



# BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

## WEEKLY REPORT

*"Iteka n' Ijambo"*

*Anyone should be respected*

**N°522 from 13 to 19 April 2026**

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



*In memory of Mrs. Marie Claudette KWIZERA, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to April 19, 2026, at least 864 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 87 victims have reappeared, and 780 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 (Ruling Party)

DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

BRB: Bank of the Republic of Burundi

FDLR: Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda

FOMI: Organo-mineral Fertilizer

COOPEC: Savings and Credit Cooperative

CDS: Health Center

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of April 13 to 19, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the security, judicial, governance, and economic context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of civil and political rights violations that marked this week.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least 6 people killed, including 3 bodies found dead, 3 people subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment, 2 minor girls victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and 1 person kidnapped. It should be noted that one person reappeared a few days after being kidnapped. Of the 10 victims, 3 are children, including two little girls, and 1 new born.

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

## I. CONTEXT

### I.1. SECURITY

#### *Cross-border traffic and financing conflict*

Information received by the Iteka League on April 19, 2026, indicates that movements of suspicious trucks have been observed in recent days at the Kobero border post. According to certain sources, these vehicles enter Burundian territory carrying weapons and ammunition destined for the Republic of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On their return, they systematically leave loaded. A military source indicates that the criminal network of the regime exploits the return route of these trucks to clandestinely export various minerals (coltan, cassiterite, quartz, etc.) extracted from the North, North-East, and North-West regions of Burundi.

Moreover, minerals from the DRC are currently reportedly transiting through Burundi on their way to Tanzania. Although the exact origin of these shipments remains to be confirmed, it is well established that Congolese gold has long been circulating through Burundi via the Bank of the Republic of Burundi (BRB), using a Burundian label. This illegal mining trade between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo directly contributes to the financing of regional conflicts for more than a decade, notably supporting armed groups such as the Imbonerakure and the Interahamwe (FDLR) who support the regimes in place.

#### *Gunfire heard in Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province*

On the night of April 16, 2026, around 11 p.m., at the old Cankuzo market, commercial district, area and commune of Cankuzo, Buhumuza province, a police officer not yet identified fired several shots into the air. The people who were still at the tavern disarmed

him. Without delay, the patrolling police quickly intervened. They recovered the rifle and took him to the cell at the Cankuzo provincial police station, where he is being held.



Anyone should be respected

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

### ***The release of the police colonel, a controversial judicial decision that rekindles questions about the impartiality of Burundian justice***

Police Colonel Moïse Arakaza, also known as Nyeganyega, was released on the afternoon of April 15, 2026, after several months of detention at Bururi prison. This release follows a decision from the Bururi Court of Appeal, which had imposed a fine of one million Burundian francs for undermining the national economy.

According to a local judicial source, the public prosecutor did not appeal, thus consolidating the final and favorable nature of the decision in favor of the officer. It should be recalled that Moïse Arakaza was arrested in 2025 in Rumonge in connection with a fuel fraud case. Elements of the investigation reveal that he was in charge of a vehicle specifically designed

for the illegal transport of fuel coming from Tanzania.

During the interception operation in Kigwena, he allegedly threatened traffic police officers who were trying to seize the vehicle. Since his arrest, he was held in Bururi prison pending the outcome of the judicial process. In addition, Colonel Arakaza has been involved in several allegations of human rights violations in various communes of Bururi province, notably in Mugamba and Matana, as well as in other localities where he carried out his duties.

### ***Judicial reform between hope and blockages in the municipalities of Burunga province.***

In the communes of Makamba and Nyanza, in Burunga province, the reform of the justice sector raises both hopes and concerns among the population. While some residents welcome an initiative aimed at bringing judicial services closer to citizens, others denounce dysfunctions that already paralyze access to justice.

On one hand, several citizens recognize the advantages of the new delimitation of courts and tribunals. This reorganization should, according to them, reduce the long journeys they were previously forced to make, often at the cost of significant expenses. A significant advance in a context where access to justice remains a major challenge for rural populations.

However, on the ground, the implementation of this reform seems far from smooth. Some litigants claim they are not received when they present themselves before certain jurisdictions. Others mention imprecise appointments, forcing them to make multiple trips, with additional costs and a considerable loss of time.

Concerns also focus on the actual deployment of residence courts, which are, however, planned in all areas. Due to a lack of suitable

infrastructure, their implementation is delayed, casting doubt on the real effectiveness of the reform in the short term.

Added to these challenges are the working conditions of judges called to serve in these new jurisdictions. The lack of housing in some areas, combined with the absence of means of transportation, is likely to complicate their mission. Moreover, litigants could face a shortage of lawyers, making access to adequate legal defense difficult. Some judges, moreover, confirm these difficulties. While waiting for the full implementation of the reform, several cases from the affected areas are no longer being processed, pending their transfer to the new courts that do not yet exist.

During a visit carried out on April 16, 2026, by the President of the Supreme Court, Ambassador Gamaliel Nkurunziza, these challenges were widely discussed. The President of the Makamba Court of Appeal, Gloriose Nduwimana, painted a troubling picture of the situation. She notably pointed out a glaring lack of personnel: some courts have only one judge, without a public prosecutor, while others operate without

## ***I.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)***

clerks.

The shortage of logistical resources is equally alarming. According to her, no court has transportation resources, with the exception of the Court of Appeals, which has only one vehicle. Added to this is the critical shortage of buildings to house the new courts, particularly at the district level.

In response to these concerns, the Chief Justice acknowledged the existence of these difficulties, while seeking to be reassuring. He stated that adaptive measures would be taken and that the courts could temporarily operate in the administrative buildings of the districts.

The public points out that the district offices themselves are insufficient, sometimes unfinished or in poor condition. Under these conditions, they doubt the judicial system's ability to function effectively in such environments.

Caught between reform ambitions and on-the-ground realities, the justice system in Makamba is currently at a delicate turning point. While the stated objectives are welcomed, their implementation remains a major challenge that will determine citizens' trust in the judicial system.

### ***Interference of security services in Burundian justice***

On April 14, 2026, on Rwingoma Hill in the Buhiga area, Karusi commune, Gitega province, Mbazumutima Elysée, communal secretary of the Imbonerakure in the Karusi commune and also zonal education inspector in the Buhiga area, aged over 35, was arrested and imprisoned in the Gitega prison by the attorney general. According to local accounts, he was accused of assaulting a person from Gihogazi who has family ties to the Attorney General, who accused him of taking five young boys to Tanzania to sell them as laborers.

The same sources report that the victim of this assault was hospitalized at a secret location, for fear of retaliation, and that the incident took place on Rwingoma Hill, on the Rwingoma sub-hill, along National Road 12. On April 15, 2026, around 5 p.m., Mbazumutima Elysée returned home, and sources close to him report that he was released on the orders of a police general named Isidore, originally from the former commune of Gitaramuka in the former province of Karusi.

## ***I. 3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT***

### ***Dissatisfaction of the population with the allocation of state lands***

From March 27, 2026, to April 13, 2026, a nationwide initiative to register state-owned land will be launched with the aim of identifying unoccupied land to be allocated to the most vulnerable families and the Batwa.

In the commune of Kirundo, this operation has had negative repercussions, as lands previously occupied by Rwandan refugees since 1959 are now considered state-owned. Even lands that had been allocated by the Baganwa, the Batware, and the mwami despite being duly registered are affected due to the absence of official documents regarding them. When compiling the lists of

beneficiaries, only members of the ruling party are taken into account.

For example, in the Kigina zone, out of 47 beneficiaries, there are 9 Batwa, 4 Tutsi, and 33 Hutu, all affiliated with the CNDD-FDD. The commissions established at the sub-district and district levels received explicit instructions from the CNDD-FDD district secretaries on how the procedure was to be carried out in favor of the ruling party, which led to the allocation of the recovered properties. This initiative has sparked deep discontent among the population.

### ***I. 3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 7)***

#### **Persistent shortage of organo-mineral fertilizers in Muyinga commune, Buhumuza province**

As of April 17, 2026, in the commune of Muyinga, Buhumuza province, the neighborhood chiefs issued announcements calling for the registration of farmers wishing to receive organo-mineral manure for season C and those who have not yet been served for the arrears of seasons A and B, urging the residents of Kinyota hill to come and register in order to purchase FOMI fertilizers without difficulty. In this announcement, those from the neighborhoods of Kigarama and Gasenyi, Muyaga, and Rubiribiri should go to the hill chief's office. Meanwhile, the announcement from the provincial department head of agriculture and livestock indicated that registrations should end on April 18, 2026, without the farmers having been informed from the beginning of the registrations, while as of April 17, 2026, the offices were closed. The farmers do not know which way to turn because they have tickets from long ago that have not yet been served even though they have paid the full cost of the manure.

They denounce the procedure as too long because to get manure they go through more than 8 steps: Register at the hill; go pay the advance at the COOPEC; go to the counter at the chain to get the slip; go pay the rest to complete the payment to 100%; submit the slips to the FOMI servers; come back to collect the tickets from the FOMI servers; go have the tickets registered with the hill chief and go collect the manure on distribution day from the FOMI Administration and agriculture department officials. All these steps take one or two days each because there are always lines on the days of registration.

This procedure, which is too long, is a waste of time for farmers and calls for not repeating the payments for the manure of season C while even the tickets from previous seasons have not yet been issued, otherwise it is qualified theft; they also request that the sale of fertilizers be liberalized in the hands of wholesalers capable of importing and putting this product on the market like other goods

#### **Deforestation of the Kibira for presidential interests**

Since the beginning of 2026, the “minerals war” has not spared the Kibira Nature Reserve. While high-ranking officials in the country, particularly senior military and police officers, are illegally enriching themselves through national minerals and those from eastern DRC, the presidential couple and their close ally, Chief of Staff Prime Niyongabo, have appropriated sections of Kibira for private mining.

This mining is strongly condemned by the reserve's rangers as well as by the residents of the affected areas (Ruhororo, Mabayi, and Butahana). Since its inception, this activity has continued to claim victims and devastate the ecosystem. Artisanal gold mining requires massive amounts of wood for the

construction of underground tunnels, heating, and other related uses.

According to estimates by local experts, if this mining continues over the next two years, this part of the reserve will be completely deforested. The wildlife, severely affected, will be forced to flee to the Nyungwe Forest, on the other side of the Rwandan border. Fearing soil erosion and other climate-related disasters, the local population is calling on the international community to intervene against mining in these protected areas.

### ***I. 3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 8)***

#### ***Forced contributions imposed on teachers and school principals in Mugina commune, Bujumbura province***

As International Workers' Day approaches, teachers as well as other civil servants in the education department are required to contribute 60,000 Burundian francs each to participate obligatorily in the May 1st celebrations.

As Zephyrin Nahimana, head of the local education department, pointed out, any teacher or manager who does not participate in this event will see their annual evaluation lowered. Teachers and administrative staff denounce the use of force and threats in the collection of these funds. They remind that participation in a national holiday, especially requiring a financial contribution, should not be mandatory, particularly in a context of widespread socio-economic crisis severely affecting public sector civil servants.

Another group of people is also targeted by these forced contributions: principals and teachers in charge of public schools. They are required to pay the CNDD-FDD party 26,500 FBU for schools offering post-primary

education, and 20,000 FBU for those offering primary education.

According to the department head, these sums must be taken from the schools' operating expenses as a form of "gratitude" to the party for having promoted these school administrators. In addition to the risk of receiving poor evaluations, officials who fail to pay this sum referred to as a "tithe" in party jargon face being placed on a "blacklist" of individuals who will no longer be promoted.

The diversion of school operating funds toward partisan activities at the expense of educational needs harms not only school administrators but also students, teachers, and parents. In short, the entire country suffers as a result, even as the education sector is already severely strained by governance issues.



***Anyone should be respected***

## II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

### II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

#### II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

##### II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY STATE AGENTS

###### *A newborn died due to the neglect of the medical officials*

As of April 8, 2026, at the Kibongera Health Center (CDS) in the commune of Muyinga, Buhumuza province, Kabagabire Belune, originally from Kibongera hill, 38 years old, went into labor in the evening and found the nurse on duty absent. According to local witnesses, she was attended by a worker who normally works nights in place of the nurses, and complications became serious to the point that the worker had to call the nurse, who arrived intoxicated. The nurse decided to

transfer her to Muyinga Hospital, but upon arrival at the hospital, the child was already dead, after which she was transferred to Natweturashoboye Hospital in Karusi. The ambulance driver mistakenly drove her to the hospital in Ngozi instead of taking her to Karusi. The victim requests that the head of Kibongera Health Center take disciplinary action against the nurse who was supposed to be on duty and asks the justice system to do its work.

##### II.1.1. 2. PERSONS KILLED AS A RESULT OF THE SETTLEMENT OF SCORES

###### *A woman killed in a bistro, Ntakangwa commune, in Bujumbura province*

On the evening of April 14, 2026, around 11 p.m., in District 5 of the Ngagara area, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province, at a bar known as Peace House, Séraphine Harushukuri was killed after being struck by Gaspard Baranderezako, a 63-year-old university professor who was at the same bar with the victim.

According to local witnesses, the victim and Mr. Gaspard Baranderezako had originally been together at another bar, owned by a young woman named Nadia, located in District 5 of the Ngagara area. After a while, Mr. Gaspard wanted to leave, but the woman blocked his way by standing in front of his vehicle, intending for them to stay together and share a beer. Mr. Gaspard got into his vehicle, but the woman refused to let him leave, remaining in front of Mr. Gaspard's

vehicle, and he eventually killed her by deliberately hitting her; the victim's body was found approximately 50 meters from the point of impact.

After a lengthy manhunt for Mr. Gaspard, he was finally apprehended in Kamenge-Gare du Nord at a bar called Bar Amsterdam in the early morning of April 15, 2026, around 7 a.m., where he was still having his last drink.

The body of the victim, after the incident, was admitted to the morgue of Roi Khaled Hospital in Kamenge, and Mr. Gaspard Baranderezako was placed in police custody in order to prepare a criminal file. This professor was heard on April 17, 2026, by the Ntakangwa public prosecutor, but he requested to be assisted by a lawyer, and the case was postponed to April 27, 2026.

###### *A man killed in the commune and Province of Gitega by poison*

On April 11, 2026, in Gihamagara, a commune and province of Gitega, Nizigama J. Marie, 24 years old, died under suspicious circumstances during her wedding. During the giving of gifts, the victim received an envelope containing a 100 FBu note. The donor reportedly discreetly advised her not to mix this money with the rest. Shortly after, the groom experienced severe discomfort, showed signs of weakness, and then

lost consciousness.

Emergency brought to the Sisters Bene Tereziya of Songa Hospital (Bethany), he claimed to have been poisoned before dying upon arrival. After the death, Bandyabose Catheline, 67 years old, asked the family not to send the body to the morgue, stating that she could heal him

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

Questioned, she confessed during her interrogation to having wanted to kill the young man with several accomplices: Ntahombaye Concilie, 49 years old, Karera Luc, 51 years old, Bucumi Nestor, 73 years old, Itangigomba Spes, 65 years old, Niragira Caritas, 50 years old, and Mperabanyanka Léonard, 65 years old. All were arrested and placed in police custody.

According to testimonies, without the rapid intervention of the police, relatives of the deceased would have wanted to take justice into their own hands. Despite the presence of the police, the suspects' homes were burned and destroyed, and members of their families had to flee. Dr. Jacques Nduwimana, administrator of the municipality of Gitega, and other authorities went to the site to ease the tensions, without success.

### ***II.1.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE OR BODIES FOUND DEAD***

#### ***A lifeless body was found in Musongati commune, Burunga province***

On April 16, 2026, on Murusabagi sub-hill, Buyaga hill, Muzye area of the Musongati commune, Burunga province, an unidentified lifeless body was discovered in the evening in the Muyovozi River. According to sources, local passengers saw it floating on the waters of this river and notified the local administration. The Red Cross was contacted and quickly arrived at the scene, and this person was retrieved and buried.

It should be noted that the individual could not be identified and the circumstances of their death remain unknown. The population expresses concern about falling again into the insecurity situation of seeing lifeless bodies floating in the rivers and requests that their safety be guaranteed.

#### ***A lifeless body found in Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province***

On April 8, 2026, on the Ruguhu hillside, Muka Hill, Camazi area, Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province, the body of Ernest Ntibazonkiza, aged 56, was found very close to the home of Bonaventure Singendakubwabo. According to local sources, this is the third body discovered in the Camazi area within a two-week period. Ernest Ntibazonkiza had been missing since April 3, 2026. Unidentified individuals had cut out the victim's tongue and pulled out two of his teeth. The victim showed signs of injuries to his throat, suggesting he may have been killed with a

rope. Five individuals including Bonaventure Singendakubwabo, Tharcisse Nibisabwa, Joseph Buzagara, Elysé Nzigamasabo, and Stanislas Kabonetse have been arrested for investigative purposes and are currently being held in the detention cell at the Cankuzo Provincial Police Station.

It should be noted that the five individuals arrested for investigative purposes are all members of the victim's family.

The victim had recently returned to the country from the UN-run Nduta refugee camp in Tanzania after several years in exile.

#### ***Death of the Minister GABBY BUGAGA: Between official thesis and dark ideas***

On April 16, 2026, the lifeless body of GABBY BUGAGA, Burundian Minister of Communication, Information Technology and Media, was discovered at dawn in the palm grove of Kivoga by locals. In a statement signed by its spokesperson Jerome NIYONZIMA, the government quickly attributed the death to a road accident, a version that raises many questions.

The Iteka League notes several major inconsistencies: the unexplained absence of the close guard, however compulsory, and the absence

of structural damage to the vehicle. The position of the body in the passenger compartment reinforces the suspicions of a staging or a disguised political assassination rather than an accident.

Lacking transparency regarding a possible independent investigation, the Iteka League expresses strong reservations. For them, the failure to respect the protocol and criminal procedures in place for the discovery of the person's body of a such rank makes plausible the hypothesis of a cover-up by the State.

## **II.1.2. ABDUCTION AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCE**

### ***A person reported missing in Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province***

As of April 15, 2026, in the commune of Cankuzo, province of Buhumuza, Jacques Baranyizigiye, son of Baranyizigiye Michel and Burakuvye Mélange, residing on Nyakivumu hill, in the zone and commune of Cankuzo, is reported missing. According to his

wife Baredeka Stéphanie, her husband went in the morning to the Cankuzo hospital to get treatment, but he did not return. She confided in the zone chief of Cankuzo, Jean Bucumi, to help her search for her husband, but there has been no news.

### ***Release of Elysa Mutoni, after her arrest resembling an abduction, case reported in the Iteka n'Ijambo bulletin No. 521***

Between April 11 and 14, 2026, the Iteka League documented the case of Elysa Mutoni, a young resident of the Musama neighborhood, located in the Kanyosha area of Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, who works at La Silhouette restaurant. Her arrest was initially considered a kidnapping. The operation began on April 11 at her home, carried out by individuals wearing police uniforms who justified their intervention by claiming they needed to take her to the local police station. However, since the victim was not present when her family searched for her

at the police station, it was determined that she had been forced into a Probox-type vehicle with tinted windows, heading toward the documentation office, before spending a night in detention in a cell at the Special Investigation Bureau (BSR). Although she was released on April 14, 2026, and returned home, the Iteka League expresses concern over the lack of transparency and irregularities surrounding this arbitrary detention procedure.

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

### **II.2.1 TORTURE AND INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT**

#### ***A police officer injured in Kigwena, Rumonge commune, Burunga province***

Information received by the Iteka League on April 17, 2026 indicates that on April 2, 2026, on Nyakuguma Hill, Kigwena Zone, Rumonge Commune, Burunga Province, a man named Irambona, a policeman from the Kigwena Zone position, was the victim of blows and injuries to the head and shoulder of the left arm caused by Irakoze Issa, an Imbonerakure of the CNDD-FDD recognized as a consumer of prohibited beverages.

According to information gathered, the perpetrator had started the fight in the shop and wanted to beat the salesman and the latter shouted for help. The police officer intervened to rescue him before arresting him and taking him to the zonal cell and finally transferring him to the Rumonge police station. The victim was taken to the communal CDS center of Cabara and then to the Rumonge referral hospital for medical care.

#### ***A man and his wife beaten by Imbonerakure in Rutana commune, Burunga province***

On April 13, 2026, at around 9 p.m., on Karinzi Hill, Rongerero Zone, Rutana Commune, Burunga Province, Salvator Barashingwa and his wife Marcelline Itangishaka, all members of the CNDD-FDD party, were beaten with a stick by the Imbonerakure, young people of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, including Elias, Eric and Egide for housing a person without notifying

the local chief of this hill. These victims feel pain all over their bodies and are in the hospital of Rutana to be treated at the time when the alleged perpetrators are housed in the dungeon of the Rutana communal police station. On the same night, this person asking for accommodation was the one who took the victims to the hospital.

## II.2.2. RAPES

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

Information received by the Iteka League on April 17, 2026, indicates that on April 4, 2026, around 3 PM, on Mutambara Hill, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, I.K, 6 years old, was raped by the person named Nduwimana, a goat caretaker. According to local witnesses, the perpetrator took advantage of the parents'

absence to deceive the child by offering her a doughnut in order to commit the act. Afterwards, he fled. The local administration conducted searches in vain. The victim was taken to the Humura center in Rumonge for holistic care.

### *A person raped in Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province*

On April 4, 2026, on Rusuguti hill, Ngozi zone and commune, Butanyerera province, a 10-year-old girl was raped by Nsabimana Jean Baptiste, 26 years old, member of the CNDD FDD party. According to sources in the locality, the alleged perpetrator of the rape took advantage of the absence of the parents and lied to the child using offers of food. The

hill security officials intervened to take the child to the hospital. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to the Ngozi zone jail but escaped the same day. Child rights defenders, in collaboration with provincial social affairs officials, are searching for this rapist.

## III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

### III. 1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

#### *School dropouts: 2<sup>nd</sup> Term 2025-2026 in Muramvya Commune, Gitega Province*

During the 2nd term of this 2025-2026 school year, the number of school dropouts in the commune of Muramvya is very alarming. Primary school classes are the most affected. According to the head of the communal Department of Education in Muramvya, Mr. Habonimana Remy, the main causes are:

poverty, unwanted pregnancies, illness, family relocations, early marriage, and others. According to a survey conducted among the population, poverty would be the main cause of these dropouts.

*Thus, the cases of dropouts by area, by level, and by category are:*

1. FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL				2. POST-FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL		
AREA	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Bugarama	41	17	58	38	13	51
Bukeye	39	27	66	36	26	62
Kibumbu	32	29	61	31	27	58
Mbuye	27	29	56	29	25	54
Muramvya	53	39	92	56	41	97
Nyarucamo	29	33	62	22	29	51
Shombo	19	30	49	17	21	38
Total	240	204	444	229	182	411

## IV. CATEGORY RIGHTS

### IV. 1. RIGHT TO PROTECTION OF THE CHILD AGAINST VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

#### *Little girls pushed into prostitution in Kayanza, Butanyerera province*

In the town of Kayanza, certain neighborhoods are known for being home to women and sex workers. The best-known areas are Bwandimari, beyond Kayanza's main market, and Bereshi, in the Kigwati neighborhood. Both of these neighborhoods are located on Musave Hill. In Bwandimari, another problem has emerged: the sale of children under the age of 15. Some of these children are taken out of school to be introduced into prostitution. They are recruited by older girls and women already involved in prostitution and in this trafficking, who make

arrangements with their accomplices (men) to supply them with these young girls. According to local sources, 50,000 Burundian francs are paid for each child. It has come to light that young girls are losing their lives there and that the government remains silent, even though it is aware of the situation. At public meetings, parents speak out about what is happening in these communities, but the administration in the Kayanza commune is not addressing this issue, which undermines the children's rights guaranteed by the Burundian Constitution.

## 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 upon the discovery of lifeless bodies
2. Guarantee victims' families the right to file complaints and access the conclusions of autopsy reports before any burial
3. Take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.