



BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

Anyone should be respected

N°527 from 18 to 24 May 2026

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In memory of Madame Marie Claudette KWIZERA, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to May 24, 2026, at least 868 victims of forced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 87 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)

DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo

CS: Health Center

ONPRA: National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons

JPPO: Judicial Police Officer

CNL: National Council for Liberation

PARCEM: Word and Action for the Awakening of Consciences and Evolution of Mentalities

TPO: Transcultural Psychological Organization

CCM: Chama Cha Mapinduzi

EX-FAB: Ex Armed Forces of Burundi

PAFE: Air, Borders, and Foreigners Police

CAC: Anti-Corruption Court

PAEEJ: Program for Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of May 18–24, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League examines the political, security, judicial, humanitarian, governance, and economic contexts. It also analyzes incidents illustrating violations of civil and political rights that occurred this week, as well as violations of social, economic, and cultural rights and the rights of specific groups.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least 5 people killed, including 4 bodies found dead; 1 person subjected to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment; 5 victims of gender-based violence, including 2 minor girls who were raped and 2 men and 1 woman who were victims of domestic violence.

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

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Intimidation of opposition party members in Kirundo commune, Butanyerera Province.

On Gihosha hill, KIRUNDO commune, a member of the CNL named Ngendabanyikwa Livingston, repatriated from Rwanda (Mahama) in 2020, was mentioned by the hill secretary of the CNDD-FDD party in a meeting as an embarrassing element of society

and that he must be monitored because he no longer wants to change to join the CNDD-FDD party. For now, he is in a state of panic because he does not know what is in store for him.

Meeting of CNDD-FDD party members in Ruyigi Commune, Buhumuza Province.

On Saturday, May 23, 2026, in the commune of Ruyigi, Rusengo zone, the CNDD-FDD party held a meeting intended for its members and supporters. This event also brought together members of this party from neighboring areas, particularly the Ruyigi zone and the Bweru zone. The session was chaired by Mr. NKUNZIMANA Fiacre, communal leader of the CNDD-FDD party in the commune of Ruyigi. The meeting also saw the presence of Mr. BARUTWAYANO Gérard, provincial secretary of the CNDD-FDD in the province of BUHUMUZA.

After welcoming the participants in general and the guests in particular, the communal leader gave the floor to Mr. Gérard BARUTWAYANO. In his speech, he reminded the party members, referred to as Bagumyabanga, that the presidential election will be held the following year, on May 3, 2027.

He specified that the candidate whom the CNDD-FDD will present in this election is already determined. "It is His Excellency Major General Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, the current President of the Republic," he declared. He also urged all the Bagumyabanga to prepare accordingly.

Mr. Barutwayano expressed criticism towards the other parties, particularly emphasizing the five opposition parties that recently released a statement. He said: "Ignore the political parties that find excuses not to participate in the elections. They withdrew in 2010, and we persevered. In 2015, they attacked and boycotted the elections, but we continued. It was only in 2020 and 2025 that they lost what they claimed, complaining about fraud when it was only due to a lack of members. So, now, do not listen to them anymore, let's continue our struggle.

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

We aspire to a total victory. CNDD-FDD, hold on until the return of Jesus Christ." These are the words spoken by Gérard Barutwayano on the football field in the Rusengo area, commune of Ruyigi, this Saturday, May 23, 2026. Before closing the meeting, the communal representative

introduced the new members recently admitted to the party. However, some sources within the party indicated that they were not new members, but a maneuver intended to influence public opinion.

Forced contributions in Bugabira Commune in the Province of Butanyerera.

Since May 15, 2026, the entire vast area of Bugabira has been vigorously mobilized by representatives of the CNDD-FDD party. This group includes influential individuals, such as the zonal secretary, the leader of the Imbonerakure, the head of the Women's League, the person in charge of demobilized individuals, and other notable figures of the community. Their main objective was to collect a sum of 2,000 Burundian francs per household to support local farmers. Additionally, they request a contribution of 10,000 Burundian francs per household, for traders and civil servants. This fundraising was implemented in order to honor the

memory of President Pierre Nkurunziza, who left a mark on the country's history.

However, the population expresses their dissatisfaction with this approach, as receipts are no longer even given to contributors. Furthermore, any household that refuses to participate in this collection is quickly considered an enemy of the ruling power. This social and political pressure weighs heavily on the inhabitants. It is important to note that this collection began on the border hills of Rwanda, notably in the localities of Kiyonza, Rugasa, Nyamabuye, and Kiri, where the community's commitment and reluctance are particularly visible.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

A rifle found in Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province

Information received by the Iteka League on May 19, 2026, indicates that on May 17, 2026, around 5:00 PM, in the Kinyami neighborhood, Ngozi zone and commune, Butanyerera province, a Kalashnikov-type rifle was found in the kitchen behind the charcoal bags at the bar located in this neighborhood. According to witnesses on site, the police were alerted by the bar nightwatchman, and six bar servers were arrested by the police from the Ngozi police station. According to the same witnesses from Ngozi, this bar belongs to

Faustin Ndikumana, the head of PARCEM. The public prosecutor, OPJ, and other security services, as well as the administration, were alerted for this matter, and the staff of this bar cooperated to help find the truth. They are awaiting the probationary period for the conclusion of the investigations and the fate of the servers of this bar.

The population in a panic fear in the Gisyo neighborhood, Kanyosha area, Mugere commune in Bujumbura province.

Information received by the Iteka League on May 20, 2026, indicates that the population of the Gisyo neighborhood, Kanyosha zone, Mugere commune in Bujumbura province has been living in panic for two weeks. According to local sources, bandits are spreading terror in households, as not a single evening goes by without at least two households being attacked by bandits, who steal

valuable portable items they find in the households of this locality.

The residents say they do not understand how these bandits get into their homes even though there are watchmen whom they pay at each avenue, composed of young Imbonerakure affiliated with the CNDD FDD party, and they suspect that these bandits collaborate with these

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

Imbonerakure and these watchmen.

They are asking that the night patrols be reinforced by security agents, particularly the military, in order to put an end to this ordeal for households already in extreme poverty due to the high cost of living the country is experiencing.

Cows stolen in Rwanda, seized in Busoni Commune in Butanyerera Province.

On the night of May 18, 2026, three modern-breed cows were stolen in Rwanda by Burundian thieves from Ruyigi Hill, Nyamabuye area, Kirundo commune, including Semukara, Bizimana, Sharangabo, and Mabwa.

According to local witnesses, one cow was seized by soldiers guarding the Rwandan border and held at the zone office (formerly the Bugabira commune office), but the other two cows have not been found. The alleged perpetrators were transferred to the Kirundo prosecutor's office detention center to continue the investigation.

On the night of May 19, 2026, on Nyakizu Hill in the Gatere area of Busoni commune, two cows bearing the numbers RW 0087309 and RW 0028573 were stolen in Rwanda (on the Bugesera side) and spotted by residents of Nyakizu. These cows were subsequently seized

by the Rusarasi police (the commune's administrative center) on May 20, 2026, but the thieves were neither identified nor arrested.

According to the information gathered, these cows were reportedly stolen by the Imbonerakure from Gatete, but they could not reach an agreement with those from Nyakizu to let them pass and chose to abandon them along the way because daybreak had come.

The police and the administration no longer provide information on the route taken by these cows up to 25 km from the border, even though there are 8 barriers of the police and the Imbonerakure to reach Nyakizu. This information indicates that these cows are kept at the Rusarasi police position and that every morning, the police collect 4 liters from the cow bearing the number RW 0087309.

Attempted murder in the Karusi commune, Gitega Province.

On Wednesday, May 20, 2026, in the morning, on Miyange Hill, Bugenyuzi Zone, Karizi Commune, Gitega Province, a man named NZOYIHAYA, CNDD FDD over 40 years old wanted to kill his paternal uncle named NTAMAGENDERO, CNDD FDD over 60 years old.

In his daily life, the author is a drunkard who respects no one and the close source says that he smokes hemp. That day, he went to his

uncle's house with a machete accusing him of having exceeded the limits of his property. And the latter hid in his house and phoned the chief of the hill HAVYARIMANA Cyprien, who quickly intervened with the Imbonerakure and arrested him although he insulted them and he was taken to the police of the Buhiga area with his machete and in front of an OPJ NZOYIHAYA confirmed that he was going to kill him. He was then put in the dungeon to investigate his case.

One person killed and another seriously injured by a hippopotamus in Gatete, Rumonge commune, in Burunga province.

Information received by the Iteka League on May 19, 2026, indicates that on the morning of Saturday, May 16, 2026, on Busebwa Hill (Kinuke cell), Gatete zone, Rumonge commune, Burunga Province, 2 male

individuals engaged in fishing were attacked and seriously injured by a hippopotamus while they were going to do their work during the day. The first is named Mpawenimana Claver, who died on the spot, while the

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

One person killed and another seriously injured by a hippopotamus in Gatete, Rumonge commune, in Burunga province.

second, named Ndayizeye Richard, was taken to the Rumonge hospital before being transferred to one of the hospitals in Bujumbura. Local residents said that this hippopotamus had spent many days grazing in this area. The hill chief reminded the

population to be careful before going to this place.

A police operation against a fuel smuggling network turned tragic, and a policeman was killed.

On April 25, 2026, the Iteka league reported worrying events in Rukoma, Matana commune. A police operation against an oil trafficking network turned into a tragedy, with a policeman killed and a civilian seriously injured, raising accusations of extrajudicial executions.

Four police officers, as part of a night mission, intervened discreetly in Rukoma to arrest residents suspected of trafficking in fuel oil. They intercepted motorcycles carrying illegal fuel. A disagreement over a bribe escalated into violence. Residents armed with machetes joined the clash, leading to the disarmament and murder of a policeman named Jean Marie.

A local resident, Clovis Bayisenge, accused of taking the police officer's weapon, was seriously injured and attempted to go to Rumeza Hospital. Fearing arrest, he then fled to Kibuye Hospital. Meanwhile, the police launched a manhunt to find Clovis and other suspects. He was reportedly arrested and then quickly transferred, but accounts of his

execution are circulating, contradicted by an announcement from the authorities claiming that he had escaped. His family doubts this version, given his critical injuries. Following the events, a large-scale police operation took place on Taba Hill, resulting in numerous arrests, including pregnant women and young people. Many chose to flee for fear of being arrested. The exact number of arrests is unknown.

The disturbing remarks by the provincial commissioner of Bururi, who reportedly suggested killing civilians in retaliation, fuel fears of excessive use of force. Residents are demanding answers about Clovis's fate and are pointing out that the death penalty has been abolished in Burundi, asserting that all suspects must be tried rather than executed without trial. If Clovis's death were confirmed, it would add to a series of allegations of extrajudicial executions by security forces.



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1.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

Illegal detention for prisoners who have already served their sentences in the central prison of Rumonge.

According to information gathered over the weekend of May 23, 2026, from one of the detainees concerned, several prisoners incarcerated at the central prison of Rumonge have reportedly already served their full sentences, but nevertheless remain detained without any release measures being carried out for them. The people concerned are mostly detainees arrested in the context of the protests related to the third presidential term in Burundi. The source indicates that some of the prisoners who have completed their sentences have indeed been released, while others continue to be held in detention under circumstances considered worrying.

According to the testimony gathered, this situation is reportedly fueled in part by the presence within the prison of certain inmates referred to as “informants,” who are accused of providing information or making accusations against their fellow inmates. These individuals are said to have relayed accusations to the prison administration that

certain prisoners, once released, would join rebel groups or participate in acts of rebellion against the authorities.

These allegations reportedly led the prison director to suspend or delay the release process for several inmates who had nevertheless reached the legal end of their sentences.

Faced with this situation, the prisoners concerned express deep concern about their safety and their future within the prison. They fear becoming victims of new accusations or internal reprisals that could arbitrarily prolong their detention. Some also fear that their continued detention in prison despite the expiration of their sentences constitutes a form of illegal detention contrary to fundamental human rights guarantees and the principles of the rule of law.

1.4. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

The fuel shortage paralyzes activities in the Congolese refugee camp of Nyankanda in Ruyigi Commune.

Activities by partners working at the Nyankanda Congolese refugee camp have come to a standstill. On Tuesday, May 19, 2026, the refugees were informed that, due to a fuel shortage, there had been a delay in the delivery of food to the camp by the World Food Programme (WFP).

Caritas Burundi, responsible for food distribution, proposed to the distribution committee that, while waiting for the food supplies to arrive, cash could be distributed instead. The chairman of the distribution committee rejected this proposal.

A few minutes later, a group of refugees estimated at around twenty began throwing stones at the partner organizations’ office

buildings, and all partners evacuated the buildings as a result.

The National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (ONPRA) ordered all partners to temporarily suspend all activities at the Nyankanda refugee camp until further notice.

The chairman of the distribution committee, named Hamissi, is currently imprisoned in the Kayongozi detention center, accused of inciting the refugees to revolt.

Only the NGO Healthnet TPO, a partner responsible for health services, began providing its services on Saturday, May 23, 2026, after a five-day suspension of activities.

I.5. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Abuse of power by the administrator in Muyinga Commune, Buhumuza Province.

On May 18, 2026, a statement from the Communal Administrator of Muyinga, the honorable Amédée MISAGO, was published. This document, imbued with the wisdom of a leader, was addressed to young people ready to take the step into marriage, advising them to ensure they have sufficient financial resources. The Communal Administrator, in his kindness, invited young men to acquire, at the very least, a sturdy house with a tin roof and a mattress to welcome their future family. He also encouraged them to own land containing ten avocado trees and around a hundred coffee plants, assets for prosperity. At the same time, he would encourage young women to engage in income-generating activities, in order to provide support to their partners.

This text revealed the aspirations of a collective future, where youth would be the key to development, with the ambition to transform the country into an emerging nation by 2040, and then into a developed nation by 2060.

I.6. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

A halt on the management of major public works in Burundi.

The visit of President Évariste Ndayishimiye to the construction site of the rabbit breeding center in Karusi, which took place on May 18 and 19, 2026, marked a significant turning point in the management of public projects in Burundi. Faced with an amount of 2.39 billion BIF disbursed since 2023 without noticeable progress, the president made the immediate decision to dismiss the General Commissioner of OBUHA, Lieutenant Colonel Léonidas Nibigira, and replace him with architect Dieudonné Nkuzimana, in accordance with Decree No. 100/068 of May 19, 2026. The project was withdrawn from OBUHA, and an independent audit was ordered.

This situation in Karusi lays the foundations for a new approach. Firstly, the end of impunity through inertia. Where cases stagnate without consequence, this surprise

However, after this announcement, the sound of numerous criticisms was heard. Several voices expressed outrage at what they perceived as an unwelcome intrusion of the municipal administration into the intimate sphere of marriage. Furthermore, some claimed that the statement encroached on the administrator's prerogatives, in contradiction with Article 29, paragraph 1, of the Burundian Constitution, which guarantees everyone the freedom to choose their partner and stipulates that marriage can only take place with the free consent of the prospective spouses. In law, civil and religious marriage has an institutional and public character, under the protection of the State.

Thus, a proposal comes to light: the idea of repealing this communiqué, deemed illegal. According to opponents, communal development should encompass the entire population, and not be limited to future spouses. The history of this recommendation had therefore become a subject of passionate debate, revealing tensions and divergent views within the community.

visit led, within 24 hours, to a finding, a dismissal, and the launch of an audit. The message is that review, evaluation, and sanction are now established. Secondly, accountability becomes individual. It is no longer only the OBUHA institution that is under scrutiny, but also the holder of its responsibilities. The calculation of risk evolves for all public project managers.

Thirdly, the State reserves the right to withdraw construction sites in case of failure. OBUHA loses the Karusi project. The aim is to no longer allow an organization to continue out of mere habit and to open the way to more competent agencies or the private sector. Fourthly, conducting audits and forming an evaluation commission becomes systematic.

The stated goal is to monitor the use of funds

1.6. ECONOMIC CONTEXT (the following of page10)

and establish individual responsibilities. If the files are forwarded to the public prosecutor, the deterrent effect will be undeniable.

The Karusi case is publicized, quantified, and publicly handled. It sets a precedent: every general director now knows that their project can be subject to inspection at any time and that the figures will be verified. The question remains whether this treatment will remain isolated or will be extended to other projects that are behind schedule. The Mpanda dam is at the top of the list. This project has been dragging on for years, despite the president's statements and ultimatums. A case of corruption involving former minister Côme Manirakiza was publicized, but so far has not resulted in significant prosecution nor a questioning of decision-making mechanisms.

The railway connecting Tanzania to Musongati constitutes the second project to monitor. Presented as structuring to open up the nickel of Musongati and boost exports, it has remained at the study and discourse stage on the Burundian side. No tangible activity has been observed on the ground, while the project progresses on the Tanzanian side up to the border. Its high rising profile, external financing, substantial political stakes, and absence of visible results make it a direct candidate for the "halt" logic.

Recommendations to the Anti-Corruption Court (CAC). In order to consolidate this momentum and avoid any interpretation in terms of double standards, the CAC should seize the impetus generated by Karusi to extend oversight to the projects in Mpanda and the Tanzania-Musongati railway. Concretely, it would be wise to:

1. Initiate independent technical and financial audits on these two projects, accompanied by a public schedule for reporting.
2. Cross-check the results with Treasury disbursement data and signed contracts to identify breakpoints in the chain of responsibility.
3. Systematically forward to the public prosecutor any cases where embezzlement or serious misconduct is proven, so that action is not limited to administrative dismissal alone.

If no measures are taken regarding these latest projects, public opinion, both national and international, will be able to affirm without a shadow of a doubt that there exists a double standard in Burundi. The consistent application of the Karusi method now represents the only credible criterion to evaluate the announced shift in the management of major public works.

Militarization, money laundering, and the monopoly of power

The recent appointment of Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE for a second term in 2027 raises concerns and fears about the future of human rights in Burundi. In the province of Bujumbura, despite physical violence and targeted assassinations primarily against opponents of the ruling party over the past two decades, the CNDD-FDD regime continues to intensify violations and infringements of human rights, seeking to remain in power by any means.

Although the party or its activists are often directly involved in these violations, it should be noted that the law enforcement and security forces have also played a significant

role in these acts. Even if they are not the instigators, they perform an executing function. The assassination of Éric NIYONGABO, which took place on May 14, 2026, on Samwe hill, in the Rugombo area of the Cibitoke commune, is just one example among many proven cases of violations that persist under the CNDD-FDD regime.

To date, no trial has been initiated. The CNDD-FDD party in the Cibitoke commune exerted pressure on the magistrates to prevent any judicial proceedings against the people involved in an attempted arbitrary arrest that led to murder.

1.6. ECONOMIC CONTEXT (the following of page11)

This report aims to examine economic crimes which, less than a year before the completion of Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE's first term, continue to raise significant concerns about the future of the Burundian economy as a whole and the development of the population in particular. The energy and mining sector is

a source of discontent and complaints, leading to unaddressed denunciations for a large part of the population in the western communes, whose survival depends on it.

In the Energy Domain

REGIDESO, led by a military officer, stands out as the only company producing and selling electricity, and its operation sparks intense controversy. On Wednesday, May 13, 2026, a team of REGIDESO technicians, mandated by the general management, went to the field in the commune of Mugina. On the hill of Gafumbegeti, in the Butahana area, their mission was to intervene with mining cooperatives, which, due to the intensive use of electric pumps, were causing outages and voltage drops, thereby affecting households and various services dependent on electricity. However, instead of providing effective solutions, these technicians merely collected bribes amounting to about 10 million Burundian francs according to our information, thus facilitating the continuance of the activity of these cooperatives under such conditions.

In the households of this hill, as well as in those of Rusagara, in the Rugajo area, these technicians instructed REGIDESO subscribers who have meters not to share their electricity with other households. The justification given by these agents, as heard by the residents, was that sharing a meter among several households was often the cause of electrocution accidents. However, they seemed helpless when faced with questions about the lack of poles and meters, which prevented guaranteeing each household access to these facilities. It is important to recall that in January 2026, four tragedies caused by electrocutions had occurred in the commune.

On Monday, May 18, 2026, Anicet SAIDI, the communal administrator of Mugina, reinforced through a statement this ban on sharing electricity, despite criticism from the ruling party. According to our sources, the CNDD-FDD believes that the majority of

voters are without electricity, causing widespread discontent that could translate into votes against Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, the candidate of their party. Although the party seems to support the victims for political reasons, they are well aware that after the elections, they will return to darkness as long as electricity is not distributed fairly to all households. Neither the administration, nor the Director General of REGIDESO, nor any other authority is able to solve this pressing issue. Indeed, far from meeting the growing demand of the population for electricity, the company seems rather to be hindering an economy that has already been struggling since 2015.

Fatal accidents related to the infrastructure of this company are not the only problems to report; several cases of theft and physical violence are multiplying, particularly in unlit areas. The sad reality is that the perpetrators of these crimes are often young people affiliated with the ruling party. Taking advantage of the lack of light, they carry out night patrols, thus becoming the actors of these offenses. The corruption that gnaws at REGIDESO and the money laundering operations orchestrated by the party as well as by high-ranking state officials are realities denounced by the population of Bujumbura. Both the residents of lit areas and those in the dark are demanding the creation of a company competing with REGIDESO, for the well-being of all and to advance the local economy.

1.6. ECONOMIC CONTEXT (the following of page12)

In the minerals domain

Mineral resources constitute another area that is marked by militarization, money laundering practices, and clearly visible monopolies. President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, aware of the situation, decided to establish a national commission under his direct authority. This commission was composed of senior officials from the police and the army, as well as the Minister of the Interior, a former military officer and a close confidant of the president. Despite NDAYISHIMIYE's repeated speeches praising a booming Burundi thanks to its mineral wealth, information from reliable sources indicates that almost all the profits from the country's mineral resources went directly to his family and the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Prime NIYONGABO. Regular reports highlighted the involvement of these two figures in mining activities.

Beyond Kibira, these authorities ensure that gold is mined with the support of the army. Prime Minister Niyongabo was also linked to several land expropriations, particularly in the province of Burunga in Buyengero, where citizens who owned mineral-rich land fell victim to this situation. President NDAYISHIMIYE, in collaboration with the youth wing of his party, supported by the PAEEJ, was also involved in various mining projects nationwide.

On May 21, 2026, a significant turning point occurred: police officers responsible for security at the facilities of Tanganyika Mining Burundi were replaced by military personnel. The following day, a delegation of military leaders visited the site to oversee the deployment of troops and prepare for the launch of gold mining operations. Reports suggested that Prime NIYONGABO, in collaboration with NDAYISHIMIYE, planned to acquire all of the company's sites before turning his attention to the rich lands of Mugina, where gold was abundant, all after dismantling the existing cooperative system. This reality raised concerns in five areas of the commune of Mugina, where the lands were rich in gold and where the subsistence of

a large part of the population depended on gold panning. Furthermore, cases of money laundering were also reported within the Sangwe cooperatives, which were fully aligned with the authorities. On May 12, 2026, at the initiative of the party's provincial secretaries, elections took place throughout the Burundian territory. A new local leader of one of these cooperatives revealed that the government intended to allocate 20 million Burundian francs to these structures, an amount aimed at buying the support of a majority of dissatisfied activists in response to the deterioration of the living conditions of Burundians.

Billions of francs from public funds therefore seemed to be diverted for the benefit of a group, while the population struggled with shortages of essential goods such as fuel, water, electricity, seeds, and fertilizers. As the elections approached, it was crucial to note that, since the CNDD-FDD came to power, the regime had learned to manipulate these issues to turn them into propaganda tools, trying to convince the people that once the elections were over, it would be able to provide solutions to these difficulties.

This strategy also applies to the mining sector. On May 2, 2026, during a meeting bringing together the presidents of mining cooperatives, members of the administration, as well as officials from the ministry and the Burundian Office of Mines, it was decided to verbally lift the suspension of the activities of these cooperatives, which had been imposed on the previous April 23. A participant at this meeting revealed that this decision came from the party, which wanted certain government measures to wait until the end of the presidential elections to avoid any risk of sabotage or to favor the victory of the opposition.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE

A young man died in detention as a result of torture inflicted by the Imbonerakure in Gitega commune and province.

On the night of May 20, 2026, around 11:40 PM, a man named Hakizimana Jean de Dieu, aged 28, died in the cell of the provincial police station in Gitega. According to our source, the victim, originally from and residing in the Zege neighborhood, Rutegama zone, commune and province of Gitega, had been arrested in the evening by Imbonerakure on the orders of Hakizimana Jacques, head of the Zege neighborhood, his deputy Havyarimana Onesphore, as well as Bimenyimana Fulgence, head of the CNDD-FDD in that neighborhood. At the time of his arrest, he was accused of theft because he possessed a bag containing goat meat. According to the information gathered, he was violently beaten until he lost consciousness.

Around 7 p.m., a butcher came forward to confirm that the victim had indeed purchased this meat from him. Despite this, Hakizimana

Jean de Dieu was taken and detained at the Gitega police station.

It was around 10:40 p.m. that he passed away in one of the cells at the police station. The next day, members of the ruling party as well as administrative authorities, from the local to the provincial level, intimidated the family to prevent the matter from being made public, promising in return to cover the funeral expenses.

Despite this, some residents report a worrying situation, considering it unacceptable that people are killed in such circumstances by members of the ruling party CNDD-FDD without a thorough investigation being conducted. The burial took place on Friday, May 21, 2026, in the afternoon.

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

A lifeless body found in the Maragarazi River, Makamba commune, in Burunga province.

Information received by the Iteka League on May 18, 2026, indicates that a severely decomposed body of a man was discovered on the morning of Sunday, May 17, 2026, in the waters of the Maragarazi River, in the Rundugu sub-hill, Mudaturwa hill, in the Bigina area of the Makamba commune, in Burunga province. According to witnesses on site, the victim has not been identified. The body is said to have been first seen by passersby, floating on the surface of this river, which marks part of the border between Burundi and Tanzania. The discovery quickly caused a stir among the inhabitants of this border locality, already accustomed to human tragedies related to illegal crossings and seasonal migration movements. The body was

then recovered by Red Cross volunteers in collaboration with police officers present at the scene.

According to local sources, the administration allegedly ordered the immediate burial of the body on the same sub-hill, on the very day it was discovered, without any investigation being carried out to try to identify the victim or determine the exact circumstances of their death.

The Maragarazi River is indeed known as one of the main crossing points used by Burundians who are going to Tanzania or returning from there as part of seasonal work.

Every year, many young people cross this

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 14)

border in search of income in the plantations and other agricultural activities on the Tanzanian side. But behind this economic migration lies a reality that is often violent and poorly documented. Residents of the region have long denounced acts of extortion, disappearances, and even murders targeting Burundians in transit. Some travelers claim to have been attacked by groups of young people affiliated with the CCM party on the Tanzanian side, while others accuse members of the Imbonerakure on the Burundian side of similar abuses against people returning from Tanzania with money or goods. For several locals, the discovery of this new body revives painful memories and raises concerns about the persistent insecurity along this border.

This area had already made headlines in 2017 when a local zone chief, the communal commissioner of Kayogoro, as well as several other administrative officials were convicted in a case related to the assassination and

extortion of Burundians coming from Tanzania.

At this stage, the exact circumstances of the death of the man found in the Maragarazi remain unknown. The lack of investigation and the hurried burial of the body are already raising questions among some of the local residents.

Pending a possible identification of the victim, fear continues to prevail among the populations living along this porous border where, for many young Burundians, the quest for economic survival sometimes turns into a trip with no return.

The lifeless body of a retired soldier was found in Mugera, Gisagara commune, in Buhumuza province.

A lifeless body of a certain Jean Claude, aged 50, was discovered on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at the Mugera market, in the Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province. This man was a former demobilized soldier (Ex-FAB). The causes of his death are not yet known, and investigations are ongoing at the administration and police levels. The people who discovered his body suspect

that he could have died because of a highly alcoholic drink called "Kick," based on the vomit they found next to the body. But other sources say that he might have been killed and are calling for a thorough investigation to determine the real cause of this death.

A lifeless body was discovered in Bwiza, Bwiza area, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province.

On May 22, 2026, a lifeless body of an unidentified man was found in a gutter located on Avenue 4 of the Bwiza district, Bwiza zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, at around 5 p.m.

before his body was abandoned at the scene. The victim also had facial injuries, leading many residents to believe that he was murdered.

According to testimonies collected on the spot, Local residents say there are several indications that the victim was strangled



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II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. TORTURE/CRUEL, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING PUNISHMENTS OR TREATMENT

A girl beaten by her teacher in Karusi Commune in the Province of Gitega.

On Tuesday, May 19, 2026, around 12:30 p.m., at GASHANGA Municipal High School, perched on GASHANGA Hill in the BUGENYUZI area of the municipality of KARUSI, a 16-year-old seventh-grade student, Divine Mutwakazi, was beaten by her teacher. That day, her language teacher, Mr. Egide, a man over 35 years old affiliated with the CNDD-FDD, violently beat her with a stick, causing her to lose consciousness. According to witnesses, Divine had been assigned to bring water to clean the classroom, a task she had not completed. For this oversight, she was punished by her teacher.

According to the same sources, it appeared that the girl had just been discharged from the hospital three days earlier, and that the blows she received were delivered precisely where she had recently received injections. This assault may well have been the cause of her fainting. She was quickly transported to Buhiga Hospital, where she remains under observation. Divine's family, alarmed by this incident, has decided to file a complaint and is demanding that the police intervene to shed light on this matter.

II.2.2. RAPES

A 7-year-old girl raped in Buruhukiro, Rumonge commune, Burunga province.

Information received by the Iteka League on May 17, 2026 indicates that on the evening of May 15, 2026, on Karagara hill, Buruhukiro zone, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, a girl named N. A, 7 years old, was a victim of sexual violence, she was sexually abused when she went to the shop where the perpetrator

kidnapped her, closed her mouth and then committed the act. It was afterwards that the child managed to cry out for help. The author's name is Kabura, 65 years old, he was arrested and taken to the zonal dungeon. As for the victim, he was taken to the Buruhukiro cds.

A 17-year-old girl raped by an administrative officer from the Mubone area, Mugere commune, in Bujumbura province.

On May 18, 2026, a 17-year-old student, N. N., a 12th-grade student in the Languages track at L.C.O. Kabezi, located in the Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, was reportedly raped by a man who works at the civil registry office in the Mubone area. According to local sources, the incident occurred around 5:00 p.m. on Kimina Hill, at the hotel owned by the perpetrator, who is known as Alexandre BIRIKUNZIRA. He called the girl to come to the hotel to collect her school fees. The girl went there, and he

received her in a room. He began touching her and asked her to have sex in exchange for the money. The girl tried to refuse, but he eventually overpowered her.

The child was able to tell the staff at the Kabezi municipal high school what had happened to her, and they immediately took her to the doctor so she could be protected against diseases. The alleged perpetrator fled after learning that the child had reported everything.

II.2.3. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A man almost had his genitals mutilated by his wife accusing him of infidelity, in Makamba commune, in Burunga province.

Evariste BIGIRIMANA nearly lost his genitals in a violent domestic altercation that occurred on the night from Wednesday, May 20 to Thursday, May 21, 2026, around midnight. The incident took place on Buga hill, Gatabo area, in Makamba commune, in Burunga province. According to local sources, his wife, Olive VUMIRIYA, is accused of attempting to cut her husband's intimate parts following a conflict related to suspicions of extramarital affairs. Seriously injured, Evariste was quickly evacuated to the Gatabo health center to receive emergency care. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and then transferred to the Kayogoro police station cell on the morning of that Thursday, where she remains in detention as part of the ongoing investigations.

In this region of the Kumoso, several inhabitants admit that cases of concubinage and polygamy are regularly mentioned in family conflicts. However, neighbours of the couple say that the two spouses generally lived on good terms and that no apparent signs of serious violence had been observed before.

The couple has eight children, a situation that is of great concern to the inhabitants of the locality in the face of the social and family consequences that this tragedy could cause. According to the police, an investigation has been opened to establish the exact circumstances of this case, which is already causing many reactions among the local population.

A man burned by his wife in Musave, Kayanza commune, in Butanyerera province

Information received by the Iteka League on May 18, 2026, indicates that on April 27, 2026, a 48-year-old man named Bucumi willerme from Musave hill in Kayanza commune of Butanyerera province was burned with hot water by his wife named Niyibitanga Eliane. Information provided by the victim says that this woman has relationships with other men. On that day, Bucumi Willerme still says the victim, he asked his wife why she was coming

home so late and she put water on the fire and sprayed it on the victim on the back after a few minutes. The victim is bedridden at the Kayanza hospital where she is undergoing treatment and the perpetrator of the violence is kept in the Kayanza communal dungeon for judicial investigations.

A woman chased away by her husband in Rutana Commune, Burunga Province.

This Wednesday, May 20, 2026, around 10 p.m., in the Rutana neighborhood in the Rutana area and commune, Burunga Province, Anitha Niragira was sent away from the household by her husband Cassien Kabura, accusing her of having intimate relations with lovers. According to local sources, Anitha

returns home several times at night around 9 p.m. On May 22, 2026, she spent the entire day somewhere other than the household, and her husband was angry due to his wife's habit, and he made the decision to send her back to her parents.



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III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

A sanction of permanent dismissal considered heavy for a 7-year-old boy in Mugina, in the province of Bujumbura.

A statement from the director of the Sagesse Kabere School in Mugina in the province of Bujumbura, dated Thursday, May 21, 2026, and signed by Mr. Niyokwizera Philémon, announces the permanent expulsion of a 7-year-old student named Jean de Dieu. The latter is accused of having forced a 3-year-old girl into sexual relations within his family. The family of the child concerned considers that this punishment is excessive for a boy of

this age and requests that it be revoked, emphasizing that the incidents happened among young children playing at home and not at school. Neighbors argue that it is not appropriate to punish minors with school sanctions and that counseling as well as family punishments would be more suitable measures to help these children become aware of their actions.

III.2. RIGHT TO HEALTH

A growing concern about the risk of Ebola at the commercial port of Rumonge, in Burunga province.

The inhabitants of Rumonge are experiencing a period of growing concern following the recent announcement of an increase in Ebola Virus Disease cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). At the center of their worries is the commercial port of Rumonge, which serves as the main entry point for travelers and traders coming from eastern Congo. This port, located in the Kanyenkoko district, sees a large number of visitors daily, particularly those coming from Congolese localities such as Mbaraka, Mboko, Ubwari, and other neighboring regions. Many Congolese traders decide to stay there for several days in nearby hotels while waiting to sell their goods and to stock up on Burundian products intended for sale in the DRC.

Despite this intense cross-border activity, the commercial port of Rumonge has no facilities dedicated to isolating people suspected of being infected with Ebola, thus heightening the fears of both residents and staff working at this crucial site. Maritime employees, officers of the Air, Border, and Foreign Police (PAFE), as well as nurses from Rumonge Hospital present at the port, feel particularly exposed. The latter, on the front line when welcoming Congolese travelers, insist that they lack the necessary equipment to identify potential Ebola cases. Medical sources consulted reveal that no facility meeting the required standards for treating this disease is

currently in operation at the port, highlighting the absence of proper protective equipment and adequate health control measures.

According to a local source, administrative and medical officials visited the site the day before yesterday to assess the situation, but left without making an official announcement. On Wednesday, Augustin Minani, the administrator of the Rumonge commune, convened a meeting with local administrative authorities to strengthen control measures at entry points along Lake Tanganyika. He decided to close all secondary entry points and specified that travelers coming from the DRC must now pass through the commercial port of Rumonge, the only officially authorized crossing point. However, this decision has not reassured port workers. They fear they will be the first victims if Ebola cases are detected on site, particularly due to the lack of adequate infrastructure to handle such an outbreak. They are therefore appealing to Burundian authorities to urgently establish a treatment center that meets World Health Organization standards, in order to prevent any risk of the disease spreading in Burunga Province and beyond.

IV. CATEGORY RIGHTS

IV.1. CHILD'S RIGHTS.

IV.1.1. INFANTICIDE

A lifeless body of a baby found in the Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province

Information received by the Iteka League on May 20, 2026, indicates that on May 6, 2026, the lifeless body of a baby was found in a latrine at the Karago Elementary School, Minyare area, Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province.

According to local sources, the alleged perpetrator is a married woman named Ines Nshimirimana, and her husband is known by the first name Melchiade. He had gone to Tanzania, and upon his return, his wife was pregnant. She was ashamed of being pregnant while her husband had just spent several years away. She told her husband she had stomach pain and needed medicine. The man

offered her traditional medicine if she wasn't pregnant. She took it, and as a result, she secretly had an abortion and threw the newborn into the toilet of a nearby school. The couple lives near the school. A girl from the school who was going to the restroom saw the body and told others, which led to the administration becoming aware of the situation. People managed to remove the body around 4 p.m., and the administration arranged the funeral. Following an investigation, the husband and wife were arrested and detained in the Cankuzo jail.

Trafficking of young girls in the Mwaro Commune in the Province of Gitega.

According to information received by the Iteka League on May 22, 2026, an unusual phenomenon has been occurring since last week in the Nyakararo area of Mwaro Commune in Gitega Province, where young girls from elementary school are being taken by adults to unknown destinations. According to local sources, on May 15, 2026 last Friday five girls from the elementary school in the Nyakararo area were taken by these individuals. Three have been returned to their families. A certain Kevin, a shopkeeper in Nyakararo who is believed to be involved in transporting these girls by

motorcycle, was arrested by the police and later released. Other individuals who were arrested are currently under police investigation.

Among them is a teacher at Nyakirwa Elementary School in the same area, named Médiatrice. Some believe these children were taken to Bujumbura to work as domestic helpers. Others speculate that their destination was Tanzania. The parents are asking the authorities and the police to conduct independent investigations to dismantle this trafficking ring.



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V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

The Government of Burundi should:

1. Systematically conduct transparent judicial investigations whenever bodies are discovered
2. Guarantee the families of victims the right to file complaints and to access the findings of autopsy reports prior to any burial.
3. Take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.
4. Ensure that the country's economic resources serve the general interest of citizens and not the individual interests of certain leaders and high-ranking military and police officials
5. Implement effective and urgent measures to protect the Burundian population against the Ebola virus, particularly those living along the borders with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.