



BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

Anyone should be

N°517 from 09 to 15 Mars 2026

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In memory of Madame Marie Claudette KWIZERA, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to March 15, 2026, at least 860 victims of forced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 86 victims have reappeared, and 776 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

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

DCE : Communal Directorate of Education

EAC : East African Community

ECOFO : Fundamental Scholl

FOMI : Organo-mineral fertilizers

RDC : Democratic Republic of the Congo

SNR : National Enquiry Service

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of March 9 to 15, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the security and judicial context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of violations of civil and political rights that marked this week.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least 12 people killed, including 7 bodies found lifeless and 1 person subjected to arbitrary arrest. Among the victims are 2 women and 1 girl killed.

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

I. CONTEXT

I.1. SECURITY CONTEXT

A schoolboy injured in the Matana commune, Burunga province.

A student was injured in the commune of Matana, Burunga Province. On March 12, 2026, in Karambi, on Ndago Hill in the commune of Matana, King Love Iranyumvira, aged 11, a student at Kivumu Elementary School in Ndago, son of Pascal Yamuremye and Languide, was the victim of an ambush orchestrated by two individuals he could not identify, as he was returning from the center of the town where he had delivered a small can of local drink sent by his mother. The ambush was carried out by these two men, who wounded him with a piece of a board with nails in it before gagging him. According to the victim, he was rescued by a truck that had come to transport boards; its headlights had the effect of scaring off the assailants.

This light caused the assailants to flee for fear of being identified, leaving the injured child in

critical condition on the side of the road, according to several residents of Karambi, who arranged for the victim's evacuation to the private clinic in Ndago, from where he was transferred on March 13, 2026, to the military hospital in Bujumbura. The child's parents, along with child rights advocates, are calling on the police to conduct a thorough investigation so that those responsible can be identified and punished in accordance with the law. The Ndago district chief, Mathias Nimubona, stated that the motives behind this attempted murder remain unknown to date and confirmed the arrest of two individuals, Hasabumutima Honoré and Nihorombere, nicknamed BUGANGWE, both from this village, who are currently being held at the Songa police station as part of the ongoing investigation.



Uwo uri wese ubahirizwa

1.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

Former Prime Minister Alain-Guillaume Bunyoni and a former Burundian army colonel Michel Kazungu are provisionally released for health reasons.

On March 11, 2026, General Alain Guillaume Bunyoni and Colonel Michel Kazungu were released on provisional bail.

The two former officials left the Gitega Central Prison, in central Burundi, following a decision by the Attorney General of the Republic, on health reasons

According to the order for provisional release, the two detainees will now continue their medical treatment at home. Judicial sources indicate in particular that General Alain Guillaume Bunyoni was suffering from serious health problems.

Former Prime Minister of Burundi from 2020 to 2023, Alain Guillaume Bunyoni was arrested in April 2023. Prior to his arrest, he had left his home and sought refuge with a village chief in Mubone, in what was then the commune of Kabezi, Bujumbura Province. He was eventually apprehended and transferred to the central prison in Gitega.

In September 2023, the Burundian courts sentenced him to life imprisonment. He was found guilty, among other things, of attempting a coup d'état, undermining the national economy, illicit enrichment, and the accumulation of unjustified assets, as well as other offenses. The court ruling

Ten people convicted for endangering the country's internal security and rebellion in Rumonge commune, Burunga province

On March 8, 2026, the Rumonge High Court in Burunga Province sentenced ten individuals during a summary trial held in the afternoon in downtown Rumonge. The defendants were charged with, among other things, undermining the country's internal security, making defamatory statements, and rebellion.

Among those convicted were Willy, Augustin, Bahati, Ivan, Justin, and Édouard, all from the Kigwena area in the Rumonge commune. The court found them guilty of undermining the country's internal security and sentenced them to six months in prison without parole, as well as a fine of 100,000 Burundian francs each.

Ivan, Justin, and Édouard, meanwhile, received a sentence of three months in prison, along with a fine of 100,000 Burundian francs.

also provided for the seizure of his movable and immovable property.

On the same day, Colonel Michel Kazungu, an officer in the Burundian army, was also granted provisional release on the same grounds related to his health; he had been arrested in 2015 as part of the legal proceedings following the failed coup of May 13, 2015, against the late former President Pierre Nkurunziza.

The provisional release of the two former detainees comes as judicial authorities cite humanitarian reasons related to their health. According to information gathered from sources close to the case and the Gitega Regional Hospital, where he was already receiving treatment, this measure is also expected to apply to about a dozen other detainees suffering from health issues.

Four other individuals, from the Mugomere neighborhood and the town center of Rumonge, were convicted; they were present at the scene merely as witnesses to a tense incident that occurred on Saturday, March 7, 2026, in the capital of the Kigwena zone. Rumors accused certain individuals of having "stolen" the genitalia of other residents, which caused widespread unrest in the area.

According to the prosecution, these rumors quickly escalated into violence, with some people attacking the alleged victims. In its closing argument, the prosecution stated that the spread of such unfounded rumors was likely to disrupt public order and destabilize the country. The police intervened to disperse the crowd attempting to take the law into their own hands, and law enforcement had to

1.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

use force to bring the situation under control. According to medical sources, the injured person was admitted to Rumonge Hospital. Bukuru Magnifique risks having her arm amputated; she is not receiving effective medical care, according to medical sources at the hospital.

After the jury retired to deliberate, the verdict was announced around 7 p.m., resulting in the conviction of the ten defendants. They were taken to the Rumonge Central Prison.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY STATE AGENTS

Two people killed in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province.

On March 11, 2026, in the Mirango I neighborhood, located in the Kamenge area within the municipality of Ntakangwa in Bujumbura Province, two individuals suspected of theft were killed that morning during an armed clash with police forces. These events were confirmed by residents of Mirango I as well as the neighborhood chief of Gituro.

According to information obtained from local residents, the incident began at a bar called USA, located in the Songa neighborhood of the Kamenge area. Three individuals attempted to enter the bar, but a police officer who was on the scene blocked their entry. According to the same witnesses, these individuals then wrestled the weapon from the police officer before fleeing with it. The officer then alerted his colleagues, who engaged in a pursuit to apprehend the group suspected of being involved in thefts in the area. The pursuit of these criminals ended in the Mirango I neighborhood, near the Nyabagere River, where an exchange of gunfire broke out between the police and the suspects, resulting in the deaths of two individuals during the operation.

This information was confirmed by Pascal Ndorimana, one of the leaders of ten households in the Gituro neighborhood, located not far from the scene of the incident. Residents of the Kamenge area report growing concern over the resurgence of thefts in their neighborhood. They express fear for their safety in the face of groups of thieves who, according to them, seem to act with no regard for the presence of law enforcement. Pascal Ndorimana also points out that some of these groups are involved in activities related to drug use and trafficking in various neighborhoods of Kamenge and that, when arrested, they are quickly released from detention cells or prisons. In light of this situation, residents and local authorities are calling on security services and administrative authorities to strengthen measures aimed at combating these criminal groups, accused of burglarizing homes and assaulting passersby.



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II.1.1. 2. PERSONS KILLED AS A RESULT OF SCORE-SETTLING

One person killed in Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province

On March 9, 2026, in Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province, a man named Anaclet, also known as Mufyenkure, aged 65, was killed by Longin Nzogera. According to local sources, both men are from Caga hill in the Kayongozi area of the commune. According to the same sources, Longin Nzogera encountered the victim in his field while he was plowing the land. He began by telling him various stories, pretending to engage in friendly conversation. However, his intention was to kill him, as some people had accused

him of being a witch doctor. During the conversation, Longin Nzogera asked the victim to give him the hoe so he could help her plow. After receiving it, he used that same hoe to kill her by inflicting wounds to her head and leg. The victim fell into a coma and was transported the same day to the Kayongozi municipal hospital, where she later died. Longin is being held at the Ruyigi central prison.

One person killed in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province

On March 11, 2026, at approximately 1:00 p.m., on the 13th cross street in the Maramvya area, specifically in a locality known as KU MATAFARI, in the commune of Ntahangwa, Bujumbura province, Jacques NTACOBAKIMVUNA, a resident of that area, was stabbed in the side by Francine Munyaneza, a vendor of a drink called FANGAS and French fries in that locality. According to local witnesses, the victim had just received 5,000 francs as a token of gratitude from a woman whose identity has not been revealed for having recently saved her from drowning in the floodwaters.

At that moment, our source explains, Jacques entered Francine's shop to ask for a bottle of the drink known as FANGAS, handing her the 5,000-franc note, but Francine Munyaneza refused to give Jacques NTACOBAKIMVUNA the drink, reminding him that he owed her an amount equivalent to that same 5,000 francs. Jacques explained that he acknowledged the

debt and that the agreed-upon payment deadline had not yet expired.

During the argument, Francine Munyaneza pulled out her knife and stabbed Jacques Ntacobakimvuna, who was taken to a nearby medical facility for intensive care. The next day, he was transferred to BAHO Hospital and then to the Kamenge Military Hospital, but both hospitals declared themselves unable to treat him, and he ultimately succumbed to his injuries at Prince Regent Charles Hospital.

The residents of this community are demanding that justice be served and that Francine Munyaneza, currently detained at Mpimba Central Prison, be tried and punished in accordance with the law.

II.1.1.3. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE OR BODIES FOUND

A lifeless body of a woman found in Kibati, Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province

On March 9, 20226, at approximately 5:00 p.m., on Kibati Hill in the Masango area of Bukinanyana commune, Butanyerera province, the body of Béatrice Mpawenimana, aged 40, was found at her home located on that hill. The victim, who usually resided in the administrative center of Kayanza commune, had traveled to her home hill on

March 7, 2026, to perform seasonal agricultural work before being found dead two days later in her bedroom.

Although a rope was found around the victim's neck, initially pointing to the possibility of suicide, the theory of a staged murder is strongly supported by her relatives and neighbors. These suspicions are

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE(the following of page8)

heightened by a troubled family history. According to family sources, several members of this same family have lost their lives under suspicious circumstances over the past year.

The criminal investigation unit has taken over the case. As part of the investigation,

three people living near the scene of the incident have been questioned. The victim's body was transferred to Ndora Hospital for a thorough autopsy before being released to the family for burial.

A lifeless body found in Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province

On March 12, 2026, in the Kaburantwa River on Bitare Hill, in the Ndora area of Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province, the body of Abraham Nigarura was found; he had been killed by unidentified individuals. According to local witnesses, the victim was one of five elected local representatives and also served as the CNDD-FDD party leader for Bitare Hill. Witnesses who saw the body stated that his head was covered in blood,

suggesting that the deceased was killed with blows from an iron bar. The victim had been reported missing since March 11, 2026, after leaving his home. Administrative and police authorities announced the immediate opening of a criminal investigation to identify and apprehend the perpetrators of this act.

A lifeless body found in Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province

Information received by the Iteka League on March 9, 2026, indicates that on March 2, 2026, in the Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province, the lifeless body of an unidentified person was discovered in the Sanzu River, in the area located 500 m from the Notre Dame de la Joie High School in Ruyigi. Agents of the Red Cross in the Ruyigi commune intervened to help recover the body.

A lifeless body found in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province.

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 9, 2026, indicates that on March 8, 2026, the lifeless body of Marie Nahayo, aged 80, was found hanging from a rope. The victim resided on Transversale 6 in the Kagazi neighborhood, in the Cibitoke area and commune, in Bujumbura Province. According to information gathered on-site, the death of the octogenarian raises many questions among the neighborhood residents. Several locals believe that it would have been difficult for this elderly woman to hang herself from a tree located in her yard due to her physical condition. In light of these doubts, some are calling for

the opening of an investigation to determine the exact circumstances of this death.

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 9)

A lifeless body found in Mugina commune, Bujumbura province.

Information received by the Iteka League on March 9, 2026, indicates that on March 8, 2026, the lifeless body of Eric Ndayisenga, aged 42, originally from the Rutaba sub-hill, Nyamakarabo hill and area, in the Mugina commune, in Bujumbura province, was found. In the case of Eric Ndayisenga, local sources indicate that a farewell letter was found. In this message, he apologizes to the people he might have offended or wronged. According to

several testimonies, this young man was known as a member of the Imbonerakure youth league, of the ruling party, and had tense relations with some inhabitants of the locality. The local authorities have not yet officially commented on this death.

A lifeless body found in Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province

On March 9, 2026, in the town of Kayanza, in an area known as Chez KALUFANI; Butanyerera Province, the lifeless body of Ferdinand HABAYO, at least 40 years old, a resident of Gikombe Hill, Murima Zone, Kayanza Commune, was found. According to local witnesses, the deceased had mental health issues, and the victim's body showed stab wounds indicating that he was killed by knife blows to the head.

The same reports indicate that this man had left his home on March 8, 2026, around 1:00 p.m., saying he was going to watch a soccer match at Gatwaro Stadium in the town of

Kayanza. According to Godefroid NIYONIZIGIYE, administrator of the Kayanza commune, the as-yet-unidentified assailants attacked him as he was returning home, as this local official adds, the victim was in the habit of returning late at night. The Kayanza commune administrator adds that even though the deceased was mentally unstable, he did not bother anyone.

A lifeless body found in Bururi commune, Burunga province

On March 10, 2026, in the Nyakigezi River valley, which separates the Gitobo and Gikana hills in the Muhweza Zone, Bururi commune, Burunga province, the lifeless body of Cédric Iteriteka, aged 20, was found.

According to local witnesses, the young man's body was first spotted by children on their way to school. The same witnesses added that

the deceased's body had injuries to the head and believe his killers struck him on the head with a club.

Egide Nsengiyumva, the official in charge of the Muhweza area, confirms the facts and states that investigations are already in process.



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

A young girl was killed in Ruyigi Commune , Buhumuza Province.

On March 11, 2026, on Senga Hill, Butezi Zone, Ruyigi Commune, Buhumuza Province, Francine Nyibitanga, a first-year post-primary student at Butezi Municipal High School, was killed.

According to local witnesses, the victim died under unclear circumstances, as she left home around 2:00 p.m. to visit her aunt who lives in Sorero in the same area.

According to the same witnesses, her parents waited for her return but in vain; in the evening, her parents began to worry, and around 8 p.m. they learned that Francine had been in a motorcycle accident and was at the morgue of the Sorero Health Center.

According to the same sources, those who managed to reach the scene of the accident say there is no evidence that she was in an accident; she had a very severe injury to her

face, but there was no blood at the scene. According to the same witnesses, her underwear was in the pocket of her jacket, suggesting that she was raped before being killed and that the accident was staged to cover it up.

At the time of the so-called accident, the victim was with two boys: the one driving the motorcycle, another boy, and the victim in the middle.

After dropping the victim off at the Sorero health center, the two boys abandoned the motorcycle and fled, making it difficult to determine their identities.

The motorcycle was seized by the police, and investigations are underway to determine the identities of these two boys.

II.2. RIGHT TO FREEDOM.

II.2.1. ARBITRARY ARREST

A person arrested in Muyinga commune, Buhumuza province

On March 8, 2026, on Karimbi Hill, in the municipality of Muyinga, Buhumuza Province, Jérôme Ndacayisaba, alias Vache, a teacher, was arrested and detained at the Higiroy police station for knocking on the door of the common-law wife of the Karimbi Hill chief, named Nayabagabo. According to Ndacayisaba, he had gone to the wrong house because he was too drunk, and the concubine called her friend, the Karimbi hill chief, who then sent the Imbonerakure to take Jérôme Ndacayisaba into custody; he spent a sleepless night under surveillance and was then taken to the Higiroy zone detention cells.

According to local witnesses, the Higiroy zone chief, Muhigirwa Vital, told him he would release him if he paid 1,450,000 F. The family of the victim of this arbitrary arrest wonders where the zone chief gets the authority to imprison people and impose illegal fines. They are asking the administrator of Muyinga commune, Hon. Amédée Misago, and the provincial governor, Buhumuza, to call this zone chief to order before it is too late, and to provide training to the newly appointed administrative officials. The victim has just spent seven days without any legal proceedings.



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III.1. PERTURBATION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

Insufficiency or absence of fertilizers for the farmers of Mwaro Commune

On Saturday, March 14, 2026, starting at 11:00 a.m., farmers from the hills of the Mwaro area, located in the commune of Mwaro, Gitega Province, gathered once again to receive a supply of chemical fertilizers at the distribution point near the Mwaro market. According to information obtained from these farmers, each of them received 2.5 kg of fertilizer, which is significantly less than the amount initially expected and paid in advance by each farmer into government accounts held at local post offices.

On site, a group of ten people formed to receive a 25-kg bag. During the previous distribution, each farmer had received 7 kg. Some of them had ordered and paid for 4, 5, or even 6 bags of fertilizer, but were repeatedly disappointed by deliveries significantly below their expectations. The administrative authorities present at the scene explained to

the assembled farmers that this situation was due to the amount of fertilizer available, which was insufficient to meet the requests made. Farmers in the Mwaro area, as well as those throughout the municipality, are expressing concerns about the impact this will have on the bean harvest, as under normal circumstances, planting must be completed by March 5, 2026, at the latest. For most of them, the fields were plowed several weeks ago, and the bean seeds have been carefully prepared. However, planting has still not taken place, even though the rainy season could end before this crop reaches maturity.

The shortage of fertilizers, an indication of the disruption of the economy of the Nyanza commune, Burunga province.

Farmers in the commune of Nyanza, located in Burunga Province, are voicing their dissatisfaction with the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the distribution of fertilizers, whether locally produced in Burundi (Fomi) or imported. Due to the shortage of these fertilizers, each household receives only a single 25-kg bag, even those who have paid in advance for 10 or 20 bags, as is the case with cooperatives. This raises concerns about why such a limited quantity is being allocated, even though farmers have already paid the full cost. Furthermore, they

must spend a considerable amount of time waiting in line due to poor organization. The residents of the Nyanza commune want this fertilizer to reach them in a timely manner and in quantities commensurate with the payments made; otherwise, the quality of the harvests will be compromised, which will disrupt the economy, especially since 70% of Burundi's population depends on agriculture.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

School policy in the municipality of Muyinga, Buhumuza province

On March 12, 2026, the principal of ECOFO Muyinga III, who is also the regional secretary of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, Bigirimana Anwali, known by the nickname Bidodwe, ordered all students at the school to go support the Aigle Noire team, led by the CNDD-FDD Secretary-General, during its

match against Olympic Star of Muyinga. Parents of the students have expressed concern about these activities, which disrupt the academic process and appear to be politically motivated, rather than focusing on preparation for upcoming tests and exams. According to witnesses in the region, the

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 12)

principal himself observed the students' academic failures and decided to expel those in the ninth grade who had received poor grades, in order to retain only those he considers to be high achievers, with the aim of avoiding last place in the national

competition. The parents of the expelled students are requesting their reinstatement so that their children can return to school.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

The Government of Burundi should:

1. Systematically conduct transparent judicial investigations whenever bodies are discovered
2. Investigate the phenomenon of unclaimed bodies in various parts of the country where no action has been 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.