

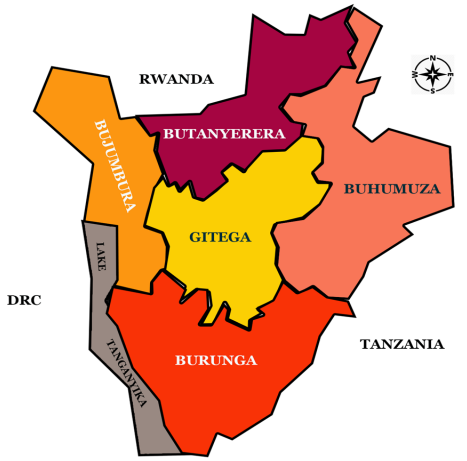


# BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA" WEEKLY REPORT

*Anyone should be respected*

## **N°518 from 16 to 22 March 2026**

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



In memory of Madame Marie Claudette KWIZERA, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to March 22, 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 of 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



*ABR: Burundian Roads Agency*

*BRB: Bank of the Republic of Burundi*

*CDFC: Center for Family and Community Development*

*CNDD-FDD: National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy (Ruling Party)*

*CDS: Health Center*

*COOPEC: Savings and Credit Cooperative*

*ECOFO: Fundamental School*

*FENACOBU: National Federation of COOPECs of Burundi*

*UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

*OBM: Burundian Office of Mines*

*OPJ: Judicial Police Officer*

*PNB: National Police of Burundi*

*MIPAREC: Ministry for Peace and Reconciliation under the Cross*

*SNR: National Enquiry Service*

*REGIDESO: Water and Electricity Production and Distribution Authority*

*RN: National Road*

*GBV: Gender-Based Violence*

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of March 16–22, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the humanitarian, security, judicial, governance, and environmental contexts. It further analyzes incidents illustrating violations of civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as rights specific to particular groups.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League for this period are as follows: at least 9 people killed, including 5 whose bodies were found, 3 victims of unexplained suicides; 4 victims of GBV, all of whom were girls who had been raped, as well as 3 people arbitrarily arrested.

This report also covers 8 people who died during the reporting period: 7 who were electrocuted and 1 Central African soldier who was undergoing training in Bururi commune and died under unexplained circumstances.

Among the victims are 1 woman killed, 4 girls raped, and a newborn abandoned and discarded by its mother.

Members of the Imbonerakure militia affiliated with the ruling CNDD-FDD party, SNR agents, police officers, and government officials are accused of being the main alleged perpetrators of these human rights violations.

## I. CONTEXT

### 1.1. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

#### *The consequences of the water shortage in the refugee camp in Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province*

The Congolese refugee camp in Nyankanda, located in the commune of Ruyigi within Buhumuza Province, is facing a severe crisis regarding access to drinking water. Since March 12, 2026, the camp's water supply facilities have sustained considerable damage, placing thousands of Congolese refugees in an alarming humanitarian situation. According to eyewitness accounts gathered on the ground, the spring that supplied the water distribution network was destroyed due to heavy rains that hit the region. These storms washed away several water pipes and damaged the water collection infrastructure, resulting in the destruction of the developed spring that supplied the refugees.

As a result of this incident, camp residents are forced to search for water under difficult, often unsanitary conditions. Some go to low-lying areas or nearby rivers to draw water, despite the health risks. Emelyne, a refugee living in the camp, shares her

experience: "Today, I went to the lowlands to draw water from the river. Although the water is full of mud, we have no other option. If there is no rapid intervention, we risk contracting diseases such as typhoid and other infections." Other refugees try to obtain water from local residents, but access remains difficult.

Michel, another refugee living in the camp, explains: "I went to get water from a tap at a Burundian household, but they asked me for 1,000 Burundian francs per jug to access the water. At home, I use at least five 20-liter containers a day. Without water, there is no life. We are appealing to the Burundian government, the UNHCR, and its partners to intervene quickly to repair our water source," insists Michel. The Nyankanda refugee camp currently houses more than 12,000 Congolese refugees, the vast majority of whom are entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs. Without

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

rapid action to restore the drinking water supply, camp residents fear an imminent health crisis.

### ***1.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT***

#### ***Polygamy has become a way of life in the eyes of the law in the Imbo plain in Bujumbura province***

Local authorities, as well as the local courts, are unable to reassure the population regarding conflicts related to polygamy in the Imbo Plain. This situation has become routine, and human rights defenders seeking to raise awareness among perpetrators and victims face challenges from ruling party activists, who intimidate observers seeking to explore all possible avenues to resolve the various cases. As of March 18, 2026, on the hill and in the Bukeye area of Nyanza commune, Asmani Ndayizeye, aged 48, has been legally cohabiting with Aline Ndayishimiye since 2026. Aline, having been abandoned by her first husband—a marriage that was not legally recognized—currently has

three children from that previous union. Currently, they have five children in a rental home, and the husband also lives with his second wife. Aline has sought help from humanitarian organizations such as the CDFC and MIPAREC, as well as from local authorities. Nevertheless, the problem persists, as the administrative authorities have politicized the matter, given that the husband is a member of the Imbonerakure. There remains uncertainty regarding the outcome of such cases if this approach to handling them continues.

### ***1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT***

#### ***Seven people died by electrocution in Gisuru commune, Buhumuza province***

On March 17, 2026, around 11 a.m., on Gisuru hill, Gisuru zone, Gisuru commune, Buhumuza province, seven people including Eustache Maniragaba, Claude Nzoyisaba, Pedo Niyondiko, Élie Ndayikengurukiye, Jean Niyongabore, Onesime Ntakarutimana, and Léonard Havyarimana, were all electrocuted and died instantly while they were fixing the electric poles on the

aforementioned hill. According to the information collected, the pole came into contact with high-voltage uninsulated wires. All are originally from Nyabitare, Nyabitare zone, Gisuru commune, and the bodies were taken to the morgue of Gisuru hospital.

#### ***A Central African sergeant candidate suddenly died at the non-commissioned officers' school of Bururi in Burunga province***

According to information received by the Iteka League on March 18, 2026, Yassa Julien Assen CS 0030, a Central African sergeant candidate, died suddenly on March 5, 2026, at the Bururi Non-Commissioned Officers' School in Burunga Province. This young man died one week before the graduation ceremony for 441 sergeant

candidates of the 53rd session, including 24 Central Africans with whom he had just spent one year and nine months of training at this school, as indicated by Lieutenant Colonel J. Bosco Bazombanza, Commander of the Bururi Non-Commissioned Officers' School, on March 12, 2026, during the graduation ceremonies at the school.

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

This military official stated that the Central African man died suddenly of cardiac arrest, according to the medical report. This came at a time when rumors were circulating that he had been poisoned at the Bururi center, though without specifying the perpetrator or the location where he was allegedly poisoned. General Prime Niyongabo, Chief of the

Burundi National Defense Force, who had graced the graduation ceremonies with his presence, joined others in expressing deep regret over the death of this Central African candidate and extended condolences to the entire school community and his country of origin.

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

#### ***The population surprised by an urgent measure to widen RN1 and RN2***

Following the 6-meter setback requirement imposed on National Roads 1 and 2 in 2023, as well as the recent requirement to pave the areas in front of buildings located along these roads—scheduled for the end of February 2026—a new decision has been announced for the same affected parties. Indeed, on March 12, 2026, the provincial authorities of Gitega, in cooperation with officials from the Burundian Roads Agency (ABR), summoned all individuals with buildings bordering the RN1 (Bujumbura-Bugarama) and the RN2 (Bugarama-Gitega). According to local sources, the purpose of this meeting came as a surprise to them: it was to prepare the population for

the imminent widening of the national highway connecting Bujumbura to Gitega. According to representatives of the highway agency, each owner of an affected structure will be required to set back their property 20 meters on either side of the road. These same officials also indicated that the government plans to widen the road to four lanes. The affected residents, for their part, are expressing concerns about a possible hidden agenda. They say they are deeply distressed by this interference, which is forcing them to incur expenses amounting to several million francs.

#### ***Electrification, a crucial issue for Burundi, hampered by corruption and insecurity***

Despite the “Vision 2040–2060” promoted by Évariste Ndayishimiye’s regime, Burundi remains mired in systemic corruption that affects all sectors, with an alarming score of 17% in the 2025 global ranking. This corruption is no longer limited to financial losses; it now costs human lives, often amid total indifference. The incident that occurred on March 4, 2026, in Kinama 2 (Mugina commune), where a 5-year-old child died from electrocution, illustrates this tragedy. This incident was covered up through the payment of several million Burundian francs in bribes to local officials, notably Rugajo zone chief Augustin Nkurikiye and a REGIDESO agent named Samson, in order to buy the family’s silence.

This death is part of a string of tragedies, joining that of a mother in early 2025 on the same hill. Our investigations reveal that at least two victims per zone are reported each year in electrified areas due to the “Dunyuri” phenomenon. In the municipalities of Mugina, Cibitoke, and Bukinanyana, an illegal electricity trade has taken root with the active complicity of REGIDESO agents, who earn income from it that exceeds their salaries. This system allows a single subscriber to supply up to 40 households via unregulated and dangerous installations (bare wires on the ground or in trees), putting the population at risk.

At the highest levels of government, the resistance to the decentralization of REGIDESO services appears deliberate.

## ***1.4. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 7)***

According to our sources, President Ndayishimiye maintains centralized control through the Director General, Dr. Ir. Lt. Col. Albert Manigomba, to ensure a stranglehold on financial flows. While full electrification is stalling despite the commissioning of new dams, the delays are reportedly being used as a pretext for the embezzlement of public

funds estimated at tens of billions of francs per year. In short, the current system prioritizes the financial interests of an elite and its local agents, leaving the most vulnerable citizens exposed to life-threatening insecurity.

## ***1.5. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT***

### ***Crops destroyed by rain very close to the Busuma camp, in Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province***

Information transmitted to the Iteka League on March 22, 2026, reports the destruction of rice, bean, and cassava crops near the Busuma camp, on Rutegama hill, in the Bwagiriza area, Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province, due to rainfall. According to local accounts, the road construction within this camp is the cause of the significant water

accumulation. Audace Ndayishimiye, deputy head of this hill, is requesting the establishment of contour lines in the camp in order to protect neighboring residents and prevent diseases, given that these waters are heavily contaminated.

## ***II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS***

### ***II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE***

#### ***II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES***

##### ***II.1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY THEIR HUSBANDS OR WIVES***

#### ***A woman killed by her husband in Gisuru commune, Buhumuza province***

On March 15, 2026, on Nyagitika Hill in the Nyabitsinda area, Gisuru commune, Buhumuza province, a pregnant woman named Daphrose Niyonzimana was killed by her husband, Egide Bizimana. It was around 9 p.m. when the couple returned from downtown Nyabitsinda, where they had spent the evening having a drink.

Upon arriving home, a fight broke out. The fight reportedly stemmed from infidelity within the couple. The husband accused his wife of having questionable relationships with other men and even claimed that the child she was carrying was not his.

After several hours of arguing, the husband struck her in the face with a machete, and the woman fell to the ground. She was taken directly to the Ntabitsinda health center, where she died a few minutes later.

The victim's body was taken to the morgue. The following day, on March 16, 2026, Egide Bizimana was arrested and taken to the Nyabitsinda police station, where an investigating officer processed his case. On March 19, 2026, he was transferred to the Ruyigi Central Prison, charged with first-degree murder.



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## **II.1.1. 2. PEOPLE KILLED, PEOPLE UNIDENTIFIED OR BODIES FOUND**

### ***A lifeless body found in Kayanza commune, in Butanyerera province***

Information received by the Iteka League on March 17, 2026, indicates that on March 9, 2026, around 6 a.m., on Musave Hill in the Murima area of Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, passersby found the body of a man named Ferdinand in a ditch near the station known as Kwa Karufani. According to local sources, a knife and a large rock were found next to the body. The condition of the body indicates that the rock was placed on the victim's head. Ferdinand is a native of Kavumu Hill, Murima Zone, Kayanza Commune, Butanyerera Province,

and the father of two children; the victim was reportedly often intoxicated, the same sources added.

According to some local accounts, the victim was allegedly killed by sellers of unauthorized fuel, who accused him of exposing their fuel fraud scheme because he frequently passed by their sales location known as Kwa Karufani (at Karufani's). No investigation has been conducted into this crime, which is causing concern for the victim's family.

### ***A lifeless body found in a commune and province of Gitega***

Information received by the Iteka League on March 16, 2026, indicates that on March 9, 2026, around 1:00 p.m., the lifeless body of Pascal Gahungu, aged 65, was found in the Kaniga River, which separates Marumane Hill, Rutegama area, Kiganda commune, and Kaguhu Hill, Kabanga area, Gitega commune, all in Gitega province. According to sources on site, Pascal Gahungu was originally from Kaguhu Hill, and his family reported that

they had been looking for him for six days. Differences remain regarding the circumstances of the death, as some testimonies suggest that he was swept away by the river's waters, while others believe he was killed and then thrown into the river, due to visible injuries on the head, as well as blows from cudgels. No one had been arrested as of March 22, 2026.

### ***A lifeless body found in a commune and province of Gitega***

According to information received by the Iteka League on March 16, 2026, on March 14, 2026, at around 5:00 p.m., on the Ruvumu sub-hill, Kanyonga hill, Buhevyi area, Gitega commune and province, the lifeless body of Cédric Irankunda, a 14-year-old boy, was found in a eucalyptus plantation, very close to the river.

According to a local source, Cédric Irankunda is the son of Eric Nzirubusa and Désidérata Ndoricimpa, who reside on the same sub-hill. The same source indicated that the body had injuries on the legs, suggesting he may have

been scalded with hot water, as well as bruises on the ribs.

When questioned, his mother stated that she had last seen him on the evening of March 12, 2026. When asked why she had not reported him missing, she said nothing.

Investigating Officer Ingabire Jean Baptiste authorized the burial of the body, while the victim's mother was taken into custody to allow the investigation to continue.



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

### ***A lifeless body found in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura***

On March 18, 2026, in the afternoon, in the Ngagara area, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, a lifeless body of an unidentified man was found.

According to sources on the spot, the deceased was beaten and killed by people who were among the individuals who had just robbed a shop located near a restaurant-bar called

Heritage, not far from a school called Les Pinpins.

According to the same sources, the deceased was a conveyor on public transport buses in the city of Bujumbura. This body was taken to one of the hospitals that was not revealed as it was in the city of Bujumbura pending the outcome of the investigations initiated by the police.

### ***A lifeless body found in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province***

On March 20, 2026, at the first transversal of Rusoro, Rugombo area, Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province, a lifeless body of a man named Longin was found. Our source in the locality indicates that this body was lying in an irrigation canal of the fields passing near the High School of the Friends of Rugombo.

Residents on the spot explain that the deceased was in the business of packing phytosanitary products in this area. These citizens add concerns about the lifeless bodies found here and there as the Imbonerakure patrol at night and sometimes commit night robberies.

## ***II.1.1.3. PERSONS WHO DIED AS A RESULT OF SUICIDE***

### ***A corpse was found in the Karusi commune, Gitega province***

On March 19, 2026, around 7 a.m., on Tambi Hill in the Rugazi area of Karusi commune, Gitega province, the lifeless body of Arcade Nzajibwami, a 38-year-old member of the CNDD-FDD, was found hanging from a rope in a house located near a cabaret in the center of Tambi.

The victim is presumed to have committed suicide; he was married and taught at ECOFO Tambi-Kibande. According to local sources, this teacher used to engage in a side job screening films in that same house after work hours. The deceased was originally from

Rwimbogo Hill, Masabo area, Shombo commune in Gitega province. According to the same sources, local witnesses, the reasons for this suicide are unknown, but sources close to his family say he had family problems stemming from his wife's mental illness, which had been ongoing for five years. According to his close relatives, the day before, on March 17, 2026, the police had seized his eight cans of gasoline—totaling 160 liters—which he was selling under the pretext that he was doing so to raise funds to treat his sick wife.

### ***Case of suicide in Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province***

On March 22, 2026, at around 9:00 p.m., Eric Nsanzurwimo, a married man and father of one child, residing in the Ndava neighborhood, Cankuzo urban center, Cankuzo zone and commune, Buhumuza province, committed suicide at his home using a rope. His body was found hanging inside the house. He was discovered by his wife when she returned from a nearby kiosk located about 300 meters away. His wife found him hanging in the living room and called the neighbors, who took him to the Cankuzo

Hospital morgue at midnight after the police had documented the scene. According to the municipal administrator, Nahimana Marie Rose, the man had spent the day drinking alcohol from plastic bottles. The administrator and the police were at the scene but were unable to determine the causes of the suicide. Some say there were no known disagreements between him and his wife, while others claim that Éric was still in conflict with his wife.

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

### ***A lifeless body found in Rwibaga commune, in Bujumbura province***

On March 20, 2026, at around 8:00 p.m., on Mutobo Hill, Rukina area, Rwibaga commune, Bujumbura province, the lifeless body of a man named Théodore Ndayishimiye, aged 35, born in 1991 on the aforementioned hill, son of Damien Nitunga and Captoline Budabuda, was found inside his home.

According to sources on the scene, the victim committed suicide using a rope made from a sack that he himself had hung from the roof of his house and tied around his neck, which is why he gradually passed away.

These sources also indicate that the police have not been able to determine the cause that drove this young man to commit suicide, but the testimony of his eldest child, who caught him in the act of suicide, has facilitated the police investigation, which will continue to clarify the circumstances so that the truth of the matter may be established. The deceased's remains were transferred to the RUKINA CDC morgue pending further arrangements for the burial.

## ***II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY***

### ***II. 2.1. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE***

#### ***II.2.1.1. RAPES***

### ***A girl raped in Rumonge commune, in Burunga province***

According to information received by the Iteka League on March 17, 2026, on March 15, 2026, on Nyagasaka Hill, Buruhukiro area, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, a 5-year-old girl named I.J., a native of the same hill, was the victim of sexual violence; the perpetrator has not yet been identified. According to local sources, the child was found by neighbors near the family home around 4 p.m., crying. After examining her, blood was discovered on her genitalia, and she was then taken to the Nyagasaka health center. The local police were notified, but the alleged perpetrator has not been identified, and even the child does not know him. According to the same sources, the assault occurred while her

parents were working in the fields, having left her to watch the house, and the perpetrator took advantage of their absence to rape her. An investigation has been launched by the Nyagasaka police to locate the suspect, but no arrests have been reported yet.

In light of this situation, local administrative authorities are urging parents to be extra vigilant and to avoid leaving young children home alone without an adult present, in order to enhance their safety.

### ***A girl raped in Rumonge commune, in Burunga province***

Information received by the Iteka League on March 16, 2026, indicates that on March 7, 2026, on Kirema Hill, in the Kayanza zone and commune, Butanyerera province, a sex worker named Francine was arrested for exploiting young girls.

According to local sources, this woman was manipulating young girls to bring them to her clients (the "men"). This 29-year-old woman has two children by different fathers. These

sources indicate that her clients pay her 100,000 FBU in exchange for a young girl. That day, she met an 11-year-old girl coming out of school and bought her a Fanta. She then took the girl to a house where three men were waiting and locked her inside. The men raped the girl in that house and fled after paying the woman a commission. Francine left with them, but people from the area who had seen her with the child spotted her

## ***II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 11)***

returning alone. They suspected her of being a child trafficker and questioned her. The others entered the house and found the little girl inside in critical condition. Francine claimed to have accompanied her home but said she did not know how the girl had returned to the house. The victim was taken to the hospital for comprehensive care.

Five days later, the little girl returned from

the hospital and told the whole story to the police, who opened a criminal case. Found guilty, Francine was sentenced by the Kayanza court to 25 years in prison on March 19, 2026, but refused to reveal the identities of the perpetrators.

### ***A girl raped in Mugere commune, Bujumbura province***

On March 14, 2026, I.A.C., 13 years old, a student in the 6th grade at ECOFO Migera, located on Migera hill, in the Kabezi zone, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, was the victim of rape. During the incident, Sosthène Bikorimana, a fisherman, invited her to his home for lunch, then sexually assaulted her.

After returning home, the child shared everything that happened. Sosthène Bikorimana was apprehended and incarcerated in the communal dungeon, while the victim received all the required care.

### ***A girl raped on Ramba Hill, Ramba area, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province***

A 14-year-old girl was raped on March 10, 2026, on Ramba Hill, Ramba area, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province. The girl is named N. J, she is in 7th grade at ECOFO Nyamugari. She was raped by a 42-year-old man who works at Fabrice's construction site where he builds houses. The man is known as GAHUNGU Pamphile, he comes from

Buhonga and moved to work. He gave money to the girl to buy what she wanted, then invited her to his home and raped her. The victim received the necessary care at KABEZI Health District Hospital, and as for the alleged perpetrator, he is currently in the Mugere commune detention cell.

## ***II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM***

### ***II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARREST***

#### ***Three people arrested in Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province***

On March 20, 2026, in the commune of Kirundo, in the new province of Butanyerera, three people, including a merchant named Nsengiyumva and two village chiefs—Cyriaque from the Rupfunda neighborhood and Elias Nkurunziza from the Bushaza neighborhood—were all arrested at noon by the municipal commissioner of the PNB and loaded into his police pickup truck.

This came after they had been summoned the previous day to appear at the municipal police

station. Very early Friday morning, all were taken to the police station under police guard, who had been waiting for them at their respective homes.

Some local sources report that they were taken to Bujumbura and are believed to be detained in the Documentation Department's cells.

So far, no reason has been given for these arrests. Their families are demanding that the truth be brought to light.

### III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

#### III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

##### ***Mining sector in Burundi: Between opacity of gold sales and suffocation of local operators***

On March 10, 2026, during the signing of nickel mining contracts with KoBold Metals and Life Zone Metals, Hassan Kibeya, Burundi's Minister of Mines, highlighted the country's latest mineral sales, which included 200 kilograms of gold. Although the country has been in an economic crisis since 2015—a crisis that worsened in 2020 under the regime of Évariste Ndayishimiye—Hassan Kibeya did not specify the achievements or economic benefits resulting from these sales, which the president himself has publicly “oversee” since October 2025.

Prior to the signing of this contract, the BRB had gone more than a month without paying the gold miners who had delivered their product to it since February 2026. Also prior to this signing, the BRB, in collaboration with the Burundian Mining Office, had just set the rate corresponding to the amount of gold that miners were required to pay to the state prior to any sale at 16% (instead of the usual 7%). This decision came at a time when, since March 1, 2026, the Asian market where Burundian gold is sold had been paralyzed

##### ***Motorcycle taxi drivers trapped between fuel shortages and police violence in Kayanza, in Butanyerera province***

Information received by the Iteka League on March 21, 2026, indicates that in Kayanza, in Butanyerera Province, the fuel shortage is no longer merely an economic crisis: it exposes motorcyclists to serious violations of their rights and abusive practices attributed to certain law enforcement officers.

Faced with the inability to cover the daily payments demanded by motorcycle owners, several riders claim they are forced to carry more than one passenger at a time, in violation of traffic laws. They acknowledge this practice is illegal but justify it by the lack of alternatives to ensure their survival and that of their families.

However, beyond the offenses committed, it is

due to the conflict between the United States and Iran.

Using this war as a pretext, the BRB even caused the price per gram to plummet, which affected the local black market. On March 12, 2026, the miners met at the BRB headquarters to demand payment of their outstanding dues, but they left without any funds. These miners claim they do not know where the country is headed by refusing to pay its debts to taxpayers, while the state continues to demand a great deal from them while prohibiting them from selling abroad. One miner, speaking on condition of anonymity, sees this as a means for the regime to monopolize all of the country's economic interests for itself. He cites the example of someone close to the government who recently tried to sell gold in Kigali, thinking the market there was better than in Burundi; to his great surprise, he found no buyers and had to return with the entire quantity he had intended to sell.

above all the reported methods of repression that are causing outrage. According to numerous consistent accounts, certain traffic enforcement officers are not content to simply apply the penalties provided by law. They reportedly chase motorcyclists at high speeds in police vehicles, going so far as to deliberately ram their motorcycles. These brutal interventions are said to regularly cause accidents and injuries.

The motorcyclists also denounce practices amounting to extortion. “Our motorcycles are seized and taken to the police station. To get them back, we are forced to pay between 100,000 and 200,000 FBU, without any supporting documentation,” they report.

### ***III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE (the following of page 13)***

Even more seriously, some claim that fuel is siphoned from their tanks without their knowledge before their motorcycles are returned. These acts, if proven, constitute flagrant abuses of power and exacerbate an already precarious economic situation. This combination of economic pressure and alleged violence places motorcyclists in a

situation of extreme vulnerability. Deprived of their means of livelihood and exposed to arbitrary practices, they are making an urgent appeal to the relevant authorities to investigate these incidents and put an end to these abuses.

### ***III. 2. RIGHT TO LAND OWNERSHIP***

#### ***Forced expropriations orchestrated by the Imbonerakure to the detriment of the populations of Burambi, Rumonge commune, in Burunga province***

On March 22, 2026, the Iteka League received an alarming report concerning the Burambi region, located in the commune of Rumonge, within Burunga Province. The report details several expropriations of private property involving members of the Imbonerakure. For about two weeks now, a wave of expropriations affecting certain families has been sweeping through the various areas that made up the former commune of Burambi. Local authorities justify these actions by claiming that the lands in question belong to the state.

At the origin of this initiative is Kabura Israël, president of the communal commission responsible for allocating state-owned land to those deemed in need. A former resident of the former commune, he has established committees at the hill and zone levels, primarily composed of young Imbonerakure members. These committees are tasked with assessing private properties and dividing them into plots. The targeted lands, meanwhile, are primarily reserved for food crops such as maize, cassava, and beans, as well as oil palms. Access to these lands has been formally prohibited for former farmers, under penalty of imprisonment.

As early as March, many families, particularly those of Tutsi origin, found themselves in distress, helpless in the face of this situation. When they sought explanations, the answers they received were simple: “the order comes from above.” The victims, reduced to helplessness, could not even harvest the produce of their own growing seasons. The

Imbonerakure explain to them that it is time for them to make way for others so that those others can provide for themselves. Faced with this troubling situation, the victims wonder about the motivations behind this expropriation, especially since they are being prevented from harvesting what they have sown. According to local sources, among those affected are the family of the late Prince Ndakoze André, a former dignitary of the royal regime and the First Republic, as well as his relatives. During the redistribution of his lands, they were advised to move to the Buganwa estate. Former residents of these localities claim that their right to speak out and seek clarification is now being denied, as the floor is monopolized by officials of the ruling party, the oldest of whom is not even 45 years old. They are making a desperate plea: “We implore you to relay our call for help.”

For his part, the municipal administrator insists that the properties in question are indeed part of state-owned land and remains indifferent to the victims’ complaints. The residents are outraged by this: “Even the court cannot award a field in the middle of the growing season; it requires that we wait until the harvest before intervening.”

### **III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH**

#### ***Lamentations following the lack of patient reception in Butaganzwa commune, Buhumuza province***

Information received by the Iteka League on March 21, 2026, indicates that at the Bisinde Health Center, in the Butaganzwa commune, Buhumuza province, people visiting the said health center complain about not being properly received. According to sources on site, anyone who goes there in the afternoon is turned away and invited to come back the next morning, whereas illness does not give prior

notice. According to Aline Abayo, head of this health center, no one is turned away, but there may be isolated cases, and she asks patients to report them. Aline continues by saying that a meeting with the center's staff will be organized to eliminate this behavior.

### **III.4. RIGHT TO EDUCATION**

#### ***A principal of the Bitare Technical High School is missing after tensions related to exams in Rumonge, Burunga province***

Information received by the Iteka League indicates that at the Bitare Technical High School, located in the Minago area of Rumonge commune, Burunga province, the principal, Nestor Nsavyumukama, has been missing since March 10, 2026, according to several sources within the school.

According to members of the teaching staff, the director reportedly left the school shortly after receiving a letter signed by the teachers. In this letter, the teachers requested that new second-quarter exams be organized for all advancing classes, citing alleged cases of cheating and theft of exam papers.

Tensions surrounding this situation date back to March 5, 2026, when a meeting was organized by the administration with the teaching staff. According to some participants, a consensus seemed to be emerging in favor of canceling the disputed exams and rescheduling them, due to irregularities deemed widespread. However, this decision was reportedly never implemented.

Faced with this inaction, the teachers sent a second letter to the administration, reiterating their request. They stated that they were acting to restore a healthy school environment and ensure the credibility of the assessment

system, while threatening to refer the matter to the Ministry of Education if no action was taken.

According to these sources, the day after receiving this second letter, the principal reportedly withdrew all funds from the school before leaving the premises without a trace. The Bitare Technical High School, an Anglican-affiliated school, currently enrolls more than 280 students. This situation is causing serious concern within the local educational community.

School authorities in Rumonge report that an investigative committee has been established to shed light on this matter. The findings are expected in the coming days and should guide the decisions to be made.

In the meantime, parents, teachers, and students are calling for urgent and appropriate measures to safeguard the school's interests and ensure a healthy educational environment.

## IV. CATEGORY RIGHTS

### IV. 1. CHILD'S RIGHTS

#### *Orphaned children stripped of their inheritance in Buhumuza province*

Information received by the Iteka League on March 20, 2026, indicates that in the Buhumuza province, many orphaned children are deprived of their inheritance by those who should protect them. According to sources on site, this situation makes them grow up with a sense of revenge and indicates that it is one of the reasons that drive them to live on the street. Thus, Prisca Nizigama, the head of the

Sainte Germaine Cousin fraternity, supports these children through the association Kira mwana ukize Abandi (AKIMUA). She calls on the authorities to take appropriate measures against those who steal the inheritance of orphans. She also makes an appeal to the courts handling children's cases to deal with them courageously so that the children can obtain justice.

#### *A newborn abandoned by his mother in Mugere commune, Bujumbura province.*

A newborn abandoned by his mother just after birth was discovered yesterday on Migera hill, Kabezi area, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province. The incident occurred on March 22, 2026, around 6 a.m., when worshippers going to the first mass at Mutumba parish saw the infant lying near the path leading to the parish from the main

RN3 road. According to witnesses, the baby is a girl. Everything indicated that the mother had just given birth on the spot, as there was a lot of blood. The administrative authorities intervened quickly and took the child to Kabezi hospital.



*Anyone should be respected*

## *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. Systematically carry out transparent judicial investigations when deceased bodies are discovered
2. Ensure that the families of the victims have the right to file complaints and access the findings of autopsy reports before any burial.
3. Investigate the occurrences of bodies that have not been found in different localities of the country and where no action has been taken by the government,
4. Take measures to end the impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.