



# BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

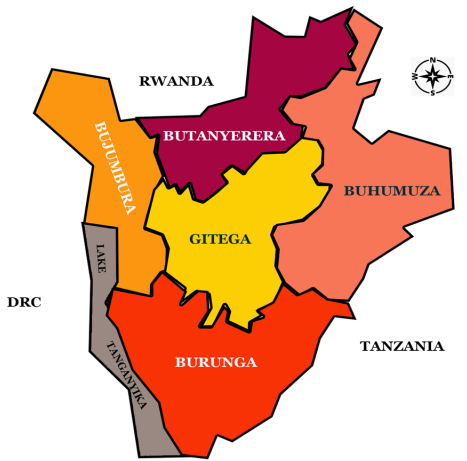
## WEEKLY REPORT

### "Iteka n' Ijambo"

Anyone should be

**N°526 from 11 to 17 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 Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, who has been missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to May 17, 2026, at least 868 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League; at least 87 victims have reappeared, and 781 victims remain missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGED) has already reported 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***

***ECOFO: Fundamental School***

***FRAD: Reserve and Self-Development Force***

***UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees***

***OPJ: Chief Police Officer***

***RTNB: National Radio and Television of Burundi***

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of May 11–17, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the governance, security, and humanitarian contexts. It further analyzes incidents illustrating violations of civil and political rights that occurred during this week.

The allegations of human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least 6 people killed, including 5 bodies found, 1 man who was a victim of sexual violence, 3 cases of torture, 2 persons who were victims of arbitrary arrest, and 3 people wounded by police shootings.

Among these victims are 2 women killed, 1 woman tortured, and 1 child killed.

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

## I. CONTEXT

### I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

#### **Fear caused by the noise and chants of young Imbonerakure members in the administrative center of Ruyigi commune, Buhumuza province**

On May 13, 2026, residents of the capital of the Ruyigi commune were awakened by the noise and chants of young Imbonerakure members of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD. According to local sources, the incident began at 3 a.m., when the party's chants echoed throughout all neighborhoods of the commune. The population, bewildered by this sudden commotion, felt a sense of panic, not knowing what was happening. Around 8 a.m., residents were informed that it was the young Imbonerakure from the commune of Ruyigi gathering to travel to Cankuzo, the capital of Buhumuza province, to assist with community development work related to the construction of the Buhumuza provincial office.

According to the same sources, this construction work is taking place day and night, organised by hills and by municipalities, which act as co-ordinators. For example, on 13 May 2026, it was the turn of the hills in the municipality of Ruyigi. Furthermore, it is reported that these young Imbonerakure arrive in Cankuzo in Fuso lorries. They take part in these community development activities wearing the CNDD-FDD party uniform, which has led some observers to describe these actions as propaganda, rather than genuine inclusive development work for all citizens, regardless of their political affiliation.

### I.2. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

#### **Abuse of power by officials in both the public and private sectors in the municipality and province of Gitega.**

In the municipality of Gitega, in the province of Gitega, a growing number of complaints from citizens from various social backgrounds has been observed in recent days, denouncing contributions imposed by force. According to information gathered from our sources in several areas of this municipality, these contributions are being collected by officials

from various departments with the aim of financing the construction of a municipal office for the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD. A teacher at a school in the Kabanga area told us that the headteacher is in charge of this collection. According to his statements, anyone refusing to pay this levy is subjected to ridicule and humiliating comments, with

## ***1.2. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 5)***

some going so far as to claim that those who oppose these contributions should not benefit from the educational facilities and health centres built in the country.

Another teacher at a primary school in the town of Gitega expressed his bewilderment at the requirement to contribute, as he does not belong to any political party. A member of the Child Protection Committee (CPE) also shares this view, highlighting the incomprehensible nature of this situation and pointing out the difficulty of justifying collections intended for the construction of a political office which, in his view, offers no benefit to the population. Another source from the Makebuko area regards these contributions as a form of waste, asserting that a political party should be financially supported by its own members. These coercive contributions are reported throughout the municipality of Gitega, and what is causing particular concern among the population, according to our sources, are the threats against those who refuse to pay, with

some even fearing a loss of access to healthcare. The amounts requested vary according to socio-professional categories.

For example, a teacher in the first three grades of elementary school is required to pay 10,000 Burundian francs, a secondary school teacher must pay 15,000 francs, an elementary school principal 20,000 francs, and a post-elementary school principal 30,000 francs. Ordinary farmers are forced to pay 5,000 francs, while merchants must contribute 20,000 francs or more. According to our sources in various areas of the Gitega commune, even some members of the CNDD-FDD are expressing their dissatisfaction with these imposed contributions.

## ***1.3. ECONOMIC CONTEXT***

### **Central Bank Concerns Regarding Fourth-Category Community Financial Groups**

The Bank of the Republic of Burundi (BRB) recently took a clear stance on fourth-category financial groups during an awareness-raising meeting held in Gitega. On May 15, 2026, the BRB brought together public prosecutors and association leaders to address the dangers posed by unlicensed community financial groups. Simplicie Nsabiyumva, Director of Supervision and Financial Stability at the BRB, emphasized that the Central Bank's primary mission is to protect citizens' savings. He explained: "We cannot shut down a financial group as long as there is a possibility of recovery." However, he also clarified that in cases of clear fraud, the BRB has the authority to suspend officials, initiate legal proceedings, revoke licenses, freeze accounts, and proceed with liquidation.

Microfinance institutions are categorized by the BRB into four groups; only Groups 1 and 3

which include joint-stock companies and COOPEC cooperatives have the legal right to accept deposits and grant loans. In contrast, groups in the fourth category are informal and carry risks. They are limited to collecting contributions from members. Yet many groups attract citizens by promising interest rates of up to 8% per month or 96% per year a rate that far exceeds the legal maximum of 7% per year. Mr. Nsabiyumva stated: "Often, it is these groups that offer unrealistic rates. To me, they are thieves." Regarding repayments, even when it proceeds to seize assets and accounts, the BRB recovers insufficient amounts, leaving many customers with only a fraction of their money.

## ***1.2. ECONOMIC CONTEXT (the following of page 6)***

The prosecutors present called on the Central Bank to act more quickly to recover assets and speed up repayments. It is crucial that customers know how to verify that a microfinance institution is licensed. Before depositing their money, they should perform three essential checks:

1. Consult the official list at the BRB in Bujumbura, within the Directorate of Supervision and Financial Stability, as the list of licensed institutions is public and regularly updated.
2. Verify the category: only first-category public limited companies with a minimum

capital of 1 billion FBU and third-category COOPEC cooperatives with a capital of 500 million FBU are legally authorized to accept deposits and grant loans. Fourth-category associations may only collect contributions among members.

3. Be wary of enticing promises: an interest rate exceeding 7% per year is illegal in Burundi, and an offer of 5% or 8% per month should raise suspicions.

In conclusion, the BRB cannot guarantee the safety of funds placed in unlicensed institutions. The best protection lies in conducting a thorough check before making any deposit.

## ***Presentation and Adoption of the 2024–2025 Budget Report by the National Assembly***

On May 13, 2026, the National Assembly unanimously adopted the 2024–2025 budget report, which highlighted challenges such as low budget execution and capital flight. Finance Minister Alain Ndikumana described a year marked by declining revenues and concerning practices surrounding the use of public funds. An initial budget of 4,626 billion FBU was revised down to 4,211 billion FBU, representing a decrease of nearly 9%. Ultimately, only 3.233 trillion FBU was mobilized, with an execution rate of 76.79%. Domestic revenue, however, exceeded expectations, reaching 2.628 trillion FBU compared to the projected 2.412 trillion FBU.

The challenges identified by Alain Ndikumana include capital flight, fictitious missions, and mining revenues falling short of projections. He noted that the government spends approximately \$10 million annually on overseas missions, but that a portion of this money ends up on the black market. To counter this, he suggested using Visa cards for missions to control expenditures. Regarding

fictitious missions, he stated: “Officials often sign in for multiple workshops on the same day at different locations, which is not credible.”

With regard to mining revenues, production falling short of targets has impacted revenue. Members of Parliament highlighted the 300 billion FBU in unpaid taxes, drawing attention to the gap between projections and actual results, and questioning the minister about influential taxpayers who evade their tax obligations. Although the minister indicated that measures would be taken, the lack of public sanctions remains a point of contention. Members of Parliament raised concerns about the lack of political will to sanction the powerful while minor offenses are punished swiftly. The minister also invited lawmakers to discuss proposals to expand the use of Visa cards. Despite anticipating that this measure would not be well received, he maintained that it would promote transparency. The bill was unanimously passed, granting the government a budget discharge while leaving questions about tax collection unresolved.

## ***I.4. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT***

### ***The plight of irregular refugees at the Nyabitare transit camp in Buhumuza Province***

According to the expulsion of Burundian refugees from camps in Tanzania, some returnees find themselves in a precarious situation at the Nyabitare transit site. As of May 14, 2026, 27 returnees remain at this site. According to the returnees' accounts, their stay in the camps in Tanzania prior to expulsion was marked by considerable suffering. Police forces herded them into a single location, using tear gas to disperse them, and forced them to sing all night long. Subsequently, the men and boys were taken to the police station, where they were asked if they wished to return home. Those who agreed were registered, while those who refused were set aside. The police decided to load all the individuals onto trucks bound for the Nyabitare transit site. Upon arrival, some did not appear on the registration lists. The Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for repatriations, then proceeded to register these unlisted individuals. They expressed a desire to know their status, but were told they would have to wait for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which would be able to provide clarification.

The UNHCR, for its part, stated that these individuals had already received their return tickets via electronic payment and that there was no longer any reason for them to remain at the site. However, they continue to claim these tickets, as they have no proof of payment. Uncertain about their situation, these individuals have remained at the transit site, lacking the means to rejoin their families

of origin. Life at this transit site is miserable, with no form of assistance. They survive thanks to the help of people living nearby, who bring them food. These returnees are appealing for any kindness to help them escape this situation by providing them with a ticket allowing them to reunite with their families of origin. It is important to note that even those who have received a return ticket report not having received the appropriate amount, but have chosen to return home despite the difficulties.

An unprecedented phenomenon is emerging among these returnees: instead of returning to their home provinces, many are heading to the communes of Gisagara and Mishiha, where arable land remains available. In the commune of Gisagara, they are settling in a locality called "Muka," a settlement inhabited by people from several provinces of the country, particularly from the north, such as Ngozi, Kayanza, Kirundo, Muyinga, Gitega, etc. The Muka settlement is located less than 5 km from the Burundi-Tanzania border. In the commune of Mishiha, they settled in the hills of Munzeze, Kirehe, Mwiruzi, etc., which were previously occupied by Rwandan refugees before their repatriation in 1994.



***Anyone should be respected***

### II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

#### II.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY STATE AGENTS

##### **One person killed and three others wounded by police officers in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province**

On May 14, 2026, around midnight, on Samwe Hill in the Rugombo area of Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province, Eric Niyongabo, who was returning home, was stopped and ordered to raise his hands by police officers. At that moment, one of the police officers shot him in the armpit; the bullet exited through his abdomen.

According to local witnesses, the incident began around 6 p.m. with an argument between two men named Janvier and Jean Gasore, a former CNDD-FDD combatant and leader of that faction in the Rugombo area. They met at the home of a woman living on Munyika Hill, adjacent to Samwe Hill in the Rugombo area, and an argument broke out, with each claiming to be the woman's husband. One of them then shouted, "You're lying; this woman is mine, because I'm the one who pays the rent for the house where she lives."

The argument between the two men did not last long; Janvier returned home to Samwe Hill. At that point, the residents thought the incident was over.

At around 10 p.m., Jean Gasore went to ask two police officers from the Rugombo precinct for assistance, and accompanied by them, he went to Janvier's home to arrest him. Upon their arrival, Janvier's family refused to let him be taken away, and a large number of other residents rushed over to protest. Everyone present insisted that Janvier could not be taken away at such a late hour and without a warrant.

Shortly afterward, Jean Gasore called for three additional police officers as backup, and together they attempted to forcibly remove Janvier. Out of solidarity and fear for their neighbor's safety, the residents intervened again, refusing to allow his illegal arrest.

The police fired several shots into the crowd, and the bullets struck three residents,

scattering the rest of the group. During these events, Eric Niyongabo, the fourth victim of the shooting, was not in the vicinity and knew nothing of the situation. As he was peacefully returning home, he encountered police officers on his way, who shot him at point-blank range and then fled back to their station.

Shortly thereafter, the station chief arrived on the scene and found residents gathering the injured to evacuate them to the nearby AGAPE clinic. Eric Niyongabo succumbed to his injuries before receiving first aid. As for the three other injured individuals, they were still receiving treatment as of May 15, 2026, but their lives are no longer in danger, according to our sources.

The residents of the Rugombo area, in shock and anger, are demanding above all that justice be served for Eric Niyongabo's family as well as for the three injured individuals.

They are also calling on higher authorities, both administrative and police, to shed light on why a ruling party activist could manipulate police officers who are subject to a chain of command and push them to commit such a crime.

Finally, the public is demanding that a public and immediate trial be held to severely punish Jean Gasore and the five police officers involved, once they have been formally identified, as the darkness and the speed of the events did not allow witnesses to recognize them with certainty.

### **II.1.3. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR LIFELESS BODIES FOUND.**

#### ***A lifeless body found in Mugere commune, Bujumbura province***

Information received by the Iteka League on May 12, 2016, indicates that on the night of May 3, 2026, around 10 p.m., a citizen known as Mugabonihera was killed by strangulation at the hands of individuals who have not yet been identified.

According to the information gathered, the victim, who lived on Mena Hill in the Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, was at a bar near his home shortly before the incident and, while returning home, fell into an ambush set by unknown assailants. According to local witnesses, the assailants strangled him with a rope before abandoning his body at the scene,

and his remains were not discovered until May 4, 2026.

Furthermore, his brother, named Dismas, who had gone to the police station to report his relative's death, was arrested by security officers. Since then, he has been held in custody in the holding cell of the Mugere municipal police station. The official reasons for this arrest have not yet been clarified.

Local sources indicate that this murder may be linked to deep-seated family conflicts between the victim and his wife. Investigations will need to determine the exact responsibilities in this case

#### **A Lifeless Body Found in Mugere Commune, Bujumbura Province**

In the Muzenga neighborhood, Kanyosha area, Mugere commune in Bujumbura province, about 100 meters from the bridge over this river, not far from the bar known as Ouagadougou, the body of an unidentified man, believed to be at least 45 years old, was discovered in the Kanyosha River.

According to local witnesses, the circumstances of this man's death remain unclear, while local officials indicate that the

deceased may have fallen into a ravine located on 12th Avenue on the Kinanira neighborhood side of the Musaga area following the rain on May 10, 2026. Eric Uwitonze, head of the Muzenga neighborhood, explains that the deceased is believed to have fallen into this ravine after consuming highly alcoholic beverages. This local official also adds that the body was taken to the morgue at Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinical Hospital pending the family's arrangements for the funeral.

#### **The lifeless body of a newborn found in Mugere commune, Bujumbura province**

On May 13, 2026, the lifeless body of a newborn was discovered near the Nyamitanga River, Buhina Hill, Kiyenzi area, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province. Those who saw the body reported that it was still fresh and stated that the baby had been thrown into the river immediately after birth. The

same sources indicated that the body was buried that same day and added that administrative officials and the police are searching for the alleged perpetrator to bring her to justice.

#### **The lifeless body of a woman was found in the Gitega Commune and Province**

On May 9, 2026, at approximately 12:40 p.m., in the Mugutu neighborhood, Rutegama area, Gitega Commune and Province, the decomposing body of Ndayishimiye Anitha, aged 35, was found in her home. According to our source, it was the neighbors who alerted the police after noticing a foul odor coming from the deceased's home.

Upon arrival, the police forced their way into the house and discovered the body, which was already in a state of decomposition. According to the same source, the deceased's clothing was torn and the body had injuries to the head. Neighbors say they were surprised that members of the deceased's family were quick to inform the police that she suffered from

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

mental health issues. However, the investigating officer did not ask them why they had left the house locked until the body began to emit foul odors.

Despite these questions, no action was taken to subject the family members to investigation.

### **The lifeless body of a woman in Gishubi Commune, Gitega Province.**

On May 12, 2026, around 7:00 a.m., on Maza Hill in the Mahonda area of Gishubi Commune, Gitega Province, the lifeless body of Nzeyimana Petronie, aged 60, was found near the bridge over the Rugege River. According to our source, the deceased was a widow and the mother of nine children.

According to observations made at the scene, there were small traces of blood where the body was lying, while other traces of dried blood were visible around the nose, mouth, and

ears. Investigating Officer Nishirimbere Gilbert, accompanied by police officers, went to the scene and told those present that it appeared the victim had been killed elsewhere before her body was abandoned there.

Our source also indicates that the deceased had land disputes with her husband's family. However, residents say they are surprised that no member of that family has been questioned as part of the investigation. The burial took place that same afternoon.

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

### **II.2.1. TORTURE/CRUEL, INHUMAN, AND DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT**

#### **A young man mistreated and beaten by police officers assigned to guard the municipal administrator of Mugere, Bujumbura Province**

On the night of May 10, 2026, around 11 p.m., at the Kabezi displacement site in the commune of Mugere, Bujumbura province, a 21-year-old man known by the nickname Kibaju was beaten by police officers assigned to guard the residence of the Mugere commune administrator.

According to an eyewitness, the young man, Kibaju, was drinking a local alcoholic beverage called ikibangara when another resident of the compound, named Claver, kicked him. Kibaju tried to defend himself and push his attacker

away, but that was when the police officers guarding the residence of the Mugere municipal administrator intervened.

Instead of stepping in to calm the dispute, the police officers attacked the young man. They beat him and left him for dead. Injured and unconscious, the victim was rushed to the hospital. According to the latest reports, Kibaju remains hospitalized in critical condition at Kabezi Hospital.

#### **Allegations of corporal punishment inflicted on a couple by administrative officials in the Karusi commune of Gitega province**

On May 12, 2026, around 6:00 a.m., Niyogushima, 36, a bicycle repairman in downtown Buhiga and a member of the CNDD-FDD, was arrested on Buhiga Hill. The arrest was carried out by hill chief Nizigiyimana Emmanuel, on the orders of zone chief Niyongabo Emmanuel. According to witness accounts, he was taken to the local police station following an accusation by his wife Claudine, 30, a member of the CNDD-FDD, who accused him of having a second wife.

Local sources report that Niyogushima owns a motorcycle and a bicycle, which were found on the night of May 11, 2026, at the home of this second woman, along with a bag containing his clothes. After questioning, the zone chief ordered the arrest of Divine, 25, identified as the second wife.

Both received 100 lashes each. The motorcycle and bicycle were seized and taken to the Buhiga zone office. Niyogushima, who can no

## **II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY(*the following of page11*)**

longer walk, refused medical treatment and remains bedridden in his kiosk. He was reportedly beaten by several people, including Issa Nizigiyimana, Emmanuel the hill chief, and an individual nicknamed Runyota, ranked

number 3. On May 16, 2026, Divine, who was three months pregnant, lost consciousness as a result of the blows she received. She was taken to Buhiga Hospital, where she remains hospitalized.

### **II.2.2. RAPES**

**A young boy with a mental disability was raped in Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province.**

Information received by the Iteka League on May 11, 2026, indicates that on May 9, 2026, on Kirema Hill, Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, a woman named Maman Ornella raped N.O., a 21-year-old man with a mental disability.

According to information gathered, N.O. has a mental disability and often wanders around the Rubaho town center; sometimes he sleeps on the doorsteps of Rubaho stores with the night watchmen. On that day, Maman Ornella gave Onésime alcohol to drink and got him drunk.

According to the same reports, Maman Ornella is a divorced woman who has become a well-known prostitute. When Maman Ornella saw that Onésime had lost all consciousness, she took him to the uninhabited house of a man named Masidoni and forced him to have sex. Onésime was in great pain but was unable to express his distress. On

May 10, 2026, N.O. remained lying on the floor of the store because he was unable to move. On May 12, 2026, N.O. reported what had happened to him and stated that Maman Ornella had forced him to have sex. Onésime showed his father his genitals, and his father saw that Onésime's health was in danger. The father sought help, and the local authorities arrested Mama Ornella. Those close to her say that the woman is HIV-positive. N.O. is now receiving medical treatment, though belatedly. Mama Ornella is in the Kayanza municipal jail awaiting trial.

## **II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM**

### **II.3.1. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS**

**Journalists were barred from attending a public meeting in the capital of Makamba commune, in Burunga province.**

On May 9, 2026, in the town of Makamba, journalists gathered in hopes of covering a public meeting on local development, led by the secretary-general of the CNDD-FDD, Révérien Ndikuriyo. However, their enthusiasm quickly turned to frustration when several of them were ordered to leave the premises. It was not officials who carried out this eviction, but a fellow journalist, which greatly surprised the reporters. And to add to their dismay, they were told that this directive came from the ruling party's communications officials. A reporter present that day clearly expressed their sentiment: "We were informed that only journalists accompanying the secretary could stay." " Gradually, anger mounted among media professionals, who began to question the legitimacy of such measures at what was

supposed to be an event open to everyone.

The journalists' frustration was not alleviated by the fact that only RTNB, Intumwa, and Irebe FM which had arrived with the secretary-general were allowed to stay. This incident was seen as an alarming sign of the deterioration of working conditions for journalists in Burunga. That day, journalists even reported being expelled while they were quietly waiting for Révérien Ndikuriyo's arrival, with police officers called by the director of Aigle Sport FM to chase them away. Other accounts, from journalists barred from a ceremony at the stadium for the signing of a partnership agreement between the Pax Burundi Foundation and Lumitel, reveal that only photographers were

## ***II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM (the following of page 12)***

welcome.

These events have reignited discussions about the tense relations between certain reporters and security forces in the province. One notable case involves Audric Niyuhire, a journalist for Aigle Sport FM and Isoko FM, who was assaulted by police officers in late 2025 during a conflict with motorcyclists, in the presence of administrative authorities. Although the authorities promised investigations and sanctions at the time, the

case was closed without further action, fueling the sense of impunity that weighs on journalists. In Burunga, a climate of mistrust is taking hold, which is not conducive to the free exercise of their profession, especially during events with political or security implications.

### ***II.3.2. ARBITRARY ARRESTS***

#### **Illegal arrest and imprisonment of a teacher at Kiremba Municipal High School in Bururi Commune, Burunga Province**

According to information received by the Iteka League on May 12, 2026, on May 5, 2026, in Kiremba, Bururi Commune, Burunga Province, Barthélémy Ndikuriyo, aged 55, a French teacher at Kiremba Municipal High School, was arrested and imprisoned in the Bururi police cell by the investigating officer named Vasco, following a complaint filed by three teachers from the same school: Audace Ndayengenge, Emmanuel Manirakiza, and a man named Bikomagu.

According to local sources, these four teachers and another named Raoul took out a collective loan repayable over 15 years from the Banque de l'Habitat du Burundi five years ago, and

the three teachers mentioned above are falsely accusing him of having begun preparations or procedures to move to Rwanda without having yet completed repayment of this loan.

Barthélémy's family members and friends deplore the fact that he has been imprisoned as a result of rumors and lies fabricated against him while he was at work. They consider this imprisonment illegal, especially since the repayment of this debt by these teachers, including Barthélémy, is made regularly through payroll deductions.

#### **Illegal arrest and imprisonment of a man in Quarter7 Ngagara, Ntahangwa Commune, Bujumbura Province.**

Information reached The Ligue Iteka on May 11, 2026 that a man named Arthemone WITONDE, around forty years old, was arrested on Friday, May 8, 2026, around noon by police in Quarter7 Ngagara

Ngagara Zone, Nyahangwa Commune in Bujumbura Province. According to the same sources, the victim is in the The Special Investigation Unit (BSR), and the reason for the arrest is unknown.



***Anyone should be respected***

#### III.1. RIGHT TO HEALTH.

##### Drug Shortages in Hospitals in Karuzi Commune, Gitega Province

Since early May 2026, there has been a severe shortage of medicines in all public health facilities. Even hospitals are facing shortages, as patients are forced to purchase even injectable medications at private pharmacies. Members of the civil service health insurance

plan complain that the medications prescribed by doctors are no longer available in these facilities and that they are forced to purchase them entirely from private pharmacies.

##### Free healthcare is becoming a distant dream in the communes of Muramvya and Kiganda in Gitega Province.

In the communes of Muramvya and Kiganda in Gitega Province, hospitals and health centers are suffering from a severe shortage of medicines.

Promises of free healthcare for pregnant women and children under 5 are coming up against a bitter reality: empty accounts, a lack of medicines, unavailable delivery equipment, and services left unpaid by the government.

In the health facilities of these municipalities, the crisis is very real. Posters promoting free healthcare remain visible on the walls, but behind these official slogans, the daily lives of healthcare workers are turning into a nightmare.

According to medical sources, the last reimbursement claims sent to the government date back to December 2024.

Health centers no longer have the means to operate. Accounts are empty, medicine stocks are depleted, and even gloves to assist

mothers during childbirth are no longer available, putting midwives and patients at risk.

According to the same sources, first-aid kits and other emergency medical supplies are nonexistent. Contract staff, already in a precarious situation, have gone two to four months without pay.

Some continue out of a sense of professional duty, while others are beginning to give up due to a lack of means of subsistence.

The promised free healthcare is no longer a reality; even the most basic medications must now be purchased at private pharmacies at prices that are unaffordable for a population living in extreme poverty.

Even basic needs are no longer being met: there is no soap for hygiene, and no fuel for ambulances and generators.



*Anyone should be respected*

## *IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS*

The Iteka League strongly condemns the ongoing deterioration of human rights in Burundi and denounces the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of crimes. It calls on the Burundian authorities to take all possible measures and recommends the following:

**That the Government of Burundi:**

1. Establish enhanced monitoring mechanisms for local administrative and political officials to prevent targeted acts of violence.
2. Systematically conduct transparent judicial investigations whenever bodies are discovered
3. Release and secure emergency funding for medicines in healthcare facilities
4. Restore the supply of medicines and other consumables to healthcare services by paying outstanding invoices to enable suppliers to ensure the continuity of services.