

# BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS 'ITEKA'

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

## **REPORT OF THE BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA" ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2026**



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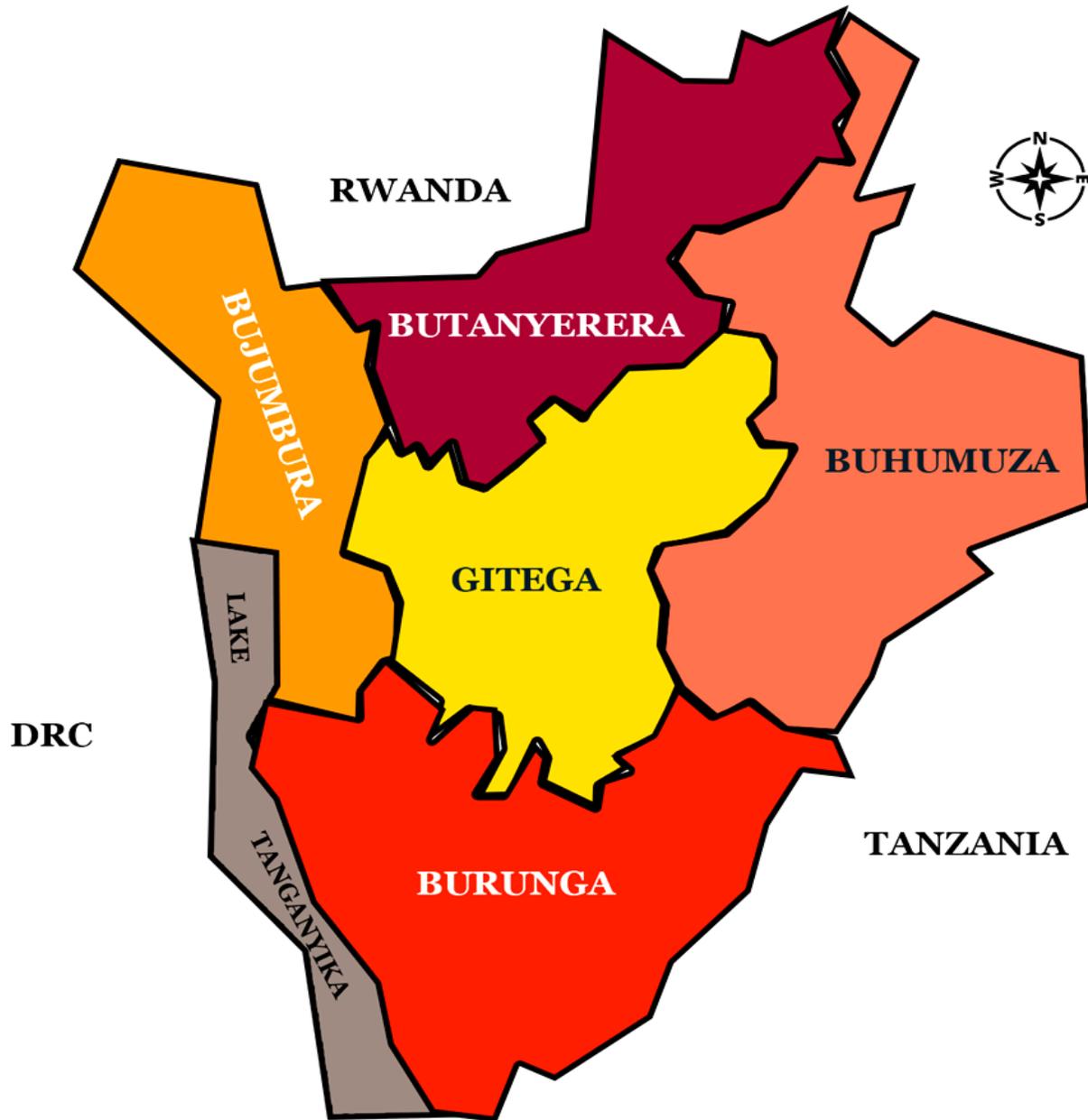
In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to February 22, 2026, at least 859 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 86 victims have reappeared, and 775 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has already communicated to the Government of Burundi at least 252 victims.

### **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.
- ♦ is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections."

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

**THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI**



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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

*UNGA: United Nations General Assembly*

*DESC: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*

*CNL: National Congress for Liberty*

*EU: European Union*

*EAC: East African Community*

*ECOFO: Fundamental School*

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

*M23/AFC: March 23 Movement/ Congo River Alliance*

*FRODEBU: Front for Democracy in Burundi*

*FDLR: Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda*

*UPRONA: Union for National Progress*

*AU: African Union*

*PNB: National Police of Burundi*

*SNR: National Enquiry Service*

*TGI: High Court*

*DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo*

*GBV: Gender-Based Violence*

*OPJ: Judicial Police Officer*

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between January and February 2025, Burundi experienced a tumultuous situation, marked by serious human rights violations attributed to state agents or their representatives and other individuals, in a climate of impunity. Despite civil society's attempts to denounce these abuses, the government seemed indifferent to calls for justice and thorough investigations. The Iteka League, closely monitoring the situation, recorded 69 people killed, including 51 men, 18 women, of whom 15 were children. The province of Gitega was the most affected, with 28 killed, followed by Bujumbura with 16 victims, Burunga with 11, and finally Butanyerera and Buhumuza, which had 7 victims each.

At the same time, kidnappings and enforced disappearances in Burundi raised serious concerns, with 9 victims recorded over the last two months of this report. Numerous testimonies described cases where people known to be in the opposition or considered suspicious were abducted by security forces or Imbonerakure militia members of the ruling party. These disappearances, often shrouded in mystery, plunge their families into deep despair over not seeing their loved ones again. To date, out of the 9 victims, Bujumbura recorded 5 victims, followed by Burunga with 3 victims.

Meanwhile, the months of January and October 2026 saw cases of torture where 6 victims were recorded by the Ligue Iteka in the provinces of Gitega with 2 victims, Buhumuza 3 victims, and Bujumbura 1 victim. The Imbonerakure are cited as often the main perpetrators of these acts with 5 victims, and 1 victim committed by police officers.

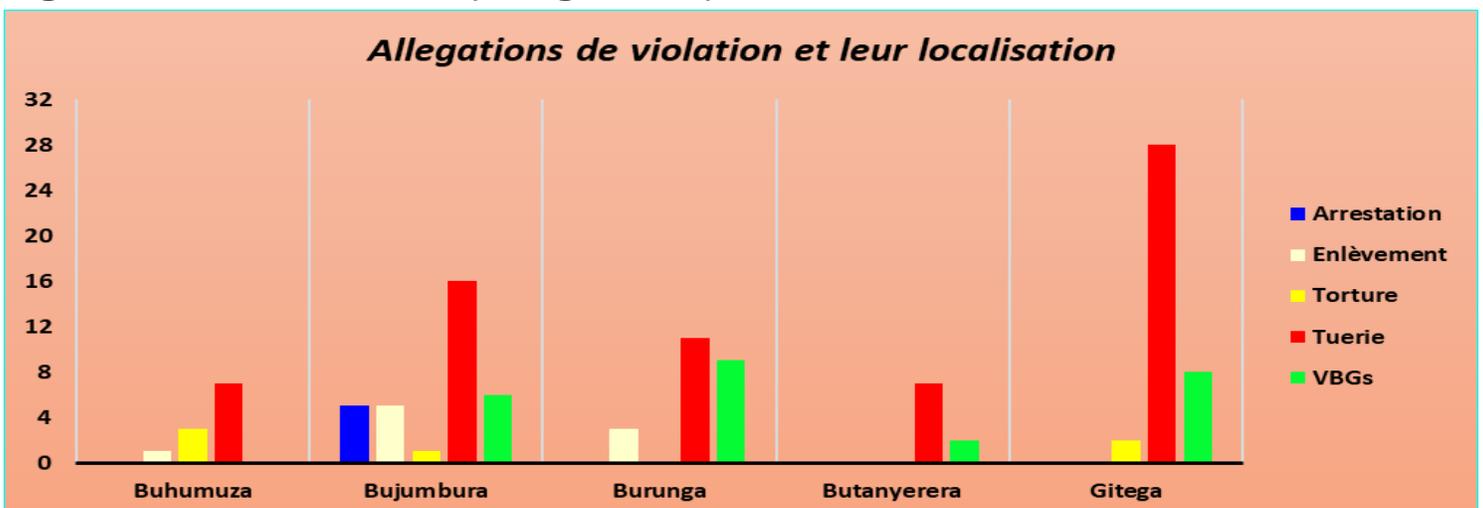
During the period under review in this report, the Iteka League documented 25 victims of gender-based violence (GBV) affecting 1 man and 24 women. It should be noted that among these victims, 19 were raped, including 17 minors under the age of 18. The province of Burunga recorded the highest number of victims, followed by Gitega with 8 victims, Bujumbura with 6 victims, and Butanyerera with 2 victims. The imbonerakure, administrative agents, police officers, and other categories of people are often pointed out as the presumed perpetrators of these GBV cases.

Finally, the Iteka League also noted 5 victims of arbitrary arrests in Bujumbura.

### *Illustrative graphics:*

Out of the 99 recorded incident cases during the period considered, 114 people were the target of these incident cases.

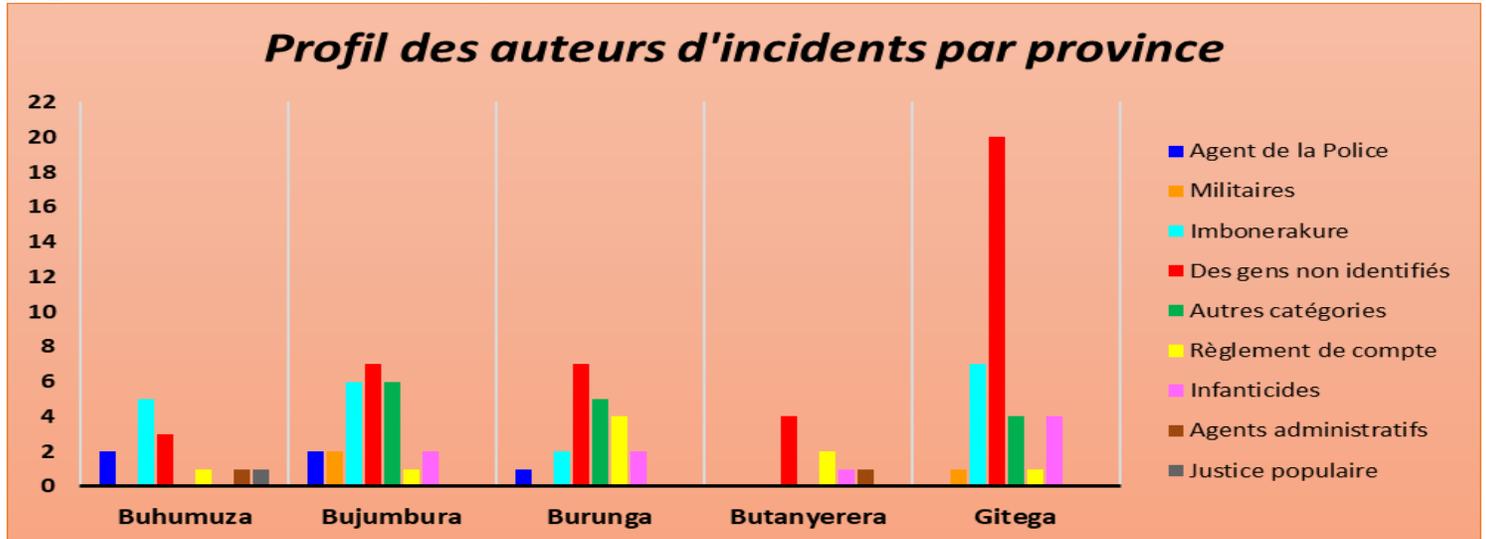
**Figure 1: Illustrative chart of allegations of violations and their location**



## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (the following of page 5)

The Imbonerakure, as well as elements of the police forces, administrative personnel, and SNR agents, are often cited as the alleged perpetrators of the majority of these violations and murders. The Iteka League also reports in this report violations committed by unidentified individuals, covering several incidents including GBV cases and corpses found in various localities.

**Figure 2: Illustrative chart of the authors of these violations and their location:**



Out of a total of 99 cases of allegations involving 114 victims (graph above), 3 cases are attributable to the military, 5 cases to police officers, 20 cases to the Imbonerakure, 41 cases to the category of unidentified agents, and the 'others' category, which includes "settling scores, Infanticides, particular individuals" with 25 cases, and 2 cases to administrative personnel.

During the period of this report, Burundi experienced serious issues concerning socio-economic rights, which were disrupted in January and February 2026 by several events. In January, the closure of the Gatumba border, due to the capture of UVIRA by a rebel group, led to an increase in prices; for example, the cost of a pagne went from 90,000 to over 200,000 FBU. Traders are calling for government intervention to support their families.

Despite a fertilization campaign for tea plantations launched on December 23, 2025, distribution problems were noticed, with the fertilizers deemed ineffective not being delivered. Tea growers, concerned about the quality of the fertilizer, are threatening to abandon tea cultivation for more profitable food crops. In February, the distribution of FOMI fertilizers was suspended in Bururi on February 11, following farmers' protests criticizing the distribution system, which was deemed unfair. Local authorities, faced with unfulfilled directives, stopped the distribution, initially intended for those with arrears. Dissatisfied farmers organized a sit-in, and the distribution was postponed, exacerbated by the lack of stock, having only 30 tons of FOMI.



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## **II. RECOMMENDATIONS**

During the period analyzed in this report, there is a continuous deterioration of human rights situation in various areas of the country. This report highlights violations of the right to life, physical integrity, and freedom, as well as infringements on economic, social, and cultural rights.

The Iteka League expresses its concern over the persistent impunity of the observed crimes and makes recommendations in this regard:

### **To the Government of Gitega:**

1. Ensure respect for human rights, mainly the right to life, physical integrity, and freedom.
2. Take measures to end the impunity of crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable.
3. Ensure access to basic services, including water, health, education, and justice, for all citizens.
4. Investigate and severely punish the violence against minors, which has become common place in Burundi in view of the local administrative chiefs.
5. Take swift and adequate measures to fight against cholera epidemic that is spreading in various localities of the country, particularly in the large province of Bujumbura.

### **To the technical and financial partners of the government of Burundi, including the UN, EU, and diplomatic missions accredited to Burundi:**

1. Support the efforts of the Iteka League and other organizations dedicated to the defense of human rights in monitoring human rights violations in Burundi;
2. Use their influence to urge Burundian authorities to respect human rights and put an end to impunity.

### **To human rights organizations:**

1. Continue monitoring the human rights situation in Burundi and defend the protection of fundamental rights.
2. Favor joint work in the interest of effectiveness and efficiency for their diverse interventions; Provide support to victims of human rights violations and work to ensure their access to justice.
3. Provide tangible support to victims of human rights violations and ensure their access to justice.

### ***III. OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT***

The Iteka League produces this condensed two-month report on the socio-political-economic context and human rights in Burundi with the objectives of:

1. Allowing other actors to monitor the evolution of the context and human rights in Burundi over a specific period, by identifying trends, challenges, and progress made;
2. Informing policymakers, human rights organizations, and international actors in their decision-making and actions concerning Burundi;
3. Raising awareness among the national and international public on critical issues related to human rights and security in Burundi, and advocating for specific reforms or actions.

### ***IV. METHODOLOGY***

The Iteka League regularly publishes weekly bulletins entitled Iteka n'Ijambo, as well as monthly, bi-quarterly, quarterly, annual, thematic reports and summary reports that focus on the situation of human rights and security. These documents are shared with various partners, particularly with the government of Burundi and its different institutions.

This report stems from constant observation carried out by the volunteers and observers of the Iteka League, who work on behalf of human rights through 17 provincial federations and 32 sections. The members of this organization are guided by ethical and humanitarian principles, committing themselves to preventing human rights violations while continuing to monitor and document abuses and violence carried out by those in power against their population.

The research methodology adopted to analyze the human rights situation in Burundi under the regime of Evariste Ndayishimiye is based on several complementary and rigorous approaches. A qualitative approach was favored, which includes the collection of information as well as interviews with key actors, such as human rights defenders, members of civil society, and government representatives. This method allows for the gathering of diverse viewpoints on the human rights situation in Burundi, thus providing a nuanced perspective on the challenges faced and the progress made since Ndayishimiye came to power in 2020. Additionally, interviews were conducted with victims of human rights violations in order to collect direct testimonies, thereby enriching the analysis by grounding the data in lived experience.

However, through its weekly bulletin Iteka n' Ijambo, this report compiles data covering the two months of January and February 2026. The organization's database, in which all the data is encoded, was used for the charts and illustrative examples.

## V. STATUS REPORT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI:

January to February 2026

### V.1. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

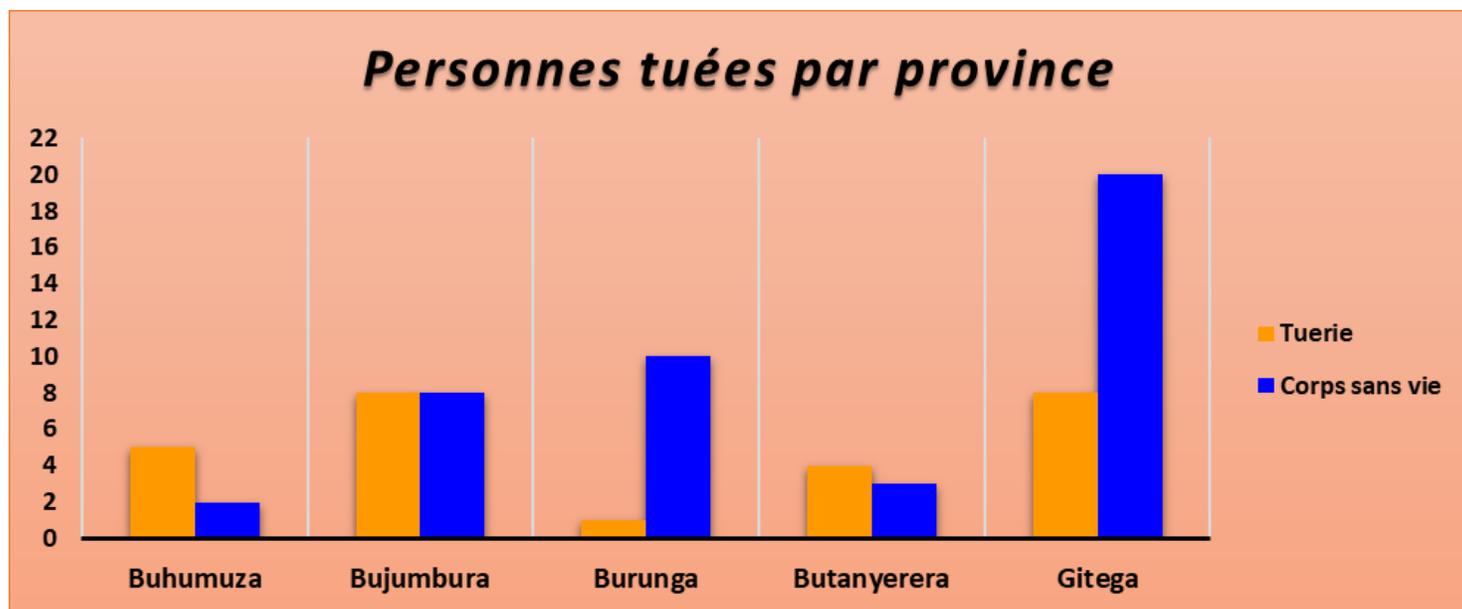
Burundi is among the countries adhering to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1965) and its Optional Protocol (1976) without any reservation on May 9, 1990, which, within the framework of its implementation, Burundi has taken measures in domestic legislation, notably in its Constitution of June 7, 2018 (Main Law) in its Article 19, which guarantees that all rights proclaimed and guaranteed by internationally ratified texts are an integral part of this Constitution. Implementing texts have been established, notably the Penal Code of December 29, 2017, and the Code of Criminal Procedure of May 11, 2018, and other institutions for the protection of human rights have been created in Burundi.

#### V.1.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

##### V.1.1.1. VOLUNTARY HOMICIDES

During the period from January to February 2026, the Iteka League recorded 69 people killed on the national territory, including 51 men and 18 women. As the chart below shows, Gitega province is the most affected with 28 cases, followed by Bujumbura province with 16 victims, Burunga coming in third with 11 victims, and finally Butanyerera and Buhumuza with 7 victims each. It should be noted that among the victims, there are 15 children and 54 adults.

*Figure 3: Illustrative graph of persons killed during the period from January to February 2026*



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### **V.1.1. RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 9)**

#### **Iconic cases for illustration:**

##### **Cases of people killed by police:**

*Ex1: On January 17, 2026, around 11 p.m., a law enforcement officer shot a civilian, resulting in his death, on Gakungwe hill, in the Ramba area, within the commune of Mugere, Bujumbura province. The officer in question was assigned to the surveillance of the DIFO microfinance, located on this hill, along National Road RN3. At that time, a resident of Ramba hill, named Eric, was walking home after having a drink in Ruziba. Upon reaching the place where the officer was, he was stopped by him. A confrontation ensued, as both individuals were intoxicated. It was then that the officer opened fire on Eric, who died from his injuries. The victim's funeral is scheduled for January 19, 2026. The victim's family demands that the officer responsible for the shooting be identified, that he be brought to account for his actions before the law, and that he be sanctioned in accordance with the legislation in force.*

##### **Cases of people killed by Imbonerakure:**

*Ex2: On the night of Friday, January 23, 2026, a group of Imbonerakure carried out a grenade attack against the family of Ntadugira Isaac and Macumi Anne Marie and her children from Bihogo hill, Gasorwe area of Muyinga commune.*

*According to information gathered on the spot, they were seriously injured and one of their children was deputed to his leg. Other victims were dispatched to Rusimbuko Hospital but were later rushed to Ngozi where their mother Anne Marie succumbed to her injuries. The others are still receiving care there.*

*Our sources reveal that two of these Imbonerakure, namely Harongintore, Salathiel and Ndaruzaniye, all accused of these crimes, are under arrest in the dungeons of the Gasorwe Zone and are pleading guilty, while the other, named Toto Arnaud, was able to escape. It is finally important to note that some sources say that this family was accused of acts of witchcraft by two local merchants. These merchants had recently lost their mother and said that this family would be behind her death. Others claim that these Imbonerakure were paid by the two merchants to carry out these heinous acts.*

##### **Cases of people killed by unidentified individuals:**

*Ex3: On the morning of February 15, 2026, a body of a lifeless woman was found on Rubanga hill, in a rice field. The deceased is named NDAYISENGA Godeberthe, 50 years old, from Nyabigozi hill, in the same Zone. This woman had been missing since Thursday, February 12, 2026, according to her relatives, when she left the house, she showed signs of mental disorder. His body was discovered Sunday morning by passers-by on their way to mass. According to witnesses on the scene, her body when she was discovered was naked and showed signs on her body as if she had been raped before being killed.*

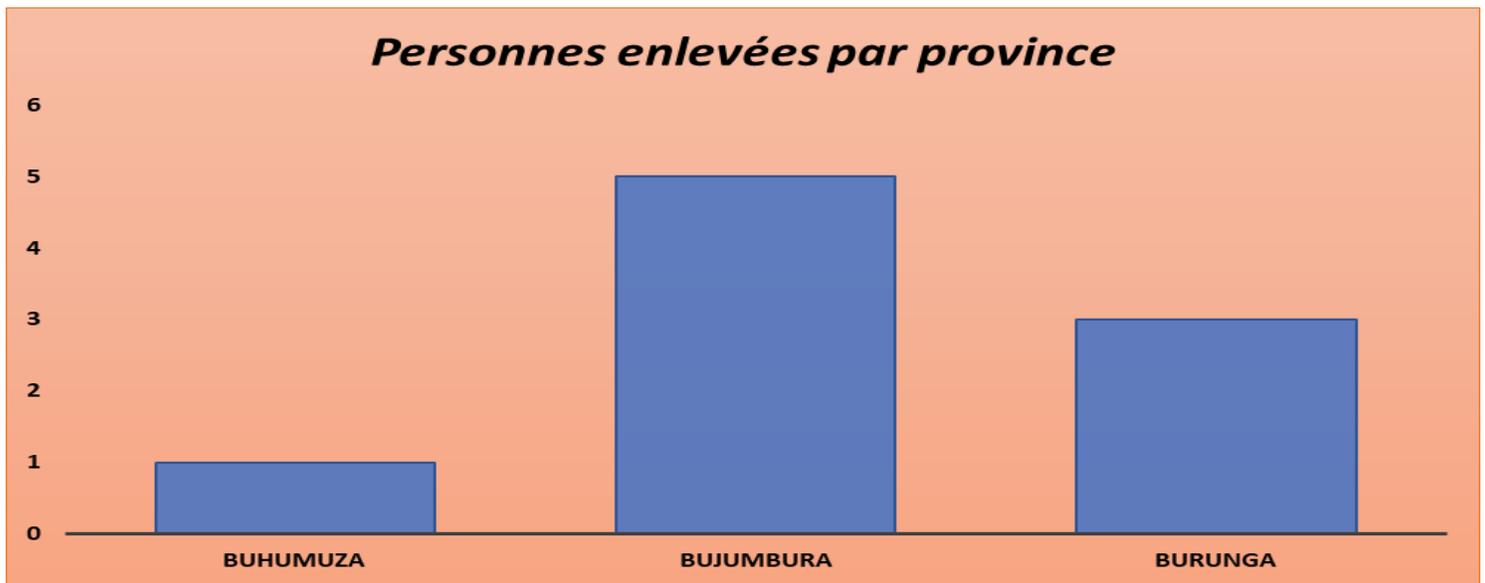
*In her face, there was a trace that suggests that she was killed with a metal object. The population of this hill lives in panic because on this same hill, in less than six months, three corpses have already been found. So far, the population is wondering about the motives and the perpetrators of these crimes. The body of the deceased was buried on the same Sunday by her family in collaboration with the municipal administration.*

### V. 1.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

During the period covered by this report, cases of abduction and/or forced disappearances in Burundi have revealed a major issue in the country's security and political practices. Several documented cases illustrate situations where individuals, perceived as opponents or simply suspects, were kidnapped by security forces or their allies, "the youth of the ruling party." These victims often disappeared in unknown locations, leaving their families in complete uncertainty about their fate or place of detention.

During the two months covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded 9 people abducted across the country, including 6 men and 3 women. The affected provinces are particularly Bujumbura, which recorded a high number of 5 victims, Burunga with 3 victims, and Buhumuza with 1 victim.

**Figure 4: Illustrative chart of people abducted during the period from January to February 2026.**



#### **Illustrative cases:**

*Ex1: A citizen known as GAHUNGU Thadée has been missing since January 16, 2026. This citizen is a former soldier of the former army (EX-FAB). He lived in the Musaga area, Mugere commune, and worked for the company Garda World Security, responsible for the security of people and property, located near the Public Garden, in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province.*

*On that day, he finished work around 5 p.m. and took the way home, but he never arrived at his residence. His family as well as his colleagues at work are very worried about his safety.*

*Ex2: Since February 25, 2026, on Muyinga Avenue, Rohero area, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, very close to the offices of the CNIDH, Chadia Mukaremera, responsible for cleanliness at the National Independent Commission (CNIDH), residing in Nyakabiga I neighborhood, on 13th Avenue, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, has been reported missing.*

*According to My Lord Martin Blaise Nyaboho, President of the CNIDH, Chadia spoke with her colleague on the phone before being reported missing.*

*His family as well as his colleagues have conducted searches in several places, but without success.*

**V. 1.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES (the following of page 11)**

*They express deep concern about his safety and are requesting independent investigations into this disappearance.*

*The president of the CNIDH also specifies that they have no news of this woman because her phone has been turned off since that day, and the police say that investigations are ongoing to find this CNIDH worker. The Iteka League sought to find out who called her that morning, whether it was the first time or not, and they also continued to investigate whether the victim had any disagreements with her service colleagues. The information received specifies that she was a pleasant lady at work, and her absence is very noticeable, which is why every morning she was contacted by her colleagues in the service. That day it was Mrs. BAKAMIRIZA Chantal, the Secretary General, who had called her., she did it regularly like other colleagues in the department .*

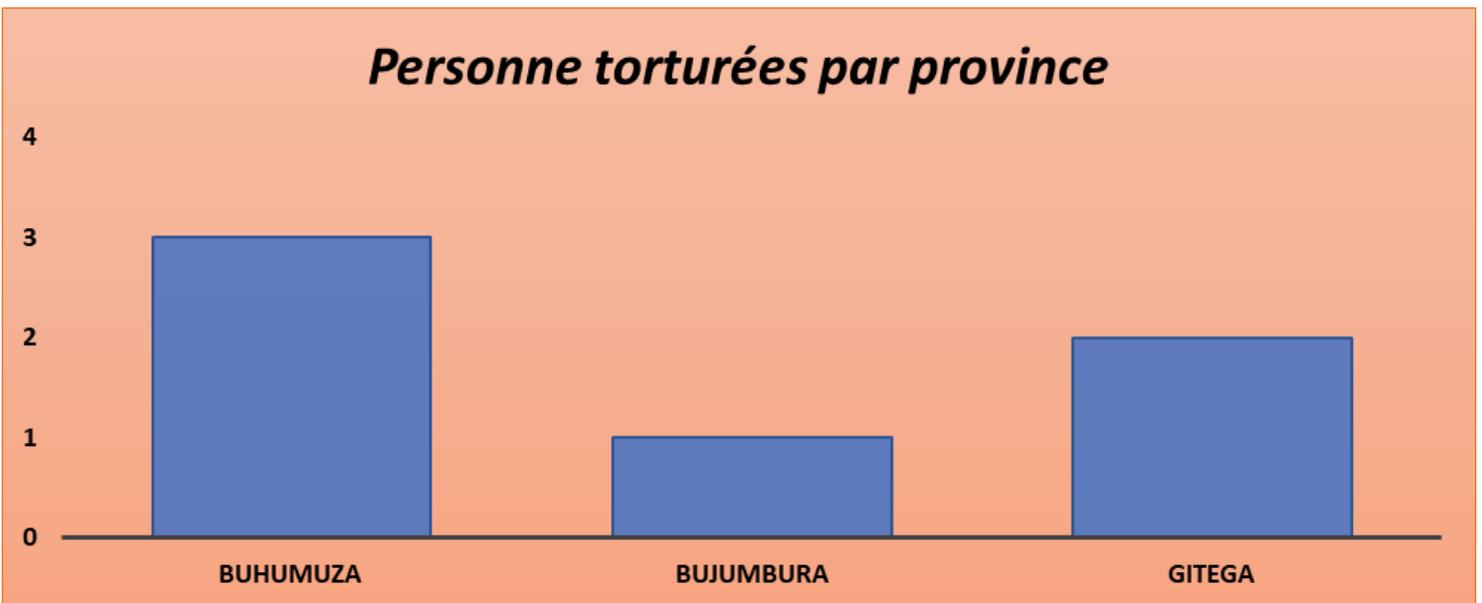
**V.1.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY**

The Burundian Constitution in its Article 21 stipulates that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment." In addition, Law No. 1/04 of June 27, 2016, on the protection of victims defines the rights of victims and provides measures to protect their physical and mental integrity. This clearly demonstrates the country's commitment to protecting the physical integrity of its citizens.

**V.1.2.1. ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENTS OR TREATMENTS**

The cases of torture in Burundi in January and February 2026 were recorded as 6 cases resulting in 6 victims, including 3 in Buhumuza province, 2 in Gitega, and 1 case in Bujumbura. Of these 6 cases recorded by the Iteka League, 5 were committed by the young Imbonerakure of the presidential party and one other by police officers.

**Figure 5: Illustrative graph of people tortured during the period from January to February 2026**



## **V.1.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 12)**

### **Documented cases:**

**Ex1:** On January 07, 2026, in Jabe neighborhood avenue de l'imprimerie, Bwiza zone, Mukaza commune in Bujumbura province, Gaston Ntukamazina, was beaten by a group of thieves who attacked him as he was returning home. These thieves, identified as members of the Imbonerakure in this area, injured and damaged Gaston Ntukamazina's right eye

According to witnesses in the locality, a certain Bob, who is the leader of a team of thieves in this neighborhood, and a man named Kevin were identified among those who assaulted Gaston. This group of bandits who threaten the inhabitants of the Jabe neighborhood is supported by the chief of the said neighborhood, in the person of Jean Claude BIZIMANA who is stifling the prosecution files. These inhabitants of Jabe demand the dismissal of Jean Claude BIZIMANA, head of the neighborhood described as having failed in his mission and using his power to mistreat his constituents.

**Ex2:** Wednesday, dated February 4, 2026, on Nyamugari Sub-Hill, Rusagara Hill. Kigamba Zone, in the Province of Buhumuza, a certain MAJAMBERE Fidèle was ambushed by criminals around 8 p.m. when they were returning from the center of Kigamba, located in the capital of the Kigamba Zone (former commune of Kigamba).

When she arrived some 50 meters from her home, the victim fell into an ambush and they hit her with machetes on the head, face, neck, etc. These criminals had hidden in a bush located in this locality composed of eucalyptus trees belonging to a certain Ferdinand. These criminals took off after committing this crime because the population of this locality intervened after hearing the victim's screams. MAJEMBERE Fidèle was taken to the Kigamba Communal Hospital where he is receiving care. Among the criminals, the victim was able to identify a certain NDUWIMANA Calixte, who was arrested the following day. He is currently in the Kigamba Zone jail where an investigating officer is handling his case. The alleged perpetrator is still cited in this kind of criminal acts.

It should be noted that NDUWIMANA Calixte is among the leaders of the Imbonerakure youth in this hill. As for the victim, they do not belong to any political party, but before 2015, he was an active member of the MSD party in Kigamba commune and was among the leaders of this party in Rusagara hill. The Imbonerakure youth are being pointed out because they are the ones who conduct nightly patrols in this locality. The population is asking the administration and security forces to ensure their safety.

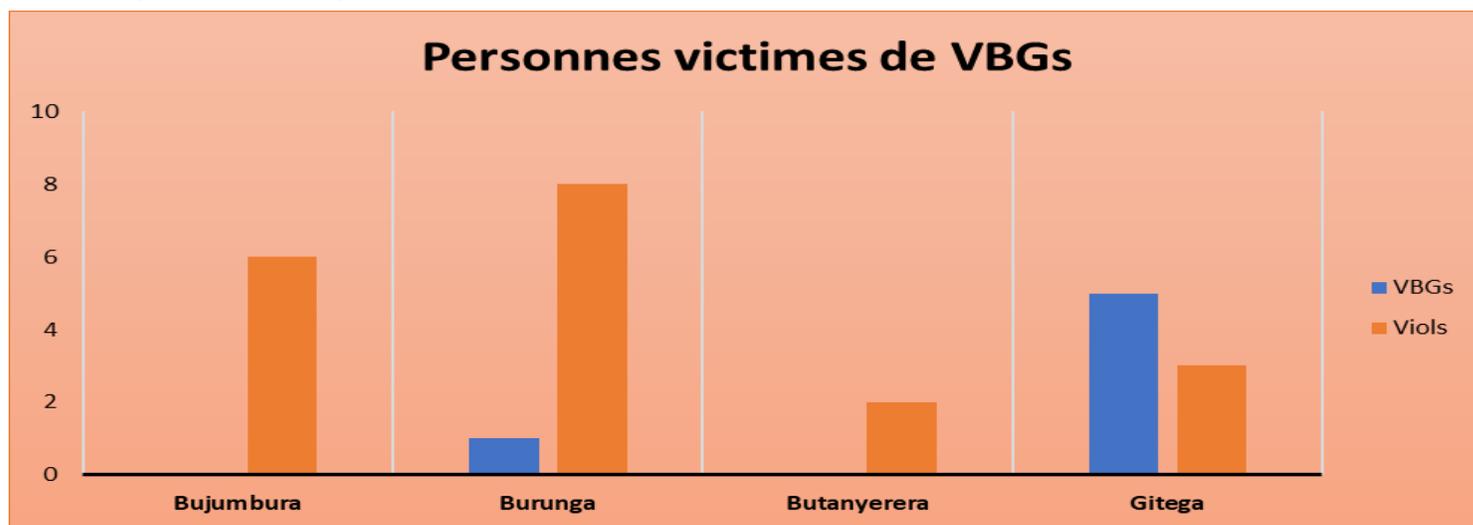


### V.1.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/ RAPE

During the period covered by this report, a total of 21 incidents involving 25 victims were recorded by the Iteka League, including 24 women and 1 man. Among the 25 GBV victims, 17 are children and 8 are adults. Of the 25 victims, 19 were raped, including 17 children and 2 adults.

The Burunga province is the most affected with 9 victims, followed by Gitega with 8 victims, then Bujumbura with 6 victims, and finally Butanyerera province with 2 victims. The alleged perpetrators pointed out are particularly the young Imbonerakure with 9 cases and the police with 1 case. Another category is attributed to private individuals, including traders, domestic violence, unidentified people... and this accounts for 10 cases, plus an administrative officer with 1 case.

**Figure 6: Illustrative graph of people who are victims of GBV during the period from January to February 2026.**



#### **Illustration cases:**

*Ex1: Information received by the Iteka League dated January 28, 2026, indicates that a young domestic girl of the house was raped by her employer's son on January 16, 2026, in the Kajaga neighborhood, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province. According to information gathered on site, the victim's name is J. N, originally from Kayanza province. She worked at Muhizi Christian's house, who has four children, including Muhizi Trésor, 19 years old, the alleged perpetrator. He attacked the victim while she was alone at home, raped her, and tried to silence her. The victim managed to alert the neighbors, who informed the authorities, and the alleged perpetrator was arrested and is currently in detention in the Kabezi provincial cell.*

*Ex2: On February 26, 2026, on Rubuye hill, in the Ngozi zone and commune, Province of Butanyerera, a 9-year-old girl residing in the same Rubuye neighborhood in the city of Ngozi, daughter of Mr. S. and B. V., was raped and injured by people not yet identified. According to the information collected, the previous day around 2 p.m., the young girl had been abducted by strangers while at home. This is how her family began to search for her. She was found by passers-by the next morning unconscious and sitting very close to the cemetery located in the Vyerwa marsh. Many are outraged and wonder whether this might be an act of witchcraft or simply an act of criminals.*

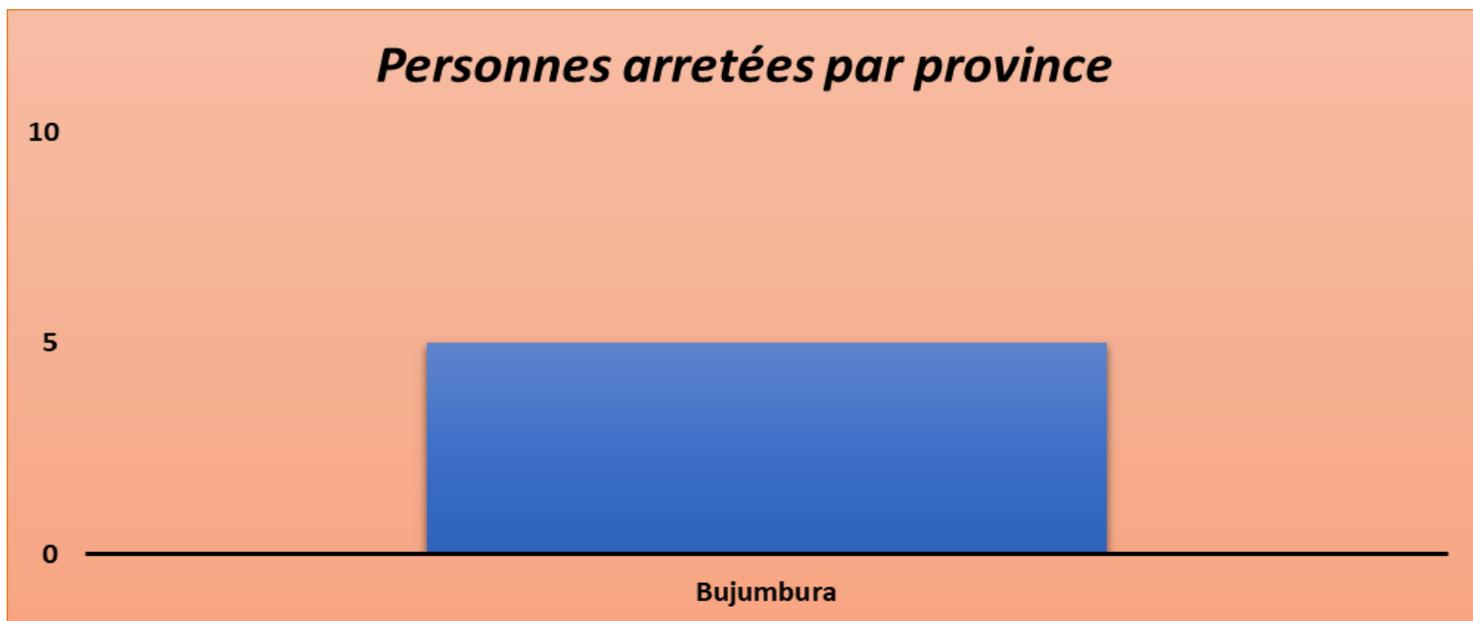
### V.1.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

International and National texts in Burundi recognize the principle of innocence until proven guilty, and that detention should be an exception.

#### V.1.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS

During this period, the Iteka League recorded 1 case of arbitrary arrests affecting 5 victims, including 4 men and 1 woman in Bujumbura province.

**Figure 7: Illustrative chart of people subjected to arbitrary arrests and detentions during the period from January to February 2026**



#### **Illustration case:**

**Ex1:** Since February 18, 2026, two journalists known as Olivier Manirambona and Aline Niyonizigiye, a camerawoman and breastfeeding mother, from the magazine Jimbere, have been detained in the cells of the Ngagara area, in Bujumbura province.

According to sources on the ground, these journalists were arrested by the Ntakangwa prosecutor's office while they were going to follow the enforcement of a 21-year-old land dispute, entrusted to the Ntakangwa High Court, located in the north of the city of Bujumbura, the economic capital of Burundi.

The two journalists were detained together with one of the parties in the conflict, Siméon Ngenzebuhoro, a former deputy. On Thursday, February 19, 2026, the three detainees appeared at an urgent hearing, which was postponed to Friday due to the absence of a lawyer for Ngenzebuhoro. The magazine Jimbere wrote to the Ntakangwa prosecutor to request the release of its journalists, but without response to date.

A Jimbere official, along with other media professionals in Burundi, denounce this arbitrary arrest, recalling that its journalists had not broken any law and were simply exercising their role as independent informers. The detention of Aline Niyonizigiye, separated from her child, is considered particularly unacceptable and contrary to the fundamental rights of women and children.

On the same day, three other journalists were arrested and held for more than 8 hours by the National Intelligence Service (SNR) in Bujumbura while covering the visit of Hadja Lahbib, European Commissioner in charge of Equality, Preparedness, and Crisis Management. Questioned

### **V.1.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS (the following of page 15)**

*within the premises of the Burundian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they were taken to the SNR cells before being released around 9 p.m. These independent journalists are: Nitanga Tchandrrou, Papy Amani, and their driver.*

*As of February 20, 2026, the two journalists from the magazine Jimbere were also released on a provisional release order by the prosecutor near the NTahangwa Court of Appeal, Eraste Ndayiragije; he indicated that they had collected recordings before the judges arrived on site and that they would be questioned if necessary.*

*Burundian journalists denounce this behavior of harassing media professionals and demand that the law be respected in order to guarantee a free and independent press in Burundi.*

## **V.2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

Socio-economic rights in Burundi, during the months of January and February 2026, were severely affected by rising prices resulting from the closure of the Gatumba border, caused by the occupation of UVIRA by a rebel group. Traders faced significant price increases; for example, a piece of cloth saw its price rise from 90,000 to over 200,000 Burundian francs.

Despite the launch of a fertilization campaign for tea plantations on December 23, 2025, difficulties in the distribution of fertilizers were reported during this reporting period, raising concerns among tea producers about the potential abandonment of their crops due to declining quality. A temporary shutdown of an irrigation dam in Cibitoke intensified the crisis for rice farmers, while public administration employees in Burunga have not received salaries for six months. Coffee growers in Matongo denounce a lack of NPKA fertilizer and raise accusations of corruption in the distribution of plant protection products. In Kirundo province, forced contributions to the CNDD-FDD party are causing general discontent, while households are compelled to provide food despite a prevailing famine situation. Moreover, a fire that occurred in Bujumbura affected 35 merchants, leading to calls for an investigation into the frequency of fires.

In February 2026, the distribution of FOMI fertilizers in Bururi was suspended following protests from farmers denouncing unfair distribution. The outrage of farmers awaiting owed payments led to the organization of a sit-in, causing delays in distribution due to a lack of available stock. In Matana, ministerial directives were applied, while in Buganda, a decision prohibiting the sale of corn generated discontent among farmers. The administrator of Bukinanyana defends this measure, creating tensions in a region where corn is an essential product.

In terms of education, the month of January was marked by violations of the right to education. A directive requiring the mandatory wearing of shoes caused widespread exclusions in schools in Gitega. Students, deeply affected by this decision, pleaded for its revision, which increases the risk of school dropout. In Burunga, the management of school grades is tense, and students are forced to participate in political activities, to the detriment of their classroom attendance. This educational crisis is worsened by the departure of teachers abroad in search of better working conditions.

In terms of health, January 2026 was marked by a health crisis, characterized by a proliferation of mosquitoes and a shortage of antimalarial drugs. Many residents did not receive mosquito nets, which increases the risks of malaria. Rumors about the diversion of mosquito nets sparked public anger, which demands a rapid and effective distribution. Moreover, the police forces also suffer from limited access to care in specialized hospitals. A mysterious influenza-like illness affected more than 500 students in Gatara and Kayanza, raising concerns among education sector officials. In February, health conditions further deteriorated, with a resurgence of cholera in

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Nyanza and a chronic shortage of medicines in health facilities. This situation led to deaths attributed to the ineffectiveness of the care provided. Residents are calling for a swift government intervention to address the supply of medicines and the improvement of care conditions.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

The human rights situation in Burundi, in January and February 2026, reveals systematic violations. The Iteka League and other organizations report bodies found dead, arbitrary detentions, torture, kidnapping, and disappearances, thus illustrating the chronic instability threatening fundamental freedoms. The facts expose a repressive policy to crush any political opposition, and freedom of expression is severely threatened by strict media control. The rights of women and children also suffer severe violations, including sexual violence against children at a worrying rate. The Iteka League calls for the government and its officials to become aware of the need to respect human rights and for urgent reforms. This period reflects a continuity of violations and deterioration in various sectors. It is crucial to initiate coordinated actions and an inclusive national dialogue to strengthen the protection of human rights.



***Anyone should be respected***