

Alert n° 4

Paramilitary training at the KIGARIKA seed center located on Ngarama hill, Ruyigi zone, Ruyigi commune in Buhumuza province.

In UMUSEKE program, human rights organizations, the Burundian League for Human Rights Iteka and King Umurundi Freedom continue to raise the alarm about the worrying security situation, which is often a source of massive human rights violations and hinders the country's development.

In continuation of the previous alert, the two organizations draw the attention of both the national and international community, especially that of the Government of Burundi, the United Nations mechanisms, the African Union, and the Great Lakes sub-region, to paramilitary trainings that are continuing in various corners of Burundi. This alert focuses solely on the training center in the KIGARIKA seed center located on Ngarama hill, Ruyigi area, Ruyigi commune in the Buhumuza province.

Indeed, since the beginning of March 2026, a paramilitary training has been taking place at the Kigarika seed center, located about 3 km from the main town of the Ruyigi commune, covering an area of 7 hectares on RN 13 towards Cankuzo. The beneficiaries of this training are demobilized former-fighters and young Imbenerakure who were selected for their aggressiveness, as well as others who speak Kinyarwanda, Kiswahili, and there are even those who speak Lingala. Our organizations wonder whether the WAZARENDU, FDRL, and FARDC that have been reported at the Busuma site are part of these recruits.

Furthermore, according to our source at the Kigarika seed center, where the training center is located, these recruits are learning how to quickly disassemble and reassemble rifles and use other explosives. Supplies are provided using military trucks. Since the Kigarika seed center housed storage warehouses for food, the same military trucks that moved the food stored in these warehouses were used to make room for this training. A battalion of about 211 recruits, including 9 girls, divided into 3 companies, and 80 instructors who were selected from different military camps across the country and who are all former fighters of the CNDD-FDD movement, are at this center.

Questioning the large number of instructors, initially, a training of three battalions was planned, but given the available space, the training was staggered into three batches of one

Site : <https://ligue-iteka.bi>

Email : communication@ligue-iteka.bi

WhatsApp : +256701178261

X : @Liguelteka



Site : <https://kingumurundifreedom.org>

Email : contact@kingumurundifreedom.org

WhatsApp : +33758279294

X : @KUF_ASBL

battalion for a three-month training, which means that the training will continue for up to 9 months.

In view of all of the above, the Iteka League and King Umurundi Freedom recommend:

To the Ministry of the Home Affairs, Community Development, and Public Security:

- To break its silence and inform both the national and international community about the purpose of this kind of training reported in different parts of the country, while providing clarification on the presence of foreigners who would be Rwandan and Congolese nationals in this tense political context between the three countries.

To the technical and financial partners of the Government of Burundi, including the UN, EU, and diplomatic missions accredited in Burundi

- To closely monitor this kind of activity which could continue to fuel insecurity in the already fragile region.

For the UMUSEKE program

Anschaire NIKOYAGIZE

President of Ligue Iteka
+256701178261

Vianney NIZIGIYIMANA

March 20, 2026

President of King Umurundi Freedom
+ 33 7 58 27 92 94