

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS 'ITEKA'

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

REPORT OF THE BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS « ITEKA » ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH AND APRIL 2026



Anyone should be respected

In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to April 30, 2026, at least 865 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 86 victims have reappeared, and 781 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has already communicated to the Government of Burundi at least 252 victims.

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.
- ♦ is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections."

¹<https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

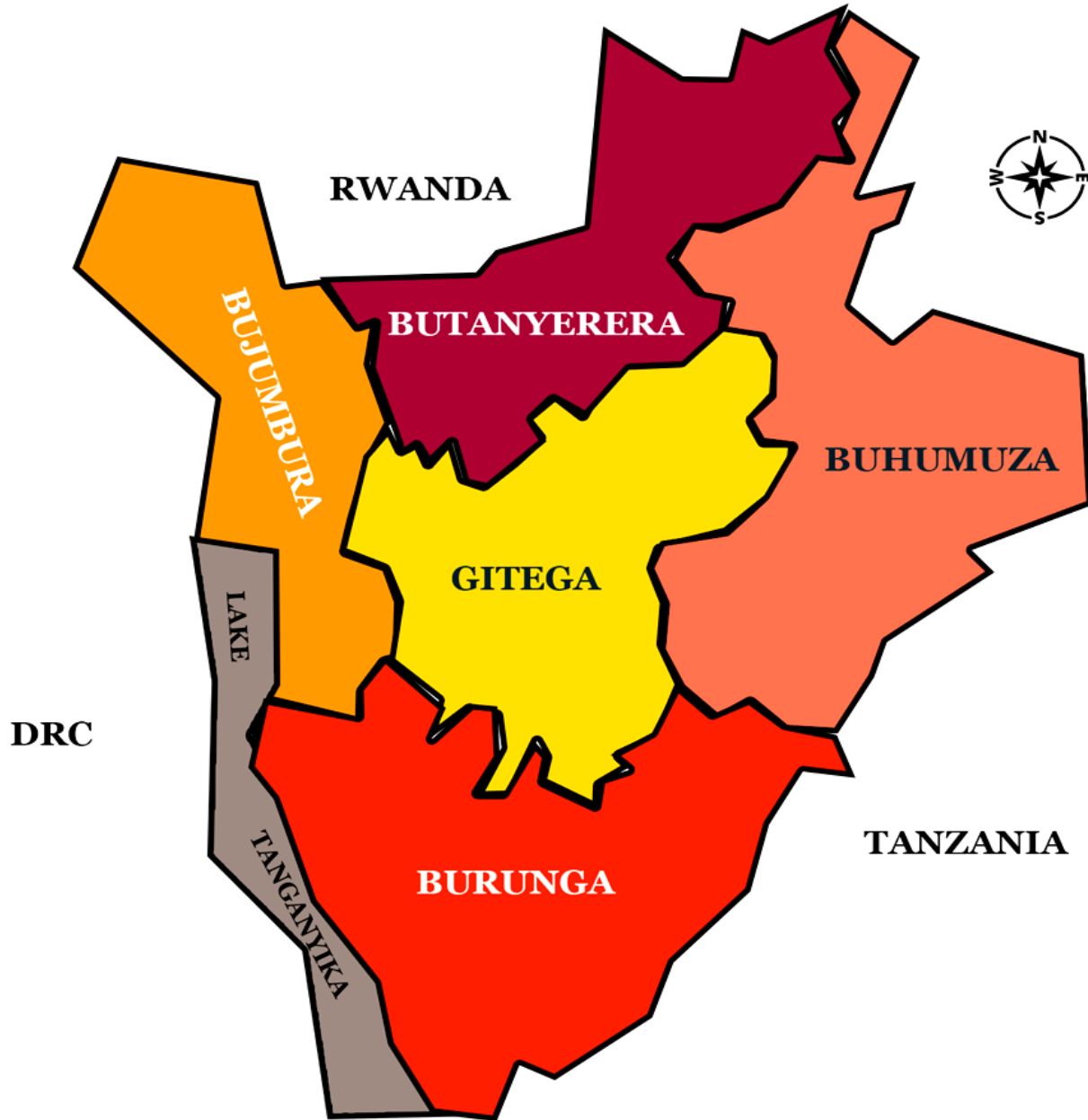


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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGNU : United Nations General Assembly

CDS : Health Center

CEEAC : Economic Community of Central African States

CIDE : International Convention on the Rights of the Child

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

CNIDH : National Independent Human Rights Commission

CNL : National Congress for Liberty

DESC : Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ECA : Christian Church of the Apostles

ECOFO : Fundamental School

FDLR : Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda

FRODEBU : Front for Democracy in Burundi

OBPE : Burundian Observatory for Environmental Protection

ONU : United Nations Organization

OPJ : Judicial Police Officer

PNB : National Police of Burundi

RDC : Democratic Republic of the Congo

SNR : National Enquiry Service

TGI : High Court

UE : European Union

UPRONA : Union for National Progress

VSBGs : Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the months of March and April 2026, Burundi was marked by serious human rights violations attributed to state agents and others closely linked to the presidential party. In a climate of impunity, civil society, although resilient, struggles to be heard. The relentless efforts to denounce these abuses seem in vain in the face of the government's obvious indifference, which ignores urgent calls for justice and a thorough investigation.

The Iteka League, having systematically monitored the human rights situation in the country despite challenges on the ground, recorded 72 people killed during this period, including 31 lifeless bodies found in different localities of the country. At the same time, abductions and forced disappearances caused deep concern, with 9 victims carrying the burden of silence and anxiety on their families. Discouraging accounts circulated, reporting the capture of individuals considered opponents or suspicious for not agreeing to join the ruling party, by security forces or the Imbonerakure militiamen associated with the authorities. These disappearances left families helpless and desperate, without news of their loved ones.

The context was also marked by acts of torture, with the Iteka League reporting 5 victims in the provinces of Gitega, where 2 cases were recorded, and Burunga, where 3 victims had suffered such inhuman treatments. During the same period, 29 victims of gender-based violence (GBV) were also documented. Among them, 22 had been raped, of whom 20 were children or girls under 18 years old. The Imbonerakure, in addition to administrative agents and police officers, were often identified as the alleged perpetrators of these atrocities.

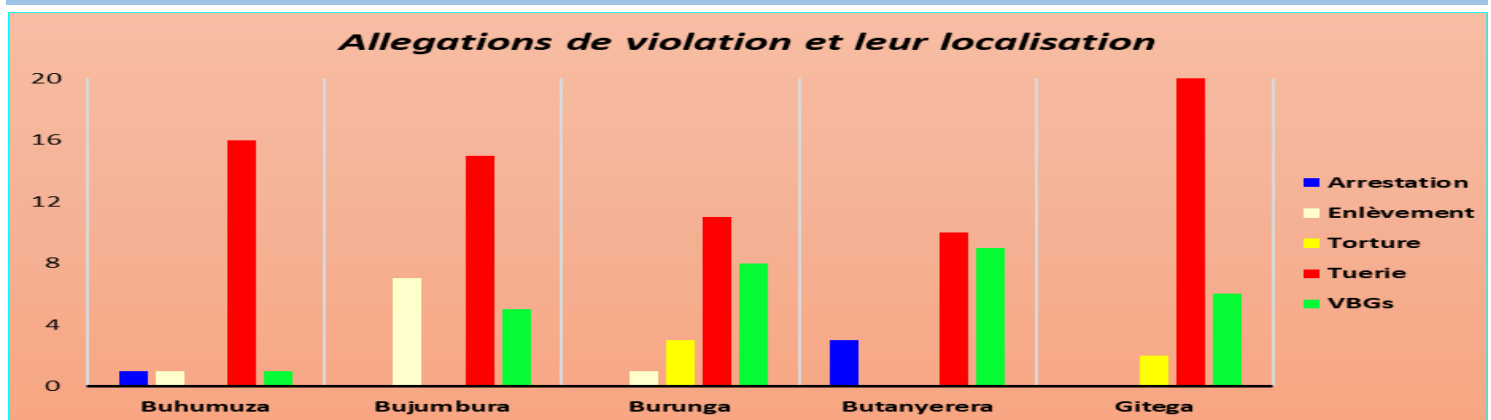
Finally, the Iteka League also noted 4 arbitrary arrests: 3 in Butanyerera and 1 in Buhumuza.

Illustrative charts:

Out of 110 reported incident cases during the period under consideration, 119 people were the targets of these incidents.

Figure 1: Illustrative chart of allegations of violations and their location

Place of the incident / Province	Number of victims					Total
	Arrest	Kidnapping	Torture	Killing	GBV	
Buhumuza	1	1	0	16	1	19
Bujumbura	0	7	0	15	5	27
Burunga	0	1	3	11	8	23
Butanyerera	3	0	0	10	9	22
Gitega	0	0	2	20	6	28
Total	4	9	5	72	29	119

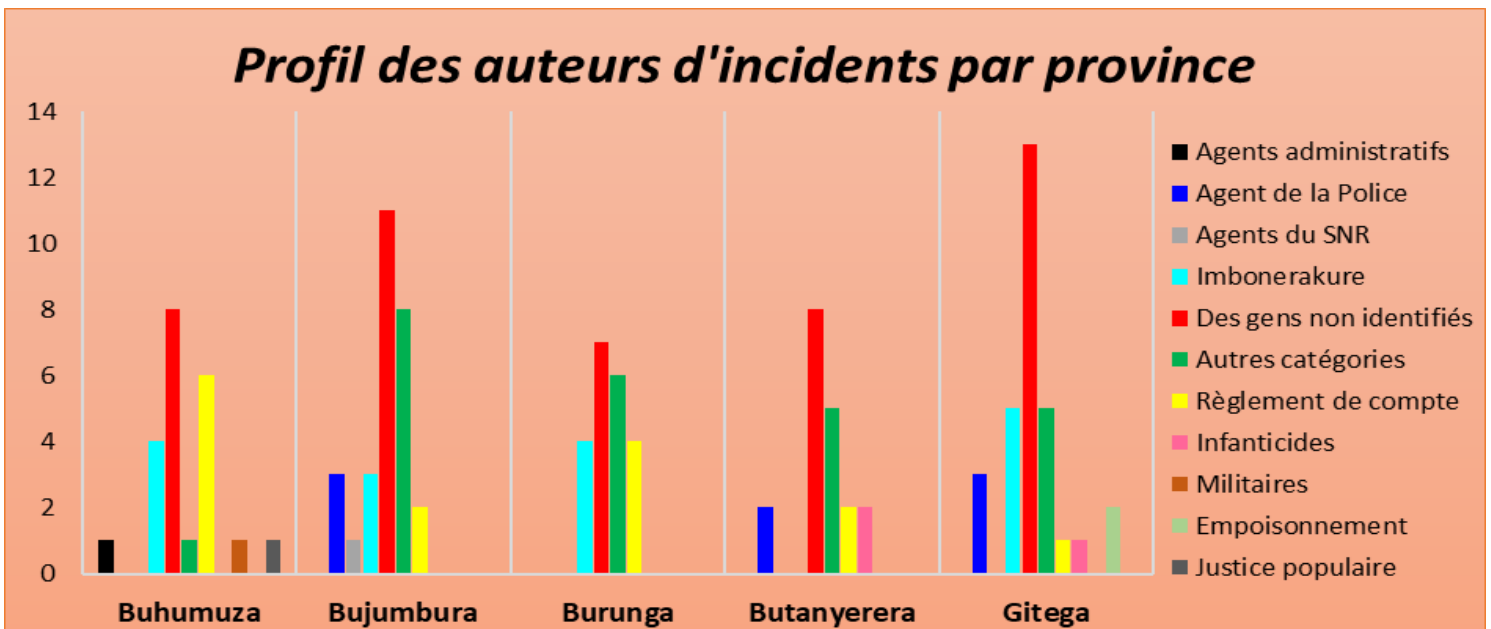


I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (the following of page 5)

The Imbonerakure, as well as elements of the police forces, administrative officials, and SNR agents, are often cited as alleged perpetrators of the majority of these violations and murders. The Iteka League also reports in this report violations committed by unidentified people, which include several incidents, among others, GBV and corpses found in different localities. The Iteka League is very concerned about the often observed inaction of public authorities in the face of the recurrence of these events.

Figure 2: Illustrative graph of the authors of these violations and their location:

Presumed Authors	Buhumuza	Bujumbura	Burunga	Butanyerera	Gitega	Total
Police officer	0	3	0	2	3	8
Administrative Agents	1	0	0	0	0	1
SNR Agent	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other categories	1	8	6	5	5	25
Unidentified people	8	11	7	8	13	47
Poisoning	0	0	0	0	2	2
Imbonerakure	4	3	4	0	5	16
Infanticides	0	0	0	2	1	3
Popular Justice	1	0	0	0	0	1
Military	1	0	0	0	0	1
Settling Scores	6	2	4	2	1	15
Total	22	28	21	19	30	120

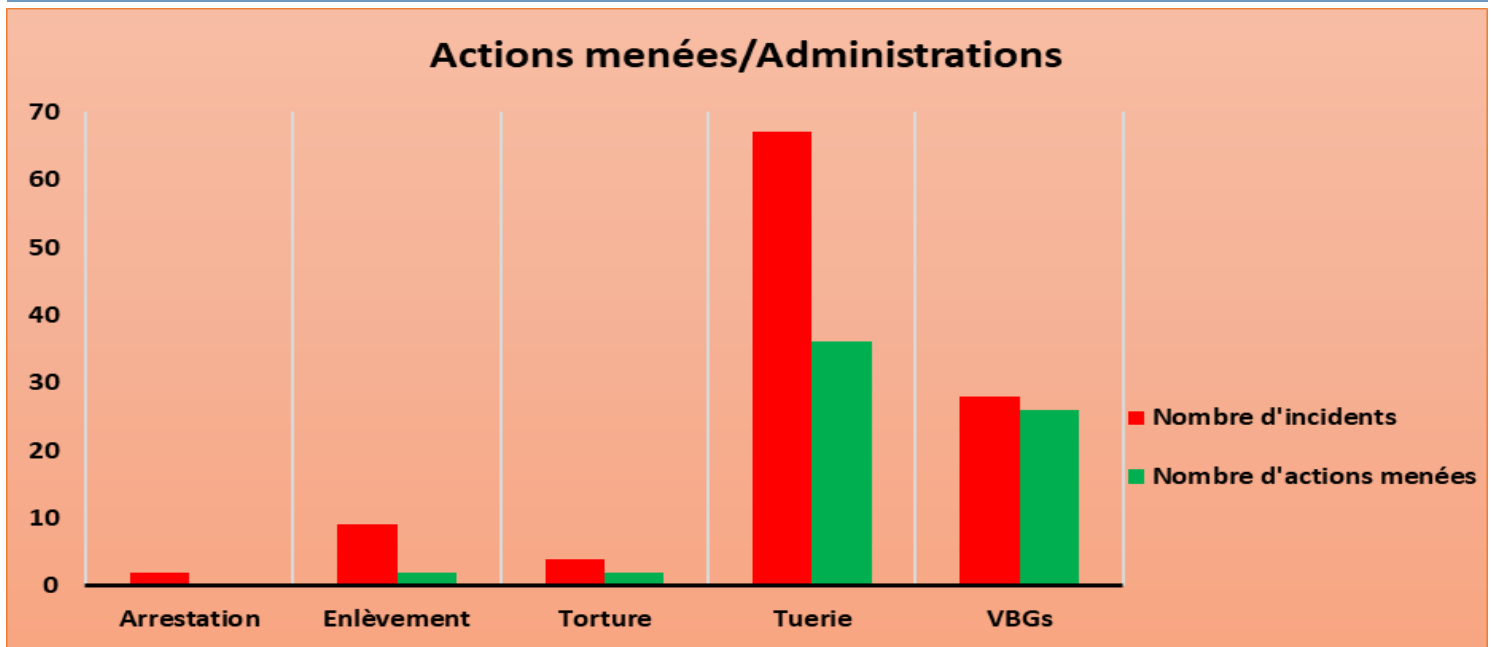


Out of a total of 110 cases of allegations involving 119 victims (chart above), of which 71 are male and 48 are female, 1 case is attributable to the military, 8 cases to police officers, 16 cases to the Imbonerakure, 47 cases in the category of unidentified agents, and the 'others' category which includes 'settling scores, infanticides, specific individuals with 25 cases and 1 case involving administrators.' Settling scores affected 15 victims. Also noted are 3 cases of infanticide and 1 case of popular justice.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (the following of page 6)

Figure 3: Chart illustrating the main actions taken by administrative agents following violations of human rights identified.

Types of incident	Number of incidents	Number of actions carried out	No action
Arrest	2	0	2
Abduction	9	2	7
Torture	4	2	2
killing	67	36	31
GBV	28	26	2
General Total	110	66	44



Of the 110 incidents recorded during the period in question, 66 actions were taken divided into three main categories to address them. Some incidents have been resolved, while others are still being addressed, with ongoing judicial investigations to identify the most appropriate solutions. These actions include 4 internal investigations; 59 judicial investigations; 3 statements; and no action taken on 44 incidents.

In addition to violations of civil and political rights, socioeconomic rights were undermined in March April 2026.

Economy: Nickel contracts signed without transparency by the Minister of Mines. The BRB suspends payments to small-scale gold miners and raises the gold tax to 16%. Fuel shortage: crackdown on motorcycle taxis in Butanyerera, fire in Muyinga. Agriculture: Partial fertilizer deliveries to Mwaro and Nyanza, suspension of urea on March 5, risk of famine. Sanitation crisis in Ruyigi linked to septic tanks.

Education: Principal goes missing on March 10 after embezzlement, amid exam fraud. Buhumuza: students forced to attend a soccer match on March 12; expulsions of 9th-grade students. Karuzi: school boycott on March 4 against the confiscation of cell phones. Muramvya: massive dropouts in April in elementary school, with poverty being the primary factor.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

During the period analyzed in this report, there has been a continuous deterioration of the human rights situation in various localities of the country. This report highlights violations of the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty, as well as infringements on economic, social, and cultural rights.

The Iteka League expresses its concern over the persistent impunity for observed crimes and makes recommendations in this regard:

To the Government of Gitega:

1. To ensure respect for human rights, notably the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty.
2. To take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.
3. To investigate and severely punish violence against minors, which has become commonplace in Burundi considering the local administrative officials at the base level.

To the technical and financial partners of the Government of Burundi, including the UN, EU, and the diplomatic missions accredited to Burundi;

1. Support the efforts of the Iteka League and other organizations dedicated to the defense of human rights in monitoring human rights violations in Burundi;
2. Use their influence to encourage the Burundian authorities to respect human rights and put an end to impunity.

To human rights organizations:

1. Continue monitoring the human rights situation in Burundi and defend the protection of fundamental rights.
2. Prioritize joint work in the interest of effectiveness and efficiency for their diverse interventions and provide support to victims of human rights violations and work to ensure their access to justice.



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III. REPORT OBJECTIVES

The Iteka League produces this condensed two-month report on the socio-political-economic context and human rights in Burundi with the objectives of:

1. Allowing other actors to monitor the evolution of the context and human rights in Burundi over a specific period, by identifying trends, challenges, and progress made;
2. Informing policymakers, human rights organizations, and international actors in their decision-making and actions concerning Burundi;
3. Raising awareness among the national and international public on critical issues related to human rights and security in Burundi, and advocating for specific reforms or actions.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The Iteka League regularly publishes weekly bulletins entitled Iteka n'Ijambo, as well as monthly, bi-quarterly, quarterly, annual, thematic reports and summary reports that focus on the situation of human rights and security. These documents are shared with various partners, particularly with the government of Burundi and its different institutions.

This report stems from constant observation carried out by the volunteers and observers of the Iteka League, who work on behalf of human rights through 17 provincial federations and 32 sections. The members of this organization are guided by ethical and humanitarian principles, committing to prevent human rights violations while continuing to monitor and document abuses and violence committed by those in power against their population.

The research methodology adopted to analyze the human rights situation in Burundi under the regime of Evariste Ndayishimiye is based on several complementary and rigorous approaches. A qualitative approach was prioritized, which includes data collection as well as interviews with key stakeholders, such as human rights defenders, members of civil society, and government representatives. This method allows for the collection of diverse perspectives on the human rights situation in Burundi, thereby providing a nuanced view of the challenges faced and the progress made since Ndayishimiye came to power in 2020. In addition, interviews were conducted with victims of human rights violations to gather firsthand accounts, thereby enriching the analysis by grounding the data in lived experience.

However, through its weekly bulletin Iteka n' Ijambo, this report compiles data covering the months of March and April 2026. The organization's database, in which all data is entered, was used for the graphs and illustrative examples.

V. STATE OF AFFAIRS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI: March to April 2026

V.1. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Burundi is among the countries adhering to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1965) and its Optional Protocol (1976) without any reservation on May 9, 1990, which, within the framework of its implementation, Burundi has taken measures in domestic legislation, notably in its Constitution of June 7, 2018 (Main Law) in its Article 19, which guarantees that all rights proclaimed and guaranteed by internationally ratified texts are an integral part of this Constitution. Implementing texts have been established, notably the Penal Code of December 29, 2017, and the Code of Criminal Procedure of May 11, 2018, and other institutions for the protection of human rights have been created in Burundi.

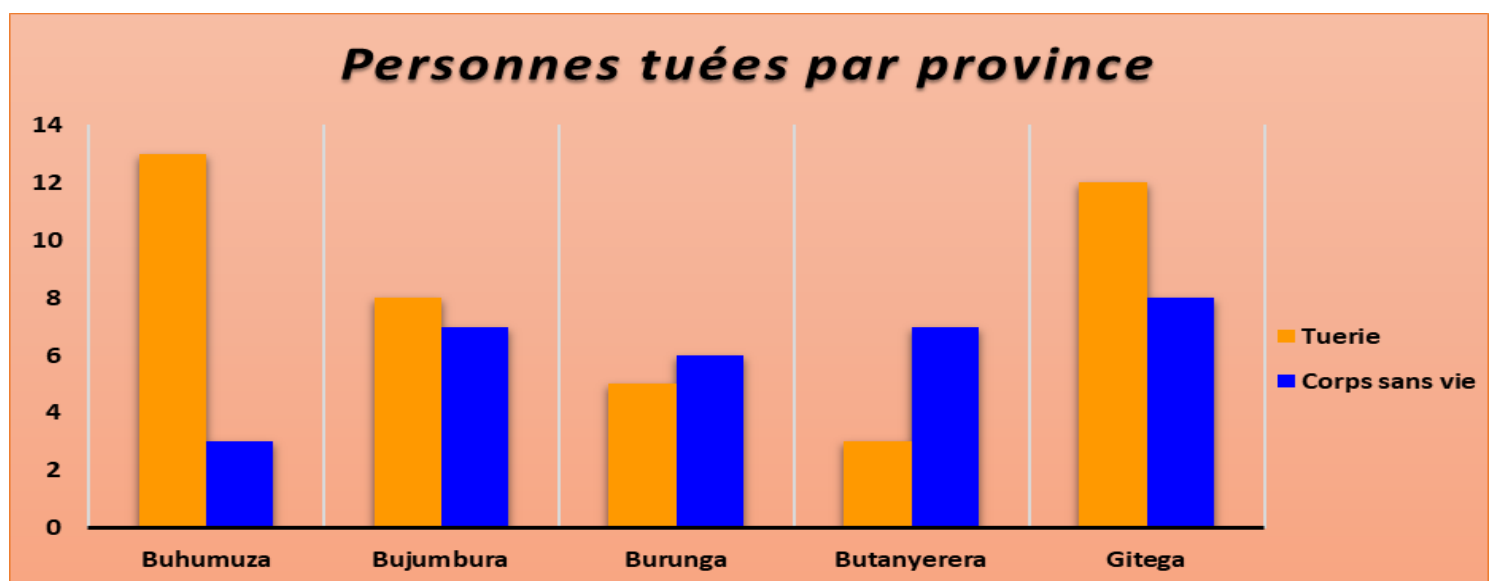
V.1.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

V.1.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

During the period from March to April 2026, the Iteka League recorded 72 people killed on the national territory, including 55 men and 17 women. As the graph below shows, Gitega province is the most affected with 20 cases, followed by Buhumuza province with 16 victims, Bujumbura in third place with 15 victims, and finally Burunga and Butanyerera with 11 victims and 10 victims, respectively. It should be noted that among the victims are 8 children and 64 adults.

Figure 3: Illustrative graph of people killed during the period from March to April 2026

Province	Case of killings	Number of victims		Men	Women
		Killing	Lifeless bodies		
Buhumuza	15	13	3	9	7
Bujumbura	12	8	7	12	3
Burunga	10	5	6	8	3
Butanyerera	10	3	7	9	1
Gitega	20	12	8	17	3
Grand Total	67	41	31	55	17



V.1.1. RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 10)

Iconic illustrative cases:

Cases of people killed by police:

Ex1: On March 11, 2026, in the Mirango I neighborhood, located in the Kamenge area within the municipality of Ntahangwa in Bujumbura Province, two individuals suspected of theft were killed that morning during an armed clash with police forces. These events were confirmed by residents of Mirango I as well as the neighborhood chief of Gituro.

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

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

Cases of people killed by Imbonerakure:

Ex2: 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 local witnesses, this is how Innocent came with a knife ordering Lévis to leave the premises and in trying 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.



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V.1.1. RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 11)

Cases of people killed by unidentified individuals:

Ex3: Suspicious death of a woman pursuing a case of rape of her young daughter in Bukeye, Muramvya Commune, in Gitega Province

On the night of April 29, 2026, around 9 p.m., a woman in her forties died less than five minutes after returning to her home, located in the Nyamugari neighborhood, Bukeye area, Muramvya commune, Gitega province. The victim was actively following the judicial procedure related to the rape of her 7-year-old granddaughter.

According to testimonies collected from local sources and confirmed by Mr. Nshimirimana J. Pierre, chief of the village of Gahaga, around 9 p.m., the victim went to a beverage shop in the Nyamugari neighborhood. She bought a bottle there before returning home. Less than five minutes after her return, noises were heard outside the house, and when her children went out to check, they found her in agony.

Alerted to the situation, neighbors came to her aid, and the victim was rushed to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

Local sources indicate that the deceased was representing the interests of her 7-year-old granddaughter, who lives in the village of Rubirizi, Muhanga commune, Butanyerera province. The child was recently the victim of a rape committed by a man in his sixties, the father of seven children who is now in custody.

However, local reports indicate that members of his family were exerting pressure to conceal or destroy evidence in order to obstruct the course of justice.

According to the same sources, the day before his death, the victim was returning from Musema Hospital, located in the commune of Matongo, Butanyerera province, where his granddaughter had been examined. She was in possession of medical documents attesting to the sexual abuse suffered by the child. The exact causes of her death remain unknown. The victim's family and neighbors are calling for independent investigations to be launched

Cases of people killed following settling of scores followed by popular justice:

Ex4: A 70-year-old woman was killed by her stepson, who was then killed by the local community in Gisuru Township, Buhumuza Province.

On Saturday, April 25, 2026, at around 5 a.m., on Musumba Hill, Kabanga Zone, Gisuru Commune, 75-year-old Charlotte was killed by her stepson named KANANI.

The perpetrator went to his mother-in-law's house, knocked on the door, and she rushed to open it. KANANI, holding a machete, demanded that his mother-in-law return the dowry he had given for his wife, threatening that she would be killed if she refused. The perpetrator began setting his mother-in-law's kitchen on fire before knocking on the door.

After hearing her stepson's demands, the mother-in-law fled to a neighboring house, and he pursued her to the house where the victim had taken refuge. KANANI grabbed his mother-in-law and struck her repeatedly with a machete until she died. The enraged residents of the village caught the criminal and beat him to death; they then burned his body to ensure he was truly dead. All those who intervened to rescue the victim were injured by the criminal; a total of four people were injured.

Among the injured are:

V.1.1. RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 12)

1. *NDAYISHIMIYE Ezéchiel, Zonal leader of the CNDD-FDD party in the Kabanga Zone. The latter was transferred to Kibuye hospital where he is being treated because he was seriously injured in the head and arms following machete blows.*
2. *NDAYIZEYE Canesius*
3. *NDIMURWANKO Obe*
4. *NSABIMANA Anacletus*

The population of Musumba Hill is outraged by this behavior of taking justice into their own hands.

V. 1.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

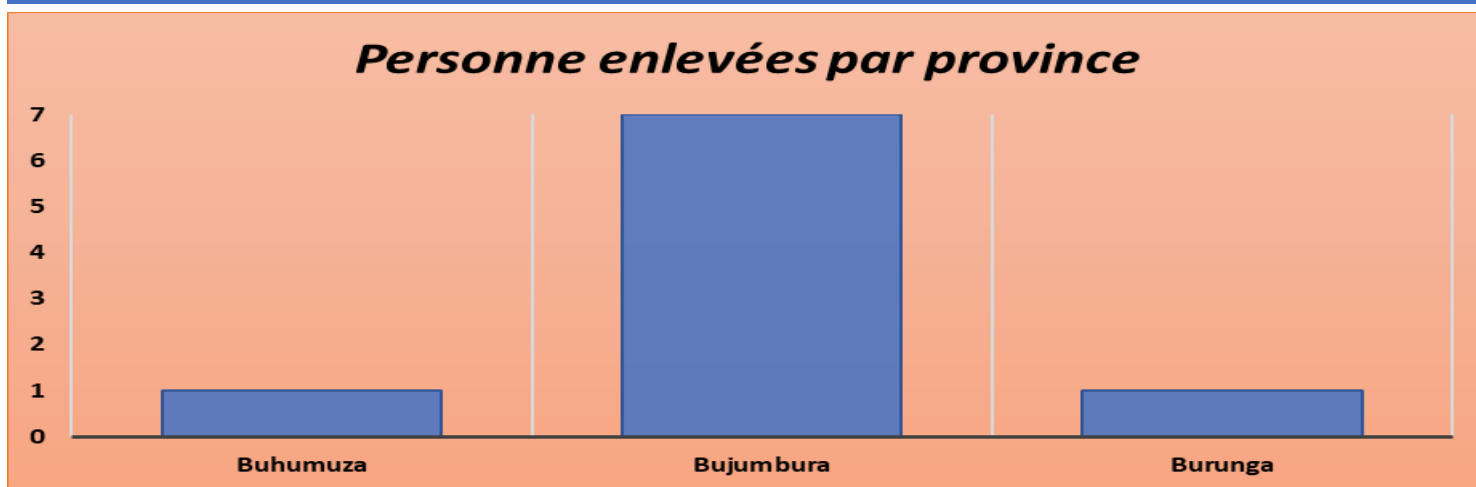
The constitutional law of Burundi guarantees in its Article 38, to every individual, the benefit of a fair trial and that their case be heard and judged within a reasonable time. Nevertheless, on the ground, alarming irregularities in this regard are noticeable.

During the period considered for this report, cases of abduction and/or forced disappearances in Burundi revealed a major issue in the country’s security and political practices. Several documented cases illustrate situations where individuals, perceived as opponents or simply suspects, were kidnapped by security forces agents or their allies, 'young members of the ruling party.' These victims often disappeared in unknown locations, leaving their families in complete uncertainty regarding their fate or place of detention.

During the two months of this report, the Iteka League recorded 9 people kidnapped across the country, including 6 men and 3 women. The affected provinces are particularly Bujumbura, which recorded a high number of 7 victims, Burunga and Buhumuza with 1 victim each.

Figure 4: Illustrative graph of people abducted during the period from March to April 2026.

Province	Cases of kidnappings	Number of Victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	1	1	1	0
Bujumbura	7	7	4	3
Burunga	1	1	1	0
Butanyerera	0	0	0	0
Gitega	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	9	9	6	3



V. 1.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES (the following of page 13)

Illustrative cases:

Cases of people abducted by police:

Ex1: On April 6, 2026, in the Mubone neighborhood, Buterere area, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province, Julien MANIRAKIZA, a member of the ruling party and resident of the same neighborhood, was arrested and taken to an unknown location. According to local witnesses, the victim was intercepted at his home by a police officer named Eric, who lives on 2nd Avenue in Mubone, along with a group of Imbonerakure, including Amuri BUKURU, the current chief of the Mubone neighborhood, a man named Sylvat, head of a Russian center established on 1st Avenue in the Mubone neighborhood, a man named Lionel from 1st Avenue, a man named Ernest, a brick supplier and resident of 5th Avenue in Mubone, a man named Madisi, and Eric, a records clerk residing on 12th Avenue. According to the same witnesses, Julien Manirakiza had been elected head of the Mubone neighborhood in the recent elections but was dismissed without valid cause, even though he was well-liked by the population; he had filed an appeal and was awaiting the results.

Unaccounted for since April 6, 2026, the friends and relatives of Julien Manirakiza are asking to be informed of his whereabouts and the charges against him.

Ex 2: On Monday, March 23, 2026, around 10 a.m., in the Nyakabiga 1 neighborhood, located on 4th Avenue in the Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, Ciza Bogoss, 28 years old and an electronic equipment repairer (radios and phones), was forcibly apprehended by individuals wearing national police uniforms. According to local witnesses, the victim was in the company of other residents on the public road and was forced to get into a double-cabin vehicle, which immediately left the scene for an unknown destination. According to testimonies collected from neighbors and family, this abduction occurred in an atmosphere of pre-existing tensions. A dispute opposed the victim to his neighbor, Jean de Dieu, also known as '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 emphasize that this neighborhood dispute was already the subject of legal proceedings before the competent judicial authorities at the time of the events.

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

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



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V. 1.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES (the following of page

Cases of people kidnapped by SNR agents:

Ex3: Information received by the Iteka League on March 2, 2026, indicates that a former refugee from the Nakival camp in Uganda, recently repatriated under the name Njimbere Herménégilde, also known as Fanny, was kidnapped in Jabe, in the city of Bujumbura, in the Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province. According to local sources, Herménégilde Njimbere, nicknamed Fanny, 42 years old, is originally from Jabe, in the city of Bujumbura. He was preparing to celebrate his wedding scheduled for March 14, 2026. A member of the FRODEBU party, he had fled to Uganda in 2015 due to his opposition to Nkurunziza's third term. He returned to Burundi in 2023, convinced that there would be no risk, having received assurances from the authorities. According to our witnesses, on February 27, 2026, Njimbere Herménégilde was sharing a drink with a friend in Jabe, near a taxi station.

Around 10 p.m., Fanny and her friend were getting ready to leave when a man named Jacques asked them to stay and order an additional drink. Suddenly, a double-cab van, without a license plate, arrived, carrying individuals in police uniforms. They immediately apprehended another person, but someone present then shouted, 'No, not this one, but that one!' while pointing at Fanny. These elements suggest that Fanny's arrest was carefully planned.

Realizing that he had been betrayed, Fanny tried to escape, unfortunately in vain, and was arrested then quickly taken in the van that fled. His family searched for him desperately, without success. According to certain information, Fanny is currently being held by the National Intelligence Service (SNR), but no one has been able to locate him. Despite his family's intensive searches in various official detention places, Herménégilde remains missing.

V.1.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

The right to physical integrity is protected in Burundi by several constitutional and legislative provisions, as well as by international commitments. The Constitution of Burundi guarantees the right to life, freedom, and personal security. It prohibits torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. The Burundian Penal Code punishes infringements on physical integrity, including intentional violence, assault and battery, as well as sexual assault.

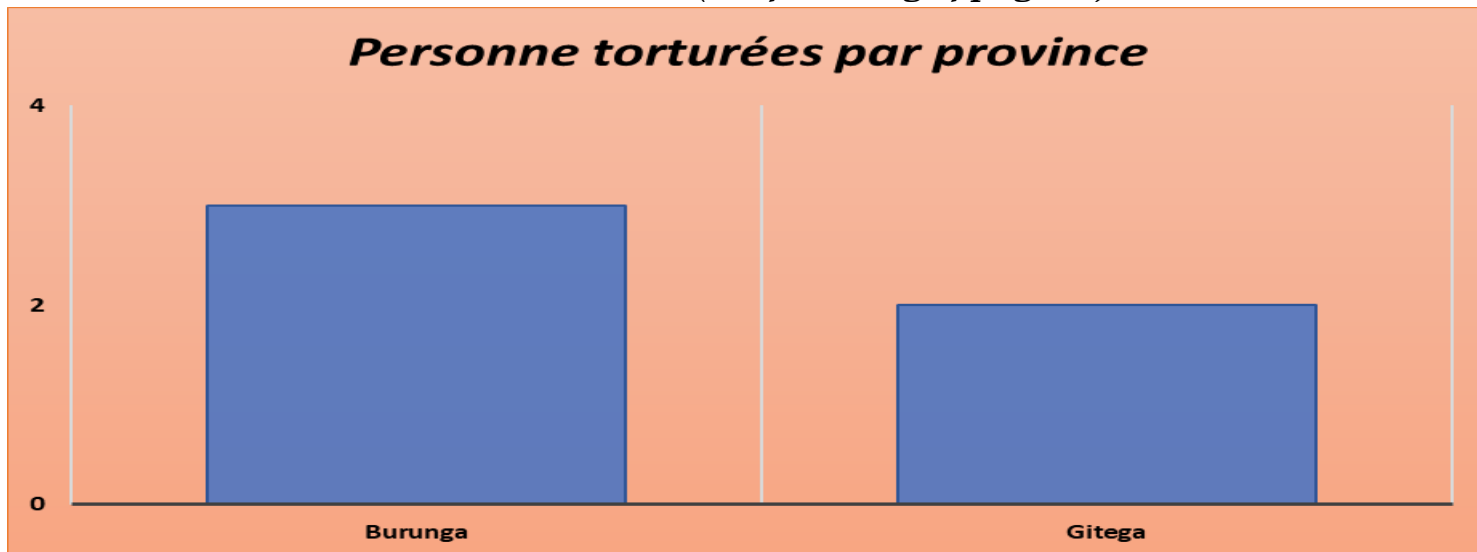
V.1.2.1. ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENTS OR TREATMENTS

In total, 4 cases of cruel treatments were recorded by the Iteka League across the entire territory during the period covered by this report. Of the four cases, 5 people were tortured, 4 are men and only one woman.

Figure 5: Illustrative graph of people tortured during the period from March to April 2026

Province	Case of tortures	Number of victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	0	0	0	0
Bujumbura	0	0	0	0
Burunga	2	3	2	1
Butanyerera	0	0	0	0
Gitega	2	2	2	0
Grand Total	4	5	4	1

V.1.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 15)



Documented cases:

Cases of inhuman treatment by Imbonerakure

Ex1: On March 25, 2026, around 11 p.m., on Rwingoma hill, Buhiga zone, KARUSI commune, Gitega province, NTAHOBARI Révoat, Imbonerakure aged 38, originating from Miyange hill, Bugenyuzi zone, was mistreated and beaten by Eric, head of the Imbonerakure at the hill level, Jean Claude his deputy, and a single mother named Ange. According to local witnesses, they found him in the house of UWIZEYIMANA Mathilde, divorced woman, member of the CNDD FDD, aged 30.

According to the neighborhood chief, the victim spent the whole afternoon in a bistro on this hill with this woman and these Imbonerakure followed them to the house and waited for them to enter the house to then break down the door before dragging him on the ground. According to the same witnesses, they asked him for money and as he had none, he was beaten. He spent the night at Buhiga Hospital where he received treatment until 2 p.m. on March 26, 2026 after paying the bill by his older brother who lives on Buhiga Hill. The perpetrators remain free as if nothing had happened even though they have beaten an Imbonerakure like them.

Ex2: 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 having housed 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.



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V.1.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/ RAPE

The Law on Gender-Based Violence adopted in Burundi in 2016 was a major step forward. It ensured better protection, notably by providing a definition of rape that takes consent into account and by banning harmful traditional practices. During the period covered by this report, a total of 28 incidents involving 29 victims were recorded by the Iteka League, including 27 women and 2 men. Of the 29 victims, 22 were cases of rape, with 20 being children and 2 adults. Among the 29 victims of GBV, 20 are children and 9 are adults. The table below details the degree of vulnerability by province. The alleged perpetrators pointed out are particularly young Imbonerakure with 7 cases and police officers with 1 case. Another category is attributed to private individuals including merchants, domestic violence, unidentified people, accounting for 18 cases, and one military officer with 1 case, one police officer with 1 case.

Figure 6: Illustrative graph of people who are victims of GBV during the period from March to April 2026.

Province	Cases of GBVs	Number of victims		Men	Women
		GBVs	Rape		
Buhumuza	1	0	1	0	1
Bujumbura	5	0	5	0	5
Burunga	8	4	4	1	7
Butanyerera	8	1	8	1	8
Gitega	6	2	4	0	6
Grand Total	28	7	22	2	27

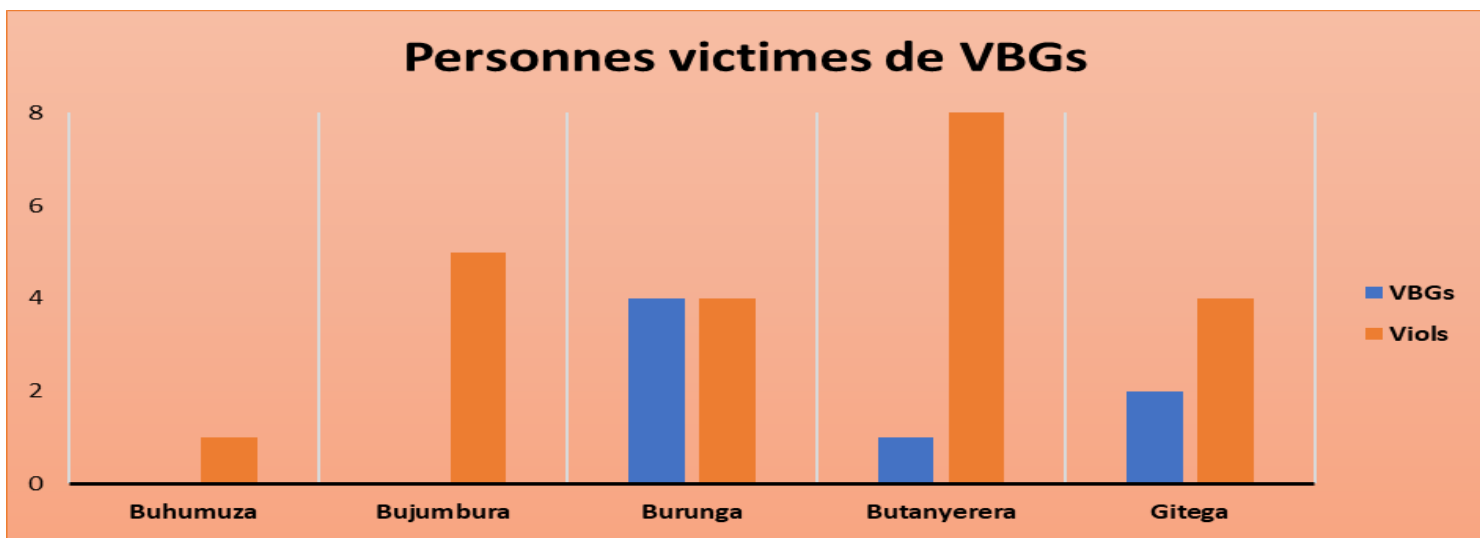


Illustration cases:

Cases of sexual violence against minors:

Ex1: On March 5, 2026, on Nyamagana hill, Mugera area, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, a little girl named N, 7 years old, daughter of L. and D, was a victim of rape.

According to information collected from a local source, the incident occurred around 5 p.m., while the child was with Irankunda Rodrick, a 19-year-old young neighbor, to herd cows. At nightfall, the little girl returned home crying.

V.1.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/RAPE (the following of page 17)

Her mother, having noticed bleeding from the genital area, immediately alerted the neighbors. The child was then taken to Nyamagana Health Center, where the medical staff confirmed the sexual assault.

The suspect was arrested and is currently held in the Bugendana commune jail awaiting transfer to the Gitega police station for further judicial procedures.

Cases of domestic violence against men:

Ex2: On the morning of April 23, 2026, a thirty-three-year-old man known as Hatungimana Claude from Gahahe hill Kayanza commune in Butanyerera province was stabbed with a knife by his wife named Niyonsaba Olive.

According to the information gathered from the victim, he gave money he had to his wife for the children's rations and the woman said that it was insufficient. After a few minutes, the victim said that his wife came from behind and pierced him with a knife, accusing him of not giving enough ration for the family. The victim was evacuated to Kayanza Hospital for treatment and when the alleged perpetrator was arrested, she told the judicial police officer that she is pregnant and would have an abortion if she was not allowed to seek treatment.

Information collected from this family indicates that on the same night of April 23, 2026, Niyonsaba Olive took advantage of the opportunity to take all the family belongings and leave with them, where she remains missing according to the local administrators of Gahahe. At the level of the association 'Men in Distress,' which advocates for men's rights in Kayanza, it is requested that this woman be sought and brought before justice.

Cases of domestic violence against women:

Ex3: Nikundana Alice, a mother of 5 children married on RUHINGA hill in Matana commune, BURUNGA province, was burned with boiling water by her husband Ndikumwenayo Gabriel, an Imbonerakure of the cndd-fdd, on April 4, 2026.

Information on the spot says that this man came home around 8 p.m. and first spilled the water that his wife heated to prepare the dough. Without delay, his wife put another amount of water on the fire. Her husband waited until she was boiling and he spilled her on his wife. The neighbors, alerted by the victim, were able to intervene but the perpetrator had already taken off. The neighbors confirm that there is a bad cohabitation in this family.

The alleged perpetrator is still at large, as the inhabitants of this sub-hill deplore. The chief of this hill, Ninganza Raphaël, who explains that he has been nowhere to be found since the day of the offence, would be complicit so that he would not be arrested, according to sources who see him still at large.



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V.1.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

International and National texts in Burundi recognize the principle of innocence until proven guilty, and that detention should be an exception.

V.1.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS

During this period, the Iteka League recorded 2 cases of arrest across the entire territory during the period covered by this report. In the two cases, 4 people were arrested.

Figure 7: Illustrative chart of people subjected to arbitrary arrests and detentions during the period from March to April 2026

Province	Cases of arrests	Number of Victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	1	1	1	0
Bujumbura	0	0	0	0
Burunga	0	0	0	0
Butanyerera	1	3	3	0
Gitega	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	2	4	4	0

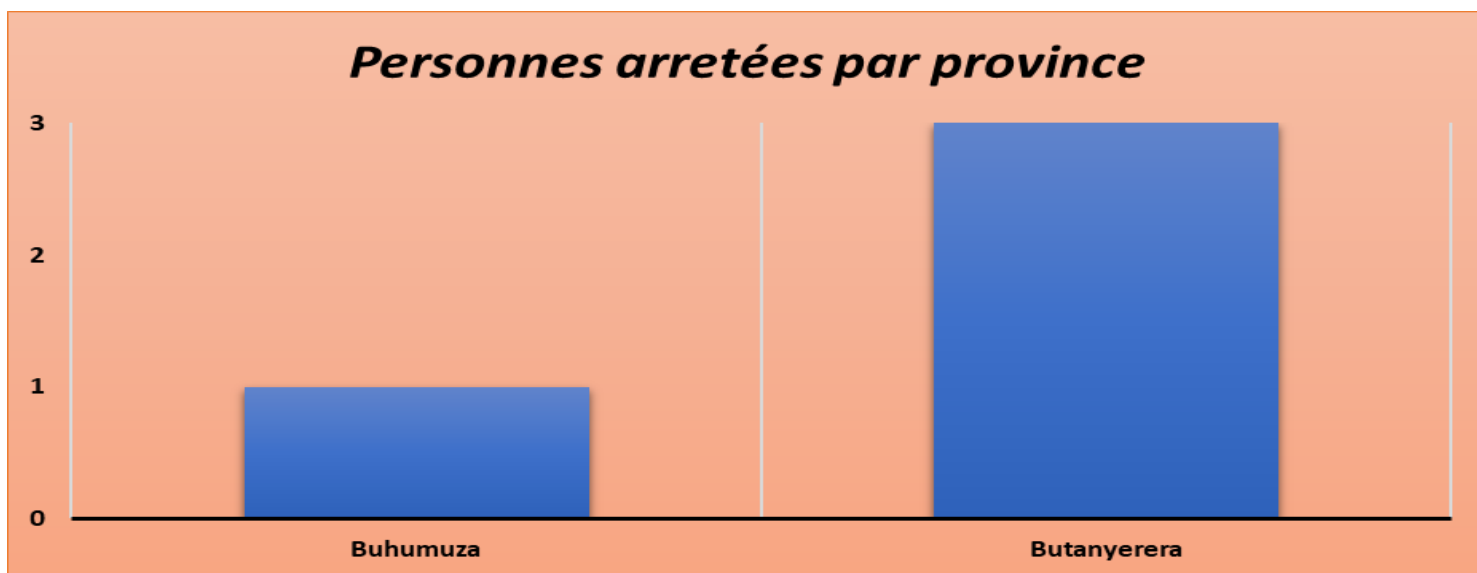


Illustration case:

Ex1: On March 8, 2026, on Karimbi hill, Muyinga commune, Buhumuza province, Ndacayisaba Jérôme, also known as Vache, a teacher, was arrested and imprisoned at the Higiuro zone office for knocking on the door of the concubine of the Karimbi hill chief named Nayabagabo. According to Ndacayisaba, he had knocked on the wrong house because he was too drunk, and the concubine alerted her friend, the hill chief, who then sent the Imbonerakure to keep Jérôme Ndacayisaba under surveillance. He spent a sleepless night under supervision and was then taken to the Higiuro zone cells. According to local witnesses, the Higiuro zone chief, Muhigirwa Vital was told that he would be released if he paid a sum of 1,450,000 F. The family of the victim of this arbitrary arrest wonders where the zone chief gets the power to incarcerate people and impose illegal fines. They ask the administrator of the Muyinga commune, Hon. Amédée Misago, and the provincial governor Buhumuza to reprimand this zone chief before it is too late, and to provide training to the newly appointed administrative officials. The victim has spent 7 days without any judicial procedure.

V.2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Economic, social, and cultural rights, referred to as second-generation rights, are set out in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Burundi ratified this covenant on March 14, 1990, and incorporated it into its 2018 Constitution, notably in Article 19. A particular feature of these rights is that they are often realized progressively, unlike civil and political rights. Signatory states, including Burundi, commit to guaranteeing the exercise of these rights according to their available resources.

II.2.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE.

In March 2026, Burundi experienced several socio-economic crises. In the mining sector, Minister Hassan Kibeya signed nickel contracts with KoBold Metals and Life Zone Metals, without clarifying the benefits. The BRB suspended payments to gold operators and raised the tax from 7% to 16%, against the backdrop of the Asian market crisis linked to US-Iran tensions. Gold miners denounced the uncertainty and the risk of a state monopoly. The fuel shortage hit motorcycle taxis in Butanyerera, who were forced to overload and were victims of police repression, sometimes involving extortion. In Muyinga, a pumping attempt caused a fire. Farmers in Mwaro and Nyanza protested against the partial delivery of paid chemical fertilizers. The suspension of 'urea' fertilizers on March 5 left many sowing without inputs, raising fears of famine. In Ruyigi, poorly maintained septic tanks caused a hygiene crisis threatening commerce.

II.2.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION.

In March 2026, the Bitare Technical High School was shaken by the disappearance of its principal, Nestor Nsavyumukama, on March 10, after he emptied the school's accounts. The institution, with 280 students, was already under tension following the non-enforced cancellation of the second trimester exams due to suspected fraud. An investigative commission was opened. In Buhumuza, on March 12, the principal of ECOFO Muyinga III, Bigirimana Anwali, forced the students to support the Aigle Noire team, worrying the parents. He had also expelled 9th-grade students for poor results. In Karuzi, Buhiga High School saw its students boycott classes on March 4 to protest against the confiscation and destruction of mobile phones. Classes resumed on March 5. In April, Muramvya recorded an alarming rate of school dropout at the primary level in the 2nd trimester of 2025-2026. According to the head of the DCE, poverty is the main cause, followed by unwanted pregnancies, health problems, moving, and early marriages.



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VI. CONCLUSION

The human rights situation in Burundi in March and April 2026 reveals systematic violations. The Iteka League and other organizations report the discovery of bodies, arbitrary detentions, torture, and abductions and/or disappearances, illustrating the chronic instability that threatens fundamental freedoms. These events reveal a repressive policy aimed at crushing all political opposition, and freedom of expression is seriously threatened by strict media control. The rights of women and children are also subject to severe violations, including sexual violence against children at an alarming rate. The Iteka League calls on the government and its officials to recognize the need to respect human rights and to implement urgent reforms. This period reflects a continuation of violations and a deterioration across various sectors. It is crucial to initiate coordinated actions and an inclusive national dialogue to strengthen the protection of human rights.

However, the Iteka League commends the actions taken by the government, particularly the legal proceedings and statements against the perpetrators of violations, and strongly encourages this good practice, which it considers vital in the fight against impunity.



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