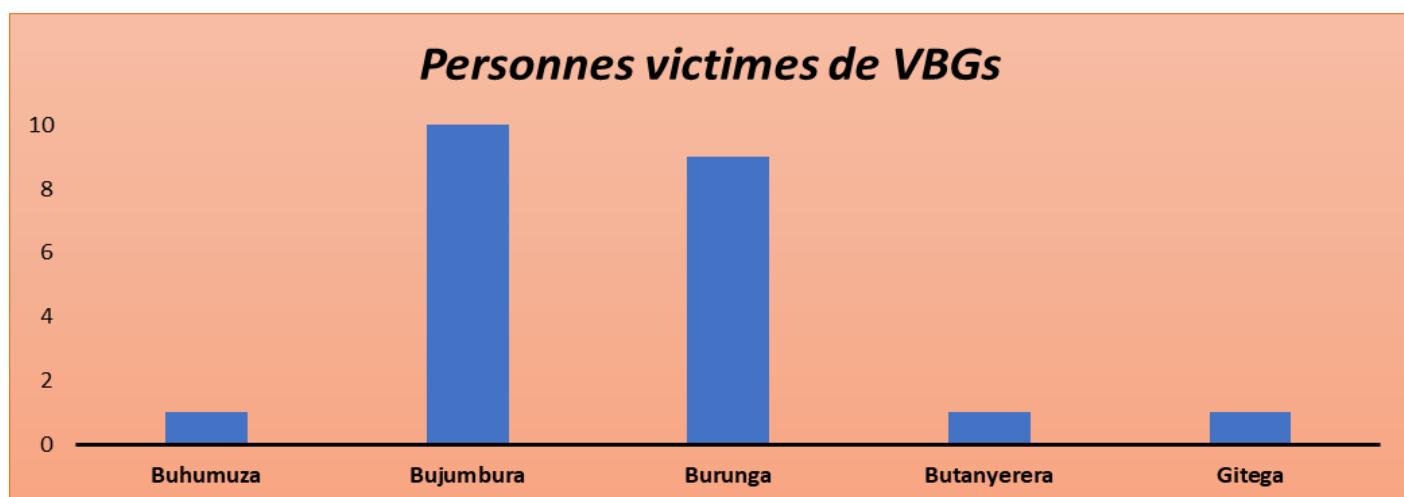
Alerted by the population, on the day of the incident, the police intervened and arrested the two men. But several witnesses say they were released soon after, reinforcing the sense of impunity in the case.

The residents insist on respecting every merchant's right to freely sell the fruits of their labor and demand that justice intervene impartially. According to them, the release of the perpetrators without exemplary punishment sends the wrong message and risks encouraging the repetition of such acts of violence in the country's markets, especially since the victim was assaulted by the market officials.

The people of Mabanda therefore call on the authorities to act quickly and firmly, so that this case serves as an example and that the security and freedom of merchants are fully guaranteed in all Burundian markets.

II.2.2. VSBGs/VIOLS

During the reporting period, the Iteka League recorded 22 cases of VSBG victims, 21 of whom were girls raped, all minors according to Burundian law as under 18 years old. Among the victims, there is 1 man and 21 women. Bujumbura and Burunga Provinces are the most affected, with 10 and 9 victims respectively. Buhumuza, Gitega, and Butanyerera follow with 1 victim each.



Among the 22 cases of rape recorded nationwide, 1 case was committed by members of the Imbonerakure, 1 case by a police officer, 1 case by an administrative official, and 19 cases were committed by individuals (including merchants, domestic workers, neighbors of the victims).

Illustrative examples:

Ex1: On December 24, 2025, on Kabingo hill, Musongati commune, Burunga province, a girl named C., 15 years old, a student in 7th grade at ECOFO Rubaho in the Butezi area, was raped by a man named Wagaramye, 37 years old, known as a merchant of illegally imported fuel from Tanzania.

According to local sources, Wagaramye was caught around 2 a.m. in a hotel nicknamed MUKUYENGE owned by Mr. Serges. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and detained in the old Rutana provincial jail for investigations.

The victim was accompanied to the Giharo Municipal Hospital for medical care. On the medical prescription, the results approve that the act has been done.

Ex2: As of November 4, 2025. N. J, 13 years old, was raped by Bizimana Joachim, Imbonerakure, shopkeeper, 28 years old on Kanyekoko hill, Rumonge zone and commune, Burunga province.

According to the information gathered, Bizimana Joachim called the girl into his shop, closed the door, and committed the rape. Following the act, the victim was threatened with death if she revealed what had happened. Out of fear, the girl remained silent for several days. A few days after the tragedy, the victim, no longer feeling comfortable, decided to tell her mother everything.

The mother immediately filed a complaint with the police. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to the dungeon of the Rumonge police station. He was then transferred to Rumonge Central Prison, commonly known as Ku Murembwe.

The victim was taken to the Humura center for holistic care. However, the necessary medical care was provided beyond the 72-hour window, which complicates immediate preventive measures.

Example 3: On December 18, 2025, the ITEKA League received troubling news about a student at Mishiba fundamental school, in the Gisagara commune, Buhumaza province, who was a victim of rape at the Gishungo health center, which occurred in early December 2025. According to a well-informed source, the 17-year-old victim had accompanied a friend who fell ill. Upon arrival at the health center, they were immediately taken to the nurses' accommodation block still on duty. Several employees of this center confirmed the events, although they were caught in the act.

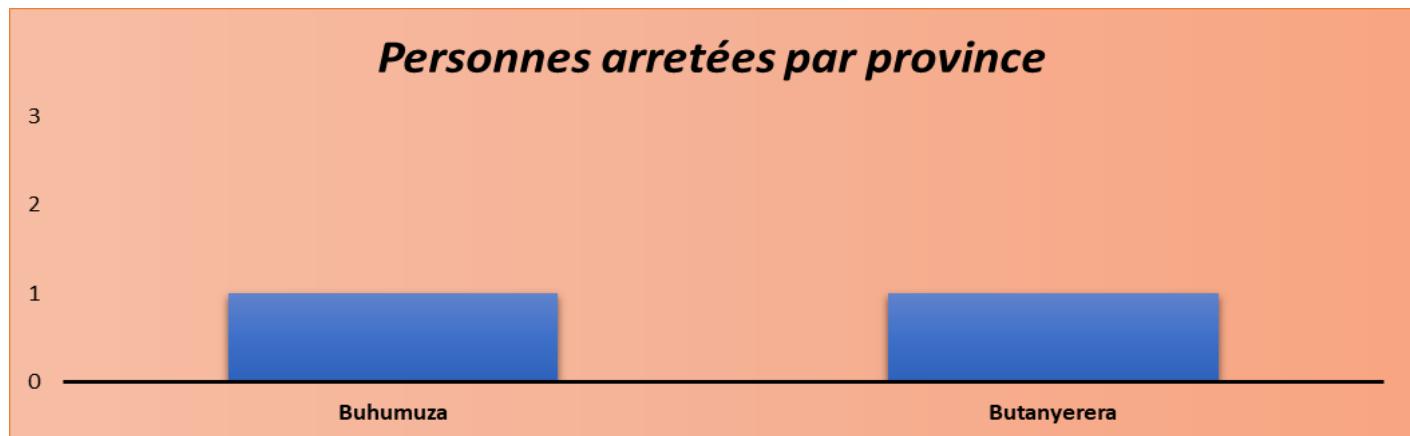
The individual accused is said to be a laboratory technician working at the same CDS. Parents of students did not hide their astonishment at the silence of the ECOFO director in the face of this heinous act. According to our source, one parent even accused the director of having received bribes from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

It is important to recall 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 sanctions for both the rapist and the ECOFO director.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

Article 21 of the Burundian Constitution guarantees the right to freedom and personal security. It stipulates that "No one shall be arbitrarily arrested or detained." The Burundian Penal Code regulates the conditions of preventive detention and provides safeguards to prevent arbitrary arrests and detentions.

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS



In total, 2 cases of arrests resulting in 2 victims were recorded across the entire territory during the period covered by this report. The provinces of Buhumuza and Butanyerera were the targets of these cases. Of these 2 cases, 1 was committed by an SNR officer and the other by an administrative official with the police officers under their supervision.

The two cases are :

Ex1: 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.

Cet homme a été appréhendé au moment où il était en train de chercher un hébergement dans un hôtel, c'est à ce moment-là qu'un agent hôtelier a alerté l'administration après avoir entendu que cette personne parlait avec un accent rwandais. Selon des sources sur place, quelques minutes après, l'administrateur de la commune Gisagara, Japhet Nzirubusa et en même temps natif de cette colline est arrivé sur les lieux, après quelques minutes d'interrogatoire, cette personne a été embarqué par cette autorité dans la camionnette de la commune et conduit au poste communal de police de Gisagara pour des raisons d'enquête. Selon les mêmes sources, cette personne a été torturée par l'administrateur de la commune Gisagara avant d'être embarquée dans la camionnette.

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

Example 2: Since December 2, 2025, Cyprien Sindayihebura has been in the cell of the National Intelligence Service in Ngozi, in Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province.

This man worked at the Burundian-Tanzanian border in Kobero as a plant health inspector. According to his family members, he refused entry into Burundi of plant health products coming from abroad, products from a merchant who does not comply with the Burundian Bureau of Standards (BBN). This merchant, whose name remains unknown, wants at all costs for these products to pass, even resorting to bribing the National Intelligence Service.

What Cyprien Sindayihebura refuses. According to information from Kobero, these medicines are still in Kobero. Before being arrested, according to his family members, he was called on the phone by Marc Manirakiza, also known as Poshni, a businessman from Ngozi who is reportedly also involved in documentation in northern Burundi.

It was he who called journalist Sandra Muhoza, who has been imprisoned since April 18, 2024.

Cyprien Sindayihebura's family members fear for his safety and are asking the competent authorities to do everything possible to release their unjustly imprisoned relative.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Economic, social, and cultural rights, referred to 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, particularly in Article 19. A particularity of these rights is that they are often realized progressively, unlike civil and political rights. Signatory states, including Burundi, commit to ensuring the exercise of these rights according to their available resources.

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

In December 2025, Burundi went through a tumultuous period economically, marked by a series of significant events. The story begins in Muramvya Commune, in the heart of Gitega province, where serious mismanagement tainted the administration of agricultural inputs. Further away, in Karusi commune, an alarm was raised among farmers frustrated by the non-delivery of chemical fertilizers. Although they had paid for the products intended for the first season, known as Agatasi, time is pressing and no fertilizers have reached them. They worry about the fate of their investment as they face significant agricultural losses, cultivating without essential fertilizers.

Simultaneously, the city of Ruyigi and its surroundings, in the province of Buhumuza, have plunged into darkness since December 7, 2025, as a result of a power outage caused by severe storms that destroyed more than forty power poles. This outage has direct repercussions on the economic activities of artisans and public services. Meanwhile, the Eastern region is hit by a prolonged drought, threatening crops, particularly in the communes of the KUMOSO region.

On the other hand, the province of Butanyerera has been the scene of severe police crackdowns. On December 11 and 12, the police carried out search operations to enforce a ban on the sale of alcoholic beverages. These interventions led to seizures and arrests of several merchants, notably in Musumba, where boxes of drinks were confiscated and fines imposed.

In Bubanza and Mpanda Commune in Bujumbura province, the surge in fuel prices has compounded the misery of transporters and users, triggering a deep economic crisis. Gasoline prices skyrocketed, causing major disruptions in the transport sector, even forcing some to cease operations. Prolonged shortages at service stations, combined with insecurity related to armed conflicts in nearby areas, further complicate the situation.

In Kayanza, in Butanyerera province, motorcycle taxi drivers declared in January 2026 that fines, deemed excessive, threatened their economic livelihood. They denounced police demands for payments without providing receipts and called for necessary reforms to put an end to these abuses.

Finally, one last report comes from the Cankuzo commune, still in Buhumuza province. Even as the 2025 year-end holidays approached, the population celebrated despite rising prices, notably the cost of a kilo of meat at 30,000 FBU. Although few people seem to be rejoicing, anxiety about rising food prices is intensifying. Fortunately, some continue to manage by trading, though often at rates considered exorbitant.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

In December 2025, in Burundi, the right to education was severely affected, particularly at Écofo Nkundusi, where the 7th-grade classroom was in a deplorable condition. On December 4, the Iteka League reported that it lacked windows, leaving about thirty students exposed to the elements. This situation in Nkundusi reflected a broader crisis in the Burunga school district, with issues in infrastructure, hygiene, and funding. The shortage of 74,000 desks and 20,000 classrooms was alarming. Students paid 7,000 Burundian francs per term, while the state allocated only 500 francs per student, insufficient to cover basic expenses. Furthermore, additional contributions imposed by the ruling party exacerbated the schools' difficulties.

The 2025-2026 school year was marked by the departure of 150 to 200 teachers, including principals, leading to the consideration of using part-time teachers. The need to recruit 2,449 new teachers was becoming apparent, particularly alarming due to the absence of new textbooks for nearly ten years. Educational stakeholders were calling on authorities to act quickly to build infrastructure and revise funding.

The teacher shortage was a major challenge, worsened by new administrative structures in which more than 90% of the new leaders had been teachers. Uncompensated departures, caused by retirements and resignations, are creating pressure in the education system.

From September to December 2025, two major problems emerged, particularly in Bujumbura, where corruption threatened the educational system. Inappropriate hiring practices, often based on bribes, prevented qualified teachers from obtaining positions. Students suffered from frequent changes of teachers, and certain communes like Cibitoke experienced poor management.

Excessive power and corruption disrupted the proper management of education, leading to unauthorized transfers of teachers, which affected their daily lives and financial situation. Appeals from families and teachers for fair and transparent management of education were becoming increasingly urgent.

Parents were worried about the departure of qualified teachers, fearing a decline in the quality of education. In the first term of the school year, 309 teachers had resigned, representing 60% of departures, which heightened parents' concerns. Retired teachers were desperately waiting for their ONPR bonus, having received nothing for more than two years despite regular deductions. The issue of good governance was becoming critically important, making it urgent to provide assistance to regularize the teachers' situation.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

In December, Burundi experienced worrying events that affected the right to health. A cholera threat spread in the communes of Nyanza and Rumonge, in Burunga province. On December 6, 2025, an important meeting was held in Nyanza, led by the Chief of Staff of the Governor, with the presence of the Minister of Health and partners such as the WHO and the Red Cross. During this meeting, the figures were concerning: 260 cholera cases and two deaths already confirmed. Other cases were reported on the hill of Rutumo, showing that the outbreak continued to spread. This situation was caused by contaminated water, exacerbated by poor hygiene conditions. Authorities have warned of the risk of contagion along Lake Tanganyika, where many had no choice but to drink water from the lake or unprotected sources. To address this crisis, the Minister of Health visited the area with his team and partners.

A CAMEBU truck loaded with medicines was sent, along with 150 pumps, disinfectants, and kits to promote hygiene. Ambulances were also made available to evacuate the sick. However, the meeting revealed a critical situation regarding the latrines at Mvugo school and those used by fishermen.

It was proposed that water from REGIDESO be distributed separately to avoid any contamination with lake water, which is considered non-potable. Pending sustainable solutions, Civil Protection was tasked with distributing drinking water. The residents also requested sanitary equipment and soap to adhere to hygiene rules.

Furthermore, the Mukenke hospital in the province of Butanyerera was declared to be in crisis on December 8, 2025, as reported by the ITEKA League. It lacked medical personnel, making it impossible to handle emergencies. This situation was the result of a massive layoff affecting professionals such as Dr. Oswald Nshimirimana. In addition, several debt recovery agents were arrested for embezzlement, causing the staff to become distrustful. This instability led to the departure of several caregivers, leaving the director alone to manage all consultations. Patients, distressed by the lack of care, called on the government to take urgent action to improve the situation. Moreover, Congolese refugees in Rumonge were also affected by a cholera outbreak, which claimed the lives of seven of them due to the difficult living conditions. Authorities estimated that around 10,000 refugees were in a very precarious situation, sleeping on the bare ground in various unsuitable locations. They lacked drinking water, latrines, and necessary infrastructure, which facilitated the spread of diseases.

On December 22, 2025, during a meeting, the authorities of Rumonge raised the alarm about the severity of the situation. The administrator, Augustin Minani, stated that the commune lacked the resources to cope with this humanitarian crisis and called on banks, traders, and organizations for help in transporting refugees to the Bweru camp. These refugees were suffering from many deprivations. Their health was concerning, and the risk of an epidemic spreading was high without rapid intervention. The diocese of Bururi tried to provide assistance, but it was insufficient to meet the needs. Some refugees were considering returning home to South Kivu.

During this month, the police reported that three boats carrying Congolese people trying to flee to Rumonge decided to return home. This return was influenced by the withdrawal of the M23 from the city of Uvira. Authorities announced that the relocation of refugees to Bweru would begin on December 23, 2025. Merchants from Rumonge offered their vehicles to help with transportation. Thus, the authorities were trying to organize the movement of refugees while helping them consider returning home. Since the M23 takeover of Uvira, Rumonge had received around 25,000 refugees, according to authorities.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the period covered by this report, the deterioration of the human rights situation continued to be observed in different parts of the country.

This report notes cases of violations of the right to life; physical integrity and liberty; and economic, social, and cultural rights.

The report also lists issues related to security incidents as well as the prevailing political, judicial, humanitarian, and environmental context in the country.

It also addresses civil and political rights and economic and sociocultural rights in terms of their disruption and expresses concern. The Iteka League denounces the impunity for the crimes observed and recommends the following:

To the Government of Burundi :

1. To guarantee respect for human rights, particularly the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty.
2. Take measures to put an end to the 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, healthcare, education, and justice, for all citizens.
4. Investigate and severely punish violence against minors, which has become commonplace in Burundi under local administrative leaders.
5. Take rapid 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 the 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.