

# 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 DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2026***



*Anyone should be respected*

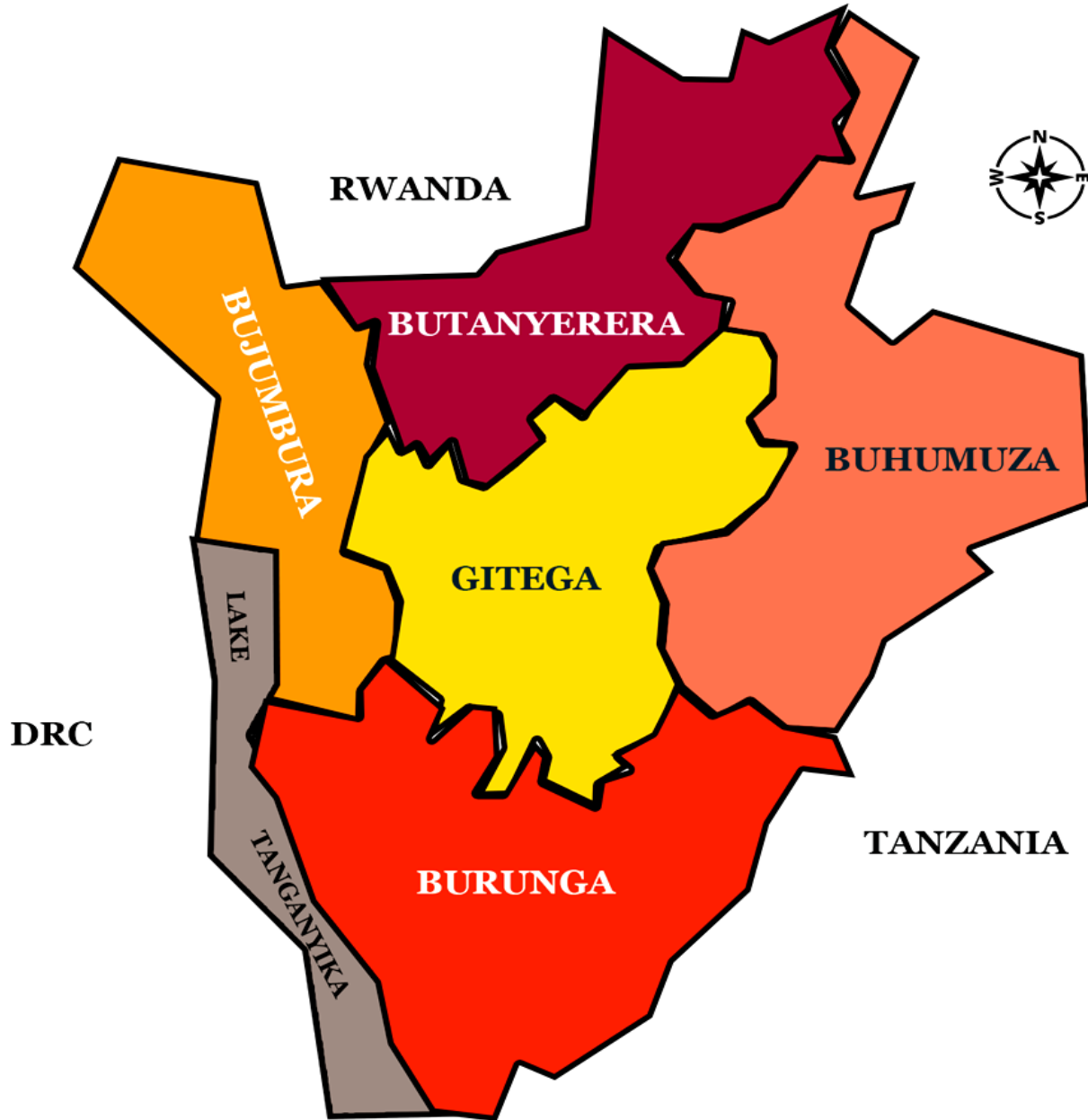
In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to April 30, 2026, at least 865 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 86 victims have reappeared, and 781 victims are still missing. 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 the reference number OBS.236 and is a member of ECOSOC.
- ♦ It is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections."

<sup>1</sup><https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

**THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI**



## TABLE OF CONTENT

<i>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>I. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>II. ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>II.1. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>II.1.1. RIGHT TO LIFE</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>II.1.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>II.1.1.2. OF KIDNAPPED AND/OR MISSING PERSONS</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>II.1.1.3. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>II.1.1.3.1. TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>II.1.1.3.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/RAPE</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>II.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>II.3. CATEGORICAL RIGHTS</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>II.3.1. RIGHTS OF THE CHILD</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	<i>14</i>

## ***ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS***

ECOFO: Elementary School

ECA: Christian Church of the Apostles

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

CDS: Health Center

CIDE: Convention on the Rights of the Child

EU: European Union

GBV: Gender-Based Violence

SNR: National Enquiry Service

## I. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE RAPPORT

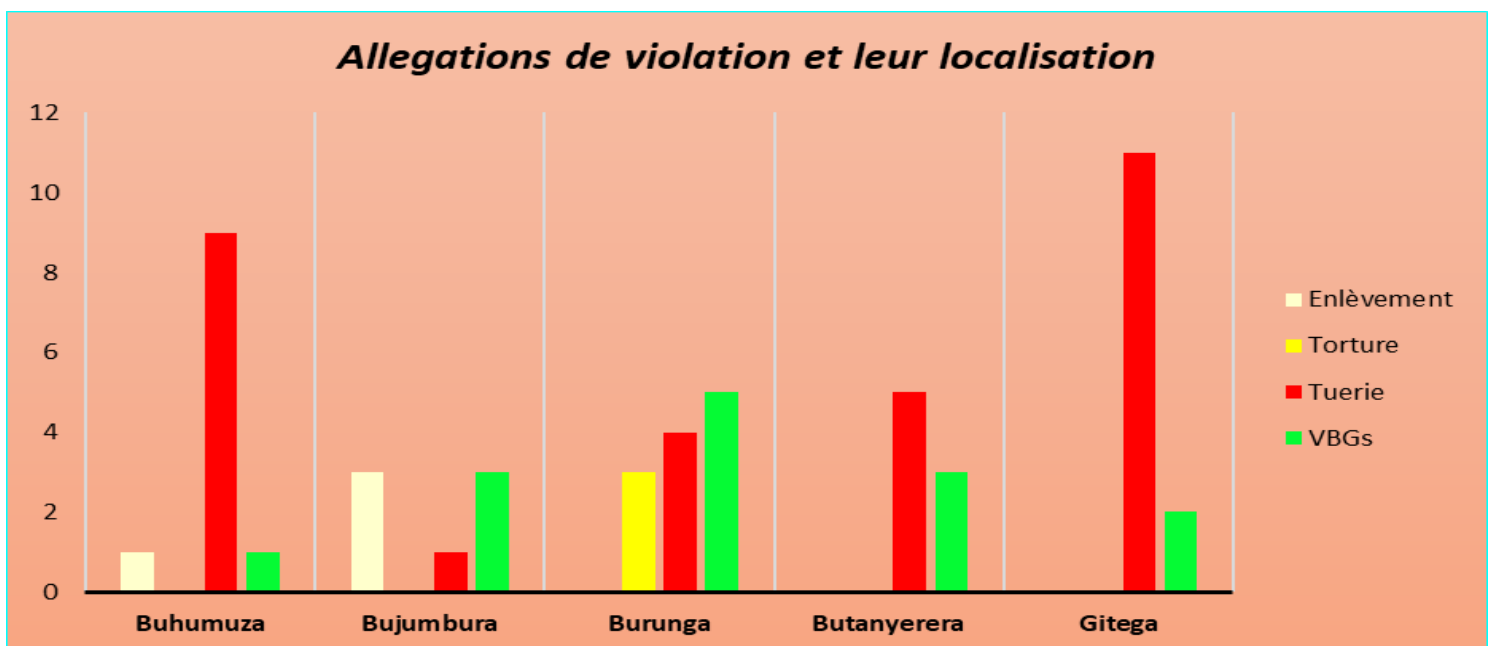
This April 2026 monthly report is a summary of the weekly Iteka n' Ijambo bulletins, issues 520 through 524. The report analyzes the human rights situation, covering civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights, with a particular focus on specific categories of rights, notably children's rights. Finally, this report concludes with a summary and recommendations. Thus, the situation regarding civil and political rights for the period covered by this report is summarized as follows: 30 people were killed, including 14 bodies found scattered in various locations; 3 people were tortured; 4 people were abducted; and 14 people were victims of gender-based violence (GBV), 11 of whom were underage girls who were raped. Among the victims are 10 women killed, 2 women abducted, 1 woman tortured, and 14 women and girls who were victims of GBV.

Members of the Imbonerakure, police officers, administrative officials, military personnel, and others close to members of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD, are being blamed as the alleged perpetrators of most of these human rights violations and murders.

### I.1. MAPPING OF ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

**Figure 1: Chart illustrating the main cases of allegations of violations of civil and political rights observed in Burundi during the month of April 2026.**

Place of the incident / Province	Number of victims					Total
	Arrest	Kidnapping	Torture	Killing	GBVs	
Buhumuza	0	1	0	9	1	11
Bujumbura	0	3	0	1	3	7
Burunga	0	0	3	4	5	12
Butanyerera	0	0	0	5	3	8
Gitega	0	0	0	11	2	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>51</b>



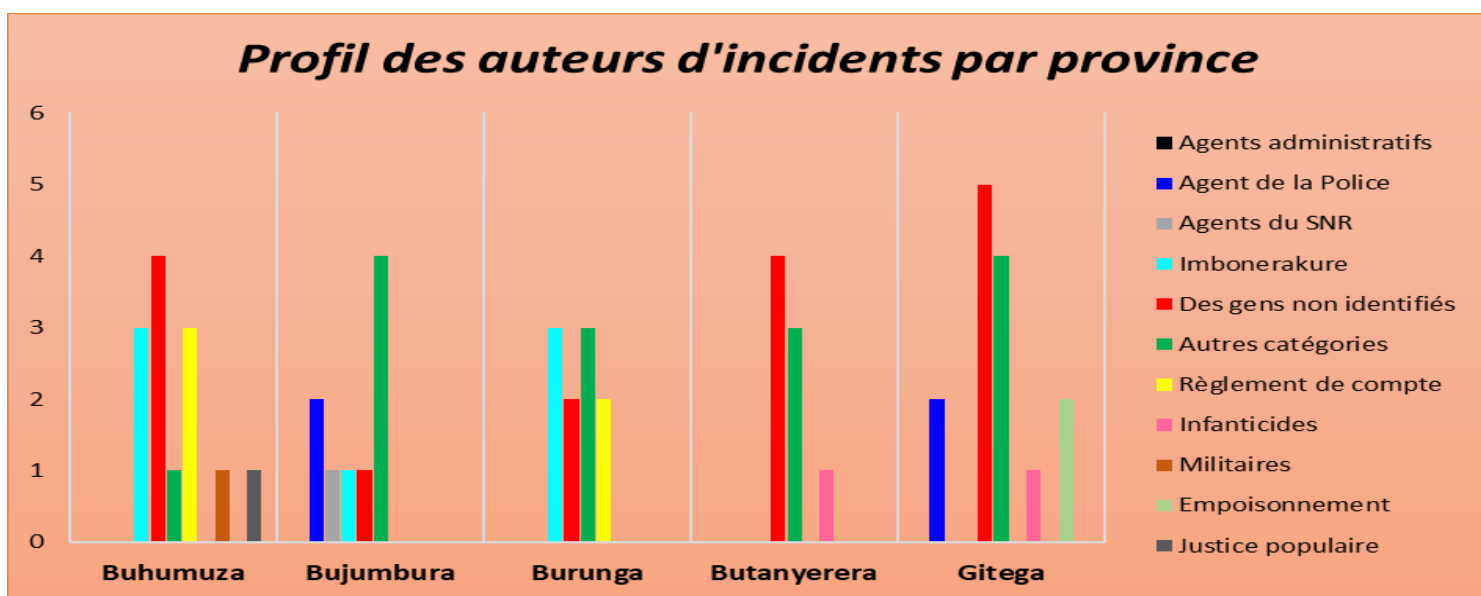
## I. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT (the following of page 5)

The chart above illustrates the 5 categories of violations in the 5 different provinces of the country, with Gitega experiencing the most human rights violation allegations with 13 victims, followed by Burunga with 12 victims, then Buhumuza with 11 victims, followed by Butanyerera and Bujumbura with 8 victims and 7 victims respectively.

Thus, during this month of April 2026 covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded 51 victims of allegations of civil and political rights violations across the national territory. These allegations of human rights violations are mainly distributed as follows: 30 people killed, 4 people kidnapped, 14 people victims of GBV, 3 people tortured.

**Figure 2: Chart illustrating the main alleged perpetrators of civil and political rights violations observed in Burundi during the month of April 2026**

Alleged Authors	Buhumuza	Bujumbura	Burunga	Butanyerera	Gitega	Total
Police Officer	0	2	0	0	2	4
SNR Agent	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other Categories	1	4	3	3	4	15
Unidentified People	4	1	2	4	5	16
Poisoning	0	0	0	0	2	2
Imbonerakure	3	1	3	0	0	7
Infanticides	0	0	0	1	1	2
Popular Justice	1	0	0	0	0	1
Military	1	0	0	0	0	1
Settling Scores	3	0	2	0	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>54</b>

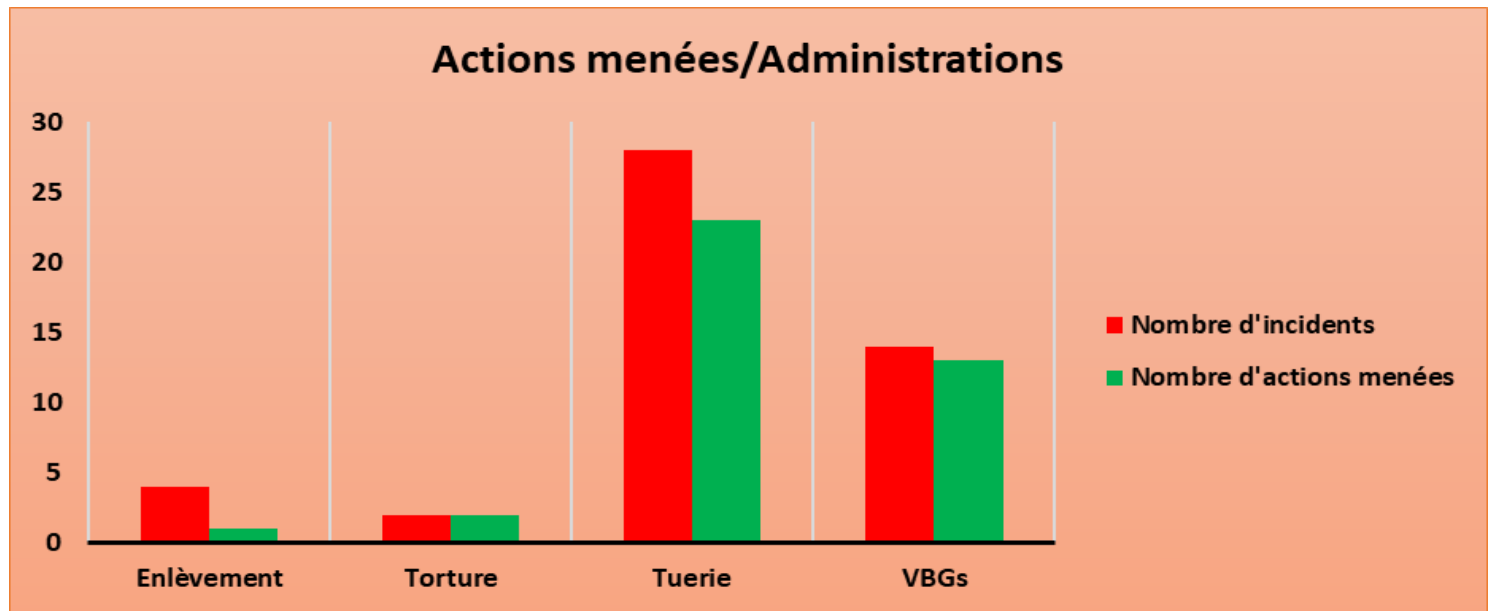


According to the chart, of all the cases of human rights violation allegations recorded during this period in April 2026, the cases perpetrated by unidentified individuals are the highest with 16 cases, followed by those committed by imbonerakure with 7 cases, then a category of “others,” mainly including individuals such as traders, domestic violence including GBV with 15 cases, 4 cases committed by the police, 5 cases of settling scores, 1 case committed by SNR agents, 1 case by the military. It should be noted that among the allegations there are 2 cases of infanticide and 2 cases of poisoning.

## I. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT (the following of page 6)

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

Types of incidents	Number of incidents	Number of actions taken	No Action
Arrest	0	0	0
Abduction	4	1	3
Torture	2	2	0
Killing	28	23	5
GBVs	14	13	1
<b>General Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>9</b>



Out of the 48 incident cases recorded during the period under consideration, 39 actions were implemented, divided into three main groups, in order to provide solutions. Some incidents were resolved, while others are still being processed, with ongoing judicial investigations to identify the most appropriate solutions.



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## II. ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

### II.1. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

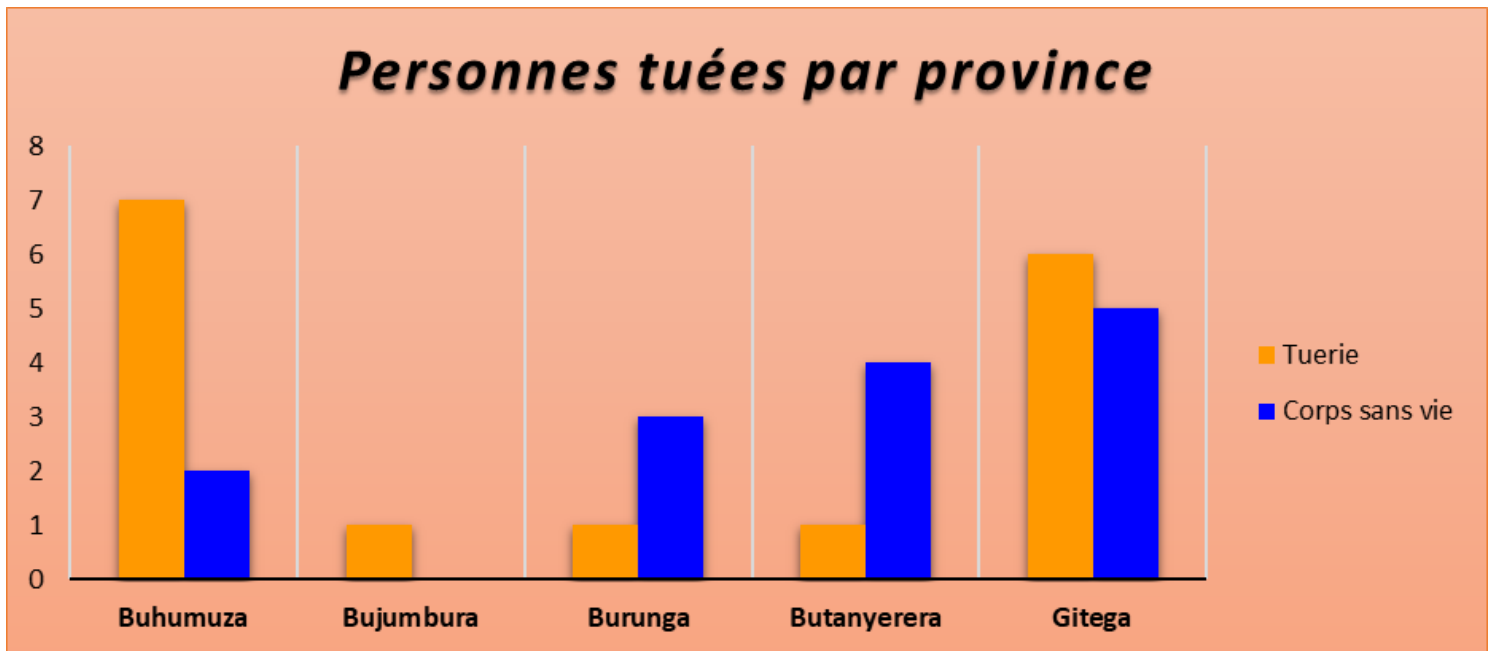
Burundi is among the countries adhering to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1965) and its Optional Protocol (1976) without any reservation on May 9, 1990, which, within the framework of its implementation, Burundi has taken measures in domestic legislation, notably in its Constitution of June 7, 2018 (Main Law) in its Article 19, which guarantees that all rights proclaimed and guaranteed by regularly ratified international texts form an integral part of this constitution. Implementation 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.

#### II.1.1 RIGHT TO LIFE

##### II.1.1. 1. VOLUNTARY HOMICIDE

During the period of this report, the Iteka League recorded 28 cases with 30 people killed, including 14 lifeless bodies, in various places in the territory. Among the 30 victims, there are 20 men and 10 women

Province	Cases of Killings	Number of victims		Men	Women
		Killing	Lifeless bodies		
Buhumuza	8	7	2	4	5
Bujumbura	1	1	0	0	1
Burunga	3	1	3	3	1
Butanyerera	5	1	4	5	0
Gitega	11	6	5	8	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>



### II.1.1 RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 8)

*Illustrative examples:*

*Ex1: The body of a 30-year-old man was found in Kanyami, in Ngozi commune of Butanyerera province. The body found belongs to a man named Pascal Nkurunziza, known by the nickname Nyamirenda. He was found in a small patch of brush on the morning of Friday, April 3, 2026, very close to the Burundi Brewery in the Kanyami Hill area of Ngozi commune in Butanyerera province. According to police and administrative sources, the victim had a wound on his head and injuries to his throat, indicating that he was killed; a large knife with blood on it was found near the body. Neighbors of the deceased say that on April 2, 2026, Pascal had an argument and a fight with his wife, and that a man named Sotaire came to intervene and injured the man on the head and arm; the police quickly arrested Jean Marie Sotaire for further investigation.*

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*EX2: A man was killed by a police officer in Nyabihanga Commune in Gitega Province. During the night of Saturday, April 4, 2026, to Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026, a police officer named Irankunda Osias shot and killed Nininahazwe Nestor, a 30-year-old man who owned a bar called “Kwihuriro,” on KIBUNGERE Hill, in Nyabihanga Commune, Gitega Province. The deceased was married and had two children.*

*Local sources say that this police officer, assigned to the Kibungere Parish in this town, arrived at the bar last night and began provoking the customers who were there quenching their thirst. He started drinking from their bottles.*

*But Nestor Nininahazwe, the bar owner, refused to let the officer drink from his bottle. In a fit of anger, he went to the place where the police officers assigned to the parish sleep and returned with his rifle. He immediately fired several shots at Nestor in the chest. He died instantly. The officer then went to hide within the grounds of the Kibungere parish.*

*That is where the local population apprehended him before handing him over to law enforcement to be taken to the Nyabihanga municipal jail for questioning.*

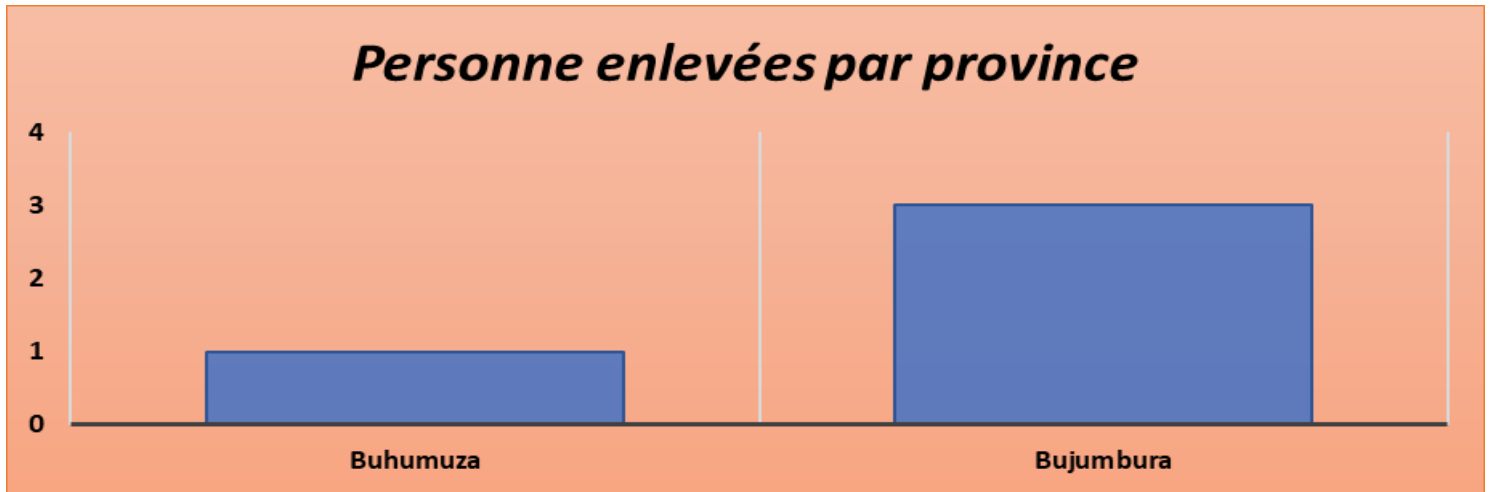
*The residents of this town want this police officer to be punished according to the law. They are also asking the relevant authorities to ban the carrying of firearms in bars.*

#### II.1.1.2. PERSONS KIDNAPPED AND/OR MISSING

The Constitution of Burundi guarantees all individuals a fair trial, as well as a hearing and judgment within a reasonable time, as stipulated in Article 38. The Iteka League recorded 4 people kidnapped, including 2 men and 2 women in the Bujumbura provinces, with 3 victims and 2 victims in Buhumuza.

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

## II.1.1 RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 9)



### Illustrative examples:

*Ex1: On April 6, 2026, in the Mubone neighborhood, Buterere area, Ntakangwa 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 located 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 reason, even though he was well-liked by the population and had filed an appeal and was awaiting the results.*

*Unfound 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.*

*Ex2: The League was informed on April 1, 2026, that on March 31, 2026, at around 5 a.m., at 13th Maramvya Cross Street, Mutimbuzi area, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province, Daniel BIZIMANA, pastor in charge of the Christian Church of the Apostles (ECA), was abducted by unknown individuals and taken to a location that remains unknown. According to local witnesses, Daniel BIZIMANA was abducted on the morning of March 31, 2026, after answering a phone call he received while at his home.*

*According to testimonies gathered, the victim was in conflict with François NDAYISHIMIYE, nicknamed RABERO. After leaving the church led by François NDAYISHIMIYE six months ago and establishing another place of worship in the area known as ku Masanganzira, he was joined by quite a few followers. François NDAYISHIMIYE has vowed to harm him ever since their separation.*



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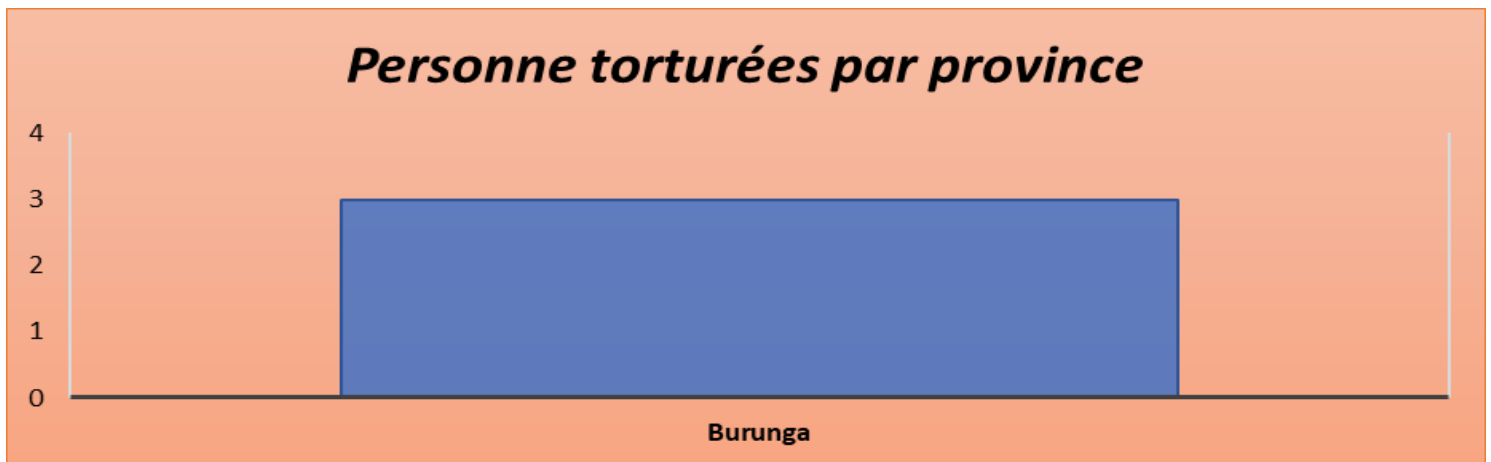
### **II.1.1.3. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY**

The Burundian Constitution in its Article 21 stipulates that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment." In addition, Law No. 1/04 of June 27, 2016, on the protection of victims defines the rights of victims and provides measures to protect their physical and mental integrity. This clearly demonstrates the country's commitment to protecting the physical integrity of its citizens.

#### **II.1.1.3.1. TORTURE, PUNISHMENTS AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENTS**

For this month of April 2026, the Iteka League recorded 3 victims of cruel, inhuman punishments and treatments across the entire territory. The victims are recorded in Burunga provinces with 3 victims, including 2 men and 1 woman.

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



#### **Illustrative examples:**

*Ex1: On April 13, 2026, at around 9:00 p.m., on Karinzi Hill, in the Rongerero area, Rutana commune, Burunga province, Salvator Barashingwa and his wife Marcelline Itangishaka, both members of the CNDD-FDD party, were beaten with a stick by the Imbonerakure youth members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, including Elias, Éric, and Egide for having given shelter to a person without notifying the local chief of that hill. The victims are experiencing pain throughout their bodies and are at Rutana Hospital receiving treatment, while the alleged perpetrators are being held in the detention cell at the Rutana municipal police station. That same night, the person seeking lodging was the one who drove the victims to the hospital.*

*EX2: Information received by the Iteka League on April 17, 2026, indicates that on April 2, 2026, on Nyakuguma Hill, in the Kigwena area, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, a man named Irambona, a police officer stationed in the Kigwena area, was assaulted and injured on the head and left shoulder by Irakoze Issa, an Imbonerakure member of the CNDD-FDD known to consume illicit substances.*

*According to gathered information, the perpetrator had started the fight in the shop and wanted to beat the seller, who then screamed for help. The police officer intervened to assist before arresting him and taking him*

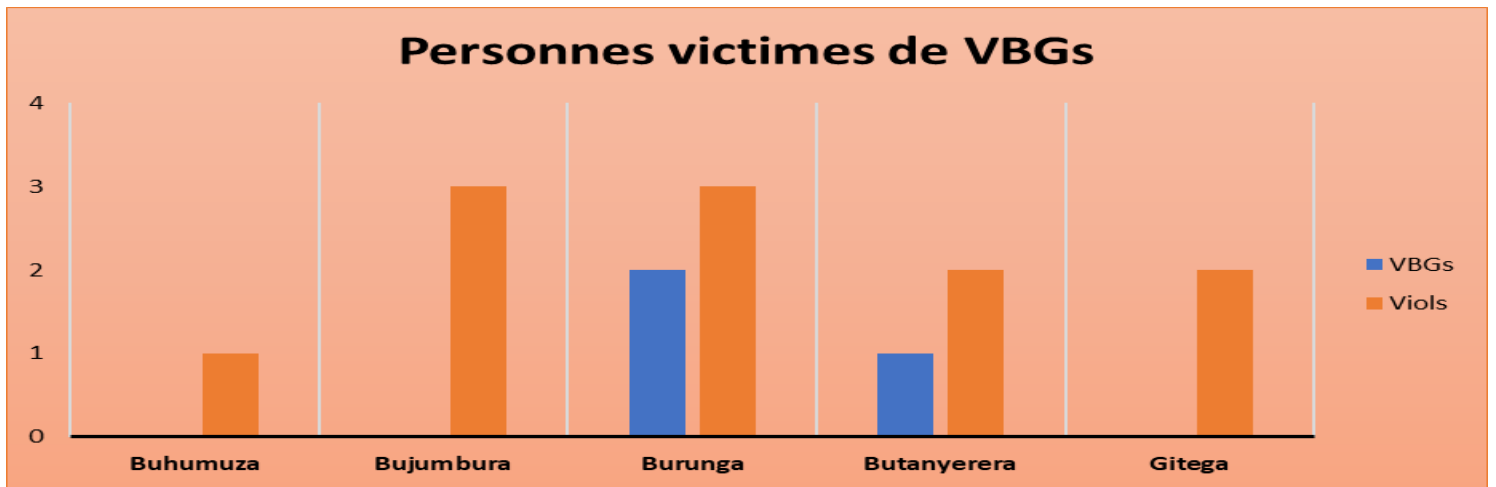
### II.1.1.3. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 11)

to the local jail, and finally transferring him to the Rumonge police station. The victim was taken to the CDS communal center in Cabara and then to the Rumonge referral hospital for medical care.

#### II.1.1.3.2. GBV/RAPE

During the period covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded 14 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) whole country. Among them, 11 minor girls were victims of rape. The table below shows the distribution by province, with Burunga in the first place with 5 victims, followed by Bujumbura and Butanyerera with 3 victims each, and finally Gitega and Buhumuza with 2 and 1 victim respectively.

Province	GBVs Cases	Number of victims		Men	Women
		GBVs	RAPE		
Buhumuza	1	0	1	0	1
Bujumbura	3	0	3	0	3
Burunga	5	2	3	1	4
Butanyerera	3	1	2	1	2
Gitega	2	0	2	0	2
Grand Total	14	3	11	2	12



#### Illustrative examples:

*Ex1: As of Sunday, April 5, 2026, at approximately 5 p.m., a 16-year-old girl named I. J was sexually abused by an elderly man named 70-year-old Gakindo Naboli.*

*According to our source, the facts took place on the hill of Rwingiri, Bugendana commune, Gitega province. The same source indicates that this man, who is a neighbor of the victim, would have taken advantage of the fact that the girl was alone at home. He broke into her home with a machete and threatened her with death if she refused to submit.*

*The victim gave in under duress. However, during the act, she screamed, which alerted her mother, who arrived immediately on the scene.*

*The attacker was subdued on the spot, while the victim was taken urgently to the Nkanda Health Center to receive first aid. To date, the alleged perpetrator is held in the Bugendana police cell.*

### ***II.1.1.3.2. GBV/RAPE (the following of page 12)***

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*Ex2: On April 16, 2026, schoolgirl B. E, at ECO FO Nyakerera, in 2nd grade, Nyakerera hill, Minyare zone, Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province, daughter of B and R, aged 11 years old was raped by a soldier named Nkuriyingoma Abdoul, corporal, from the Mutukura military camp near the home of the victim family.*

*According to local sources, the alleged perpetrator of the rape was at Bukuru's home in the afternoon. The girl was alone. Abdoul asked Emelyne to borrow a machete from him to look for medicine in the nearby bush and tricked her into accompanying him to retrieve the machete. It was at this time that she was raped for 5000 fbu. When she arrived at the house, her father's second wife saw the 5000 fbu in Emelyne's hands and she told everything. It should be noted that Emeline's real mother was Renathe who died with her throat slit and thrown into a river after being raped by criminals not yet known 5 years ago.*

*The Bukuru family then alerted the authorities of the Mutukura camp. An officer from the Mutukura camp named Adjudant Major Hakizimana Claude tried to settle the matter amicably between the victim's father and the alleged perpetrator in exchange for money. The Bukuru family refused and instead demanded a medical examination. According to the family's neighbors, the child was injured and is under medical care. From that day, Abdoul Nkuriyingoma was hidden by the officer at a location not yet known.*

## **II.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION**

During the month of April, a situation of school dropout was reported for the Muramvya commune, which during the second term of the 2025-2026 school year proved to be concerning, with the number of school dropouts reaching alarming levels. Students in primary education are particularly affected by this phenomenon. According to statements from the head of the Muramvya Commune Education Department, several factors explain this crisis: poverty, unwanted pregnancies, various health problems, family relocations, early marriages, and other reasons. A survey conducted among residents highlighted that poverty emerges as the main cause of these school dropouts.

## **II. 3. CATEGORY RIGHTS**

### **II.3.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

Children's rights are protected in Burundi through the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which was ratified in 1990. The country has also adopted laws and policies to protect children.

Nevertheless, significant challenges remain in practice. During the period from April covered by this report, children's rights were severely affected. In addition to the sexual violence and other abuses against underage girls mentioned earlier, it has been observed that young girls are involved in prostitution, particularly in the commune of Kayanza. The Iteka League has also documented a case of abandonment following an abortion, a case of infanticide, as well as acts of assault and battery inflicted on children under the pretext of punishment. These events highlight the severity of violence against children and raise questions about protection and justice for the most vulnerable in Burundi.

### ***III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS***

During the period covered by this report, the human rights situation continued to deteriorate across the country. The number of documented cases of violations of the right to life, physical integrity, economic, social, and cultural rights, and children's rights is representative, as the Iteka League lacks the capacity to cover the entire territory; and given the cases documented despite the challenges, it goes without saying that the human rights situation in Burundi is deeply concerning.

Furthermore, the Iteka League notes that legal actions are increasingly being initiated by certain state bodies to address these violations and welcomes this development, as it represents an important step in the fight against impunity that the Iteka League has always advocated.

Nevertheless, the Iteka League condemns the recurrence of the crimes observed and recommends the following:

#### **To the Government of Burundi:**

1. To ensure respect for human rights, including 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 acts of violence against minors, which have become commonplace in Burundi at the hands of local administrative officials and other members of the presidential party.

#### **To the EU and other technical and financial partners of Burundi:**

1. Support the efforts of the Iteka League and other human rights organizations in monitoring human rights violations in Burundi.
2. Use their influence to compel the Burundian authorities to respect human rights and end impunity.