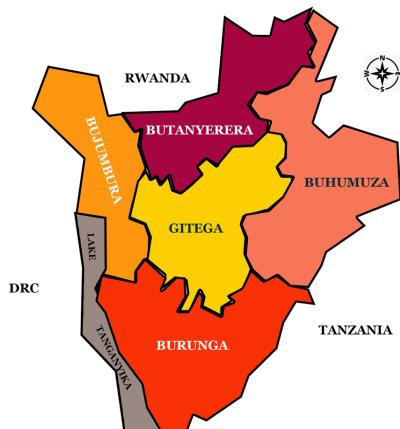




BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS “ITEKA”

N°508 from 05 to 11 January 2026

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 Kwigera, treasurer of the Iteka League, who has been missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to January 11, 2026, at least 852 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 86 victims have reappeared, and 768 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 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

ALUCHOTO : Association for the Fight Against Unemployment and Torture

BRARUDI : Breweries and Soft Drink Companies of Burundi

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

DCE : Communal Directorate of Education

DPE : Provincial Directorate of Education

DRC : Democratic Republic of Congo

ECOFO : Primary School

FDN : National Defense Force

GTDFI : Working Group on Forced or Involuntary Disappearances

M23 : March 23 Movement

OBUHA : Burundian Office of Housing

OPJ : Judicial Police Officer

SOSUMO : Moso Sugar Company

SNR : National Enquiry Service

UN : United Nations

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of January 5 to 11, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, human rights, governance, humanitarian, security, and environmental context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of violations of civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as specific category rights.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows for this period: at least 16 people killed, including 11 found dead bodies, 2 victims of torture, 3 victims of rape, all minors under the age of 18 and 1 person kidnapped. Among the victims are 2 newborns and 3 minors of the female gender. Among the bodies found, 6 are due to a collapse of an artisanal and clandestine mining site.

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

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Paramilitary training and supply of the Imbonerakure in Kirundo Commune in Butanyerera Province

On January 3, 2026, at Ruhehe Stadium, Bugabira area, Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province, the communal secretary of the CNDD-FDD party in Kirundo commune organized a show of force by the Imbonerakure of the said commune. The Imbonerakure from the 7 areas bordering Rwanda—Cewe, Kavomo, Kigoma, Nyamabuye, Kigina, Kiri, and Kiyonza—were present.

A cross-country race kicked off the day's activities under the command of the head of the Imbonerakure in Butanyerera province, Bosco Ndikumana, the head of the Imbonerakure in Kirundo commune Félix Nzeyimana, the CNDD-FDD party secretary in Kirundo commune Tite Habimana, and other administrative officials.

After this cross-country race, Bosco gave a brief speech in which he emphasized that Burundi's most formidable rival is Rwanda. In these terms: *'Before this event, we organized a*

food and money collection activity among the population called "intererano y'umutekano." We went to each household and shop. Every person who made a contribution (in food or money) was recorded in a notebook. Each area received supplies from the young Imbonerakures, which included 200 kg of flour, 50 kg of beans, 2 kg of salt, and 10 kg of rice. In addition to the food, each zonal head of the Imbonerakure received 20 pairs of boots and 4 flashlights.' The provincial leader of the Imbonerakure reported that additional equipment will be provided later.

Additionally, he noted that each hill will supply 5 Imbonerakure who will be militarily trained as a reserve army.

It should be noted that, according to our witness in these areas, a 10 p.m. curfew has been imposed in these zones; anyone daring to go out past this hour risks being subjected to abuses.

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

Dispute among the Imbonerakure in Kirundo commune, Butanyerera Province

On January 10, 2026, in downtown Kirundo, a group of Imbonerakure and some members of the CNDD-FDD from the Kirundo commune held a large parade described as a show of force and support for the Secretary General of the ruling party CNDD-FDD, Réverien Ndikuriyo.

According to one eyewitness present during the event, they were denouncing those who did not show up as supporters of President Evariste Ndayishimiye. In their slogans, they said they were waiting for the extraordinary Congress of the CNDD-FDD Party on January 25, 2026; it is not known what is planned, the same witness added.

Celebration of 'Imbonerakure Day' amid strong tensions and protests from the population in Nyanza Commune, Burunga Province

As of January 10, 2026, in the commune of Nyanza, Burunga province, a day dedicated to the celebration of the young members of the CNDD-FDD party, commonly referred to as Imbonerakure Day, takes place in a context marked by high tensions and strong protests among the population.

According to several consistent testimonies, all the hill chiefs in the commune of Nyanza were instructed to collect from residents the sum of five hundred thousand Burundian francs (500,000 Fbu) per hill. Some hill officials confirmed that this collection was imposed on them as an official directive, even though it was publicly presented as voluntary.

In addition to this financial contribution, some hills from the former commune of Nyanza-Lac are also required to provide a can of palm oil, an additional requirement that further increases the burden on households that are already economically vulnerable.

Discontent is palpable among the population,

In return, on January 11, 2026, taxi drivers from Kirundo who wanted to transport a group of CNDD-FDD members to Makamba Commune to celebrate the 5-year anniversary of Réverien Ndikuriyo as head of the CNDD-FDD General Secretariat were prevented by another group of Imbonerakure around 4 a.m. This group called the communal commissioner and the administrator, but no call was successful.

The Imbonerakure, such as Bisereka, Mayoya, and Yusufu, were singled out even though they were not arrested like those who had prevented these taxi drivers.

especially since these contributions come shortly after the expenses related to the Christmas and New Year holidays, at a time when many families are facing their children's school fees. Several residents denounce what they consider to be excessive and unfair financial pressures.

There are also reports of threats, intimidation, and coercive practices carried out by certain hill chiefs, leaders of the Imbonerakure, and local CNDD-FDD officials against citizens who had not yet contributed, even though participation was supposed to remain voluntary.

Furthermore, there are suspicions of excessive collecting and embezzlement of funds. According to several local sources, amounts exceeding the required 500,000 FBu have been collected in some hills, with no transparency ensured regarding the management of the collected sums, raising serious doubts about their final destination.

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

It should be noted that this celebration of Imbonerakure Day is scheduled for January 11, 2026, in the Makamba commune, where it is expected to be highlighted by the presence of the CNDD-FDD Secretary General, Révérien Ndikuriyo. According to sources within the party, this gathering is anticipated to be a show of force in a political context already considered sensitive by several observers.

The day began with a thanksgiving service, marking the start of a large-scale mobilization organized by the family of Révérien Ndikuriyo

Early on Sunday, January 11, 2026, the faithful and supporters gathered to give thanks for the 'blessings of the year 2025,' in an atmosphere combining religious fervor and strong popular engagement.

The first activities took place within the premises of the Makamba Catholic parish, where several baskets were presented as offerings. This moment of prayer and reflection set the tone for a day marked by gratitude and collective demonstration.

After the religious phase, participants moved to the Nkurunziza Peace Complex Stadium, a private stadium owned by Révérien Ndikuriyo. The site hosted a large crowd, made up of party militants, supporters, and young people, who came to attend the various scheduled activities.

At the stadium, Révérien Ndikuriyo, Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD, presided over the parade of several groups of young Imbonerakure, lined up in rows and performing coordinated movements. The parade was also enlivened by majorettes, made up of several boys and girls under 15, who presented rhythmic choreographies to the cheers of the audience. Throughout the ceremonies, slogans were chanted by the

In response to this situation, many residents are calling for respect for citizens' rights, an end to forced contributions, and greater transparency, believing that these practices could weaken social cohesion and foster a climate of fear within communities.

Makamba standing in the rain: Ndikuriyo alive, celebrated, and carried by the crowd of the commune.

The day began with a thanksgiving service, marking the start of a large-scale mobilization organized by the family of Révérien Ndikuriyo

demonstrators, largely inspired by the song "Aha ari ni he?" by the Burundian musician Kiilikou. Sung in unison, these chants carried a clear message for the participants: despite the serious illness that almost took him the previous year, Révérien Ndikuriyo is still alive, present, and active.

In the crowd, these slogans were also perceived as a message addressed to those who would have wished him harm.

The mobilization continued with a march of about eight kilometers through the city of Makamba. Despite heavy rain, the crowd remained compact, continuing their chants and slogans without interruption. Security along the route was ensured by the young Imbonerakure, deployed throughout the itinerary, as is usually the case during Révérien Ndikuriyo's visits to Makamba.

Despite the difficult weather conditions, the march reached its end. The ceremonies concluded without any reported incidents, leaving the image of a day marked both by prayer, mass mobilization, and a message hammered home by the crowd: in Makamba, Révérien Ndikuriyo was celebrated as a steadfast man, always present, carried by his people.

I.2. HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT

Attempted assassination of the legal representative of ALUCHOTO in the city of Bujumbura

Information received by the Iteka League on January 6, 2026, indicates that on January 4, 2026, Vianney Ndayisaba, the legal representative of the Association for the Fight against Unemployment and Torture (ALUCHOTO), narrowly escaped an assassination attempt.

Since he publicly confronted the President of the Republic, Évariste Ndayishimiye, in Muramvya regarding a network of influential people involved in the seizure of widows' and orphans' lands, Vianney Ndayisaba asserts that he has been the target of threats, intimidation, and surveillance.

"On this date, January 4, 2026, around 11 a.m., a man armed with a pistol arrived on a motorcycle, asking where Vianney Ndayisaba

was. Shortly after, a Hilux-type vehicle with no license plates and tinted windows appeared. Five men dressed in police uniforms got out and tried to forcibly take him. Thanks to the courageous intervention of the residents, the attackers were forced to retreat," testifies Vianney NDAYISABA.

Vianney Ndayisaba denounces a serious violation of human rights and the rule of law. He is outraged to see that, in a country claiming to be democratic, citizens are threatened for denouncing injustice and defending court decisions.

Vianney Ndayisaba calls on the authorities to protect human rights defenders and to end impunity, in order to prevent a return to past practices of repression and arbitrariness.

I.3. SECURITY CONTEXT

Strengthening the presence of Burundian soldiers in the communes of Bukinanyana and Mabayi in Bujumbura province

As of January 8, 2026, the ITEKA League received information that on January 7, 2026, there was a massive deployment of Burundian soldiers with heavy equipment on the Bumba and Rukana Hills near the Kibira border and the Ruhwa River in the communes of Bukinanyana and Mabayi.

According to our local source, the National Defense Force of Burundi (FDNB) is trying to strengthen its presence along the Rwandan border since the capture of the city of UVIRA.

Additionally, information collected from residents indicates a significant presence of

groups speaking Kinyarwanda in the forests of Bukinanyana and Mabayi. Residents of the border areas live in worry and fear.

According to a resident of Rukana Hill, he specified that the military authorities have imposed a curfew, starting at 6 PM, during which no one is allowed to move from one area to another, especially in areas bordering Rwanda.

The population fears that if these soldiers run out of food, they could turn against them, as happened in previous years when they looted cattle and food supplies.

I.3. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 8)

Redeployment of Burundian military personnel to Kalemie via Rumonge Commune, Burunga province

From December 29, 2025, to January 4, 2026, in the Rumonge commune, Burunga province, a new redeployment of Burundian soldiers to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been observed. According to several security sources, these troops are being sent to fight the rebel movement M23 and to strengthen the security of the strategic city of Kalemie in the eastern part of the country.

The departure of the soldiers took place from the Burundian navy position located near the Rumonge fishing port in Burunga province. According to military sources, around ten transport boats loaded with Burundian soldiers were embarked starting December 31, 2025, mainly during the night, at late hours.

According to our military source, for security reasons, this redeployment was preceded by a repatriation operation carried out by the Burundian navy. Burundian boats twice transported elements of the FARDC (Armed

Forces of the DRC) and Wazalendo fighters who had taken refuge in the military camps of Muha and at the Gatumba brigade to Kalemie via lake transport from the Burundian navy's position.

Military sources indicate that the soldiers were transported to Rumonge aboard several vehicles before joining the Burundian navy camp located at the fishing port. Other soldiers were dropped off at Vyizigiro Stadium, in the center of Mbuga, and then boarded navy boats. Small Burundian military patrol boats were also deployed to support this maritime transport.

The aim of this redeployment is to reinforce two Burundian battalions that are reportedly stuck in the highlands, according to a contacted soldier. The security authorities are thus seeking to prevent a possible fall of the town of Kalemie into the hands of the M23, which is active in the territories of South Kivu.

Information and discussion meeting on security in the new Province of Bujumbura

On January 2, 2026, at the Buganda stadium, in the Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province, during a meeting of the provincial security committee attended by administrative authorities, security forces, and representatives of religious denominations, Major General Aloys Ndayikengurukiye, Governor of Bujumbura Province, stated that the deterioration of the security situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), observed for about a month, has led to a significant influx of refugees into the communes of Cibitoke and Bukinanyana.

This official called on the population to work closely with the security forces to monitor

anyone likely to disrupt national security. The governor also urged local administrative authorities to be extra vigilant to prevent any infiltration of enemies into Burundian territory.

In his speech, he warned that individuals involved in illegal cross-border trade across the Rusizi River, as well as those with ties to groups operating in Congolese territory, would face heavy penalties. *'Any person caught crossing the Rusizi into areas controlled by the M23 armed group, allied with the Rwandan army, will be considered an enemy of the nation and severely punished, in accordance with the law.'*

I.3. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 9)

The provincial secretary of the CNDD-FDD party in Bujumbura Province, Alexandre Ngoragoze, confirmed these measures during a meeting with party members. Residents also reported that some smuggling networks might involve young people affiliated with the Imbonerakure, who have also been warned against any violations.

Authorities further reminded that Congolese refugees are not allowed to settle in cities and

must be housed exclusively in camps officially recognized by the state. Any Burundian citizen caught hosting a Congolese national outside of this framework will be considered an accomplice and treated as such.

These announcements nonetheless raise many concerns among the population, with some believing that authorities should instead facilitate the voluntary return of Congolese willing to go back to their country.

Theft of money by Imbonerakure in Musongati commune, Burunga province

On January 10, 2026, on the hill and in the Muzye area, Musongati commune, Burunga province, Nshimirimana, originally from Nyanza Lac, was robbed of a sum of 5 million by a group of two Imbonerakure from this locality. According to local witnesses, the victim wanted to buy a plot in Muzye and had confided in his colleague Philémon Nkurunziza. The plot is valued at 5 million, and the buyer came with the agreed amount.

According to sources on site, upon arriving in Muzye, he called his colleague Philémon to contact the seller of this plot. The latter asked Nshimirimana to go to Marcel's bar to verify the sum. Upon arrival, they went to a quiet

and secluded place to count the money.

According to the same sources, two men, Gilbert Hakizimana and Claude, both Imbonerakure residing in Muzye, came to Marcel's bar carrying guns, forcing the bar owner to show them who was entering the bar, and then going into the stock of drinks where they found the two counting the money intended for the purchase of the plot. These Imbonerakure stole all the money they had. But later, the victims complained to the local police for assistance, and Gilbert and Claude were both arrested and taken to the Rubaho police cell for investigation.

Discovery of 6 dead bodies and five seriously injured in Mugina Commune in Bujumbura Province

The collapse of an artisanal mining site that occurred on January 6, 2026, on Kabere Hill, in the Mabayi area, Mugina commune, Bujumbura province, claimed the lives of six gold miners and left five others seriously injured. This landslide took place at an illegal gold mining site, a practice frequently condemned by local authorities. According to witnesses, the accident happened in the late

morning while miners were digging a deep tunnel. Alerted, local residents, authorities, and the police quickly rushed to the scene. Initial rescue attempts by hand failed before the intervention of heavy machinery, which enabled the rescue of eleven people. Six were found dead on site, while five seriously injured individuals were evacuated to Mabayi Hospital.

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

The police indicate that no mining cooperative was recognized at this site, making safety conditions almost nonexistent. Local authorities announce awareness-raising and enforcement measures against illegal mining. This new tragedy rekindles concerns in

Mabayi, which was already mourning a few months ago after a similar accident that caused several dozen deaths, and reignites the debate on securing and regulating artisanal gold mining in Burundi.

I.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

The opaque management of funds allocated to the rehabilitation of office spaces in the communes of Muyinga, Buhumuza Province

Since the announcement by the Minister of Finance that the zonal offices were built with a state budget totaling the equivalent of 220 million Burundian francs each, the population of the Muyinga area is wondering where this colossal sum has gone, as the Muyinga area office has not been built. Work is being carried out in the office of the former zone, which was constructed with contributions from the population.

Reliable sources in Muyinga say that the 220 million are to be traced among 4 senior officials of the CNDD-FDD in the Muyinga commune, including the administrator Hon. Amédée Misago, the President of the Communal Council Misigaro Blaise-Pascal, who is also the DPE of Buhumuza Province,

the head of the Communal Planning Department KAYUMBA Laurent, who had spent three weeks in the detention cells of the National Intelligence Service accused of embezzling money intended to build classrooms at Ecofo Kivoga, and was released after paying a large sum, and the honorable Shabani Nimubona.

According to other credible sources, after the announcement from the Minister responsible for finances, these officials held a meeting at the hut in the Ruvubu Reserve earlier this week to claim that the 220 million would have been used to rehabilitate schools and purchase school desks.

The construction of an administrative office tainted by corruption in Muhanga Commune in Butanyerera Province

On January 6, 2026, Bigirimana Joseph, head of the Bisha zone in the Muhanga commune of Butanyerera province, reported in a meeting with the newly appointed administrator and department heads that the zonal office building has serious defects. There, he gave the example that when it rains, rainwater leaks abundantly through the ceiling. This Bisha zone chief also stated that the office of the zone he heads does not have latrines. Joseph Bigirimana did not mince words, declaring that he and his advisors are forced to work in a single room of this office where rainwater does not penetrate

when it rains. The Bisha zone chief lamented that the situation is like this at a time when even the engineer responsible for this construction no longer shows up at the site to continue the finishing work. Annonciate Nizigiyimana, the communal administrator of Muhanga, stated that she was not aware of the situation and asked the zonal administrative authority of Bisha to urgently prepare a report on the condition of this building, which houses the zone's authorities, so that it can be forwarded to the competent supervisory authorities for a sustainable decision.

I.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 11)

It should be noted that recently, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Dr. Alain Ndikumana, did not hesitate to denounce the misappropriations that plagued the public market for the construction of these zonal offices, where he explained to the assembled parliamentarians

and senators that each zonal office was built at an estimated cost of two hundred and twenty million of our francs, and that this entire amount had even been fully released.

Forced contributions to welcome the CNDD-FDD zonal leader in Muyinga commune, Butanyerera province

Since January 5, 2026, the residents of Kwibuye Hill have been required to pay 5,000 F per family to host the leader of the CNDD-FDD party in the Muyinga Bidodwe Ally area, who was scheduled to visit on the 10th to Kwibuye Hill. According to local witnesses, this amount was meant to buy goats,

chickens, and a rooster to give to him, with the rest of the money put into an envelope for him. The population finds this contribution unfounded, unfair, and a means of theft, as the ruling party has operating funds for such activities.

Abuse of power by a neighborhood leader in the Makamba commune of Burunga province

According to sources in the capital of the Makamba commune, the neighborhood chief Muyogo of the Makamba commune, Yves Ininahazwe, calls the shots. The residents of this neighborhood say they are worried about his way of administering their area. Several testimonies, including from elected officials of this neighborhood, indicate that he is frequently mentioned in acts of torture, embezzlement, and the illegal sale of BRARUDI products and SOSUMO sugar.

Yves ININAHAZWE is accused of wanting to expropriate the holders of plots where he prevents them from building on their land, based on the ethnic hatred he continually displays towards the Tutsis in his neighborhood. He even acted in place of the Burundian Office of Residents (OBUHA) by requesting documents for the plots in order to extort the plot owners, arguing that even OBUHA employees earn a lot of money from the owners of these plots, and he cannot understand why the neighborhood chief would not benefit as well. This neighborhood chief is also implicated in the case of selling and embezzling essential goods intended for the residents of this neighborhood.

Witnesses from the locality illustrate these actions with a case on January 1, 2026, the day of the New Year's Eve when a young man from the neighboring neighborhood of Nyaburumba was tortured by Yves ININAHAZWE was with the secretary of the CNDD-FDD in this neighborhood. The victim was beaten on the feet and robbed of the sum of 25,000 Burundian francs. Had it not been for the passers-by who intervened, some explain that the victim could even have been killed, especially since they had hidden him behind a storage shed away from people who might intervene. The victim was sent to the OPJ of the municipal police station by passers who intervened.

This includes sugar and agricultural inputs, which he refuses to distribute to the residents, arguing that they did not participate in community work, but these products are resold to third parties at exorbitant prices.

The same behavior was also observed during the distribution of PAN 53 corn seeds, according to neighborhood advisors who were contacted.

I.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 12)

On January 7, 2026, during the distribution of urea fertilizer for the 2024 C season, he formally prohibited the residents of his neighborhood who did not participate in the community work on January 3 from presenting themselves at the distribution

warehouse for this agricultural input. The residents of the Muyogo neighborhood are asking the higher authorities to ensure that this neighborhood chief is brought to order.

I.5. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

Two migratory flows in the commune of Rumonge, Burunga province

More than 500 Congolese refugees who had been welcomed in Rumonge have already spontaneously repatriated, believing that security has returned to their home villages. These refugees board canoes at their own expense and return to their localities. At the same time, Congolese refugees from certain areas of the Fizi territory in South Kivu continue to be received in Rumonge.

Those who arrived at the beginning of this week come from the localities of Mboko and Kenya-Mark in the South Kivu territory. The administrative authorities of the Rumonge commune indicated that these refugees will

be directly sent to the Makombe transit center, located on Mutambara hill. The Makombe transit center currently hosts about 1,500 Congolese refugees, awaiting their transfer to a refugee camp in Buhumuza.

The commune of Rumonge has been hosting Congolese refugees since December 11, 2025, where around 30,000 refugees have been received, and the majority of these refugees have been transferred to the Busuma refugee camp located in the commune of Ruyigi, Buhumuza province.

Extortion of refugees returning at the Rusizi border in Bujumbura Province

Two Congolese refugees died during the week of December 29, 2025, to January 5, 2026, while attempting to return to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from Burundi via clandestine routes, after being swept away by the waters of the Rusizi River.

According to security sources, their canoes, found on January 2, were severely damaged.

Refugees say they left the Cishemere transit site out of fear of being forcibly transferred to official camps in the Buhumuza province.

At the Burundian-Congolese border, they report suffering serious human rights violations, including systematic extortion. Burundian soldiers, supported by members of the Imbonerakure, reportedly demanded

large sums of money to allow crossings. *"I was asked for 300,000 Burundian francs. Lacking money, I had to give up three goats,"* a refugee told by phone.

In Gasenyi, Buganda area in the commune of Bukinanyana, other refugees are waiting to cross, claiming that no passage is possible without payment.

The crossing would have become an illegal trade involving smugglers, military personnel, and Imbonerakure along the Rusizi.

Refugees still in Burundi are calling for the official reopening of the border in order to return safely and with dignity.

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

II.1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS

A young Imbonerakure was killed by a policeman in Ruyigi Commune in Buhumuza Province

On January 6, 2026, a young Imbonerakure named Hamissi, known by the nickname Mangue, died as a result of the blows and injuries inflicted on him by police officers from the Ruyigi provincial police station.

Originally, Hamissi had been arrested on charges of fraud and forgery and use of forgery. On December 23, 2025, Hamissi went to Mathieu, one of the cement wholesalers in the provincial capital of Ruyigi, and presented him with a document stating that Mr. Nkunzimana Fiacre and Nkunzimana Valery, respectively secretary of the CNDD-FDD party in Ruyigi commune and the development officer in the governor's office of Buhumuza province, wanted cement. The document also carried the signatures of the two individuals, and the latter delivered 50 bags of cement to him. A few days later, the merchant demanded payment for the cement from the aforementioned individuals, and they replied that they knew nothing about it.

Mr. Fiacre NKUNZIMANA gave the order to the young Imbonerakure to find Mangue and to arrest him.

Mangue was arrested and taken to the provincial police station cell in Ruyigi, but he kept demanding to be released. *"I demand to be released, it was Fiacre who gave me the*

order," he said. As for Fiacre, he asked the police guarding the prison to discipline Mangue, where Hamissi was beaten by the police in the presence of Nkunzimana Fiacre and the provincial police commissioner of Ruyigi, Nizigiyimana Jean Gentil, until he lost consciousness.

Hamissi was then transported to Ruyigi hospital where he passed away on January 6, 2026.

As a reminder, Hamissi had been involved in many human rights violations, including the forced disappearances of members of opposition parties in 2015, as well as armed robberies.

He has been frequently mentioned along with others, notably a certain Kamoteri, Nyawenda, Célestin, and a member of parliament at the time named BIKAMUCI Jean Claude.

Hamissi is originally from Murehe hill, Ruyigi Commune, in the province of Buhumuza. He currently resides in the Gasanda neighborhood in the town center of Ruyigi Commune.

The population of the city of Ruyigi demands that Mr. Fiacre NKUNZIMANA and the provincial police station of Ruyigi be brought to justice.

II.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS (the following of page 14)

A man shot dead near the Burundian-Congolese border, Rugombo area, Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province

On January 10, 2026, around 6 p.m., a farmer, Jean Ndikumana, was shot dead in the Mparambo neighborhood, Rugombo area, Cibitoke commune, in Bujumbura province, after a meeting in which the population had been ordered not to approach the border between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

According to sources close to the incident, it took place in Mparambo, in the Rugombo area, where soldiers responsible for border surveillance were on patrol. The victim, Jean Ndikumana, aged 53, was hit by five bullets in the back and other projectiles in the abdomen.

According to collected testimonies, he was heading around 6 p.m. to his rice field located on the banks of the Rusizi River, accompanied by another person who had come to help him with weeding.

Before reaching the field, the two men were intercepted by soldiers. Panicked, the owner of the field tried to flee, and the soldiers opened fire, fatally hitting him, while his

companion stopped and was taken for questioning to explain their whereabouts. Local residents unanimously state that the victim had no intention whatsoever of crossing the border, but was simply heading to his rice field.

The preliminary findings of the investigation conducted by the police and the army indicate that the victim had not crossed the Congolese border and that his death was likely due to fear caused by the soldiers' intervention. The soldiers acted following an order to stop or shoot anyone caught near the Rusizi River.

The victim's family is now seeking reparation and compensation, believing that their loved one was killed unjustly. For his part, the municipal administrator of Cibitoke states that local authorities will strive to provide support to the grieving family, particularly to uphold the dignity of the deceased. Regarding the soldiers involved, their superior indicates that the case has been forwarded to the appropriate authorities for further proceedings.

II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS

A person killed in the Commune of Cankuzo, Buhumuza Province

On December 21, 2025, on Rwamvura hill, Cankuzo commune, MUBWA André, 70 years old, was killed by unidentified people at his home.

According to witnesses in the locality, Mr. MUBWA André went to the first mass as usual, at the end of the mass, he went to the trading center of Rwamvura where he bought a bottle of banana wine to quench his thirst, after he returned home around 1 p.m.

When he arrived at the house, Mr. MUBWA

André gave the money to his wife so that she could go and get a bottle of banana wine.

When she returned home around 6 p.m., MUBWA's wife André found that her husband was being killed by as-yet-unidentified people. The wife of the deceased alerted the neighbors and the body of the deceased was taken to the morgue of the Kigamba communal hospital. The victim showed signs that he had been hit twice with machetes, one in the throat and another in the blow.

II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS (the following of page 15)

For investigative reasons, one of the deceased's grandsons was arrested and held at the Kigamba district detention cell from

December 21, 2025, to January 8, 2026, before being transferred to the detention cell of the provincial police station in Buhumuza.

A man was killed in Mwaro commune, Gitega province

On the night of January 5 to 6, 2026, at around 9 p.m., a shopkeeper named Vincent residing in Rusivya hill, Muyebe zone, Mwaro commune, Gitega province, was killed with several machete blows in an attack perpetrated by a group of unidentified people. The deceased was 30 years old and the father of 3 children.

According to sources on the ground, it was around 9 p.m. when he was returning home and these people had been waiting for him in

his enclosure some time before his arrival.

According to the same sources, they did not steal anything from the victim or his family after the crime. The victim had a good relationship with those around him.

It should be noted that the deceased was buried on January 11, 2026, in the Kibumbu cemetery and two brothers who were returning with the victim are in the hands of the police to investigate the matter.

A septuagenarian murdered in his home in Kivyibusha, Mpanda commune, Bujumbura province

Information received by the Iteka League on January 5, 2026 indicates that on the night of January 3 to Saturday, January 4, 2026, on Kivyibusha hill, Mpanda commune, Bujumbura province, Lazare Bakunduwukomeye, 71 years old, was killed at his home. The victim's throat was slit while living alone and the tragedy was only discovered the next morning by her neighbours.

Local sources indicate that the septuagenarian was regularly accused of witchcraft and had been the subject of threats for several days. Anonymous leaflets

announcing his death were even circulated in the neighbourhood.

Among the suspects are some of his sons; One of them has already been arrested by the police and placed in custody for the purposes of the investigation.

The victim's family, deeply shocked, calls on the police to carry out prompt and impartial investigations so that justice is done.

The communal administrator of Mpanda, Léopold Ndayisaba, confirmed the facts, specifying that awareness meetings to promote calm have been initiated.

II.1.1.3. LIFELESS BODIES FOUND

Discovery of a corpse in Mwaro Commune in the Province of Gitega

On January 6, 2026, on Nyamiyaga hill, Mwaro commune, Gitega Province, Bacanamwo Agathon, aged 54, a resident of the same hill, was found dead during the morning.

Local sources say that the cause of his death has not been identified. The Administrator of

Mwaro Commune, Rwarukundo Callixte, and a judicial police officer from the Makamba area went to the hill the same day for a formal observation. The same sources state that the deceased had good relations with his neighbors. He was buried on Wednesday at the Rwintare cemetery, in the same Makamba area.

II.1.1.3. DEAD BODIES FOUND (the following of page 16)

Two lifeless bodies of gold miners found in Gisasa, Buhindo zone, Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province

Information that reached the Iteka League on January 6, 2026, indicates that two lifeless bodies of gold miners were discovered, thrown into gold extraction shafts, on January 2, 2026, on Gisaba hill, Buhindo zone, Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province.

According to the police in charge of environmental protection, the two men were tied up around the neck before being thrown into pits that they exploited for gold.

The information, which is confirmed by their families, indicates that the victims had recently found a large quantity of gold and had been missing since December 30, 2026.

The bodies, found after four days, were already in an advanced state of decomposition

and the inhabitants were ordered to bury them on the spot, in the locality of Buhindo.

The families of the victims are demanding that the perpetrators of this double murder be identified, arrested, and punished, suspecting accomplices in gold panning activities.

The municipal administrator and the local police commissioner confirm that no suspects have been apprehended yet, but assure that thorough investigations will be carried out. They are calling on the public to cooperate to help identify the criminals.

It should be noted that this area regularly witnesses murders of gold miners, often related to disputes over extracted gold, with the perpetrators not systematically identified.

II.1.1.4. INFANTICIDE: EVERY CHILD HAS AN INHERENT RIGHT TO LIFE

A newborn killed by his mother in Mukaza commune in Bujumbura Province

On January 9, 2026, at 12th Avenue in the Nyakabiga 3 district, Nyakabiga zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Province IRANKUNDA Adeline, originally from the province of Burunga, Matana commune, Mugamba zone was arrested in the morning in possession of a lifeless body of a newborn baby in a bag.

According to sources on the ground, this young girl is a first-year student at the University of the

Great Lakes, located in the city of Bujumbura, and had given birth to and then killed her own newborn.

Witnesses who saw the body say it was already in an advanced state of decomposition.

Adeline is being held at the Nyakabiga Zone Police Station for police investigations.

A voluntary abortion of a young girl on Karamba Hill, Mayenzi area of Karusi commune, Gitega province

On Karamba Hill, Mayenzi Zone of KARUSI Commune, Gitega Province, a 20-year-old girl from the CNDD FDD named NIYONKURU Claudine, daughter of NDARUZANIYE Diomède and Nandegeya Goreth, voluntarily aborted a 7-month-old fetus and threw it in a public toilet on the neighboring RADARAZA hill. It was this Saturday, January 10, 2026 at around 7 p.m. that the girl was suspected

by her friends who denounced her to the head of the hill while her parents had done nothing. She was arrested by the police in the Buhiga zone on Sunday at around 2 p.m. and first showed the toilet in which she had thrown it and was forced to remove it herself before being taken to the jail in the Buhiga zone. His parents were also forced to bury him.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

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

A person almost executed in Karusi commune, Gitega province

On January 10, 2026, around 2 a.m., on Rwingoma hill, Buhiga area, Karusi commune, Gitega province, MINANI MOUSSA, a member of the CNDD-FDD, originally from the SHATANYA neighborhood of Gitega city, over 40 years old, was apprehended while attempting to steal from the house of a widow named Monique by Imbonerakure on patrol led by their chief named Eric. According to local witnesses, Moussa was beaten all over his body and had a rope tied around his neck, then was taken

to the Ndurumu river. The victim managed to escape death and was found by soldiers on a nighttime post securing the Ndurumu checkpoint. When asked for his identity, he responded that he is at home with other documents. When the leader of the Imbonerakure at the zonal level called his colleague in Gitega, he replied that this man is known as a skilled thief and he was then taken to the Buhiga area police, where he was incarcerated.

A person beaten and injured by a group of Imbonerakure in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Province, known as thieves

On January 7, 2026, in the Jabe neighborhood on Imprimerie Avenue, Bwiza area, Mukaza commune in Bujumbura province, Gaston Ntukamazina was beaten by a group of bandits who attacked him as he was returning home. These bandits, identified as members of Imbonerakure in this area, injured and damaged Gaston Ntukamazina's right eye. According to local witnesses, a certain Bob, who is the leader of a gang of thieves in this neighborhood, and a man named Kevin were identified among those

who assaulted this citizen. This group of bandits, who threaten the residents of the Jabe neighborhood, is supported by the head of the neighborhood, Jean Claude BIZIMANA, who suppresses prosecution cases. The residents of Jabe demand the dismissal of Jean Claude BIZIMANA, the neighborhood head, accusing him of failing in his duties and using his power to mistreat the people he administers.

II.2.2. RAPE

A girl raped in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province

Information received by the Iteka League on January 5, 2026, indicates that on December 2, 2025, in the Nyakabiga neighborhood, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, L. A, aged 15, was raped by ARAKAZA, a 51-year-old HIV-positive bachelor. According to local witnesses, the alleged perpetrator, relying on false promises, raped this child and

impregnated him. The case was recognized when the child began to feel uncomfortable because of the pregnancy since January 2026. His parents questioned him and ended up denouncing the perpetrator. The author was apprehended and is currently imprisoned in Mpimba Central Prison.

II.2.2. RAPES (the following of page 18)

A young Imbonerakure was killed by a police officer in the Commune of Ruyigi in Buhumuza Province

Information received by the Iteka League on January 10, 2026, indicates that on January 4, 2026, on Muhanda Hill, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, a 15-year-old girl was raped by an unidentified person. According to sources gathered from residents

of the same hill, the girl was found by passersby. According to them, she was raped by an unknown man when she had gone to work in the fields. She was taken to the Humura Center in Rumonge for comprehensive care.

A 9-year-old girl raped on Mutambara hill, Gatete area, Rumonge commune, Burunga province

A tip received by the Iteka League, Nivyumwamagize Dieudonné, 27, from Mutambara hill, Gatete commune, Rumonge province, Burunga province in the south of the country, was arrested on January 10, 2015 by the police.

Police sources and neighbors of his family say that he was taken directly to the police cell in the capital of the commune of Rumonge on the day of his arrest. He is suspected of having committed an act of rape against a 9-year-old girl named Daphrose Niyogushima of the Mutambara II primary school in the same area of Gatete a few hours before his arrest. According to a source close to the family of the alleged perpetrator, the man in question

went to borrow a knife from a manager near his home to find the girl at their home. The victim's parents gave him the knife, this man asked this girl to come and get it. The girl accompanied this man believing that she was going to bring back this knife, arrive at this man's home, he undressed her and raped her. The man's wife arrived at the house while the girl was still lying on the floor undressed. The same sources say that it was this woman who alerted the parents of the girl who came to rescue their child to take him to the Humura center located on this hill for medical care. The alleged perpetrator has been arrested and is being held in police custody. Investigations are continuing.

II.3. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.3.1. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

A person reported missing in the commune of Muyinga, Buhumuza province

Since January 1, 2026, on Murama Hill and area, in the commune of Muyinga, province of Buhumuza, Rukundorwimana Egide, son of Nikonorusenze Fabien and Ngendamubansi Marie, husband of Kabagabire Emelyne originally from Mugongo Hill, Kamara Zone, Butihinda Commune, has been missing.

According to local witnesses, on that date, the victim called his wife saying that he was being threatened and asking for a sum of

20,000F via the Lumicash number 69278819 belonging to Hatungimana Vincent, an Imbonerakure from Ryabihira Hill, Murama Zone, Muyinga Commune, Buhumuza Province, to release him.

The missing person's family sought help from the head of Murama Zone, who followed up on the matter and, after calling this Imbonerakure, was told that he was with him and that there was no problem.

II. 3.1. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES (the following of page 19)

Since then, she has not returned, and Egide Rukundorwimana's family has no trace of him. They are asking the police to arrest this

Imbonerakure, who is currently moving about without concern, and bring him to justice for this disappearance.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

Increase in market prices following the closure of the Gatumba border

During the capture of the city of UVIRA on December 8, 2025, by the AFC-M2 rebel group, the Gatumba border was closed following a unilateral decision made by the Burundian government.

According to information gathered from our source, Burundian and Congolese traders regularly passed through there either to import or export various goods for their respective markets.

Since its closure, commercial activities have ceased and have been severely disrupted. Prices for products sought by Burundian

traders, such as fuel and fabrics, have increased sharply, sometimes even doubling.

A fabric that used to cost 90,000 Burundian francs now sells for more than 200,000 Burundian francs, and a 20-liter jerrycan is priced at 400,000 Burundian francs, according to one of the traders.

This access restriction is harming Burundi's economy, and the merchants affected by this closure are asking the government to find a solution immediately so that they can provide for their families.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Violation of the right to education and non-discrimination of Students

Since January 5, 2026, the start date of the 2nd Term of 2025-2026, classes have been experiencing major disruptions in several schools in the Gitega province. This situation follows an administrative measure requiring students to wear closed shoes.

From the very first day, many schools systematically sent away students who did not meet this requirement, leading to a massive drop in classroom attendance, sometimes to less than a third of the student body.

In several schools, classrooms remained almost empty, and some teachers, particularly those of 7th grade and above, decided to go home, arguing that it was

impossible to teach with such a large number of excluded students.

Testimonies collected from students, parents, and teachers indicate general dissatisfaction, denouncing a decision made without taking into account the socioeconomic reality of households, where not all families have the financial means to buy this type of shoes, particularly in rural areas.

The students and teachers interviewed believe that the authorities who adopted this measure should have anticipated the constraints related to poverty, and they are calling for an urgent review of the decision, consideration of family financial capacities, and support measures to prevent school exclusion.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 20)

This measure, applied uniformly and immediately, created social frustrations and a risk of school dropout for vulnerable students, contrary to the principles of equitable access to education.

These disruptions are due to the decision of the Governor of Gitega province, who decided that all students must wear closed shoes and socks throughout the province, as stated in his correspondence addressed to the concerned parties dated December 2, 2025.

This measure was supposed to take effect at the beginning of the 2nd term of the 2025-2026 school year.

Thus, starting on Monday, January 5, 2026, the first day of school, school authorities at

The resumption of the second term without desks in the Kayanza DCE, in the Butanyerera Province

In the Kayanza municipality, the start of the second term of the 2025-2026 school year is marked by a serious shortage of desk-benches, estimated at around eight thousand units.

According to Jean-Paul Nzohabonayo, the communal director of education in Kayanza, an operation to identify state-owned forest plantations is underway in order to locate mature trees that could be used to make these benches.

School policy in the Karuzi commune, Gitega province

On January 6, 2026, at the premises of ECOFO BUHIGA3, Buhiga Hill and Zone, Karusi Commune, Gitega Province, a meeting was held involving all students from 7th to 9th grade, attended by Elysée, the communal chief of the Imbonerakure, Nyetereye, the director of this school, and Bandyatuyaga, a representative of the CNDD-FDD at the zonal level. According to local witnesses, the purpose was to ask the students to report their parents when they have guests who

the communal level in Muramvya visited the various schools to check the implementation of the measure. All students who were unable to obtain these shoes and socks were sent home.

According to our sources in these schools, a significant number of students had not yet returned as of January 9, 2026.

For example, at ECOFO Biganda, 36 students had not returned, and at ECOFO Mubarazi, 29 students had not yet come back to the school after being sent home for not wearing that type of shoe.

Parents say it is impossible for them to find the money to buy them, especially since some have four or more students in secondary school.

The resumption of the second term without desks in the Kayanza DCE, in the

The aim is to allow students to study under better conditions, whereas in many schools currently, four to five students share a single desk-bench. He emphasizes that a student sitting properly absorbs the subjects taught better, which improves academic performance.

Furthermore, sources from the education sector indicate that during the first term, more than 60% of students recorded poor results.

School policy in the Karuzi commune, Gitega province

spend the night without being registered with the neighborhood chief. They were also asked to report any strangers they encountered wherever they go. In addition, they were urged to join the army and the police to demonstrate their love for their country.

The authorities, who should be encouraging students to continue their studies, are instead leading them into distracting activities that do them no good.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the period covered by this bulletin, the deterioration of the human rights situation continues to be observed in various parts of the country.

This bulletin reports cases of violations of the right to life, physical integrity, and freedom, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

It also addresses issues related to security incidents, as well as the political, humanitarian, governance, and human rights context prevailing in the country.

The Iteka League condemns the impunity of the observed crimes and makes the following recommendations :

To the government of Burundi :

1. To guarantee respect for human rights, particularly the right to life, physical integrity, and freedom.
2. To take measures to end the impunity of crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.
3. Ensure 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 due to local administrative leaders.
5. Take rapid and appropriate measures to combat the cholera outbreak that is spreading in various areas 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 Iteka League and other human rights organizations in monitoring human rights violations in Burundi.
2. Use their influence to pressure the Burundian authorities to respect human rights and end impunity.