



BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

Anyone should be respected

N°524 from 27 Avril to 03 May 2026

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



In memory of Madame Marie Claudette KWIZERA, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to May 3, 2026, at least 865 victims of forced 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 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)

COPED: Council for Education and Development

ECOFO: Fundamental School

FRAD: Reserve and Self-Development Force

HCR: High Commissioner for Refugees

OIM: International Organization for Migration

PMPA: Armed Political Party and Movement

RDC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of April 27 to May 3, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the judicial, security, and humanitarian context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of violations of civil and political rights that marked this week.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least 3 people killed, including 2 bodies found lifeless, 5 victims of sexual violence, including 4 girls under the age of 18. Regarding children's rights, 11 child victims were recorded.

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

I. CONTEXT

I.1. SECURITY CONTEXT

Two people injured in Nyanza commune, Burunga province

On April 29, 2026, around 6 p.m., on Mukungu hill in the commune of Nyanza, Burunga province, Félicien Nikundana, 20, and Lévis Niyomwungere, 25, were injured by knife blows to the shoulder and ribs during a fight with Imbonerakure youth. According to witnesses, a group of young people from the CNDD-FDD party, after drinking prohibited alcoholic beverages called Ibimbagara, attacked a passerby whose identity is unknown to us, attempting to steal his money.

While fleeing, this man took a knife from a grilled meat stand and mistakenly injured the two young men, thinking they meant him harm. The injured were taken to the Mukungu health center for treatment. Emelyne Tuyisabe, the person in charge of the Mukungu area, confirms these events and explains that some young people consume a lot of alcohol and create insecurity.

Resurgence of theft in Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province

Since April 28, 2026, at the Busiga center, Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province, schools, a Health Center, and various households have been in darkness following the theft of 60 meters of

REGIDESO electric wires. The REGIDESO employees are preparing to rehabilitate this electrical network but deplore these thefts of public materials.

I.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

Paralysis of the judicial system in Kiganda commune, Gitega Province.

Since the issuance of Ministerial Ordinance No. 550/1292 of April 13, 2026, regarding the appointment and assignment of certain magistrates in the province of Gitega, no judicial activity has been organized in some resident courts of the Kiganda commune.

This commune currently has 8 resident courts corresponding to the 8 zones of the commune. Of these 8 courts, 3 have received two judges, including a presiding judge. The other 5 have received only one judge and no clerk. Apart from this lack of judges, 6 out of 8 courts have not yet had work offices. Judges

report to the zone headquarters but cannot accommodate the litigants due to the lack of offices.

The same problem exists in the Muramvya commune, where judges have not yet had offices in certain zones.

Litigants no longer know where to turn, being unable to access their files.

1.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

Conviction of fraudsters in Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province

Human security is severely compromised, to the detriment of surrounding communities. These populations, whose existence and social cohesion depend largely on intercultural and commercial exchanges, see their vulnerabilities worsening in the face of constant threats of summary execution against anyone who maintains commercial relations with Rwanda's neighbors threats issued by provincial authorities and relayed by certain security services. This climate of fear is exacerbated by threats made by the post commander in Mparamirundi, Major Franck NTAYAGABIRI, who declared that he would kill any suspected fraudster traveling to Rwanda.

Indeed, on April 29, 2026, around 2:00 a.m., Claude NSHEMEZIMANA and Moise NSABIMANA, both apprehended by the police for alleged coffee smuggling with Rwanda, endured a brutal interrogation during which, under pressure and torture, they identified Salvator Bigirima as their accomplice, leading to his arrest that same morning. The alerted population gathered in front of the police station in a desperate attempt to prevent their fellow citizens from being arbitrarily executed.

In front of a worried crowd gathered at the police station to inquire about their arrested relatives, police station chief Franck NTAYAGABIRI attempted to deter any protest by taking the detainees behind the police station, firing shots, and then returning to the crowd to announce that he had executed them in accordance with the decision received

and known for such cases. The information immediately circulated on social media but was followed, paradoxically, by a denial from the Ministry of the Interior, Public Security, and Community Development at the end of the day on its @MininterInfosBi account. The ITEKA League deplors this type of contradiction within a single public institution, particularly one responsible for maintaining order and security, as it tarnishes the image of the government and undermines the credibility of the media and civil society organizations that report on it in their publications without thorough verification.

It is important to emphasize that on the same day, April 29, 2026, the prosecutor of the Butanyerera Court of Appeal went to the field and these three detainees were transferred to the Kayanza police station at night to carry out a judicial investigation, and the day after tomorrow, the Kayanza High Court ruled on this case in a flagrante delicto trial. During the hearing, Claude and Moise were sentenced to one year of imprisonment and a fine of 500,000 Fbu each. As for Salvator, he was released. A fourth person, a pastor of the FECABU Church where Salvator worked, named Nkurunziza Jean Marie, was questioned and arrested during the hearing for recording the trial with his phone.



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1.3. HUMANITY CONTEXT

Deplorable situation of refugees turned back from Tanzania in Buhumuza province

Burundian returnees who are currently being expelled from Tanzania are residing at the Nyabitare transit site, where living conditions are extremely precarious. Due to the recent decision by the Tanzanian government to carry out a forced repatriation of Burundian refugees, the living conditions at this transit site are far from satisfactory. The Nyabitare site, whose capacity should not exceed 500 to 600 people, is currently overcrowded, having registered 853 returnees on Monday, April 27, 2026. In addition, there are 634 refugees, including 618 from the Nduta camp and 16 from the Nyarugusu camp, who returned on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

Some refugees are returning on foot due to persecution by Tanzanian authorities, taking illegal routes to reach the transit site, while others are transported by trucks provided by the Tanzanian government to the Burundi-Tanzania border, before being taken by vehicles from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the transit site. Once there, UNHCR provides them with a voucher worth \$80 per person, intended to facilitate their return to their places of origin. It should be noted that this approach represents a significant change from the previous practice, where UNHCR covered their transportation to their home villages. Due to delays in the distribution of transportation funds by UNHCR via Finbank, returnees are sometimes forced to wait more than a week in the transit camp, thereby worsening their living conditions.

In addition to the presence of UNHCR and the Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for repatriation, other partners are lacking. Notably absent are organizations such as Caritas Burundi, which handles the distribution of hot meals; TPO for healthcare; COPED for infrastructure; AVSI for the reintegration of people with specific needs; and the Red Cross for water supply. This absence significantly complicates the situation, depriving returnees of essential services and leading to numerous dramatic consequences.

On Monday, April 27, 2026, a tragic event occurred in connection with the lack of healthcare at the transit camp: a 75-year-old woman succumbed to injuries inflicted by young Tanzanians, often referred to as “Abanamugambo,” affiliated with the ruling party, the CCM. The following day, a pregnant woman also suffered from a lack of proper care during childbirth, although both mother and child ultimately survived.

This situation stems from the hasty decision of the Tanzanian government to accelerate the repatriation process without consultation with other partners, notably UNHCR and the Burundian government. It should be recalled that the Tanzanian government had set the deadline of March 31, 2026, stipulating that no Burundian refugee should be on its territory after this date, allowing only an additional month until April 30, 2026. And as a reminder, the president of the CNIDH, Bishop Nyaboho Patrick, had issued a warning that the Burundian government would not be ready, suggesting an extension until July 2026.

Due to overcrowding, the repatriates do not have adequate shelter, some being forced to spend the night under the open sky, exposed to the elements, both adults and children. Many of them show signs of violence on their bodies and fear contracting diseases resulting from deplorable hygiene conditions and overcrowding. The delay in the distribution of transportation costs contributes to their vulnerability and makes their existence within the transit camp extremely difficult, leaving several of them without food resources. Those who are financially well-off obtain raw food, but face difficulties in acquiring firewood and water. In addition to the transport voucher, UNHCR also provides return funds worth \$300 per person, intended to facilitate their social reintegration during the three months following their return.

However, these funds are often allocated to them long after their arrival in the host communities. The repatriates are calling for the goodwill of society and the Burundian

1.3. HUMANITY CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

government to ensure a dignified return to their country of origin.

Cases of money extortion from refugees in Gisuru commune, Buhumuza province

As of April 30, 2026, Burundian refugees arriving from Tanzania in the Nyabitare area, Gisuru commune, Buhumuza province, report cases of money extortion by the organizations hosting them. They claim that they are made to pay excessive amounts for their transport, but once payment is made, they are not taken to their destination. They say they are surprised to pay for transport fees while it is known that they are covered by the IOM, which is supposed to facilitate their movement.

Stuck in the Mugeru area as of April 30, 2026, they are demanding the refund of their money as well as the provision of the promised vehicles to take them to their destination.

By way of examples:

Burundian returnees coming from Tanzania complained on April 30, 2026, upon arriving at the chief town of the Mugeru area. These returnees indicated that the drivers drop them off in the Mugeru area even though they are going to the Mishiha area. These returnees reported that when leaving Tanzania, they are first dropped off at the Nyabitare transit camp, in the Gisuru commune. They leave this camp to return to their families, and sometimes the organizations that receive them steal their money because they are

1,956 people died and more than 5 million were affected by malaria in the country during the year 2025.

On April 25, 2026, on the eve of World Malaria Day, which was observed on April 25, 2026, in the Kinama area, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province, Dr. Mathias Nsabimana, director of the National Malaria Control Program (PNLP), announced that 1,956 people died of malaria and more than 5 million cases were recorded during the year

asked to pay for transfer bus tickets and are not even taken to their destination.

In the recent case, a FUSO driver who was transporting the luggage of repatriates and another PROBOX driver were detained in the Mugeru jail. A bus transporting passengers returned to Nyabitare after arriving in Mugeru even though it was supposed to drop them off in Mishiha. The FUSO driver wanted to continue to deliver the luggage to its destination, but the passengers did not agree; they did not want to send their belongings without a responsible person. They instead asked him to transport the passengers, but the driver said it was impossible to transport them because there were disabled people. This sparked protests in front of the Mugeru zone, where the FUSO driver and another PROBOX driver were detained. These repatriates demanded that the bus return to take them to their destination and requested the money paid for the transport buses because they learned that the ticket was paid by the IOM (International Organization for Migration).

2025. According to him, the majority of those affected are children under five and pregnant women, due to their weakened immune systems.

He also noted that the health districts of Ngozi and Nyabihanga are the hardest hit by this disease. He urges the public to seek treatment early upon the onset of the first

I. 3. HUMANITY CONTEXT (the following of page 8)

symptoms, as malaria can be fatal within a short time if left untreated.

Malaria is a disease that is ravaging and weakening the Burundian population; the government of Burundi should strengthen its

healthcare system to facilitate rapid access to care.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

II.1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE OR BODIES FOUND DEAD.

One person killed in Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province

On May 2, 2026, on the Rumama sub-hill, on the Muterero hill, Cankuzo area and commune, Buhumuza province, the named Staphanie Masaho, a widow of about 60 years old, was slaughtered in a corner of the said sub-hill during the rain of the interval from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

According to sources on the spot, the named Agnès, divorced, hill instructor on the Gatungungwe hill, Cankuzo zone and her partner were suspected involved in the death of this old lady. They were arrested and detained for investigation.

A lifeless body of a man was discovered in the Commune and Province of Gitega

On the night of Saturday, May 2 to Sunday, May 3, 2026, on the hill and Rutegama area, commune and province of Gitega, a man named Bigirimana Deogratias, 54 years old, was killed by individuals not yet identified. According to our source, the body was discovered about 700 meters from his home. The same source indicates that the victim had a serious head injury, suggesting that he was hit with a machete.

However, it is also suspected that the murder was committed elsewhere, as the body was moved and then abandoned at the scene of the discovery, given the absence of traces of blood nearby, despite the severity of the injury. To date, the perpetrators of this crime have not yet been identified. The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon, on the order of the OPJ who went to the scene.

II.1.1.2. PERSONS KILLED AS A RESULT OF SETTLING SCORES

Suspicious death of a woman pursuing a case of rape of her little daughter in Bukeye, Muramvya Commune, 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 zone, Muramvya commune, Gitega province. The victim was actively following the judicial process 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 drinking establishment 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, the neighbors provided assistance and the victim was urgently transported to the hospital, where her death was confirmed upon arrival. Local sources indicate that the deceased represented the interests of her granddaughter, aged 7, residing in the village

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

of Rubirizi, Muhanga Commune, Butanyerera Province. The child was recently raped by a man in his sixties, father of seven children now in detention.

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 her death, the victim was returning from the hospital of Musema, located in the commune of Matongo, province of Butanyerera, where her granddaughter had been examined. She

had medical documents attesting to the sexual violence suffered by the child. The exact causes of his death remain unknown. The victim's family and neighbours are calling for independent investigations to be opened

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. RAPES

A young girl raped in Mparamirundi, Kayanza commune, in Butanyerera province

As of April 26, 2024, in the Mparamirundi area of the Kayanza commune of Butanyerera province, N. A, seventeen years old, mentally retarded from the locality of Masanganzira in Ngozi-Kirundo was raped by Ngabonziza Alexis aged 60.

The perpetrator of the rape deceived the victim and brought her into a grove to rape her. Neighbors in this locality intervened and took the victim to Kayanza Hospital for medical treatment. The administration and the police are looking for the criminal for the judicial file.

A little girl raped in Rumonge commune, Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka League on April 30, 2026, indicates that on April 19, 2026, around 11 a.m., on Murara Hill, Rusabagi area, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, the little girl named N. Y., 5 years old, was raped by Niyonkuru Onésime, 26 years old, originally from Butanyerera province. The act was committed by their domestic worker who took advantage of her

parents' absence. Upon their return, the child recounted the events to her mother, who took her to the CDS Muyange for medical care. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to the Muyange police station before being transferred to the Rumonge police station.

A woman raped in Rumonge commune, Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka League on April 30, 2026, indicates that on April 15, 2025, on Nyakuguma hill, Kigwena area, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, N. Sc, aged 32, was raped by three unidentified individuals. According to local sources, the act took place in the bush while she was working in the fields, and the perpetrators surprised her by binding her with part of her wrap in order to carry out the act. The victim cried for

help and was heard by children who were looking for firewood. They called on adults to come to her aid. She was taken to the Humura center in Rumonge for medical care. The alleged perpetrators have not yet been identified.

II.2.1. RAPES (the following of page 10)

A girl raped in Mugere commune, Bujumbura province.

Information sent to the Iteka League on April 30, 2026, indicates that on April 13, 2026, on the hill of Kivoga commune Mugere, province of Bujumbura, S. I, aged 16, was raped by Bukuru Dieudonné.

Cette jeune fille revenait de l'école et est allée rendre visite à son ami, BUKURU Dieudonné, un commerçant qui tient une boutique située près de l'école. He received her in the house where he lives, subdued her, then began to

touch her, then forcibly removed her clothes and raped her.

She went home crying and told her parents everything. They then rushed her to Kabezi District Hospital to be protected from sexually transmitted diseases. And when the perpetrator learned that the case was known, he fled.

A girl raped in Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province

As of April 27, 2026, in the Konge area, Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, I.C., a 4-year-old girl, was raped by Nicoyitungiye Prosper, a 17-year-old boy motorcyclist. The boy is on the run, and the

police are searching for him. The population in Kayanza commune is asking the judicial authorities to punish the perpetrators of rapes, which are increasing day by day.

III. CATEGORY RIGHTS

III.1. CHILD'S RIGHTS

A student blinded by his teacher in Muha commune, Bujumbura province

On April 30, 2026, at the ECO FO Gakungwe (known as "Kwa Capara"), on Gakungwe hill, Muha commune, Bujumbura province, Led Chandel Nizigiyimana, a 4th grade student, was the victim of corporal punishment inflicted on him by Rénovat, a teacher in the school, which resulted in permanent disability. According to local witnesses, the teacher called out to young Chandel while he was playing with a friend and the teacher engaged in a

brutal physical assault until the child's eye was gouged out.

After inflicting this injury, the teacher committed two additional wrongdoings; He held the child in school until 7 p.m., preventing him from joining his family. Despite the obvious seriousness of the eye injury, no measures were taken by the teacher or the school administration to evacuate the student to a health facility.

A minor arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province

Since April 21, 2026, Devote Ndikumana, 15 years old, has been held at the Nyakabiga police station, accused by her employer Ngabire Chadia of stealing the sum of three thousand US dollars that were in the latter's home. The victim worked as a domestic worker for Chadia, a woman identified as being part of prostitution group. According to the information gathered, the young girl had performed her duties for nearly six months

without receiving a salary, and a few days after requesting the payment of her back wages, the situation took a turn. Her employer then accused her of having stolen the money she claimed to keep in a cupboard, and the child was arrested and then incarcerated at the Nyakabiga police station.

III.1. CHILD'S RIGHTS (the following of page 11)

A child was burned in Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province

Information received by the Iteka League on May 1, 2026, indicates that on April 20, 2026, on Mihigo Hill, Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, Iteriteka Kenty, aged 9, was burned by his father, Nyandwi Firmin, aged 40, on his right arm. The victim was kept at home for an entire week without receiving medical care.

On April 26, 2026, neighbors of this family noticed that the child was suffering from this burn and reported Firmin to the local administrative authorities. The victim was taken to Kayanza hospital for treatment, and the alleged perpetrator of this act was taken to the cell of the Kayanza police station.

A child burned in Karusi commune, Gitega province

On April 26, 2026, at around 7 p.m., on Karunyinya hill, Buhiga zone, Karusi commune, Gitega province, Nishimwe Bénit, 4 years old, son of Ndiokubwayo J. Bosco, member of the CNDD FDD, 29 years old and Valérie, 26 years old, was burned on the right hand by his mother Valérie. According to local witnesses, his mother accused him of eating a

meal saved for the evening and dipped her son's hand in the freshly cooked meal. Valérie was arrested and then incarcerated in the Buhiga zone police cell while the child was taken to the Buhiga CDS on April 27, 2026 by his aunt before being transferred to Buhiga hospital where he is hospitalized.

Physical violence inflicted by a healthcare worker in Muha commune, Bujumbura province

Information received by the Iteka League on May 1, 2026 indicates that on April 12, 2026, in Muha commune, Bujumbura province, Bandyatuyaga Hyppolite, a doctor at the Kabezi hospital, exercised physical violence on two minors, Simplice, 14 years old and Alexis, 17 years old, whom he accused of theft. According to local witnesses, the two teenagers broke into the doctor's property to steal four sheets of metal from his kitchen, before selling them to a local scrap dealer nicknamed "Mwarabu".

After discovering the theft, Dr. Hyppolite apprehended the two boys and subjected them to corporal punishment until the two minors were unable to walk.

This act of private justice, committed by a health executive who is supposed to protect life, has provoked strong indignation among neighbors and witnesses to the scene, who strongly condemn the use of justice rather than legal means.

Worrying movements of unaccompanied children towards Bujumbura in Butanyerera province

As of April 29, 2026, around 12:00 PM in Ngozi, Butanyerera province, five unaccompanied children were arrested on board a coaster minibus coming from Kirundo to Bujumbura. The barrier police provided advice to all passengers before taking these

children to the judicial police office for investigation. The authorities of Butanyerera province recommended that transporters no longer carry unaccompanied minors for safety reasons.



III.1. CHILD'S RIGHTS (the following page 12)

Voluntary abortion in Karusi commune, Gitega province

On April 23, 2026, on the Nyarugati sub-hill, Kiranda Hill, Bugenyuzi area, Karusi commune, Gitega province, Nadine, a member of the CNDD-FDD, over 20 years old, voluntarily terminated a 7-month pregnancy, but her health deteriorated and she was taken to the Cinquantenaire Hospital in Karusi, where she remains in critical condition. According to witnesses, she took a medication purchased by the father of the child, a neighborhood chief named Havyarimana, a member of the CNDD-FDD over 40 years old, after agreeing to have an abortion. After

taking these medications, the girl experienced itching and asked her friend Claudine to find her a local remedy that her mother gives to people with stomach problems to relieve the itching. On April 27, 2026, Dushime Claudine, a member of the CNDD-FDD, was arrested by the police and taken to the Bugenyuzi police station. The father of the child has fled and remains at large. According to the same sources, the police are waiting for the patient to recover so she can be brought to trial.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Iteka League strongly denounces the persistent deterioration of human rights in Burundi and condemns the impunity of those who commit crimes. It calls on the Burundian authorities to take all possible measures and recommends the following:

To the Government of Burundi:

1. Establish increased oversight mechanisms for local administrative and political officials in order to prevent targeted acts of violence.
2. Systematically conduct transparent judicial investigations when bodies are discovered.
3. Take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that perpetrators of human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.
4. Take effective measures to protect the rights of the child.