



BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Jjambo"

Anyone should be respected

N°512 from 02 to 08 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 08, 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 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".
- ◆ 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

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

CNL : National Congress for Liberty

DCE : Municipal Education Department

CDS : Health Center

EAC : East African Community

ECOFO : Fundamental School

FDNB : Burundi National Defense Force

M23 : March 23 Movement

OTB : Burundi Tea Office

PSR : Special Traffic Police

DRC : Democratic Republic of Congo

SNR : National Enquiry Service

TGI : High Court

UPRONA : Union for National Progress

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of February 2 to 8, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, governance, security, judicial, and environmental contexts. It also analyzes illustrative cases of violations of civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as specific rights, in particular the rights of children.

The allegations of human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League for this period are as follows: at least seven people killed, including five whose bodies were found, and two victims of torture. Two infanticides were reported during this reporting period.

Imbonerakure members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, police officers, and administrators are accused of being the main alleged perpetrators of these human rights violations.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Commemoration of the Charter of National Unity in the political capital of Bujumbura.

February 5, 2026, was a memorable day for Burundi, as the nation gathered in its political and economic capital to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Charter of National Unity. Under the inspiring theme, “Let us not relinquish the good we have achieved; national unity is the pillar of development,” the festivities took place with great solemnity at the Monument of National Unity, perched on Vugizo Hill. Many dignitaries were present, adding weight to the commemoration. Among them were Mr. Prosper BAZOMBANZA, Vice President of Burundi, accompanied by his wife, as well as the Prime Minister and the President of the Senate. In a poignant moment of the day, a wreath was laid by the Vice President's family, in the regrettable absence of the President's family, who were held up in Dubai on official business.

However, this day was not celebrated in the same way in the commune of Cankuzo, in the province of Buhumuza. There, the commemoration of the 35th anniversary of National Unity was almost non-existent.

According to information provided by local sources, the majority of participants were young students from nearby elementary schools, with the rest being commune staff. In fact, public participation was much more discreet than in previous years. This lack of enthusiasm was partly due to a relaxation on the part of the ruling CNDD-FDD party regarding the importance of this day for the Burundi, as well as a lack of timely announcements about the event. The invitation, signed by the administrator of Cankuzo, the Honorable NAHIMANA Marie-Rose, was drafted and published only on Wednesday, February 4, at 4 p.m. During the commemoration, the speech was delivered by Gifunuguru Roger, Communal Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Bigirimana Salvator, Chief of Staff to the Governor of Buhumuza.

1.1. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

Launch of a national tour within the CNDD-FDD in Muramvya Commune in Gitega Province.

On February 2, 2026, Révérien NDIKURIYO, Secretary-General of the CNDD-FDD, embarked on a series of tours across the country with the aim of raising awareness among members in order to promote mutual cohesion among them, with a view to accelerating the implementation of Vision (2040-2060) in the Commune of Muramvya, located in the Province of Gitega. Internal sources report that this tour began in the Commune of Muramvya and will extend to the entire national territory of Burundi, allowing the Secretary-General to exchange views with officials at various levels, including provincial, communal, and zonal. According to our

information, these discussions should promote the implementation of flagship projects in both the social and economic spheres. However, many observers believe this effort will be in vain, as many members of the CNDD-FDD often criticize these projects due to several factors, such as lack of funding, lack of credibility, and even unrealistic objectives. On this occasion, he also visited some coffee plantations located in the Nyarucamo and Muramvya areas, in Rutegama, the capital of the Kiganda Commune.

1.2. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Seizure by the Police of several gasoline cans in Muyinga Commune, Buhumuza Province

The police seized several cans of gasoline that were being held illegally in the municipality of Muyinga, located in the province of Buhumuza. On Tuesday, February 3, 2026, the Municipal Police Commissioner in Muyinga, Police Lieutenant Colonel Irakoze Placide, conducted a search and seizure operation on Cumba Hill, Cumba Zone, in one of the houses belonging to the Honorable Shabani Nimubona, President of the Imbonerakure Youth League in Buhumuza Province. During this operation, 198 cans of gasoline were discovered, which the latter was fraudulently selling at an exorbitant price of 15,000 Fbu per liter, while the price at gas stations is 4,000 Fbu. According to reliable sources, this Imbonerakure leader and member of parliament for the ruling party has been involved in this illegal trade in fuel from Tanzania for many years, using a network of low-cost motorcyclists that he has built up over time.

The municipal and provincial authorities constantly repeat that fraud is a crime and regularly publish reminders, but these go unheeded because these acts are committed by leading figures in the CNDD-FDD who escape punishment, even though they are widely identified. Meanwhile, the police focus on small street vendors selling 1.5-liter bottles of fuel, who are often arrested and imprisoned. The population of the Municipality of Muyinga is demanding that this deputy's immunity be lifted so that he can be subject to exemplary sanctions, considering that he is supposed to represent the people and ensure respect for the law in the country. They are calling for non-discriminatory application of the law and for measures to be taken to put an end to these economic crimes.

Ministries victimized by failing governance in Burundi.

The mass departure of many Burundian civil servants abroad has reached an alarming level, affecting all ministries without exception. However, the health and education

sectors are particularly impacted, and the consequences of these departures affect the entire country, with a notable impact on the Bujumbura province as well as on the

1.1. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

disadvantaged populations of this region. The reasons for these departures stem from wages that are uncompetitive in the face of inflation and the high cost of living. In the absence of promising prospects for the future, teachers, nurses, and doctors are choosing exile, each hoping for an improvement in their living conditions and those of their families.

The crisis in the health sector is characterized by an alarming shortage of healthcare personnel, which masks other serious shortcomings that are ignored by the government and the ministry, which are struggling to remedy the situation. Public hospitals suffer from a shortage of permanent doctors, often having to make do with a single practitioner who is unable to meet growing health needs. For example, the district hospital in Mabayi has only one civil servant doctor, while the others are on contract. There are no night shifts and staff are systematically absent at weekends. Added to this is a shortage, or even total absence, of medicines, which seriously affects low-income patients, who are forced to resort to traditional healers and numerous houses of prayer, which explains the recent increase in deaths.

The rise in infant mortality and maternal mortality during childbirth is also attributed to a lack of medicines and difficult access to healthcare, caused by a shortage of doctors and nurses.

Corruption, which manifests itself in various forms, contributes significantly to this crisis. Corrupt practices are particularly evident in the recruitment of new health workers. In the past, a recommendation from a member of the CNDD-FDD was sufficient to obtain a job; today, a bribe of three to five million Burundian francs paid to an influential ruling party official is required to obtain a position as a nurse or doctor. Another form of corruption, common in hospitals, involves bribing healthcare staff to receive priority treatment or to obtain expensive drugs that are sometimes denied to other patients. Prioritization of the most urgent cases is virtually non-existent, with medical staff favoring profit over patient care.

to the detriment of patients' lives. Doctors prescribe drugs with the aim of obtaining them

when patients go to private pharmacies, or use public resources for personal gain, as in the case of the medical director of the municipal hospital in Ruziba, who uses hospital vehicles for paid transport. The education sector is also in deep crisis. Not only is it neglected, but it also seems abandoned. The teacher shortage crisis, caused by mass desertion and delays in recruitment and replacements, masks even more serious problems, contributing to the total deterioration of education. Human resources management is marred by fraud orchestrated by several government officials in the upper echelons of the ruling party. There are also reports of fictitious employees in the Burundian education system. Our sources indicate that this situation is causing delays in the recruitment and replacement of teachers who have died, deserted, or retired.

Despite the increase in departures and retirements, many vacancies remain unfilled for months or even a year, despite annual recruitment drives. The Ministry of Finance continues to pay salaries to teachers who are no longer employed, and these funds often end up disappearing into embezzlement schemes run by the party, with the complicity of the ministers concerned.

Corruption, false reports, and subjective databases during recruitment are also major problems, all orchestrated by municipal education directors, some school principals, and party officials. Since Janvière NDIRAHISHA left the Ministry of Education in 2020, her successors have failed to verify or control the accuracy of the human resources information provided by their subordinates. If the education system continues to disintegrate, it is not only because of low salaries, but also because of the negligence, lack of interest, corruption, and poor governance that plague the education sector.

The children of decision-makers and senior officials have access to better schools, both in Burundi and abroad, while public money and bribes from official positions finance

1.1. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

their education, leaving the children of farmers in public schools that are sorely lacking in quality.

In Burundi, and particularly in the province of Bujumbura, recruitment is no longer based on actual needs. A candidate may be recruited because of family ties to administrative officials or after paying a bribe to an influential party member or the municipal director of education. The profiles sought for teachers are not respected, leading to a situation where teachers specializing in specific subjects are assigned to schools that do not need their skills. Whether in the health or education sector, the selection criteria for members of recruitment committees are often subjective.

These committees, composed solely of members of the CNDD-FDD, are not necessarily professionals in the fields concerned, and they are generally inclined to support the candidacies of those who pay them bribes or with whom they have family ties. Examinations and the awarding of points are also biased, with favored candidates receiving preferential treatment.

In conclusion, it is imperative to immediately replace departing civil servants and improve working conditions for employees, particularly in the education and health sectors. A national conference must be organized in these two

areas, which are crucial for the development of a nation that wants to prosper, in order to combat corruption and encourage objectivity, commitment to quality work, and good governance. Without such actions, Burundi risks waiting indefinitely and in vain for prosperity.

Cases of civil servant desertion in Kirundo Commune in Butanyerera Province

On February 4, 2026, in the Kirundo Municipal Agriculture and Livestock Department office, Municipal Administrator Ir Ndikuriyo J. Claude organized a working meeting that brought together the heads of various departments and sectors within the same municipality.

Our source indicates that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the life of the municipality in general. In their various speeches, they mentioned the large-scale resignation of civil servants in various public sectors.

For example, the Kirundo DCE has recorded 37 teachers, including 9 principals, the health sector has 5 nurses and 21 contract workers, the judicial sector has 3 judges, and the

banking sector has 7 cases of desertion. From September 1, 2025, to February 1, 2026, the municipality of Kirundo alone recorded 73 cases of desertion. The root cause is poverty in families and low salaries that are insufficient to meet the needs of employees.

To conclude this meeting, one of the measures taken to stop this desertion is to conduct a survey of civil servants who hold passports and monitor them closely so that they do not leave with work equipment. He cited the example of one of the R.N.P. managers in Kirundo, Ndiokubwayo Jonas, who left with a hard drive containing customer data.

1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT

An unexploded grenade found in the grass has reignited land disputes on Muheka Hill, Matana commune in Burunga province.

The discovery of an unexploded grenade on Muheka Hill, in the Songa area of Matana municipality, has caused great concern among the local population. The explosive device was found on February 2, 2026, on a plot of land at the center of a land dispute between members of the same family, according to corroborating local sources.

Following this discovery, two people involved in the dispute were arrested by the Songa municipal police to facilitate the ongoing investigation.

As of February 3, 2026, at around 11 a.m., the grenade had not yet been neutralized. Security forces deployed to the site said they were awaiting official authorization to proceed with its destruction, as the device was considered to be in good condition and posed a real danger to the population.

The head of the Songa area confirmed that the plot of land in question has long been the scene of family disputes over the division of land. He also revealed that this was not an isolated case, as five grenades had already been discovered on the same land and said that this was the fifth grenade to be

A newly hired teacher caught in the armed robbery in Matana, Burunga province.

On February 4, 2026, a teacher newly assigned to Karinzi Municipal High School in Matana, Burunga Province, was caught red-handed at Rumeza High School.

According to local sources, the incident occurred around 2 a.m. on the hill located in the Ruvumvu area. The teacher, identified as Audace Ndayikeza, was reportedly surprised by students from Rumeza High School while he was inside the building housing the girls' dormitory. According to the same sources, he entered the school grounds after climbing over the fence.

The students claim that the teacher was immediately restrained before the police arrived. The police intervened shortly afterwards and arrested him. Since then, Audace Ndayikeza has been held in custody at the Songa police station, where he remains at

discovered on the disputed property.

According to him, the last one, which was also in poor condition, had been destroyed by the military about seven months ago. Faced with this situation, which is considered alarming, the local administration announced the upcoming organization of awareness and reconciliation meetings for the residents of Muheka Hill, aimed at preventing any escalation of violence. According to several residents, the origin of these incidents lies in the refusal of certain parties to comply with court decisions already made in this land conflict. Such behavior, they fear, could lead to new tragedies if no definitive solution is implemented. The population is therefore calling on the competent authorities to act quickly to secure the area, neutralize explosive devices, and enforce court rulings in order to restore peace and security on Muheka Hill.

the disposal of the courts. Investigations are currently underway to establish the exact responsibilities and precise circumstances of this alleged act.

The authorities at Rumeza High School are calling for exemplary sanctions to be imposed if the allegations are proven. They also point out that the school and its students are regularly victims of nighttime thefts perpetrated by thieves who break into the school premises illegally.

Audace Ndayikeza is a teacher who was recently hired full-time at the municipal high school in Karinzi. Before his official recruitment, he had worked there as a volunteer for a period of time.

1.4. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

A 16-year-old minor was sentenced to seven and a half years in prison in Matana city, Burunga Province.

On February 6, 2026, the Bururi District Court sentenced a teenager named Elysé NIYONKURU to seven and a half years in prison for the murder of a 12-year-old girl known as ITERITEKA Ange Kessy. The crime was committed on January 27, 2026, on Mutobo Hill, located in the municipality of Matana, Burunga province.

According to the facts, the victim had gone to fetch firewood when she was attacked by the accused with a machete, which led to her death. A highly publicized trial took place,

Imbonerakure sentenced to one year in prison for national security offenses in Cibitoke, Bujumbura province.

On Tuesday evening, February 3, 2026, the Cibitoke High Court handed down a highly anticipated ruling in a cross-border trafficking case. Five young people affiliated with the Imbonerakure were sentenced to one year in prison, while other defendants received fines or were acquitted. The five members of the Imbonerakure, affiliated with the CNDD-FDD party, sentenced to one year in prison each, are: Rémy Minani, Jean Claude Ngendakumana, Paul Hazigamimana, Adolphe Nsabimana, and Issa Ndoricompa, for undermining the internal security of the state. The verdict was announced on the evening of Tuesday, February 3.

These young men were prosecuted for violating laws governing national border control. According to the indictment, they allegedly crossed the Burundian border illegally via unauthorized routes, passing through the Rusizi River, which separates Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Seven individuals, named Isaac Bitangimana, Olivier Irangabiye, Claude Nshemezimana, Gérard Dushimimana, Clovis Niyogusenga, Vianney Irakeze, and Steven, were accused of facilitating the illegal passage of individuals

during which the prosecutor sought a 10-year prison sentence for the accused, who was ultimately sentenced to seven and a half years. The trial attracted the interest of a large number of citizens, who welcomed the verdict, considering that justice had been done. Residents expressed their satisfaction with the decision, highlighting the importance of the rule of law and justice for all.

into the DRC and the smuggling of various goods, including cloth, fuel, and other commercial products.

In the same case, seven other individuals prosecuted for the same offenses were fined 50,000 Burundian francs each. However, five defendants, named Frédéric Nizigiyimana, Gilbert Niyonkuru, Siméon Gahogoza, Désiré Lawi, and Justin Bukeyenzeza, were acquitted due to insufficient evidence. This decision was welcomed by the local population, who see it as a strong signal against impunity. However, citizens interviewed called on the judicial authorities to continue along this path and to rigorously punish all those who break the law by taking advantage of their political affiliation or social status. For his part, the president of the Cibitoke High Court affirmed that justice will continue to be applied to all without distinction, promising to resolutely prosecute anyone involved in acts that threaten the security and sovereignty of the country.

1.5. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Human and material damage recorded following torrential rains mixed with hail in Cibitoke, in Bujumbura province.

Torrential rains, accompanied by strong winds and hail, struck the Ngoma area in the municipality of Cibitoke in the province of Bujumbura on the afternoon of February 5, 2026. The storm caused the deaths of four people, including two children, and injured dozens more. The material damage is considerable, plunging a large number of families into a critical humanitarian situation. The preliminary toll is four dead, including two children, and 26 seriously injured, following the collapse of homes caused by the storm. The victims were immediately evacuated to nearby health facilities, while some of the injured were transferred to hospitals in Cibitoke and Bujumbura for specialized care. The destruction of homes and social infrastructure has been massive.

Torrential rains, combined with violent wind gusts and heavy hailstorms, affected four hills in the Ngoma area.

According to initial assessments, more than 400 homes were completely destroyed or severely damaged, along with 15 churches, 18 classrooms, and a health center, all of which suffered serious damage. Crops were also severely affected as the harvest season approached. Crops of corn, cassava, coffee,

bananas, tomatoes, onions, as well as fruit trees such as mango and lemon trees, have been destroyed, creating an imminent risk of famine. Victims report a total lack of means of subsistence and express their fear of imminent famine in the affected households.

Due to this precarious situation, all schools in the area remain closed, as classrooms that have been damaged or have already collapsed pose a considerable danger to students and teaching staff. Residents, school officials, and religious leaders are urgently calling for solidarity, requesting rapid assistance in the form of food, shelter, and basic necessities. They are also urging administrative authorities to ensure the equitable distribution of aid, denouncing past practices in which unaffected individuals, often close to the ruling party, allegedly benefited unduly from assistance.



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1.6. HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT

In a striking setting in Lausanne, a gathering was held, organized by the Collectif des Burundais en Suisse (Burundian Collective in Switzerland) and Droit de Rester Vaud (Right to Stay Vaud). The atmosphere was charged with emotion when Sixte Vigny Nimuraba, former president of the Independent National Human Rights Commission (CNIDH) in Burundi, expressed his growing concerns about Burundian asylum seekers. With palpable passion, he painted a bleak picture of the lack of respect for legal and judicial procedures enshrined in the law, stating that his country of origin had become a place where the law seemed to have lost all dignity. As he spoke, captivating an attentive audience, he highlighted the gravity of the judicial situation in Burundi, evoking the imminent dangers threatening asylum seekers who could be sent back to Burundi. In his view, the coming months promised to be unprecedentedly unpredictable for these vulnerable individuals.

In a calm voice, though betraying deep anxiety, he warned of the tragic consequences of forced repatriations, stating that those who

dared to return to Burundi would face enormous challenges in the near future.

It is crucial to remember that he fled Burundi on April 18, 2025, after a brutal police raid on his home, which occurred just after the National Assembly issued a controversial call for candidates to replace members of the CNIDH before the end of their term. He had been accused of embezzling public funds, according to his statements, an accusation that many interpreted as an attempt to suppress dissenting voices in the run-up to crucial elections. Thus, the voice of Sixte Vigny Nimuraba resonated powerfully, echoing the tireless struggles of so many others in Burundi, a country plagued by desperate unrest, incessant violence against any dissenting voice, and an alarming human rights situation that urgently required the attention of the international community.



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II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

II.1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS

A young man was killed by a soldier in Sororezo, Nyakabiga area, Mukaza commune, in Bujumbura province.

A soldier named Harushimana Nestor, on guard duty at the home of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Burundi, Laurentine Kanyana, located on Kamabuye Hill in the Sororezo neighborhood, Nyakabiga area, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, shot and killed a young man on February 5, 2026, at around 10 a.m., before fleeing the scene. According to local sources, the soldier had had an altercation the day before, on February 4, 2026, in a drinking establishment with a civilian named Ndorera. After their dispute, the two men reportedly reconciled, exchanging apologies and sharing another bottle, which gave the impression that the incident was closed. Opposite to all expectations, the soldier reportedly arrived very early in the morning of February 5, 2026, at Ndorera's home with the intention of finding him. Not finding him there, he met his son, NISHIMWE Jediah, a young man who reportedly recognized the soldier involved in the dispute with his father the previous day. A tense conversation then ensued between the two parties, during which

the young man reportedly questioned the soldier about the reasons for his conflict with his father.

The situation quickly escalated and the soldier opened fire on Jediah, killing him instantly, before fleeing the scene. Alerted by the gunshots, local residents took to the streets, expressing their anger and outrage. The alleged perpetrator's fellow soldiers reportedly tried to protect him, but the military authorities intervened and arrested him. The local population, still in shock, is requesting that justice be done and that the soldier be punished in accordance with the law. For his part, the military commander of the area has stated that the case will be dealt with without delay by the military justice system, in accordance with the procedures in force. He has also called on the population and the victim's family to remain calm, promising that the truth will be established regarding this tragic event.

A person died following a violent arrest at the Buhindo zone detention center, in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province.

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 4, 2026, indicates that a tragedy with serious legal and human consequences occurred on January 28 on the hill and in the Buhindo area, in the municipality of Cibitoke, in the province of Bujumbura.

Jean-Pierre Ntahiraja, aged 40 and father of four children, died in the local jail after being violently arrested in the context of a domestic dispute. The case has sparked widespread outrage among the population and reignited the debate on abuses during arrests. According to several corroborating local sources, the incident occurred while the victim

was going through a period of marital tension with his wife. Two young Imbonerakure, known by the nicknames Ndakurasa and Kazoviyo, allegedly intervened at the family home. They allegedly carried out a violent arrest of Jean-Pierre Ntahiraja, tying him up and subjecting him to violent blows and injuries.

Seriously injured and unable to speak, the man was then reportedly taken to the Buhindo area prison without being given any medical assistance. The next day, he was found dead in his cell, before receiving any medical attention.

II.1. RIGHT TO HEALTH (the following of page 13)

Outrage from the family and legal proceedings
Alerted to the situation, the victim's family went to the scene, expressing anger and despair. Relatives reportedly tried to attack the two Imbonerakure members involved, who fled before they arrived.

When questioned by the authorities, the police officer in charge of guarding the cell stated that the victim had been brought to him without any explanation of the circumstances of his arrest or his critical state of health. Following initial investigations, this police officer was placed in custody for failing to assist a person in danger. The victim's wife, who was involved in the domestic dispute that led to the intervention, was also arrested as part of the investigation.

The family of the deceased, supported by neighbors, is demanding the immediate arrest

of the two Imbonerakure who fled and their prosecution, so that the exact circumstances of this death can be fully clarified.

According to local sources, the administrator and municipal commissioner of Cibitoke, Éloge Najeneza, has assured that the municipal administration is working closely with the police and judicial authorities. He affirms that all those involved in this criminal act will be identified, arrested, and prosecuted in accordance with the law.

Pending the outcome of the investigation, this tragedy has reignited concerns about respect for human rights, excessive use of force, and detention conditions in some areas of the country.

II.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR DEAD BODIES FOUND.

A man was stabbed to death by unknown assailants in Ruhanza, Giheta area, commune and province of Gitega.

On February 3, 2026, during the night, a watchman from the Twiyungure Cooperative known as Ku Kirato was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants on Ruhanza Hill in the Giheta area of Gitega commune and province. This information was confirmed by Gérard Mugisha, a member of the Twiyungure Cooperative and head of Ruhanza hill, who reported that the criminals broke down the doors and stole 15 crates of empty Primus bottles, four crates of empty Amstel bottles, and one crate of empty Bechou bottles. According to Gérard Mugisha, chief of Ruhanza hill, no suspects have been apprehended so far, but the police have visited

the scene of the crime for investigative purposes.

The residents of Giheta are calling for a thorough investigation, saying they cannot understand this heinous crime and theft in a place known for being patrolled every night by young Imbonerakure affiliated with the ruling party, supposedly to protect the population and their property. These residents insist that investigations be conducted among the members of this Imbonerakure youth league who were on night patrol.

A lifeless body was discovered in Rutana Commune, Burunga Province

On the morning of Monday, February 2, 2026, the lifeless body of a man named Egide, aged 60, a farmer, married and father, was discovered floating on the banks of the Muyovozi River located on Kayove Hill in the Rutana Zone of the same commune in the new province of Burunga.

According to our sources on the ground, the deceased was originally from the same Rutana

Zone and had been missing since January 29, 2026, with no one having heard from him.

Some sources close to his family say that the late Égide committed suicide, while others say that land disputes with members of his family were behind it. It should be noted that the victim was buried on the same day, Monday afternoon.

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 14)

A lifeless body of a woman was discovered in Gishubi Commune in Gitega Province.

On January 25, 2026, at around 9 a.m., a woman named Niyonizigira Désidératte went to the Nyarusange police station to report that her husband had not returned home on the night of January 24, 2026.

Subsequently, her husband's lifeless body was found at the bottom of the embankment of the road leading to the Gakombe hillside, 300 meters from the road connecting the former communes of Bisoro and Nyarusange. The deceased was named Bigirimana Aloys, aged 57, originally from Kabimba hill,

Nyarusange area, Gishubi commune, Gitega province.

According to our source, the police, the area chief, and a doctor from Nyarusange Hospital went to the scene to investigate. They concluded that the victim had been killed elsewhere before his body was left at this location.

Police officer Minyurano Fulgence ordered the body to be buried and assured the family that investigations were underway.

Discovery of a dead body in Commune and Province of Gitega.

On January 27, 2026, a lifeless body was discovered in the Magarama neighborhood, commune and province of Gitega.

The victim's name was Nahimana Éloge, 35 years old, son of Ndimurwanko Zacharie and Butoyi Émilienne, born in the Nyamugari district.

According to the information gathered, the body was found in a gutter, with injuries on the head and face

and his clothes torn, elements that raise questions about the circumstances of the death. The body has been evacuated to the regional hospital of Gitega. Investigations have been announced but have yielded nothing so far, according to our source.

The body of a young man was discovered in the Commune and Province of Gitega.

On the night of January 28, 2026, around 10 p.m., the lifeless body of a young man, approximately 30 years old, was discovered on Rutegama Hill, on the RN road connecting Gitega Central Parking and RN Gitega-Rutana. According to the information gathered, the body had small wounds on the back and arms as well

as on the legs. The body was taken to Gitega Hospital, and as of today, the deceased has not yet been identified.



Anyone should be respected

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY.

II.2.1. TORTURE, OR CRUEL, INHUMAN AND/OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENTS OR TREATMENT.

A person beaten and injured in CANKUZO Commune, Buhumuza Province.

On Wednesday, February 4, 2026, on Nyamugari Hill, Rusagara Hill, Kigamba Zone, Buhumuza Province, a given MAJAMBERE Fidèle was ambushed by criminals at around 8 p.m. as he was returning from the center of Kigamba, located in the capital of Kigamba Area (formerly the commune of Kigamba).

About 50 meters from his home, the victim was ambushed and struck with machetes on the head, face, neck, etc. The criminals had hidden in a eucalyptus grove belonging to a certain Ferdinand. The perpetrators fled after committing the crime because the local population intervened after hearing the victim's cries.

MAJEMBERE Fidèle was taken to Kigamba Communal Hospital, where he is currently receiving treatment. The victim was able to identify one of the criminals as a certain NDUWIMANA Calixte, who was arrested the

following day. He is currently being held in the Kigamba Zone jail, where an investigating officer is reviewing his case. The alleged perpetrator has been cited in similar crimes in the past.

It should be noted that NDUWIMANA Calixte is one of the leaders of the Imbonerakure youth group in this neighborhood. As for the victim, he did not belong to any political party, but before 2015, he was an active member of the MSD party in the Kigamba commune and was one of the leaders of this party in the Rusagara neighborhood. The Imbonerakure youth are being blamed because they are the ones who patrol the area at night. The population is asking the administration and security forces to ensure their safety.

A person was beaten on Rwamura Hill, in Kigamba area, Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province

On Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at Rwamura Hill, a motorcycle driver named BIZIMANA Pierre, coming from the Shinge market, ran into a group of men in police uniforms. One of the police officers raised his hand to stop him, but he did not obey because the location was in Ruvubu National Park and he believed they were bandits, as many people had already been robbed in that area.

After seeing that the motorcyclist refused to stop, the police officer threw a large stick at him, causing him to lose his balance on his motorcycle and fall into a ditch. The two other police officers, who had been hiding near the road, began whipping the motorcyclist until he lost consciousness, accusing him of refusing to obey orders. The motorcyclist was taken to Kigamba Municipal Hospital, but as he was in critical condition, he was referred to Cankuzo Hospital, where he is currently hospitalized in the intensive care unit.

At this location, police officers still have a

habit of stopping motorcyclists or drivers coming from the Shinge market and sometimes forcing them to pay money.

The Shinge market is a market for large and small livestock and is held every Tuesday. The police officers who committed this act are MURENGERANTWARI Alfred, RIVUZUMWAMI Jean Bosco, and BUHIGI Thaddée, all from the Kigamba municipal police station.

The general population, and motorcycle and car drivers in particular, are calling on police officials in this municipality to restore discipline among their men, as they have a habit of demanding payment from drivers without valid reason and without providing a receipt.

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

Imbonerakure involved in cattle theft in Mugamba, Matana commune, Burunga province.

Three members of the Imbonerakure affiliated with the CNDD-FDD party, including one woman, were arrested and detained in the police cells of the Matana commune in Burunga province.

The arrests took place between Monday, February 2, and Tuesday, February 3, 2026, according to corroborating local sources. Two of the suspects were arrested on Monday, February 2, 2026, while the third person, a woman, was arrested the following day. They are accused of stealing three goats on Mpotu Hill in the same locality. According to information gathered on the ground, the animals were slaughtered shortly after the theft, and the meat was hidden in a house before being sold off gradually.

The municipal administrator of Matana, Gloriose Niyubahwe, confirmed the arrest of these Imbonerakure and praised the collaboration between the population and the police, which made it possible to catch the alleged perpetrators in the act. She stressed that cattle theft is a growing concern in the municipality and called on the justice system to act with rigor and impartiality.

“If the facts are proven, the law must be enforced without distinction in order to discourage this phenomenon, which threatens the livelihoods of the population,” said the municipal authority.

However, voices are being raised among the population to express concerns about the outcome of this case. Some residents fear that the suspects may be released, citing previous cases where individuals arrested for similar crimes were released after bribes were paid. The presence of Imbonerakure among the suspects further fuels mistrust and reignites the debate on equality before the law.

The population is therefore calling for rigorous monitoring of the case, hoping that the justice system will do its job independently in order to restore confidence and put an end to the resurgence of cattle theft, which is threatening the region's economy.

Forced financial contributions for the visit of the Secretary-General of the CNDD-FDD to Muramvya.

On Monday, February 2, 2026, the Secretary General of the Cnnd-Fdd party, Reverien Ndikuriyo, visited the commune's administrative center in Gitega province.

Since Saturday, January 31, and February 1, 2026, the Imbonerakure have been traveling across all the hills to collect forced contributions meant for the "reception" after the festivities. Thus, each shop owner was required to give 10,000 FBu, bars 15,000 FBu, and for large stores and beverage warehouses: 30,000 FBu. Even non-members of the Cnnd-Fdd were forced

to contribute under threat of having their businesses closed.

According to the victims of this injustice, this was an organized theft sponsored by the leaders of the Cnnd-Fdd party, especially since there was no proper reception after the ceremonies. Some say that nearly 3 million FBu may have been embezzled on the occasion.

It should be noted that last week, the same victims had similarly contributed to the Gitega prayer crusade.

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE (the following of page 17)

Discontent among the population due to forced contributions without their consent in Muyinga Commune, Buhumuza Province.

The population of the Muyinga Commune does not know whom to turn to following the theft jointly orchestrated by the municipal administration and a merchant named Nyabenda Ananias, nicknamed Nkona, President of the Zero Waste Association.

According to information gathered, this association had a cleanliness contract in all the neighborhoods and streets of downtown Muyinga Commune for a fee of 3,000 FBu per household, regardless of the work to be done, as not all households generate waste.

According to our sources, some say there are single people who do not cook at home and that the waste from certain households serves as fertilizer for their fields, while others claim that they have been paying for three consecutive

months but have never seen this association come to collect the waste.

The population is requesting that meetings be held to further explain the Association in charge of the said services. They also propose that service agreements be established between the Association and households wishing to use the cleaning services of the said association, in order to distinguish between those who have waste and those who do not. This is the case even though the municipality regularly pays for the cleaning of roads and other public spaces.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Students always involved in activities considered political in Burunga province

The practice is controversial and continues to provoke outrage. In Burunga province, several students were once again prevented from attending classes this Saturday to go and welcome the First Lady of Burundi, Angeline Ndayishimiye, who came to participate in the so-called Health Sport activity.

According to information gathered from school sources, messages were sent to school authorities asking that students not come to school. Even worse, children, particularly those in primary schools, were lined up along the roads to applaud the passage of the First Lady. Students were even ordered not to wear their school uniforms.

A situation that shocks many parents and teachers' unions.

They condemn a practice that deprives children of their fundamental right to education in order to involve them in activities deemed political. The unionist Emmanuel Manuma, a member of FENASB, had already sounded the alarm about this phenomenon which, according to him, compromises the quality of education and

exposes students to inappropriate pressures. Consistent reports also indicate that students from the Burunga Technical School of Craft Professions (ETMA) were reportedly transported to Gitega around two in the morning to attend a CNDD-FDD party meeting.

Since then, a climate of fear has prevailed within this institution. The principal and some teachers are suspected of having leaked this information and are being threatened. The principal is said to have even been summoned by officials of the ruling party and could risk losing his position.

"How far will students' involvement in extracurricular activities related to authorities or political parties go?" "Who really protects children's right to education in Burundi?" Parents are asking.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

The spread of cholera observed following a shortage of drinking water in Buheka, Nyanza commune, Burunga province.

A cholera outbreak continues to spread on Buheka hill, in the Nyanza commune, Burunga province. According to local sources, 13 people are currently hospitalized at the Nyanza-Lac district hospital after contracting the disease. The victims come from 13 households spread across 5 sub-hills out of the 8 that make up Buheka. Cases have been reported since February 1, 2026.

Local authorities explain that this situation is linked to the lack of drinking water, with residents mainly sourcing water from the Nyabarere, Muyovozi, Gitimbarwe, and Gitotwe streams, which are considered unfit for consumption.

At the same time, the population is raising concerns about the management of funds intended for a drinking water supply project. According to several residents, more than 100 million Burundian francs were collected in 2020, with contributions from households, the Catholic Diocese of Bururi, as well as the diaspora. The residents claim that they were forced to contribute 8,000 Burundian francs per household, with some mentioning administrative pressure during the collection of funds.

The population is demanding that clarifications be provided on the management of these financial resources. Several residents

believe that explanations should, in particular, be provided by Marie Goreth Irankunda, who held the position of communal administrator of Nyanza-Lac at the time the funds were collected, as well as by the administrative officials involved in supervising the project. So far, no official communication has been made public regarding the management of these funds.

Faced with the spread of the disease, humanitarian organizations as well as administrative and health authorities visited the area on Monday. During this visit, around thirty pumps and products intended for the disinfection of affected households were distributed in order to curb the spread of cholera.

Despite this assistance, residents consider these measures temporary and are calling for the effective implementation of a drinking water network, believing that the funds for this project have already been collected.

Cholera cases have also been reported in other hills of the Nyanza commune, notably in Mukungu, Mugerama, and Rubindi, where some sources are already reporting loss of life.



Anyone should be respected

IV. CATEGORY RIGHTS

IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

A lifeless body of a newborn was discovered in the Commune and Province of Gitega.

According to information collected by the Iteka League, on January 28, 2026, around 1:00 p.m., a case of infanticide was reported on Rukoba Hill, in the commune and province of Gitega.

According to information gathered from a member of the Child Protection Committee, a 21-year-old woman named Niyongere Gyslaine, daughter of Bizimana Xavier and Nshimirimana Jeanine, gave birth the previous evening to a newborn girl. According to these sources, a family member discovered, at the entrance of the room occupied by the mother,

the lifeless body of the infant lying on the floor with injuries to the throat.

It is reported that the local administration and the family proceeded with the burial of the newborn's body. No clear information has been provided on the opening of an in-depth judicial investigation, nor on the protection or psychosocial assistance measures granted to the young mother. The doctor and the OPJ concluded that the baby's throat had been cut. The administration and the police have taken the decision to bury him.

An 18-year-old girl accused of infanticide in Gitumba, Matana commune, Burunga province.

An 18-year-old girl, known as Claudine Nzeyimana, from Gitumba, in Matana commune, Burunga province, is currently detained in Matana police cells since February 2, 2026.

She is accused of having given birth to a child in the district of Gisisye, also in Matana commune, where she had gone to ask for shelter. According to the information gathered, on the same day of delivery, the young girl strangled the newborn, before throwing him in a latrine.

The girl admits the facts and explains that she did so because the man who impregnated her

refused any responsibility, declaring that he would not marry her, which would have pushed her to commit this act.

Glorise Niyubahwe, administrator of the Matana commune, confirms this information and specifies that the young girl is being held as part of ongoing investigations. For their part, child rights defenders are calling for young girls who kill their newborns to be severely punished, so that these sanctions serve as an example and a warning to others.



V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

To the Government of Burundi:

1. To ensure respect for human rights, including the right to life, physical integrity, and freedom.
2. To take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.
3. To guarantee access to basic services, including water, healthcare, education, and justice, for all citizens.
4. To reorganize the treatment of civil servants in order to stop their mass departures and the resulting consequences.

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

1. To support the efforts of the Iteka League and other human rights organizations in monitoring human rights violations in Burundi.
2. To use their influence to pressure the Burundian authorities to respect human rights and put an end to impunity.