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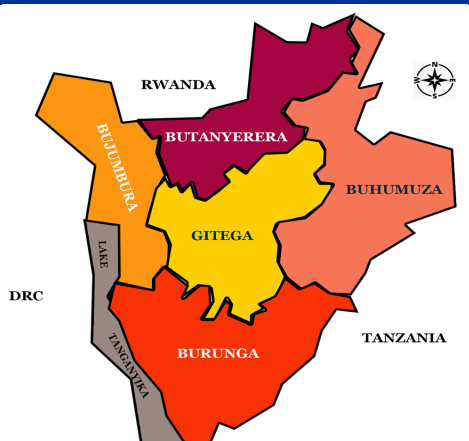
BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY BULLETIN

"Iteka n'Ijambo"

N°510 from 19 to 25 January 2026

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



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette KWIZERA, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to January 18, 2026, at least 852 cases of forced disappearances have been reported to 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 with the government of Burundi regarding at least 252 victims¹.

¹<https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

The ITEKA League:

- 'Is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (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



ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CEO	: Director General
CNDD-FDD	: National Council for the Defense of Democracy-Forces for the Defense of Democracy
CNL	: National Congress for Freedom
DCE	: Municipal Directorate of Education
DPE	: Provincial Directorate of Education
DRC	: Democratic Republic of Congo
ECOFO	: Primary school
EU	: European Union
FOMI	: Organo-Mineral Fertilizers Industries
HIV	: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
M23	: March 23 Movement
SNR	: National Enquiry Service
UN	: United Nations
WGEID	: Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of January 19 to 25, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, security, and governance context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of violations of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League for this period are as follows: at least 5 people killed, including 4 found dead and one killed in a revenge attack, and 8 victims of rape, including 7 underage girls.

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

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

An unhealthy atmosphere prevails between the young Imbonerakure affiliated with the CNDD-FDD party and the communal secretary of this party in the Ruyigi commune.

There is a tense atmosphere between the young Imbonerakure members of the CNDD-FDD party and the party's communal secretary in Ruyigi. After the death of a young Imbonerakure named Hamissi, known as Mangué, tensions continue within the CNDD-FDD. As a reminder, Hamissi died after being beaten by police officers on the orders of NKUNZIMANA Fiacre, communal secretary in Ruyigi. The incident began when Hamissi asked a merchant for 50 sacks of cement, claiming that Fiacre had sent him, and he even had a signed document.

Subsequently, Fiacre denied having given this order, which led to Hamissi's arrest. In prison, Hamissi denied the accusations and stated that it was Fiacre who should be held accountable. Fiacre then ordered the police to deal with him, and they beat him until he lost consciousness. Hamissi was taken to Ruyigi Hospital, but he died. Following his death, other young Imbonerakure became angry, wondering if this was how they were being rewarded for carrying out Fiacre's orders.

It is important to note that from 2010 to 2016, Fiacre was the leader of the Imbonerakure, and these same youths often protected him, being involved in wrongful acts such as torture and disappearances, particularly against members of opposition parties like the FNL and MSD, to the point where Fiacre was nicknamed "GIHAHE" because of his actions. The most frequently mentioned Imbonerakure youths are : Ernest (nicknamed Kamoteri), Abdoul, Célestin, Nyabenda, and Méthode (driver at ONPRA). They were imprisoned in Ruyigi in 2018, accused of attempting to kill the provincial secretary of CNDD-FDD, BARUTWANAYO Gérard, who is now the 1st secretary in the BUHUMUZA province.

According to investigations, figures such as former governor Abdallah and the honorable Claude BIKINAMUCI, currently in exile, were also involved. At that time, these young Imbonerakure had taken the place of the security forces to protect Governor Abdallah. To ease tensions, a party elders' commission was created for mediation.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

Presentation and amendment of the law governing the National Police of Burundi

On Tuesday, January 20, 2026, Brigadier General Léonidas NDARUZANIYE, Minister of the Interior and Community Development, was invited to appear before the National Assembly to present Law No. 1 of September 27, 2026, concerning the missions, organization, composition, and functioning of the National Police of Burundi, with a view to its amendment. During the session of oral questions, Parliamentarians raised several pertinent questions regarding the checkpoints of the National Police of Burundi located on the main roads connecting cities and urban centers.

Although these measures were established to ensure travel safety, the

parliamentarians requested clarification from the Minister on their usefulness, given that these checkpoints are currently being criticized by users. A large number of drivers report not only their increasing number, but also the presence of corruption among the police officers assigned to these checkpoints. It should be noted that the Minister tried to explain the importance of these control points, stating that their existence is justified for security reasons, and that it would not be appropriate to remove them, as some parliamentarians have suggested. He also indicated that modifying the legislation governing the National Police of Burundi would help to correct certain dysfunctions, particularly in the fight against corruption.

Interdenominational prayer organized by the CNDD-FDD Party in the Commune and Province of Gitega

The official launch of interfaith prayers took place on Thursday, January 22, 2026, an initiative organized by the CNDD-FDD, held at the Ingoma Stadium, located in the commune and province of Gitega. Adorned with meaningful symbols, this religious event was themed 'A good leader is one who sets an example for those they lead.' He was basing himself on the biblical verse Titus 2:7-8, which calls on everyone to be a model of good works, with pure and blameless doctrine, in order to silence any criticism from opponents. According to an observer present at the scene, this vast prayer crusade brought together many prominent figures from the country, including

President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE and his wife, the Vice President, the Prime Minister, the President of the National Assembly, as well as ministers, members of Parliament, senators and the Ombudsman. Citizens from various localities in the province of Gitega also converged to take part in this event. It should be noted that this crusade, organized by the CNDD-FDD party, took place over a period of three consecutive days, from January 22 to 24, 2026, and represented the third of its kind, following the one led by President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE at the end of 2025, followed by that of the family of the party's Secretary General, Rev. NDIKURIYO, at the beginning of the same year 2026.



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1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

Extraordinary Congress of the CNDD-FDD Party in the Commune and Province of Gitega.

An extraordinary congress of the CNDD-FDD Party was held in the Commune and Province of Gitega, an event of great importance for the country's political life. This Sunday, January 25, 2026, this significant event was organized to elect a new leadership committee of the ruling party for the next five years, spanning from 2026 to 2031. According to information gathered on site, it is clear that the former committee, led by the Honorable Révérien NDIKURIYO, as well as its Vice President, Cyriaque NSHIMIRIMANA has been re-elected at the head of the party, which reflects their popularity and the trust that party members place in them.

Thus, Révérien NDIKURIYO will continue to hold his important position as Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD Party, accompanied by Cyriaque NSHIMIRIMANA, who will also play a significant role as vice president.

It should be emphasized that a number of journalists did not have access to this crucial meeting, which was held behind closed doors, limiting media coverage of the event. It should be noted that with the rise to power of the CNDD-FDD Party, the Honorable Révérien NDIKURIYO is the first to obtain a second term since the CNDD-FDD was recognized as a party, marking a historic milestone and promoting the continuity of policies established by the party.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

A house was set on fire in Rutana Commune in Burunga Province

On January 20, 2026, on Shoti Hill, unknown individuals set a house on fire during the day while the owner, Jonas, and his partner, Emelyne, were not there.

Everything inside was destroyed by the flames. Investigations are underway to find those responsible for this act.

Cases of theft in their fields in the Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province

Information received by the Iteka League on January 24, 2026, indicates that in Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province, cases of theft in their fields are threatening the population of the Bikinga sub-hill, Busuma hill, in said commune.

intended to accommodate 20,000 people but currently houses more than 70,000 refugees.

According to the residents of this area, this theft has been particularly noticeable since the opening of the new Congolese refugee camp in December 2025. This camp was

It is the sweet potato, cassava, tomato, and vegetable fields that are most targeted by these refugees. The population is asking the authorities to take measures to protect their property and fears that this theft could extend to their households, which could endanger their safety.



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1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Embezzlement by the Director at Mwaro Communal High School in Gitega Province of funds contributed by students for the purchase of a printer

As of January 21, 2026, the ITEKA League received information that a sum of 5,000 FBU has been paid by each student of the Mwaro I Communal High School since the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. According to our local sources, this step followed an assembly convened by the director of this institution, Célestin Nduwimana, in the presence of the parents of students, at the beginning of the school year. This amount was, according to his statements, intended for the acquisition of a printer for the school, which already has a computer. However, the printer was never purchased by the principal, who used this money to cultivate a field of eleusine located on a plot outside the school premises.

According to our information, this field is operated in collaboration with his maternal uncle, Ciza Athanase, a former chief of staff at the office of the governor of Mwaro in the former administrative subdivision. He currently holds the position of head of the communal Department of Land Management in Mwaro. It should be noted that this property was previously cultivated by a teachers' association from the school, which had taken out a loan from Coopec. At the time, the provincial Director of Education in Mwaro had ordered them to stop farming this land, claiming that it belonged to the school, which turned out to be incorrect.

Review of the list of people who have not yet received chemical fertilizers and verification of the authenticity of their previous tickets

From January 13 to 19, 2026, a census was conducted in the hills of the Commune of Karusi, nestled in the heart of Gitega Province. The aim of this initiative was to identify people who had ordered chemical fertilizers but had never received them over the past three seasons. Each participant in the census was tasked with providing information about the cultivable area of their land, as well as the number of fertilizer bags already ordered. For those intending to make a new purchase, a new rule required them to pay the full amount upfront and obtain a receipt, whereas previously they had received tickets.

Information coming from the locality indicates a growing climate of concern among the

population, who have invested money without receiving any response so far. These farmers, plunged into uncertainty, are questioning the fate of their orders from the past three seasons. In order to prove that no fraud had been committed, they had been forced to hand over their old tickets. The census officers, in an effort to provide relief, announced to the farmers that they would receive their past orders at the same time as those for Season B, which is currently underway. Nevertheless, a feeling of skepticism persists within this community, as the farmers have lost confidence following consistently unfulfilled promises.

Irregularities in the enrollment of military candidates in the Kirundo Commune of Butanyerera Province

On January 20, 2026, at the Bushasha Stadium in the commune of Kirundo, the candidate selection process for the National Defense Force (FDN) was carried out. However, the expected number of 485 candidates was not reached, with a shortfall of 138 participants. The soldiers stationed at the Mutwenzi camp circulated through the

Kirundo market as well as the surrounding streets, encouraging young people to come forward for registration. More than 138 new registrants, not initially planned for, were transported by truck to a location that remains unknown to the families involved. The families expressed their concern to the FDN regarding the situation of their

1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 8)

children, but the municipal administration no longer provides any answers. It is important to emphasize that recruitment should be based

on the individual young person's volunteerism and patriotism, and not under duress.

Employees in the Burunga province areas suspended without legal procedure

The province of Burunga is currently facing a period of intense social unrest following the suspension of newly hired civil servants. Four months after their recruitment, these employees now find themselves without work or pay, causing concern, anger, and a sense of injustice among both those affected and several administrative officials. The latter express their concern about the future of the suspended employees and advocate for the integration of those with the required skills into the education sector. who reports a lack of qualified staff in certain localities of Burunga province. This sensitive issue was at the center of a strategic meeting held on Monday, January 19, 2026, chaired by Prime Minister Nestor Ntahontuye, in the presence of numerous administrative and sectoral authorities, including the governor of Burunga province.

During this meeting, Governor Parfait Mboninyibuka stated that most of the employees recruited in the areas were previously job seekers. He specified that the provincial authorities had sought to prevent any disruption in the education sector, noting that administrative services frequently rely on staff from the Ministry of Education when needed. However, the governor acknowledged that this approach was not without difficulties. According to him, the redeployment of former employees from the previous provinces, communes, and zones encountered an unavoidable reality: many of them held positions that did not match their training, making their integration into the new administrative services complex. Beyond these technical constraints, information gathered within the CNDD-FDD sheds light on another dimension of this matter. In the province of Burunga, almost all employees hired in the districts were unemployed, mostly CNDD-FDD activists.

According to these sources, the provincial

secretary of the ruling party, Sylvain Nzikoruriho, reportedly wanted to give a chance to many activists who had long been unemployed, but this was not carried out in full compliance with the recruitment criteria established by the government. However, government directives were clear: prioritize the reintegration of former employees from the old provinces, communes, and districts before considering the hiring of new agents without public service registration numbers. The failure to follow this procedure is now presented as one of the main reasons that led to the sudden suspension of these employees. During the meeting on January 19, 2026, Prime Minister Nestor Ntahontuye firmly reaffirmed the government's guiding policy. He emphasized that before hiring new job seekers, it was imperative to reintegrate the agents already in place into the former administrative entities, followed by supplementing staff only where needs were proven. Aware of the tensions and social unrest caused by this situation, the head of government announced that regulatory texts were being drafted and will soon be published to clearly define the functioning of these services and their staffing. On the ground, the human implications are already significant.

In certain municipalities, given the extreme precarity in which these employees and their families find themselves, local authorities have decided to grant exceptional aid of 100,000 Burundian francs, pending a possible regularization of their salary situation. Several suspended employees, former domestic workers, admit having left jobs in the private sector, hoping to join the civil service and obtain an employee number, a symbol of stability and security. Today, they speak of a compromised future and

1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 9)

hope suddenly shattered. In Burunga, the suspension of employees in the zones is no longer just a simple administrative matter. This situation highlights the flaws in the government recruitment system, the social pressure linked to unemployment, and the

urgency of governance that is both strict and humane. The public now expects clear, fair, and swift decisions from the authorities and political leaders in order to prevent this crisis from turning into a lasting social divide.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. HOMICIDE OR MURDER

II.1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE OR LIFELESS BODIES FOUND. IMBONERAKURE MILITIA

Discovery of a lifeless body in Mwaro Commune, Gitega Province

A man aged about 70 named Kakana Cyprien from Buburu Hill, in Mwaro Commune of Gitega Province, was found dead on the morning of Monday, January 19, 2026. The body was found in a ditch carved out by runoff water on the same hill. He was buried that afternoon.

Two of his sons, namely Eric Kubwimana and Vincent Ndayiziga, were arrested in the afternoon of the same Monday, January 19, 2026, during the funeral ceremony called "Gukaraba." They are currently in the cell of the Mwaro provincial police station for the investigation of the case.

The information coming from this hill says that the relationship between these 2 sons and their mother on one side and their father on the other side was not good. These 2 sons had been asking their father for months to sell the family property to give them a ticket to look for work in Dubai, which the father did not accept

since the family property is still in joint ownership since their grandfather's level.

Eyewitnesses claim that the victim was seen in this ditch, the body having been stabbed in the neck and stomach, but curiously, the clothes he was wearing had no traces of blood.

In addition, those who had rubbed shoulders with him in a cabaret on this hill on the evening of Sunday, January 18, 2026 say that he was dressed in a white jacket and the information from this hill says that he did not arrive home tonight. Yet when he was found dead, aside from the fact that his clothes didn't have any blood stains, he was wearing a black jacket, which led to the hypothesis that he might have been killed elsewhere, his clothes were changed, and the body was brought to this ditch to mislead the investigation.



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II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 10)

A lifeless body was found in Bugendana Commune , Gitega Province

On January 19, 2026, around 5 p.m., on the Kavumu sub-hill, Runyeri Hill, Bitare Zone, Bugendana Commune, Gitega Province, a 61-year-old man, widower named Nzuguru Prudence, was found dead in his burned-down residence. According to the obtained information, this individual, originally from the Batwa community, was often accused of theft. On that day, the residents had not noticed his presence inside the house when the fire broke out.

However, the fire did not have time to spread widely, as the residents intervened to contain it, as evidenced by the fact that a neighboring

house was also affected but quickly extinguished. The same source reported that the residents of the hill accused him of theft, while his relatives accused him of witchcraft. Although these claims were mentioned, the Judicial Police Officer, Niyongabo Eric, dismissed all these allegations. The funeral took place on the same day. Furthermore, some residents informed the J.P.O. that the victim had been tied up inside his house before it was consumed by flames. The J.P.O. did not arrest anyone to investigate despite the uncertainties surrounding the victim's death.

A lifeless body was discovered in Gishubi Commune , Gitega Province

On Monday, January 19, 2026, around 10 p.m., on Mahonda Hill, in the Kavumu Zone, Gishubi Commune, Gitega Province, a man named Nyambuga Gérard, single, 53 years old, son of Ndabahagamyé Gervais and Ntabangana Rénathe (Mutwa), was found dead with a rope around his neck, hanging under an avocado tree. According to our local sources, suspicions of homicide, followed by a staged suicide to mislead investigations, are

being considered. The body was hanging from a broken branch of the tree.

These hypotheses are supported by the presence of visible injuries on the back and arms, suggesting that the victim may have tried to defend himself before being tied to this tree. Other testimonies report that the deceased had long suffered from mental health issues, while also being accused of theft within the community.

A lifeless body was found in Ngozi Commune , Butanyerera Province

On Wednesday, January 21, 2026, on Burengo Hill, an individual named Nduwayo, single, was found deceased on Burengo Hill, in the Ngozi Commune, within the Butanyerera Province. His body showed signs of decomposition, having been missing for about three weeks. According to information from the Buhiga area, where his body was found,

this man no longer lived with his mother, who had divorced and then remarried. He sought refuge in unfinished construction sites, where he spent the night. The mother and her spouse were questioned as part of the investigation. Judicial Police Officer Nishirimbere Gilbert ordered that the body be buried the following day.



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II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED AS A RESULT OF PAYBACKS

A 52-year-old woman killed with a machete in Nyabihogo, Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province

Information sent to the Iteka League on January 22, 2026 indicates that on January 16, 2026, a 52-year-old widowed woman, named Ngendakumana Sylvane, from the hill of Nyabihogo, located in the Nyabihogo zone in the commune of Kayanza, was the victim of a homicide by machete blows inflicted by Nyandwi Léonidas and Niyibizi Alexandre, belonging to the family of her late husband. According to information from Nyabihogo Hill, property disputes are at the root of this crime. "The victim and the alleged culprits of this murder had initiated land disputes, and related cases had already been brought before the Kayanza High Court." The victim's lifeless body was discovered by passers-by on the

morning of January 20, 2026.

According to statements from the administrative authorities in the Nyabihogo area, Nyandwi Léonidas and Niyibizi Alexandre were apprehended and placed in detention at the Kayanza police station in order to conduct judicial investigations. A neighbor of the victim, named Ciza, who had shared a drink with her at the Nyabigati center, was also arrested. The victim's family is requesting that the investigations be carried out as quickly as possible so that those responsible for this criminal act are brought to justice and punished in accordance with the law.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. RAPES

A woman was raped in Rutana Commune, Burunga Province

On January 21, 2026, on Matutu Hill, Gitaba Zone, Rutana Commune in the Province of Burunga, 17-year-old Christian Nifasha was caught committing the crime of rape of a 70-

year-old woman who is not married by the name of P.N. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to the jail of the Rutana communal police station.

A girl raped in Muramvya commune, Gitega Province

On January 20, 2026, on Rwuya Hill, in the Mbuye Zone of Muramvya Commune, a 14-year-old girl was raped. K. A, a student in the 8th grade at Ecofo Rwuya, was attacked by a motorcyclist named Niyokindi Richard, 32 years old, a member of the Imbonerakure of the CNDD-FDD. The facts took place around 7 p.m., when the victim had just given notebooks to a schoolmate. She met this individual who offered her a beer at the Rwuya trading center, located about 500 meters from her home. He then offered her

transportation, but instead of driving her home, he deviated from the usual route. Upon approaching a bush, he threatened her into submitting to his advances and raped her. After the assault, he left her near her home, and she reported the events to her parents. The next day, they took her to the Rwuya Health Center, where medical examinations confirmed the assault. According to local sources, when the suspect learned he was being sought, he fled and remains untraceable to this day.

A girl impregnated by her teacher in Kabezi, Mugere commune in Bujumbura province

Information received by the Iteka League on January 23, 2026, indicates that a teacher has been held in the holding cell at the Mugere

commune police station since January 16, 2026.

This teacher works at ECOFO KABEZI I,

II.2.1. RAPES (the following of page 12)

is named Denis, and lives on KABEZI hill, in the displaced persons' site located on the same hill, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province. He is accused of abusing his power by getting a student, who attended evening classes,

pregnant. This student is named D. A and studies at the same school, in the 8th grade. So far, no legal case has yet been filed. Efforts for his release are ongoing.

Three minor girls raped on the Rusenda and Masango hills, Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province

Information received by the Iteka League on January 22, 2026, indicates that between January 10 and 14, 2026, three girls aged 7 to 12 were victims of sexual violence on the Rusenda and Masango hills, in the Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province. Two weeks after the incidents, the families report threats, pressure, and a climate of impunity that hinders access to justice, while the victims are all children in situations of extreme vulnerability. According to local sources, two of the victims were allegedly attacked while collecting firewood, while the third was reportedly assaulted on her way home from school. Although the children were able to receive medical care, the alleged perpetrators have not faced lasting consequences, with some fleeing and others released after being apprehended. Families from disadvantaged backgrounds claim to face intimidation that discourages them from

pursuing legal proceedings. This situation fuels fear and silence, in blatant contradiction with the fundamental rights of the child, including the right to protection from all forms of violence, guaranteed by national and international conventions. Neighbors denounce persistent impunity and call on the judicial authorities to act firmly. They are demanding independent investigations, protection for the victims and their families, as well as effective prosecution of the alleged perpetrators. Beyond these cases, this matter reignites the debate about the state's responsibility to ensure a safe environment for children. Bringing justice to these minors, it is not only about punishing the guilty, but also about affirming that the protection of the child must take precedence over any social or political consideration.

A young girl was raped in Mugamba, Matana commune, Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka League on January 24, 2026, indicates that on January 16, 2026, a 15-year-old girl named I. C, a 5th-year student at the HIMBURE primary school located on the hill and in the Vyuya Zone in Mugamba, Matana commune, Burunga province, was raped and tortured around 4:30 PM. According to collected testimonies, the victim was raped in a wooded area in the locality of COGO, where she had gone to collect firewood on this hill, by a uniformed policeman named Ntiranyibagira Jean Claude, who works in Cogo.

This information is also confirmed by the head of the Vyuya Zone, who confirms that the administration at the base, the child's parents, and their neighbors, alerted by two

other children who were also looking for firewood, evacuated the victim to the Vyuya health center, which ultimately decided to transfer her to the Matana district hospital after assessing her health condition. At this hospital, where she has been bedridden for a week, on-site information indicates that she cannot sit due to pain in her private parts. The victim's parents and their neighbors are asking that this police officer be punished according to the law. Gloriose Niyubahwe, the administrator of the Matana commune, as well as Colonel Venant Barumbanze, commissioner responsible for the Bururi and Matana communes, confirmed the arrest and imprisonment in the police cell in Mugamba of this officer for investigative reasons.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 13)

her private parts. The victim's parents and their neighbors are asking that this police officer be punished according to the law. Gloriose Niyubahwe, the administrator of the Matana commune, as well as Colonel

Venant Barumbanze, commissioner responsible for the Bururi and Matana communes, confirmed the arrest and imprisonment in the police cell in Mugamba of this officer for investigative reasons.

A minor raped on Muturirwa Hill, Minago area, Rumonge commune, Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka League on January 23, 2026, indicates that on January 17, 2026, on Muturirwa hill, Minago area, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, a little girl named A.E., 6 years old, from the hill was raped by Ndayisaba Prosper, aged 15, a domestic worker originally from Butanyerera province, Ngozi, Kiremba. He

had been in this domestic work for 6 months. According to local sources, he took advantage of the parents' absence to commit the act. The victim was taken to Bitare Hospital and then to the Humura Center in Rumonge for holistic care. As for the alleged perpetrator, he is incarcerated in the Rumonge police station jail.

III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

A silent economic crisis is weakening entire families in Burunga province

In Burunga, public administration employees, present in the municipalities and at the provincial level, are very unhappy with a situation that has become difficult. For more than six months, some of them report working without being paid, due to a change in administrative organization. This problem in public administration in Burunga is worsening. Officials from different municipalities and provincial services say they have not received a salary for over six months, putting many families in precarious conditions. They specify that the issue mainly affects former provincial councilors before the reform, whose salaries were paid by the Office of the Presidency. Even though they were officially assigned on August 8, 2025, their salaries would have been frozen since July 3, the date when the governors were deployed, while they continued to work. After their reinstatement, they were informed that the Ministry of Public Service would take care of their salary, provided that an administrative transfer from their former ministries was made. They said they followed this procedure.

However, six months later, no salary has been paid. Some people ask: "How can you survive six months without pay when you have to feed your family and meet your professional obligations?" Other agents, although they now work in the Ministry of the Interior, still receive their salaries from their former ministers. They fear that these payments will be clawed back, as has already happened with employees transferred from one department to another, which had severely disrupted their social life. In addition, recently hired agents in various sectors and suspended are worried about their future. They recall that they were legally appointed by the municipal councils based on their skills and ask Prime Minister Nestor Ntahontuye to consider their integration, especially in education, for those who have the necessary training, particularly after several months of working without being paid. In response, the Prime Minister acknowledged that these problems stem from the new administrative reorganization, which has been complicated to implement. He reassured the employees who have still not been paid, stating that their files are being updated and that "everyone works for the State and will not be forgotten."

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE (the following of page 14)

An alarm bell following a shortage of NPKA-type fertilizers in Matongo, Butanyerera province

Coffee farmers in the Gatara zone in the Matongo commune of Butanyerera province are sounding the alarm about the lack of NPKA-type fertilizers to apply in their coffee plantations.

Some of these coffee farmers who spoke to a source in this locality say that they have not been supplied with these fertilizers for more than two years. These coffee farmers also grumble about the lack of pesticides where they indicate that the few of these phytosanitary products available have been distributed only to members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party on lists that have been drawn up by the Imbonerakure militias. They lament the lack of these agricultural inputs for coffee and threaten to even

destroy coffee fields in favor of other more profitable food crops, which, by the way, this industrial crop does not bring them much compared to the huge sums they spend to maintain it. Similar complaints are also heard from tea growers in different areas of the Kayanza commune in the same Butanyerera province, who indicate that for more than three years the OTB Rwegura has not provided them with fertilizers. Coffee farmers as well as tea growers find that the Burundian government tends to withdraw from the matter of industrial crops while it is the government that earns much more than the farmers. They deplore the fact that almost all farmers live in very alarming economic conditions.

III.2. FORCED CONTRIBUTIONS IMPOSED ON THE POPULATION BY THE RULING PARTY, THE CNDD-FDD

Forced contributions for the construction project of the CNDD-FDD office in Kirundo Commune in Butanyerera Province

On January 5, 2026, in the Kigoma Zone of the Kirundo Commune, within the new Province of Butanyerera, a CNDD-FDD party mobilization meeting was held under the leadership of Ndihekubwayo Jean Berchmans, the party secretary for this area. According to our local sources, the secretary presented a project aiming to build a permanent office for the CNDD-FDD party. In his speech, he specified that each household must contribute according to its means and category. According to the statements of the CNDD-FDD Party Secretary, small traders are required to pay the sum of 10,000 FBU, while large traders must pay at least 500,000 FBU. For farmers, as well as for members of the CNDD-FDD party or other political parties, an amount

of 20,000 FBU is required. According to our source, this contribution is mandatory, with every citizen being compelled to comply. Any refusal to participate exposes the offender to reprisals from the Imbonerakure and to restrictions on access to administrative services. As an illustration, we report the recent case of a certain Nduwarugira Edmond, resident of Rugando Hill, Kigoma Zone, Kirundo Commune, in the Province of Butanyerera, who wished to obtain an identity card. The Hill Chief rejected his request for a certificate of recognition until he had paid the required 20,000 FBU, along with a fine of 15,000 FBU, all without receipt. Many similar cases occur, but the victims hesitate to speak out, fearing accusations of rebellion.

III.2. FORCED CONTRIBUTIONS IMPOSED ON THE POPULATION BY THE RULING PARTY, THE CNDD-FDD (the following of page 15)

A forced collection of food for the Imbonerakure in the communes of Kirundo and Busoni, in Butanyerera Province

Since January 5, 2026, throughout the hills of the KIRUNDO municipality (Ceru, Ntega, Mugendo) as well as in Busoni (Nyagisozi, Sigu, Marembo, Rwibikara, Gatete, Murambi), located near the Rwandan border, households are required to give 1 kg of maize and 1 kg of cassava flour in order to collect the ration intended for the imbonerakure selected to monitor the borders. The leaders of these hills

work with the sub-hill chiefs to organize this collection, while NGOs have already identified these hills among those affected by famine due to damage to their crops caused by severe weather conditions, thus prompting them to forgo the aid provided. The population expresses its dissatisfaction, as any household that refuses to contribute is immediately removed from the list of beneficiaries.

III.3. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The participation of students in political activities during the night in Makamba, Burunga province

In Makamba, in the Burunga province, a deep concern is shaking the parents and students of the Agricultural Technical Middle School (ETMA), located in the main town of the Makamba commune. Students from this institution, which is under the agreement of the Free Methodist Church, are denouncing practices they consider serious: being taken out of classes, sometimes at night, to be involved in political activities of the CNDD-FDD.

According to testimonies collected from the students, these mobilizations are not new. They claim to be regularly taken to party activities, both in Makamba and in other provinces, to participate in parades commonly called majorettes. But the events that occurred on the night from Friday to last Saturday mark, according to them, a worrying turning point.

Around 2 a.m. on January 17, 2026, a teacher from the Makamba Technical School (ETMA), Dieudonné Irakoze, reportedly went to the boarding school to pick up students and take them to political activities planned in Gitega. This approach reportedly immediately met with resistance from the school principal, Isaac Maniriho, who reminded him that it is forbidden to take students out of the boarding school at such an hour.

When questioned about this decision, the teacher reportedly stated that he was acting on

the instructions of the national secretary-general of the CNDD-FDD, Révérien Ndikuriyo. The principal then allegedly demanded direct confirmation from this authority, failing which he would refuse to let the students leave.

According to the same sources, the teacher later returned accompanied by Léonard Ndamiye, a police officer from the Makamba commune police station, described as being active in mobilizing the youth of the ruling party. The latter reportedly ordered the principal not to "block the activities of the State." Under pressure, the director is said to have eventually given in, without demanding a written letter holding the organizers accountable.

The students were then reportedly taken in vehicles that night, heading to Gitega, to participate in the activities of the CNDD-FDD.

While some students acknowledge that these trips have existed for a long time, parents and students unanimously denounce the nocturnal and forced nature of this mobilization. Many are outraged that children are being taken from school without their families' knowledge, even though they were supposed to be safe in the boarding school.

III.3. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 16)

Concerns are even greater regarding female students, who are often the majority in these nighttime outings, without any adult female supervision. Parents and students are asking themselves: in case of abuse, accident, or pregnancy, who would be held

responsible? In Makamba, this issue raises serious questions about the protection of students, respect for the school framework, especially in a school under religious sponsorship, and the role of political activities in educational institutions.

Massive abandonment of service by teachers in Burunga Province

Information received by the ITEKA League on January 21, 2026 says that since the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, the education sector has been facing an alarming situation, there has been a massive departure of teaching staff almost throughout the country.

According to our sources, several teachers and some school principals have already left their workplaces where they were assigned. They abandon their workplaces to go abroad in search of the best opportunities.

The main destinations of these teachers are the countries of the sub-region such as

Uganda, Kenya as well as the Arab countries namely Dubai, OMAN.

According to our witnesses, they report receiving meager salaries and working under deplorable conditions, which do not allow them to meet their daily needs. This situation drives them to leave the country in search of a better life.

Note that the consequences are still enormous despite the efforts of the Ministry of Education, and the municipalities most affected by the reduced number of teachers are Matana, Rumonge, and Nyanza, all located in the new Burunga Province.

III.4. RIGHT TO HEALTH

Termination of medical coverage for police officers by the General Inspectorate of the Police in Burundi

As of January 20, 2026, the ITEKA League was informed that the officers of the National Police of Burundi no longer have access to care and specialized doctors working in the renowned hospitals and clinics of the capital. According to one of these police officers who wished to remain anonymous, it has been more than a year exactly that they have not received quality medical care provided by qualified health professionals specialized in a particular field. Added to this is the silence of the State General Inspectorate, our source said. Previously, an officer of the National Police of Burundi could benefit from a medical coverage system that ensured access to hospitals with specialized

doctors, such as the Kamenge Military Hospital, CMCK in Kinindo, and Tanganyika Care in Kinanira. Currently, when a police officer falls seriously ill or in case of an accident, they no longer receive the care voucher to be admitted. They are asked for a deposit in order to be admitted to one of the aforementioned hospitals. According to our source, in addition to the silence from the General Police Inspectorate, this decision was made orally since they have not yet received a written and justified decision. The police officers are complaining and are asking the General Police Inspectorate to speak out and provide clarification. This is happening at a time when, in the army, medical care is still covered by the General Staff.

III.3. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 17)

A mysterious illness is affecting hundreds of students in communes of Gatara and Kayanza, Butanyerera province

Information received by the Iteka League on January 24, 2026, reveals that more than five hundred students from various secondary schools located in the Gatara and Kayanza municipalities, in the Butanyerera province, have been affected for nearly a week by an illness whose identity remains to be determined. This illness presents symptoms similar to those of the flu., including headache, high fever, body aches and a persistent and irritating cough. Faced with this alarming situation, the heads of the schools concerned said they had put in place preventive measures to contain the spread of this disease. In particular, they recommend that students comply with hygiene rules, such as frequent hand washing, while avoiding greetings through physical contact. Nevertheless, school authorities emphasize

that the intervention of public health services is crucial. They insist on the need to carry out thorough medical examinations in order to determine the precise origin of this disease, especially in view of the daily increase in the number of people affected. The local administrative authorities of the affected municipalities announce, for their part, the organization of awareness-raising meetings devoted to prevention methods. They specify that the speed of spread of this disease is reminiscent of that of the coronavirus, thus causing great concern among the population. According to the information obtained, the most affected schools are mainly boarding schools. Some school officials contacted admit to being overwhelmed by the scale of the situation and call for an urgent and coordinated response from the relevant health authorities.

Lack of drinking water in Muyinga commune, Buhumuza province

The population of the Muyinga commune is complaining about the severe lack of drinking water. For example, the Kibogoye neighborhood of the same commune has just gone over a month without water from Regideso. According to a source from this locality, this public service is plagued by

corruption; they say that those from other neighborhoods pool money to bribe the officials, and their valves are always open. They receive water at least 2 days a week. The residents of Kibogoye are asking for this bad practice to be stopped.



IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

To the Government of Burundi :

1. To guarantee respect for human rights, including the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty;
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. To ensure access to basic services, including water, health, education, and justice, for all citizens;
4. To provide free legal and psychological assistance to victims of sexual violence to counter intimidation and corruption tactics aimed at silencing cases;
5. Further decentralize the distribution of chemical fertilizers to avoid delays and inefficient token systems that penalize farmers in different provinces.

To the technical and financial partners of the government of Burundi, including the UN, EU, and the diplomatic missions accredited in 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 compel the Burundian authorities to respect human rights and put an end to impunity.