



# BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

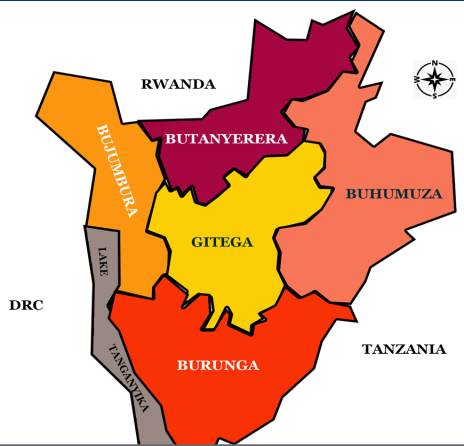
## WEEKLY REPORT

*"Iteka n' Ijambo"*

*Anyone should be respected*

**N°515 from 23 February to 1 March 2026**

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



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette KWIZERA, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to March 1, 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 at least 252 victims to the government of Burundi.

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



## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

*BRARUDI: Brewery and Soft Drink Company of Burundi*

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

*CNIDH: National Independent Human Rights Commission*

*DCE: Communal Directorate of Education*

*EAC: East African Community*

*FARDC: Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo*

*FDNB: National Defense Force of Burundi*

*FOMI: Organic-Mineral Fertilizers*

*M23: March 23 Movement*

*RDC: Democratic Republic of Congo*

*SNR: National Enquiry Service*

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the situation of human rights in Burundi during the week of February 23 to March 1, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, security, judicial, humanitarian, and governance context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of violations of civil and political rights as well as socio-economic and cultural rights that marked this week.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least 3 people were killed, all found dead, 3 victims of GBVs of which 2 were sexual violence victims, and 3 people were victims of kidnapping and/or went missing.

Among the victims, one woman was kidnapped, two minor girls were raped, and one woman was a victim of domestic violence.

The main suspects of these violations are administrative agents, police officers, military personnel, and young Imbonerakure members of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD.

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## I. CONTEXT

### I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

#### *A reopening of the border marked by a fragile return to normal between Burundi and the DRC*

After more than two months of closure, the Gatumba-Kavimvira border post officially reopened on February 23, 2026, marking a turning point long awaited by the populations of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Closed since December 12, 2025, due to clashes in Uvira between the FARDC, the Wazalendo groups, the FDLR, Burundian elements, the Imbonerakure, and the M23 rebellion, the border has come back to life in a subdued manner.

No ceremony, no official speeches: from dawn, traders and travelers crossed the border under increased security control. Among them were Congolese refugees returning to their country after weeks in exile. Despite the lack of documents for some, the authorities conducted checks before allowing the passage of people who did not pose a risk.

The resumption of activities revives hope for an economic restart in this strategic area. Cross-border trade, vital for thousands of families, is gradually picking up. On both sides, merchants and residents are relying on this reopening to restart their activities and regain financial stability.

But behind this encouraging signal, the humanitarian crisis persists. At the Cishemere transit camp, in the Cibitoke commune, more than 8,000 displaced people live in alarming conditions, far beyond the site's initial capacity, causing food shortages and limited access to healthcare.

While the reopening of Gatumba-Kavimvira represents a first step towards normalization, it cannot hide the extent of the security and humanitarian challenges that persist in the region.



*Anyone should be respected*

## ***1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)***

### ***Visit of the Secretary-General of the CNDD FDD party in Karusi commune, Gitega province***

On February 26, 2026, in the multi-service room of a CNDD-FDD deputy, Jean Marie NIBIRANTIJE, in the main town of the Karusi commune, the secretary general of the CNDD-FDD organized a meeting for party members. However, the agenda was changed due to poor communication regarding the invitation of participants. According to Révérien Ndikuriyo, he expected a participation of 4 individuals per hill, totaling 508, but was surprised to see thousands of people outside the room.

Still according to the party secretary, he wanted the meeting to be held behind closed doors, but was caught off guard by the situation. He thus informed the participants present that the population was suffering from hunger and lacking fertilizer, emphasizing that it was not appropriate to mobilize them. He also mentioned that a sum of 2 million, intended for the event, would remain intact, specifying that he would not add to it and that he had not come for an election campaign.

## ***1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT***

### ***Injured people and the bodies of Burundian soldiers transferred from the DRC via the Rumonge commune in Burunga province.***

From the beginning of the week until February 27, 2026, at the military naval position located on Kanyenkoko Hill, Rumonge municipality, Burunga province, there was observed a movement of ambulances coming from Bujumbura to transport the bodies of Burundian soldiers coming from the DRC, according to local and military sources. Residents living near the fishing port claim to have seen the arrival of a boat coming from the DRC carrying five lifeless bodies. Shortly after docking, ambulances from the Burundian army, with medical personnel wearing gloves and aprons on board, reportedly intervened to evacuate the bodies to an unspecified destination. According to information gathered from military sources at the Kamenge military

Following this, some regional officials left before the end of the meeting.

Preparations for this event had begun on February 24, 2026, when all the Imbonerakure of the Karusi commune organized themselves to spend the night there and control all the routes leading to this center. They had invited all the heads of departments of the commune, all the local elected representatives from each hill (5), all the members of the CNDD-FDD hill committees (6), as well as all party members wishing to participate, while imposing six conditions: wear party attire; all participating women had to refrain from wearing a headscarf, being asked to style their hair simply; not wear CNDD-FDD outfits on which the portrait of former president NKURUNZIZA PIERRE appeared; and arrive before 6:30 a.m. According to witnesses in Karusi, no one was allowed to go to their fields and all markets were closed until the conclusion of this meeting.

hospital, fourteen injured Burundian soldiers were admitted to this healthcare facility on February 23, 2026. These soldiers are said to have been evacuated from the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where they were deployed.

According to military information, these soldiers were part of the troops engaged in the ongoing fighting in the South Kivu province, particularly in the territories of Fizi and in other strategic positions. The clashes pit the M23 movement against the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC), supported by the Wazalendo coalition as well as elements of the Burundian army.

Consistent sources indicate that some soldiers lost their lives on the battlefield,

## ***1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 6)***

while others were injured during violent fighting that continues in the region. The security situation in South Kivu remains tense, as fighting between the M23, the FARDC, the Wazalendo coalition, and Burundian forces continues to be reported in several localities.

It should be noted that there is also a rescue team, composed of soldiers in medical personnel uniforms who are treating the wounded at this Kanyenkoko position.

### ***A person seriously injured by gunfire in Ruziba, Mugere commune, in Bujumbura province.***

On February 28, 2026, around 8 p.m., a person was injured by bullets fired by a police officer at the Ruziba market, in the commune of Mugere, Bujumbura province. According to statements from witnesses on the scene, the police forces present in this area frequently confiscate motorcycles, which are returned to their owners after payment of a sum of 50,000 FBu, without any receipt being issued. This behavior sparked strong indignation among the citizens, who expressed their dissatisfaction on the same day. On February 28, 2026, while trainee police officers S/Lt Irakoze Bon Fils (COP432) and Rukemampunzi Epitace, badge number APN 26130

were engaged in seizing motorcycles, the population rose up. Nkurunziza Etienne, a motorcyclist, tried to defend himself using a machete, injuring a police officer. In response, the citizens began throwing stones, and several policemen were hit. Although the police fled, one of them opened fire, hitting the motorcyclist Etienne, who was rushed to Ruziba Hospital. Six policemen were also injured in this incident. It should be mentioned that at the time of the events, eight drivers had already been apprehended with their motorcycles.

## ***1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT***

### ***A person sentenced to life imprisonment in Kayanza, Butanyerera province.***

On February 27, 2026, there was a summary judgment at the High Court of Kayanza, in the Butanyerera province.

This summary trial concerns the case of a murder that took place at the Carrefour Hotel in Kayanza on the night of February 20, 2026. The public prosecutor accuses Elias Nyandwi of having voluntarily murdered the named Nsengiyumva, while three other people, including Ezekiel, Joseph, and Charlotte, all working in this hotel, are accused of not assisting a person in danger.

During the session, NYANDWI Elias admits the act while the others (2 men) state that they got up and went back to bed after seeing that the dispute involving them was over. The young girl, 17-year-old Charlotte, says that

she could do nothing in this fight, that she has no strength to intervene.

The prosecutor requested that Elias (Cook) be sanctioned with a life sentence, while the two men should undergo 2 years and 8 months of imprisonment, and a penalty was requested for Charlotte the maid.

After deliberation, Nyandwi Elias was found guilty of voluntarily killing the motorcycle taxi driver Nsengiyumva and must be sentenced to life imprisonment; Ezéchiel and Joseph received a 6-month sentence for failing to assist a person in danger, and Charlotte was acquitted.

### ***1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT(the following of page7)***

#### ***An Imbonerakure sentenced to 3 months in prison in Kayanza, Butanyerera province***

On February 28, 2026, Minani Yussuf, known by the nickname Mano y'isake, from the Kayanza commune in Butanyerera province, was sentenced by the Kayanza High Court to a three-month prison term and a fine of one million of our francs for harming the national economy, after the police seized 56 cans of fuel, including diesel and gasoline, from his house on February 2, 2026.

The public prosecutor in Kayanza indicates that Mano y'isake is a repeat offender in the matter of illegal fuel sales, explaining that he even has retailers who carry out this activity at a gas station called 'chez Khalfan.' During the interrogation, the prosecutor emphasized that Minani Yussuf stated that there are even authorities in Kayanza who obtain fuel from the black market at his place. More than one person among the population says that this Imbonerakure was conducting illegal fuel trade under the protection of Commissioner Nshimirimana Pascal, who is currently in detention at the National Intelligence Service in Bujumbura.

The latter did not refuse to have a stock of fuel at home, but it was intended to supply his vehicles, as he had secured the contract to supply construction materials with documented evidence that allowed him to procure fuel and obtain this contract.

According to him, there is no fault in executing such a contract, especially in this alarming fuel situation. He could not have fulfilled such a contract without a stock of fuel.

The Public Prosecutor charging him requested that he be punished with 2 years in prison for harming the country's wealth.

After deliberation, the Court stated that the accusations of the Public Prosecutor are well-founded and said that MINANI must receive a sentence of 3 months in prison for harming the country's economy, and a fine of 1,000,000 Fbu, as well as the seizure and public sale of the confiscated fuel. The proceeds will be paid into the State treasury.

### ***1.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT***

#### ***Auction of seized products in Tangara commune, Butanyerera province***

On February 27, 2026, around 3 p.m., in the premises of the former Gashikanwa commune, the commission responsible for selling BRARUDI beverages and alcoholic drinks seized from various bars, kiosks, and shops in the former Gashikanwa commune during searches and raids conducted by the police of the Gashikanwa commune police station.

The said sale was supervised by the administrator of Tangara commune, Butanyerera province, and the items had been seized by the police during the searches and raids and then stored in the premises of the Gashikanwa Commune police station.

The commission had issued a call for tenders, and a total amount collected is three million eight hundred forty-five thousand five hundred Burundian francs (3,845,500 BIF). According to the administrator, this collected sum of money will be deposited into the public treasury account opened at the Bank of the Republic of Burundi. The empty cash registers of Brarudi products and the BREWERY company remain kept at the Gashikanwa Commune police station pending further measures from the hierarchy.

#### ***I.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT(the following of page8)***

##### ***Fertilizer shortage for the B season in Burundi.***

The beginning of 2026 had brought a glimmer of hope for Burundians, especially farmers, after the ministry in charge of agriculture, livestock, and the environment organized a campaign to register farmers who had not received their FOMI fertilizers since 2022 and had taken the opportunity to pay for the fertilizers they would need for this B crop season.

In a distribution campaign that recently began for the B crop season, many farmers claim they still have not received the chemical fertilizers ordered and paid for in advance from FOMI.

While the beneficiaries had been promised that from now on fertilizers would be distributed by the hill chiefs, curiously nothing has changed; the same distributors as before, all influential members of the CNDD-FDD, are the ones ensuring the distribution and doing it as they prefer.

The farmers, many of whom have already been waiting for arrears for about two years at the time when several of them have already sown, were expecting fertilizers from nowhere because, according to local authorities and distributors, FOMI is struggling to obtain fuel and other necessary materials to produce

##### ***Irregularities in the distribution of chemical fertilizers in Buhiga Commune, Gitega Province.***

After a long period during which people had not yet received their chemical fertilizer orders, the ITEKA League learned that the population of the Buhiga Commune had been invited on February 24, 2026, to the Buhiga Center to collect their orders for the A growing season.

According to our source on the scene, from morning until 2 p.m., people were gathered at the center and there were no bags of agricultural fertilizer in stock. At around 3 p.m., they saw a truck carrying 30 tons

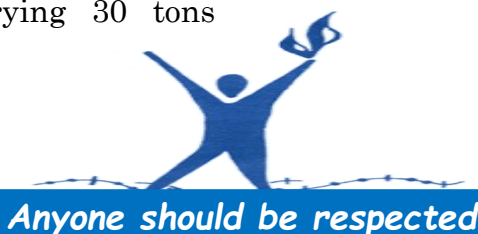
enough fertilizer, and without the money provided by the farmers, the same sources specify that this company would have gone bankrupt.

In all communes of Bujumbura, such as Bukinanyana, Mugina, and Cibitoke, frustrations and complaints are the daily lot of the farmers.

At a time when the A crop season had been poor due to the same lack of fertilizer and the effects of the war in the DRC, which affected the inhabitants of the Rusizi plain by forcing them to neglect their fields, the population of Bujumbura feared that the shortfall in agricultural production would continue and degenerate into a potential famine. They called on the the government to urgently facilitate the importation of fertilizer from abroad and to allow economic liberalization and competition in trade in the future, which will encourage other investors to set up chemical fertilizer production units for agriculture, which remains the main means of survival for the predominantly rural population of Burundi.

destined exclusively for two areas (Buhiga and Mayenzi) in the Buhiga commune.

According to the same local witnesses, the zone authorities chose to distribute only one bag to each household on the list, even if they had ordered 10 bags. This shocked the beneficiaries, as no reliable explanation was given. Zone officials argued that the fertilizer was available but that the only obstacle was the lack of diesel fuel to transport it.



#### ***I.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 9)***

##### ***Distribution of a small quantity of agricultural fertilizer in Mwaro commune in Gitega province.***

Farmers in Mwaro commune have not yet received the fertilizer they paid for to be used in season B, even though the bean planting season is already underway and there is no room for delay. Farmers say that if February ends without them having planted their beans, they will likely fail to get a good harvest.

In the Mwaro area this week, farmers were waiting for a distribution of fertilizer they had

ordered, in front of the warehouse located near the Mwaro market, but many of them who had ordered several bags received only 7kg of fertilizer, an extremely insignificant amount. Seven farmers were grouped together and received two 25kg bags of fertilizer each. The operation was supervised by the head of the Mwaro area, Marie Viola Ntakarutimana.

##### ***Irregularities in the distribution of chemical fertilizers in the commune of Ruyigi in Buhumuza Province.***

At a time when farmers are in the middle of the B growing season, chemical fertilizers continue to be problematic in FOMI stocks.

Farmers in the commune of Ruyigi say they do not understand why they cannot get the full amount of chemical fertilizer they have paid for.

For example, a farmer who has paid for 10 bags of chemical fertilizer may receive only 1 or 2 bags, and one who has paid for 5 bags may receive only 1 bag, under the pretext of wanting to divide it up among everyone.

The population is asking the government to liberalize trade in this product instead of allowing it to be monopolized by a single factory, which clearly does not have the

capacity to produce enough chemical fertilizer to serve the entire country.

The administrative authorities and the provincial department responsible for agriculture are reassuring the population that the delay in the delivery of these products is due to the shortage of fuel oil observed in recent days.

Farmers, however, complain that this delay is one of the factors contributing to this year's poor harvest and, above all, that according to weather forecasts, there will not be enough rain this year and the dry season could begin in early May.

##### ***Disagreement between BCAB agents and some farmers in the communes of Cankuzo and Gisagara, in Buhumuza province***

On February 23, 2026, a large number of farmers from the communes of Cankuzo and Gisagara, who had paid for organic mineral fertilizer at the BCAB, came to the ticket distribution points complaining that they had not received their tickets for a week. According to local sources, they returned empty-handed and said they were facing the problem of not having tickets entitling them to obtain fertilizer on time.

At the payment and ticket distribution points, BCAB agents claim that they have not yet received tickets and add that the headquarters in Bujumbura has promised to send them, but these promises have not been kept, creating tension between them and the farmers.

#### ***I.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 10)***

##### ***Complaints about the shortage of chemical fertilizers in Ruyigi Commune, Buhumuza province***

Information received by the Iteka League on February 28, 2026, indicates that in the commune of Ruyigi, Buhumuza province, farmers are complaining that the sowing season is coming to an end and they have not yet received chemical fertilizers. They are calling for those who are behind on their input payments to take turns with newcomers so

that everyone has the opportunity to sow their seeds. Diane Niyibitanga, administrator of the commune of Ruyigi, deplors the behavior of those who transport fertilizer to Tanzania and has called on the population to report those involved in this trade so that they can be punished.

#### ***I.5. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT***

##### ***Many deaths have been recorded as a result of poor living conditions at the Cishemere transit site in the municipality of Cibitoke, Bujumbura Province.***

Sixty-five people, including children, have already lost their lives at the Cishemere transit site in the municipality of Cibitoke, Bujumbura province, according to medical and administrative sources on site. Congolese refugees, both children and adults, are dying every day from diseases linked to poor living conditions in the camp.

According to health workers, these deaths are mainly due to cholera, malaria, malnutrition, and a lack of appropriate medication. The infrastructure is largely inadequate to cope with the growing number of displaced people. The site, which was originally designed to accommodate 1,000 people, now houses more than 8,000 refugees.

Sanitary conditions are alarming: only two rooms are used as healthcare units. One of them accommodates more than 50 children, sometimes three or four per bed. The other is intended for men and women, without

adequate equipment or sufficient ventilation. Refugees denounce their abandonment and claim to be living in inhumane conditions.

An official from the National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (ONPRA), which works in collaboration with the UNHCR, said that the transfer of refugees to the sites initially planned had been suspended due to a lack of available space. While waiting for new spaces to be set up, particularly in certain municipalities in the province of Buhumuza, the authorities are trying to manage the situation.

When asked about the increase in deaths, he said that “there is no place in the world where deaths are not mourned,” while assuring that efforts are being made to monitor the refugees.

##### ***Return of Burundian refugees from Tanzania to Ruyigi Commune in Buhumuza Province.***

At the Nyabitare transit camp, located in the commune of Gisuru, in the province of Buhumuza, the registration of returnees continues on an ongoing basis. During February 2026, a total of 9,671 returnees were registered, as follows: February 3, 2026: 1,487 returnees; February 10, 2026: 807 returnees;

February 17, 2026: 3,088 returnees; and February 27, 2026: 4,289 returnees. These returnees come from the Nyarugusu and Nduta refugee camps in the United Republic of Tanzania and are originally from the provinces of Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Muyinga, and Makamba.

## ***I.5. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT (the following of page 11)***

According to information gathered in Nyabitare, these refugees are returning under pressure from the Tanzanian government, and when they leave the camp, young Tanzanians affiliated with the ruling party, known as “Basungusungu,” destroy their

homes. Following their registration, the World Food Programme (WFP) is granting them a cash allowance of 145,000 francs per person, as well as hot meals during their stay in the transit camp

### ***Complaints from refugees repatriated from Tanzania in the commune of Ruyigi, Buhumuza province***

Information received by the Iteka League on March 1, 2026 indicates that refugees repatriated from Tanzania are complaining that UNHCR vehicles are not transporting them to their desired destination in Mishisha. They are therefore forced to take expensive Probox vehicles to reach their destination.

These high transportation costs make it difficult for them to survive in the early days. They are asking the Burundian government to provide transportation to their destination for these refugees, their children, and their belongings.

### ***Call for help from Congolese refugees in Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province***

On February 18, 2026, Blaise Nzeyimana, Bishop of the Diocese of Ruyigi, said that anyone wishing to support the Congolese refugees in the Busuma camp in the Kayongozzi area of Buhumuza province can do so without worrying that the small amount they have is not enough to meet existing needs. This was announced by Blaise Nzeyimana, Bishop of the Diocese of Ruyigi, at

the beginning of Lent, a time when all Christians strive to live in communion with Christ through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. Bishop Blaise pointed out that many of these refugees have no shelter, clothing, or food.



***Anyone should be respected***

## II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

### II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

#### II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

##### II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS

###### *One person killed in Gitega commune and province*

On the night of March 1, 2026, in the Rango neighborhood of the town and province of Gitega, Raphaël Ndaruzaniye, a 70-year-old night watchman, was stabbed to death by unidentified individuals. According to police sources, these people broke down the door of a shop belonging to Dieudonné Niyongabo,

where they stole a 120 kg bag of rice, a 150 kg bag of beans, and a set of scales.

After the crime, these people disappeared and no suspects have been apprehended. Raphaël Ndaruzaniye's body was taken to the morgue at Gitega Regional Hospital.

###### *A lifeless body found in Bururi commune, Burunga province*

On the evening of March 1, 2026, in the Kajondi area of Bururi commune, Burunga province, an unidentified lifeless body was spotted floating on the Ruvyironza River. The information was confirmed by the head of the Kajondi area, Parfait Niyonizigiye, who said that as of the morning of March 2, 2026, the body was still in the river.

The area official requested the assistance of the Bururi municipal branch of the Red Cross to remove the body from the water so that it could be buried with dignity. Sources from the provincial police station in Bururi said they were not yet aware of the discovery of the body.

###### *One person killed in Gitega commune and province*

On March 1, 2026, on Mugutu hill in Gitega commune and province, the body of 44-year-old Cyriaque Manirambona, father of five children, was found lying less than 25 meters from his home on the hill. According to local witnesses, the man was strangled by

unidentified individuals on the night of February 28, 2026, as he was returning home. The discovery of the body was confirmed by Suavis Ihorihoze, an elected official in Mugutu hill, who stated that the police had already begun their investigation.

#### II.1.2. ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE AND/OR ABDUCTION.

##### *A trader and fishermen's leader abducted in Nyanza-lac, Nyanza commune, Burunga province.*

Information received by the Iteka League on February 24, 2026, indicates that since February 22, 2026, Eric Cubwa, 50, a well-known figure in Nyanza-Lac, has been missing. His family, who have not heard from him, have reported him as kidnapped and are calling on the authorities to shed light on the matter. The victim, a trader and active member of the fishermen's committees in Kabonga, disappeared in disturbing circumstances. Originally from Kabonga Hill, Kabonga area, Nyanza commune, Burunga

province, he is the father of 15 children and married to two wives, one living on Kabonga Hill and the other in the Mayengo district of the commune's capital.

A veteran demobilized after the 2005 war and member of the CNDD-FDD party, he was known locally for his outspoken criticism of the CNDD-FDD's governance and his commitment to defending the interests of fishermen, a vital sector in this region bordering Lake Tanganyika.

## **II.1.2. ENLÈVEMENT ET/OU DISPARITION FORCÉES (Suite de la page 13)**

According to his family, at around 7 p.m. on February 22, a pickup truck with tinted windows and no license plate stopped in front of his home. Unidentified individuals took him away without explanation and disappeared in an unknown direction.

His relatives have made numerous inquiries with the local administrative authorities and

### ***A woman reported missing in Nyakabiga, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province.***

Since February 25, 2026, on Musinga Avenue, Rohero area, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, near the offices of the CNIDH, Chadia Mukaremera, a cleaner at the Independent National Commission (CNIDH), residing in the Nyakabiga I neighborhood, on 13th Avenue, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, has been missing.

According to Mon seigneur Martin Blaise Nyaboho, President of the CNIDH, Chadia spoke with his colleague on the phone before going missing.

His family and colleagues searched several locations, but to no avail. They are deeply concerned for his safety and are calling for an independent investigation into his disappearance.

The president of the CNIDH also states that they have no news of this woman because her

### ***A World Vision driver went missing in downtown Bujumbura, Mukaza commune, in Bujumbura province.***

On February 24, 2026, Gabriel Ndikumana, aged 38, a native of Nyabisindu hill, Cankuzo zone and commune, Buhumuza Province, son of BUZUBONE Emile and KANA Clotilde, married to NIYIBIZI Sylvie and father of four children, including a two-week-old baby, driver for the humanitarian organization World Vision, assigned to Cankuzo Province, has been missing since Monday, February 23, 2026.

According to information gathered from his family and colleagues, he was on a work assignment in Bujumbura and staying at the Alexestel Hotel in the Nyakabiga neighborhood.

police, but no clear information has been provided to them. Anxiety is growing within the family, who say they have had no news since that day.

At this stage, the administrative and police authorities have not yet made any public statement about his disappearance.

phone has been turned off since that day and the police say that investigations are underway to find this CNIDH worker. The Iteka League sought to find out who had called him that morning, whether it was the first time or not, and also continued to investigate whether the victim had any disputes with his colleagues. The information received indicates that he was a pleasant colleague, and his absence is very noticeable, which is why his colleagues contacted him every morning to check on him. On that day, it was Ms. BAKAMIRIZA Chantal, the secretary general, who had called her, as she often did, like other colleagues in the department.

The last location of the victim's phone was in the Nyabugete sector, and what is strange is that the RNS had already decided to go there to conduct a search persecution, but afterwards, they abandoned it. The Iteka League is concerned about why?

According to the same sources, Gabriel Ndikumana left the hotel on the evening of February 23, 2026, to go out for dinner, leaving his work vehicle behind, but never returned. Since then, his phones have remained off and no news has been received. His family is deeply concerned and fears he may have been kidnapped. His relatives insist that he had no known disputes or political involvement that could explain his disappearance.

The search continues in an attempt to shed light on this worrying disappearance.

## **II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY**

### **II.2.1. RAPES**

#### ***A young girl was raped in Ngozi Commune, Butanyerera Province.***

On February 26, 2026, on Rubuye Hill, in the Ngozi area and commune, Butanyerera Province, a 9-year-old girl residing in the same Rubuye neighborhood in the town of Ngozi, daughter of Mr. S. and B. V., was raped and injured by persons who have not yet been identified.

According to the information gathered, the

day before at around 2 p.m., the girl had been abducted by unknown persons while at home. Her family then began searching for her. She was found by passersby the next morning unconscious and sitting near the cemetery located in the Vyerwa swamp.

Many are outraged and wonder whether this was an act of witchcraft or simply a crime.

#### ***A girl was raped in the commune of Kiganda in the province of Gitega.***

On February 23, 2026, on Gahweza hill, in the Kiganda area and commune, Gitega province, 14-year-old Kaneza Eliane, a native of the hill, was raped by Nkezimana Viateur, 38, a bicycle taxi driver from the Matongo commune, Butanyerera province, in the Kiganda commune.

The victim was home alone while her mother was working in the fields when the boy broke in and immediately raped her. The victim screamed for help, but no one came to her aid.

When her mother returned home, she discovered what had happened and immediately called the nearby police station. The perpetrator was arrested and taken to the Kiganda police station. The victim was taken to Kiganda Hospital, where medical tests confirmed the assault.

The perpetrator was transferred to Muramvya Central Prison on February 28, 2026.

### **II. 2.2. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

#### ***Woman beaten in Karuzi commune, Gitega province***

On the night of February 27, 2026, around 11 p.m., on the hill and in the Buhiga area, Karuzi commune, Gitega province, a woman nicknamed Maman Souveta, a member of the CNDD-FDD aged over 40, was beaten and injured by her husband GAHUNGU, alias Papa Souveta, a pensioner from the FDNB and a member of the CNDD FDD party, aged over 48. According to local witnesses, he beat her in the face, leaving her eyes bloodshot and

causing injuries to her forehead, neck, and legs. According to the same local witnesses, this man often accuses his wife of drunkenness and prostitution. When she went to the police on February 28, 2026, to file a complaint, she was spitting blood and could barely see. The alleged perpetrator learned that his wife was at the police station and fled, fearing arrest and imprisonment.



**Anyone should be respected**

#### III.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

##### *Teaching volunteers demanding remuneration in Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province*

Information received by the Iteka League on March 1, 2026 indicates that volunteer teachers in the commune of Ruyigi, Buhumuza province, are complaining that they have not received the remuneration they were promised. This amount was 150,000 FBU for D6 and D7 students and 180,000 FBU for high school graduates. This money has been reduced by 30,000 FBU per person.

These volunteers are demanding that this amount be made up. Herménégilde Nibigira, head of the education department in Ruyigi, explains that this reduction is due to the number of volunteers increasing from 96 to 156. He invites them to give of themselves with love and to appreciate that everyone is treated equally.

##### *Delay in the transmission of final-year students' files in the commune of Butaganzwa, Buhumuza province*

Information received by the Iteka League on February 28, 2026 indicates that in the commune of Butaganzwa, Buhumuza province, some final-year students say they are spending a lot of money on tickets to travel to the elementary schools they attended in order to ask the principals of those schools to forward their files. Astère Singirankabo, principal of Mugege School in the commune of Butaganzwa in Buhumuza province, said

that the delay in issuing 9th grade certificates is causing a delay in the submission of these files. The students are asking the principals to prepare the files on time, while the principals are asking the MENRS to allow them to send the files without the certificate and to give it to the students when it becomes available so that they can submit it to their schools.



*Anyone should be respected*

## ***IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS***

The Iteka League strongly denounces the persistent deterioration of human rights in Burundi and condemns 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 guarantee respect for human rights, in particular the right to life, physical integrity, and freedom.
2. Investigate the phenomenon of unidentified bodies found in various locations across the country, without any action being taken by the government.
3. Take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.
4. Improve access to drinking water, sanitation, and healthcare in order to prevent cholera among Congolese refugees in transit centers and camps, and cease all political exploitation of their presence.

### ***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 compel the Burundian authorities to respect human rights and put an end to impunity.