



BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

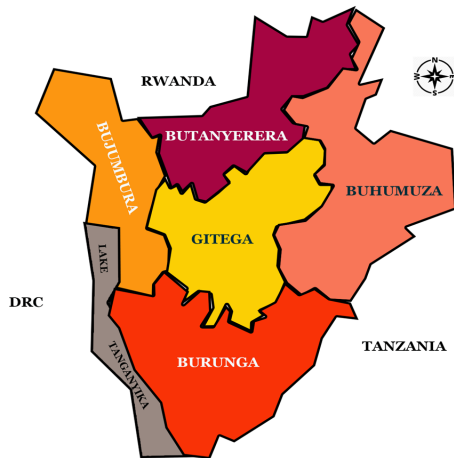
WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

Anyone should be respected

N°519 from 23 to 29 March 2026

Approved by Ministerial Order No. 530/0273 of November 10, 1994, revising Order 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 29, 2026, at least 861 victims of forced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 86 victims have reappeared, and 777 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.

CONTENTS

0. INTRODUCTION.....	P.5
I. CONTEXT.....	P.5
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.....	P.8
III. CATEGORY-SPECIFIC RIGHTS.....	P.11
IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	P.12

ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AMOTABU: Association of Motorcyclists of Burundi

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

ECOFO: Primary School

ETS: Secondary Technical School

FOMI: Organo-Mineral Fertilizer

OPJ: Judicial Police Officer

PAEEJ: Youth Economic Empowerment and Employment Program

RDC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

RN: National Road

SNR: National Enquiry Service

TGI: High Court

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>0. INTRODUCTION.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I. BACKGROUND.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I.1. SECURITY CONTEXT.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I.3. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>I.4. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>I.5. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>I.6. ECONOMIC CONTEXT.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY STATE AGENTS</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>II.1.1.3. PEOPLE KILLED IN SETTLING OF SCORES.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>II.2.1. CASES OF TORTURE.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>II. 2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>II.2.1.1. SEXUAL VIOLENCE.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>II.2.1.2. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>II.3. RIGHT TO LIBERTY.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>II.3.1. KIDNAPPING AND/FORCED DISAPPEARANCES.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>III. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>III. 1. RIGHTS OF THE CHILD.</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</i>	<i>12</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the situation of human rights in Burundi during the week of March 23 to March 29, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the judicial, security, governance, environmental, and humanitarian context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of civil and political rights violations that occurred during this week.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least 5 people killed, including 3 bodies found dead, 1 case of inhuman and degrading treatment, 6 people victims of gender-based violence including 4 sexual assaults and 2 domestic violence cases, and 1 person kidnapped. Among the victims are 3 women, 3 young girls, and one girl.

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 man was almost killed in Cankuzo Commune in Buhumuza Province.

On March 26, around 7:30 p.m., near ETS Cankuzo in the Cankuzo area and commune, Buhumuza province, a grenade exploded in the vehicle of a man named Chadrack, a merchant at the Cankuzo market, during the night.

According to his account, a person came prowling around his car and knocked on the windshield just as he was about to go home. When he rolled down the window of his vehicle, the person threw a grenade into the vehicle and fled. Believing it was a rock thrown at his car, he immediately got out to chase after the person, and the grenade exploded inside the car.

The vehicle was damaged, but no loss of life was reported.

Other sources claim that Chadrack quickly called the prosecutor to inform him that the person who threw the grenade was a certain Hakizimana Pierre, head of the department at the Ministry of Land Use Planning, Urban Planning, and Housing in the Cankuzo commune. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and detained in the holding cell of the provincial police station for investigation. The two are in conflict because this department head had forbidden Chadrack from encroaching on the boundaries of his plot along the road, according to the same sources.

Administrative authorities and the police indicate that investigations have been launched to get to the bottom of the matter.

I.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

A young man sentenced for rape in Mwaro commune, in Gitega province.

On March 19, 2026, a teenage boy who worked as a domestic servant on Kirambi Hill, in the Makamba area of Mwaro commune, Gitega province, was arrested for raping a 7-year-old girl he met while tending goats. According to local sources, the girl was gathering firewood with other children when he lured her away from the group, tricking her into believing he would show her a place where there was plenty of wood.

The defendant claimed to be 15 years old, which led to the trial being postponed; however, after verifying his ID card, it was found that he was born in 2007

At the hearing on March 25, 2026, the Mwaro High Court ordered his transfer to an adult court, given that he was 19 years old.

In his statement, the defendant explained that by confessing to the charges, he had wanted to save his life because he was being

1.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

beaten. His lawyer also requested a reduced sentence, arguing that his client had not made it difficult for the court to accept his guilty plea.

The court therefore sentenced him to 20 years in prison and a fine of 10 million Burundian francs; failing to pay the fine, he will be sentenced to 600 months in prison.

1.3. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Traffic difficulty caused by rain in Cankuzo and Gisagara Commune , in Buhumuza province

Information received by the Iteka League on March 29, 2026, indicates that residents of the communes of Cankuzo and Gisagara, in Buhumuza Province, are complaining about the poor condition of various roads due to the rains. They report having difficulty getting to their various activities.

In areas where bridges once stood, they are forced to pay 1,000 FBU to be carried across on someone's back, as the bridges have been destroyed. Elsewhere, the trees they used to cross have been submerged by floodwaters. They are asking road construction officials to dig ditches for water drainage and to build bridges to facilitate traffic.

For example: National Roads 13 and 21 are currently under construction, but the drainage ditches have not been dug, and when it rains, water pools in the street and floods neighborhoods—this is the case in the Ndava neighborhood, in the Cankuzo zone and commune.

At the bridge in the area known as Rushishi, connecting the communes of Cankuzo and Gisagara, water overflows the wooden planks that make up the bridge. Similarly, the bridge in the area known as Matyazo has been destroyed, and to cross to the other side of the river, one must pay 1,000 FBU to certain people who carry passengers on their backs.

1.4. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

Difficulties of Burundian returnees coming from Tanzania and welcomed in Rutana commune, Burunga province

As of March 26, 2026, at the stadium of Rutana commune, Burunga province, there were more than 1,500 returned Burundian people from Tanzania who were waiting for their belongings that had remained in Tanzania for two days without any food or shelter. According to sources on the ground,

among them, two returned to their respective families with their belongings on March 28, 2026. They say that they are refugees from 2015 and that Tanzania decided to send them back home. This repatriation activity is carried out and funded by UNHCR.

1.5. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Farmer complaints in Nyanza commune, Burunga province

Farmers are complaining to the authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture about how they receive fertilizers made in Burundi (FOMI) or imported ones; only a single 25 kg sack is allocated to each household, even to those who paid for 10 or 20 sacks, like cooperatives. People wonder about the causes of these delays, even though beneficiaries must pay the full costs before collecting the payment tokens. Additionally, they have to spend a

long time in the waiting line due to poor organization. The population of Nyanza Commune hopes that these fertilizers reach them according to the farming period; otherwise, the harvest will not be good, especially since 70% of the population of Burundi depends on agriculture.

1.6. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The population victimized by expropriation and poor mining exploitation conditions in the communes of Mugina and Bukinanyana, in Bujumbura province

Since 2025, there has been an increase in mining activities, driven by the Office of the President of the Republic, Evariste Ndayishimiye, acting through the National Defense Force and the Youth Economic Empowerment and Employment Program.

These operations, initially concentrated in the Kibira Forest within the former commune of Mabayi (now the commune of Mugina), particularly in the Ruhoro, Mabayi, and Butahana areas, expanded in 2026 to the commune of Bukinanyana. Mining involves various minerals such as gold, coltan, cassiterite, amethyst, agate, and quartz.

Monitoring reveals a shift in these activities initially presented as being in the public interest—toward private interests to the detriment of local populations and environmental preservation.

In the Mugina commune, civilian workers operate under conditions akin to forced labor involving physical violence. The testimonies collected report constant physical pressure, including the use of corporal punishment (flogging). These employees are exposed to major environmental risks, such as landslides and lightning, without any protective

measures or support from the employer. Furthermore, the absence of formal contracts, health coverage, and the imposition of meager wages for excessive working hours constitute a flagrant violation of labor law.

In the commune of Bukinanyana, specifically in the Rusenda area (Nyangwe and Nyampinda hills), local residents denounce the illegal occupation of their lands by the PAEEJ. These mining activities are carried out without the prior consent of the landowners and without any compensation or indemnification procedures. This situation also extends to protected nature reserves, putting the local ecosystem at risk.

The exclusion of local populations from the labor market in favor of workers from Musinga, Kirundo, and Kayanza has exacerbated social tensions. This marginalization culminated on March 21, 2026, in violent clashes between PAEEJ workers and residents of the Nyampinda and Nyangwe hills.



Anyone should be respected

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

II.1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY STATE AGENTS OR BY IMBONERAKURE

One person killed in Bugendana commune, Gitega province

On March 27, 2026, at the Kukarukona trading center, on Nkanda hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, Lévis IRAKOZE, 28 years old, son of Ntumbo Salvator was killed by Innocent NZEYIMANA, Imbonerakure of this hill. According to local witnesses, the disagreements broke out after the victim bought a Kick drink at Simbakwira Espérance, and Lévis is asking to be reimbursed 1. 000 fbu as excess on his payment and the tenant arguing that she had

already given him back. According to the same witnesses in the locality, this is how Innocent came with a knife ordering Lévis to empty the premises and in wanting to resist this intimidation, Innocent stabbed him in the heart and gave up the ghost on the spot.

The OPJ and the Municipal Commissioner arrived at the scene of the crime and ordered the burial of the victim, saying that they are looking for the alleged perpetrator.

II.1.1. 2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A lifeless body found in Cankuzo Commune , Buhumuza Province.

On March 22, 2026, around 9 p.m., in the Ndava neighborhood, Zone and Commune of Cankuzo, Buhumuza Province, the lifeless body of Eric Abdoul was found hanging in his house. According to information collected on site, his wife found him hanging in the living room and called the neighbors, who took him

at midnight to the morgue of Cankuzo Hospital after the police made their report. Also according to the neighbors, the deceased lived in conflict with his wife, and the police said that investigations have begun.

A lifeless body found in Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province

On March 25, 2026, on Kireka Hill, Kavomo area, Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province, the lifeless body of a person named Léandre was found buried. According to local witnesses, on March 26, 2026, the victim went to work but did not return, and his family raised an alarm. The communal police, the administration, and AMOTABU launched a search for Léandre and his unregistered motorcycle, but to no avail. Children who were looking for firewood provided information that they had seen where a

person was buried, with an arm remaining outside, so the police and the administration hurried and found that it was the body of Léandre. The family took responsibility for burying him at their home, and OPJ Masumbuko opened a case to investigate the perpetrators of this death. The issuance of new motorcycle plates is slow and takes three months or more, and motorcyclists waiting for wafers are often targets of thieves.



Anyone should be respected

II.1.1. 3. PEOPLE KILLED FOR SETTLING SCORES

A woman killed in Bururi commune, Burunga province

On March 26, 2026, at around 10 p.m., on Mwarusi hill, Muhweza zone, Bururi commune, Burunga province, Mathilde MBONIMPA, 90 years old, was murdered by her son by blows of a club received in the head until it was crushed. According to witnesses in the locality, the alleged perpetrator of this murder accused him of witchcraft. The burial of the victim was made on March 27, 2026 on

the same hill of Mwarusi while the alleged perpetrator of the crime went to the police station in Bururi commune where he is currently detained.

The friends and relatives of the late Mathilde MBONIMPA ask that the justice system does its job well.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. CASES OF INHUMANE TREATMENT OR TORTURE

A person mistreated and beaten in Karusi commune, Gitega province

On March 25, 2026, at around 11:00 p.m., on Rwingoma Hill, Buhiga area, Karusi commune, Gitega province, NTAHOBARI Révoat, a 38-year-old Imbonerakure, originally from Miyange Hill, Bugenyuzi area, was manhandled and beaten by Eric, the Imbonerakure leader at the hill level, Jean Claude, his deputy, and a single mother named Ange. According to local witnesses, they found him in the home of Mathilde Uwizeyimana, a 30-year-old divorced woman and member of the CNDD-FDD. According to the neighborhood chief, the victim spent the entire afternoon in a bar on that hill with this

woman, and the Imbonerakure followed them to the house, waited for them to go inside, and then broke down the door before dragging him to the ground. According to the same witnesses, they demanded money from him, and since he had none, he was beaten. He spent the night at Buhiga Hospital, where he received treatment until 2:00 p.m. on March 26, 2026, after his older brother, who lives on Buhiga Hill, paid the bill. The perpetrators remain at large as if nothing had happened, even though they beat up an Imbonerakure just like themselves.

II.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/RAPE

II. 2.2.1. SEXUAL VIOLENCE

A young girl raped in Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province

Information received by the Iteka League on March 23, 2026, indicates that on March 20, 2026, a young girl from Rorero hill, Kabarore zone, Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province was raped by a 40-year-old Nzambiana Édouard policeman who operates in this Kabarore zone.

Information gathered from the victim's parents, including Mpawenimana Sereverin and Ciza Speciose, says that their neighbor

Miburo Consolatte was complicit because she called the victim at his home and locked her up with the alleged perpetrator of this rape. Nzambiana Édouard and Miburo Consolatte were apprehended by the police on the same day and taken to the jachot of the police station in Kayanza

A girl raped in Kayanza commune, Butanyerea Province.

Information received by the Iteka League on March 24, 2026 indicates that on March 20, 2026, a N. B girl, aged 5 years 4 months, from Tubiri hill, mparamirundi zone, Kayanza

commune, Butanyerera province was raped by a named Twa, 28 years old. Information provided by the victim's parent, Niyonkuru Gilbert, said that the girl had come to draw

II.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/RAPES (the following of page 9)

water and that the alleged perpetrator of the rape had put her in a bush and raped her. The same information says that after alerting the police in Mparamirundi, the alleged perpetrator was apprehended and kept in the

jail in the Mparamirundi area and the victim was taken to Kayanza Hospital for medical expertise and medical treatment

Two girls raped in Musave, Kayanza commune, in Butanyerera province

According to information received by the Iteka League on March 23, 2026, on February 18, 2026, on Musave Hill, in Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, I. A.R., aged 5, and I. D., aged 4, were raped multiple times by a 15-year-old named Yishurirakugihe Divin, son of Kamuryango Venant and Ndereyimana Odile.

According to local sources, the two young girls often visited their godmother, Ndereyimana Odile, mother of Divin (the alleged perpetrator), and even spent the night there. Upon returning home, the child Anny Reine cried profusely while using the restroom, and her mother checked on her and discovered that the child had been raped. The child told her mother that Divin, the son of their godmother, had inserted something into her

genitalia, and her mother quickly alerted her neighbor Laïssa, Darleine's mother, and found that her daughter was also in great pain and had sores in her genitalia.

The parents took their children to Kayanza Hospital, and the doctor confirmed the rape. Divin was arrested and admitted that he had raped them multiple times. Divin spent two days at the Kayanza police station and was released by the prosecutor on the grounds that he is a minor, without even notifying the victims' parents. Now Divin has disappeared. The victims' parents are demanding that justice be served.

II.2.2.2. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A woman beaten by her husband in Rutana commune, Burunga province

On March 28, 2026, at around 11 p.m., in the Karindo district, Rutana area and commune, Burunga province, Isidonie Niragira was beaten and injured in the right eye by her husband Jean Marie Nduwayo accusing her of having romantic relationships with other men but without fragrance. They are all members of the CNDD-FDD party and also farmers and

this accusation was denied by Isidonie and the neighbors saying that he wanted to chase her away to bring another woman. Jean Marie was taken to the jail of the Rutana communal police station where he has been detained since that same night when the victim was taken to the hospital in Rutana for treatment.

A woman beaten by her husband in Kiganda commune, Gitega Province.

On March 23, 2026, at around 8 p.m., on Rutegama hill, Rutegama zone, Kiganda commune in Gitega province, Ininahazwe Cynthia, 26, a farmer, was beaten by her husband Kwizera Olivier, 29. Slon of the neighbors of the locality, his wife opened the door for him when he came in and began to assault her with punches and legs. The victim fled and sought asylum with the neighbors. The next day, he sent her text messages to tell

her that he no longer wanted her and the victim returned to her biological family. The family council met on March 26, 2026 without success and the husband swore not to live with her anymore. According to sources on the spot, the origin would be that the couple has just spent 3 years without having children. According to the same sources, the victim will try to file a complaint with the courts.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II. 3.1. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

A person kidnapped in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province

On Monday, March 23, 2026, at around 10 a.m., in the Nyakabiga 1 neighborhood, located on 4th Avenue in the Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, Ciza Bogoss, a 28-year-old electronics repairman (radios and telephones), was forcibly apprehended by individuals wearing national police uniforms.

According to local witnesses, the victim was with other residents on the public street and was forced to get into a double-cab vehicle, which immediately left the scene for an unknown destination.

According to testimonies gathered from neighbors and family members, this abduction occurred amid a climate of pre-existing tensions. A dispute had arisen between the victim and his neighbor, Jean de Dieu, alias "Gisukari."

This conflict, initially of a private nature, escalated following insults directed at Ciza's mother, leading to a physical altercation between the two parties. It is important to

note that this neighborhood dispute was already the subject of legal proceedings before the competent judicial authorities at the time of the incident.

The involvement of individuals in official uniform in what appears to be a kidnapping raises serious concerns about the misuse of law enforcement in private disputes. The family and residents of Nyakabiga denounce a violation of legal arrest procedures and fear for Mr. Ciza's physical safety.

The victim's relatives are calling on administrative and security authorities to intervene to locate the young man, guarantee respect for his fundamental rights, and ensure transparent handling of this case in accordance with the principles of the rule of law.

III. CATEGORY RIGHTS

III.1. CHILD'S RIGHTS

A child killed in Ngozi commune, Butanyarera province

On March 28, 2026, in the Muremera neighborhood, Ngozi commune, Butanyarera province, a 3-year-old named Iteriteka was strangled to death by his mother Consolate Nizigiyimana from the Mishiha commune, former province of Cankuzo. According to local witnesses, Consolate Nizigiyimana was

arrested and imprisoned in the judicial police cell after her neighbors saw her trying to lock the body in a suitcase. The victim has not yet revealed the reasons that led him to murder his own son.



Anyone should be respected

IV. 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 conduct transparent judicial investigations upon the discovery of lifeless bodies.
2. Ensure that the families of victims have the right to file complaints and access the findings of autopsy reports before any burial.
3. Investigate the phenomenon of bodies not being found in different localities across the country, where no action has been taken by the government.
4. Take measures to end the impunity of crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.