

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS 'ITEKA'

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

REPORT OF THE BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA" ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI DURING THE MONTH OF MAY 2026



Anyone should be respected

In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to May 31, 2026, at least 870 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 87 victims have reappeared, and 783 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has already communicated to the Government of Burundi at least 252 victims.

The Iteka League:

- ♦ "Is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH),
- ♦ has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under the reference number OBS.236 and is a member of ECOSOC,
- ♦ is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections."

¹<https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

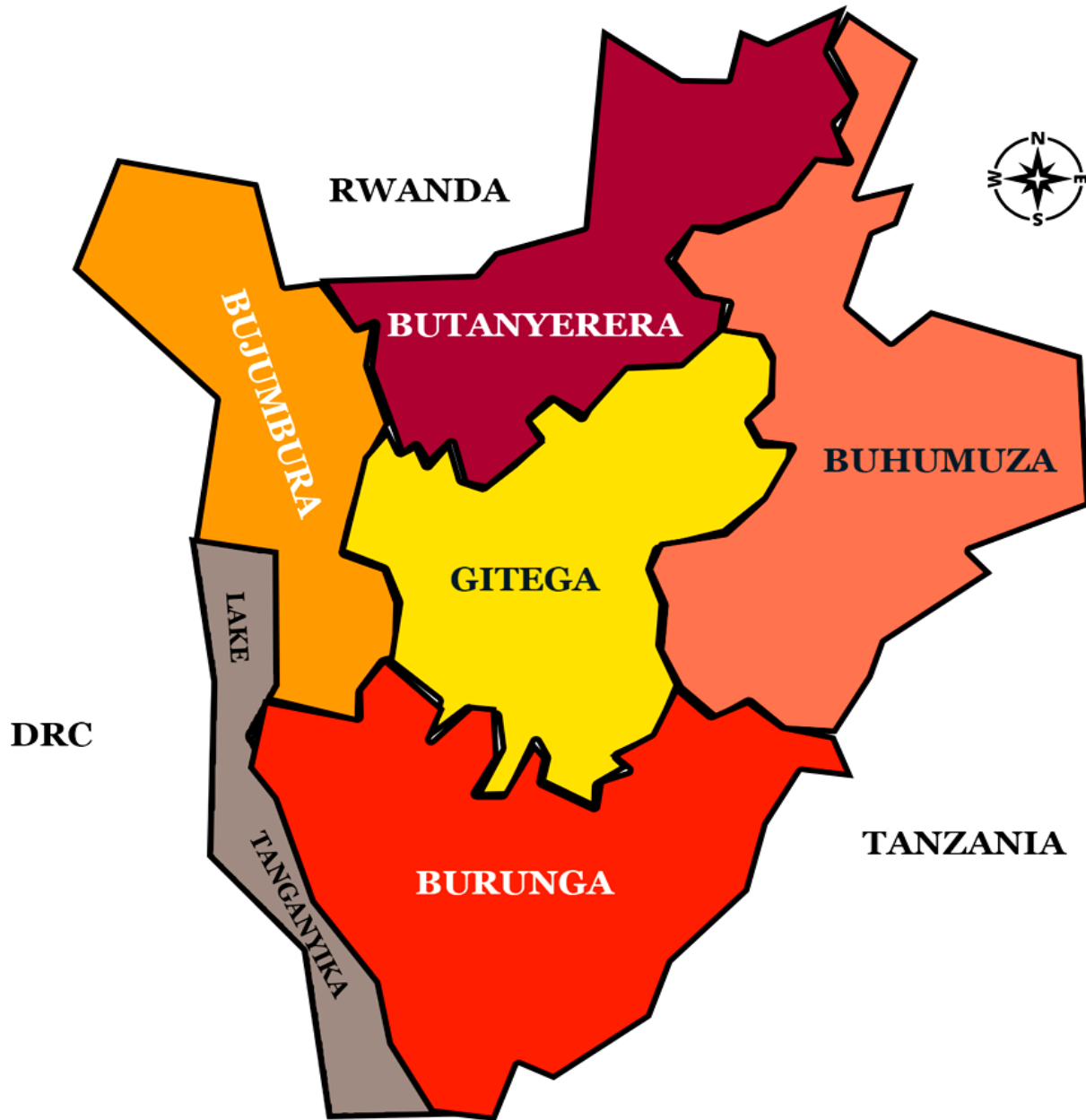


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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

UNGA: United Nations General Assembly

ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

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

CNIDH: National Independent Human Rights Commission

CNL: National Congress for Liberty

ESCR: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ECOFO: Fundamental School

FDLR: Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda

FRODEBU: Front for Democracy in Burundi

UN: United Nations

OPJ: Judicial Police Officer

PNB: National Police of Burundi

DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

SNR: National Investigation Service

TGI: High Court

UPRONA: Union for National Progress

GBV: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

I. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT

This May 2026 monthly report is a summary of the weekly bulletins **Iteka n' Ijambo** (issues 525–528), and the organization's Kobotoolbox database served as a source. This report analyzes the human rights situation. It examines civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights, along with specific rights, particularly children's rights. The report concludes with a summary and recommendations.

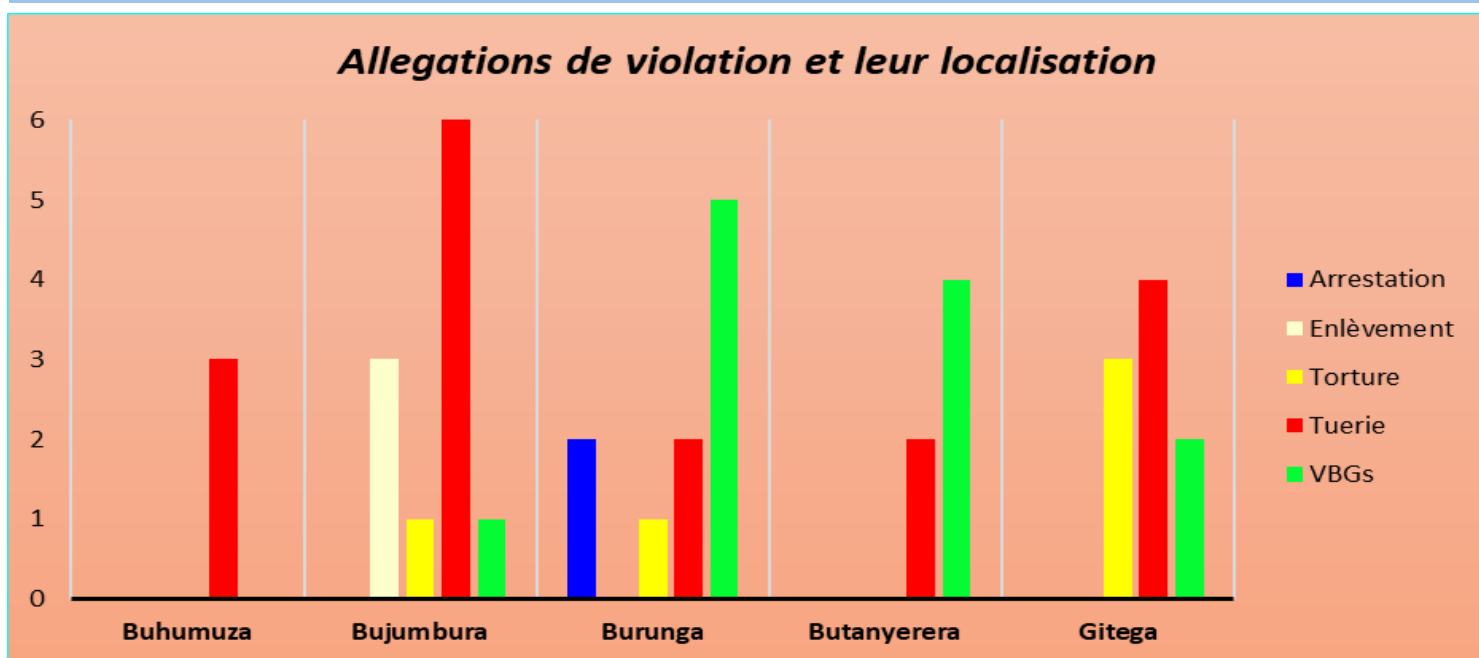
Thus, the situation regarding civil and political rights for the period covered by this report is summarized as follows: 17 people were killed, including 10 bodies found scattered across various parts of the country; 5 people were tortured; 3 people were abducted; 12 people were victims of gender-based violence (GBV), including 7 girls who were raped; and 2 people were arrested. Among the victims are 2 women killed, 2 women tortured, and 9 women and girls who were victims of gender-based violence, including 7 rapes.

Members of the Imbonerakure, police officers, government officials, military personnel, and others closely associated with the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD, are identified as the alleged perpetrators of most of these human rights violations and murders.

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

Figure 1: Graph illustrating the main cases of alleged violations of civil and political rights observed in Burundi during the month of May 2026.

Location of incident /Province	Number of victims					Total
	Arrest	Kidnapping	Torture	Killing	GBV	
Buhumuza	0	0	0	3	0	3
Bujumbura	0	3	1	6	1	11
Burunga	2	0	1	2	5	10
Butanyerera	0	0	0	2	4	6
Gitega	0	0	3	4	2	9
Total	2	3	5	17	12	39



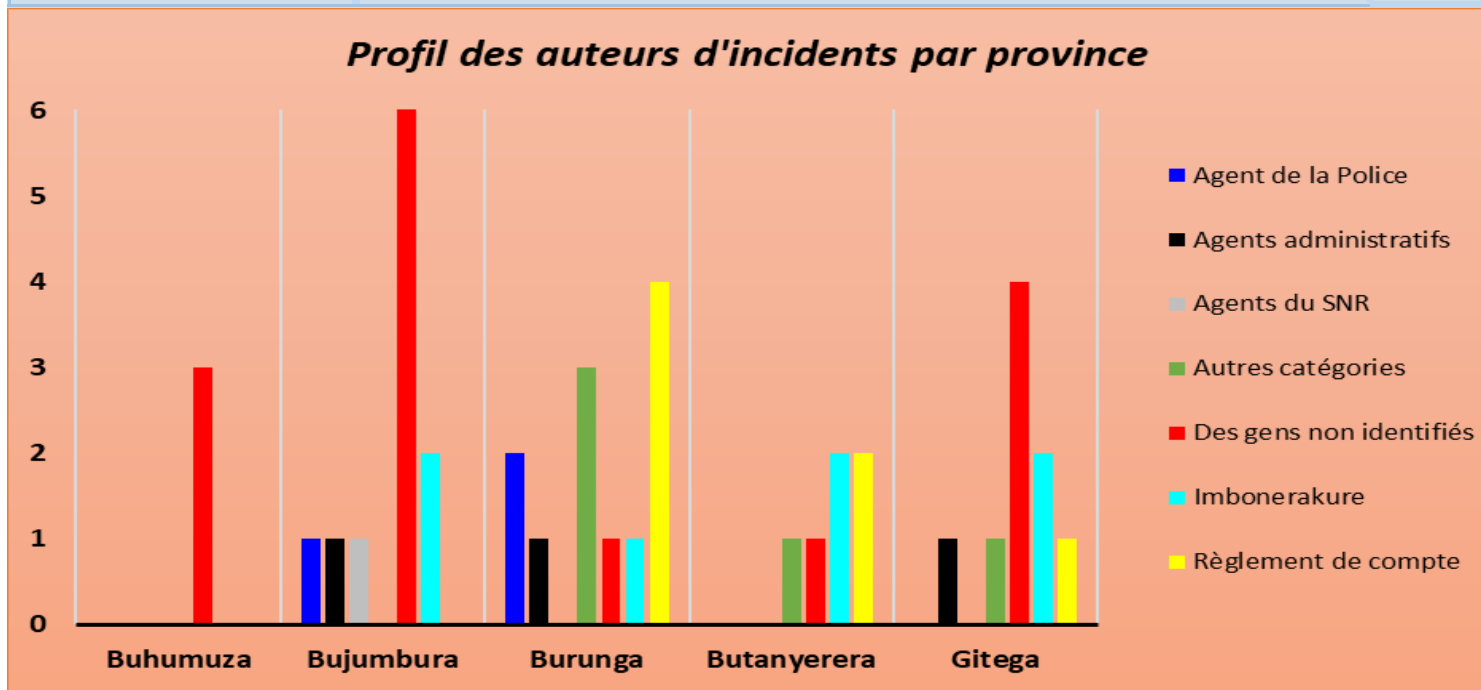
I. I. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT (the following of page 5)

The chart above illustrates the 5 categories of violations in the 5 different provinces of the country, with Bujumbura and Burunga leading in the number of human rights violation allegations, with 10 cases each, followed by Gitega with 7 cases, then Butanyerera with 6 cases, and finally Buhumuza with 3 cases.

Thus, during this month of May 2026 covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded 39 victims of alleged civil and political rights violations across the country. These human rights violation allegations are mainly distributed as follows: 17 people killed, 3 people kidnapped, 12 people victims of GBV, 5 people tortured, and 2 people arrested.

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

Alleged Authors	Buhumuza	Bujumbura	Burunga	Butanyerera	Gitega	Total
Police Officer	0	1	2	0	0	3
Administrative Officers	0	1	1	0	1	3
SNR Officers	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other categories	0	0	3	1	1	5
Unidentified people	3	6	1	1	4	15
Imbonerakure	0	2	1	2	2	7
Settling of scores	0	0	4	2	1	7
Total	3	11	12	6	9	41

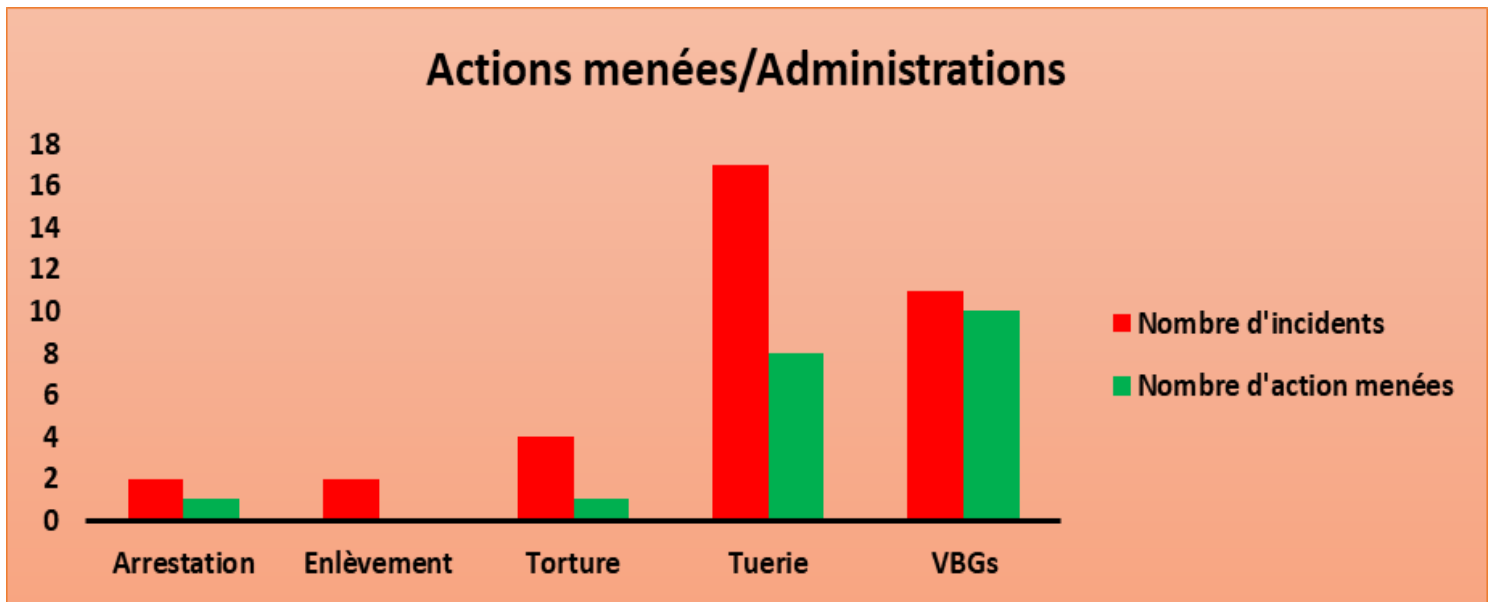


According to the chart, out of all the cases of alleged human rights violations recorded during this period in May 2026, the cases perpetrated by unidentified individuals are the highest with 15 cases, followed by those committed by imbonerakure with 7 cases, then a category “Settling of scores” with 7 cases, then the category “others,” notably involving private individuals including traders, domestic violence including GBV with 5 cases, 3 cases committed by the police, 1 case committed by administrative officials, 1 case committed by SNR agents. It should be noted that among the allegations there are 4 cases of infanticide.

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

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

Types of incidents	Number of incidents	Number of actions taken	No action
Arrest	2	1	1
Kidnapping	2	0	2
Torture	4	1	3
Killing	17	8	9
GBV	11	10	1
General Total	36	20	16



Of the 36 recorded incident cases involving 39 victims during the period considered, 20 actions were implemented, divided into three main groups, in order to provide solutions. Some incidents were able to be resolved, while others are still being processed, with ongoing judicial investigations to identify the most appropriate solutions.

Types of incidents	Internal investigation	Opened Judicial Investigation	Statement	No action
Arrest	0	1	0	1
Kidnapping	0	0	0	2
Torture	0	1	0	3
Killing	2	5	1	9
GBV	0	10	0	1
General Total	2	17	1	16



Anyone should be respected

II. ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

II.1. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

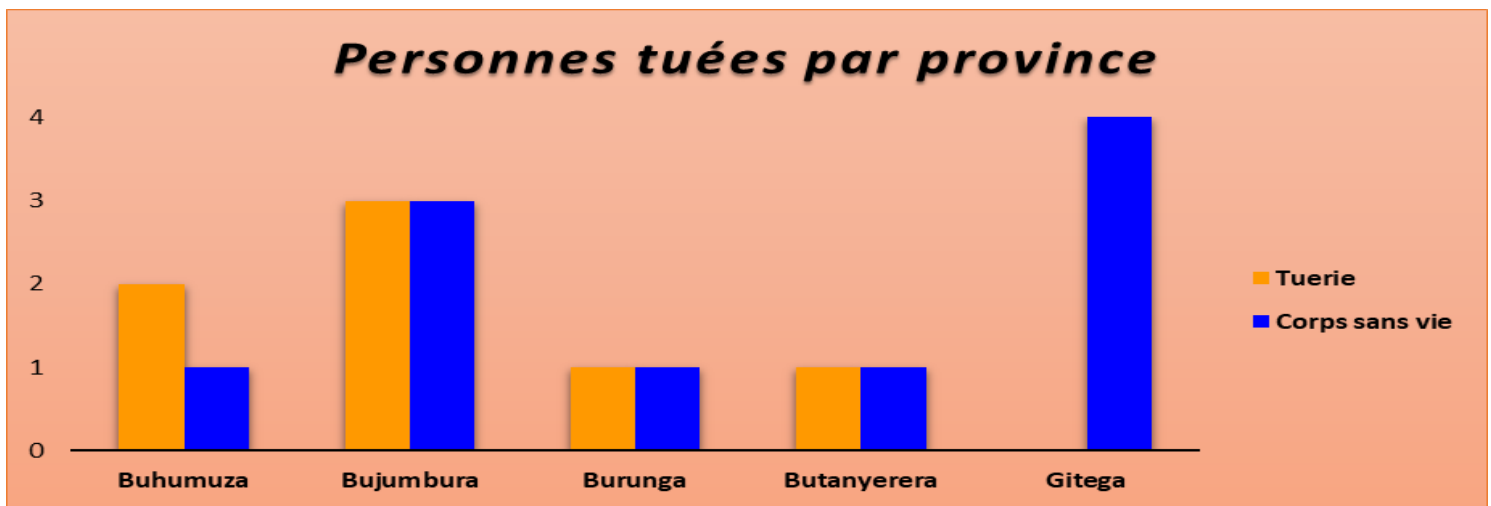
Burundi is among the countries adhering to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1965) and its Optional Protocol (1976) without any reservation on May 9, 1990, which, within the framework of its implementation, Burundi has taken measures in domestic legislation, notably in its Constitution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

II.1.1 RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. 1. VOLUNTARY HOMICIDE

During the period of this report, the Iteka League recorded 17 cases with 17 people killed, including 10 lifeless bodies, in various locations across the territory. Among the 17 victims, there are 12 men and 5 women.

Province	Cases of killings	Number of victims		Men	Women
		Killing	Lifeless bodies		
Buhumuza	3	2	1	2	1
Bujumbura	6	3	3	5	1
Burunga	2	1	1	2	0
Butanyerera	2	1	1	2	0
Gitega	4	0	4	1	3
Overall Total	17	7	10	12	5



⇒ Illustrative examples:

Ex1: On May 24, 2026, around 6 a.m., in the chief town of the Mugeru Zone, Gisagara Commune, Buhumuza Province, the lifeless body of Jean Claude, a retired member of the former FAB and in his fifties, was discovered by passersby who were going to the first mass. According to local witnesses, the deceased's clothes were torn, suggesting that his clothes were ripped while he was trying to defend himself against these criminals, and he had a major injury on his face.

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

According to the same witnesses, political motives would be behind this assassination because the deceased was a member of the CNL party, wing of the honorable Agathon RWASA.

The body of the deceased was taken to the morgue of the communal hospital of Mishiha pending burial. The administrator of the Gisagara commune, NZIRUBUSA Japhet, says that he is not aware but will inquire about the situation as he is on a work mission in the People's Republic of China.

Ex2: *On May 12, 2026, around 07:00, on Maza hill, Mahonda area, 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 mother of 9 children.*

According to the findings at the scene, there were small traces of blood where the body lay, while other traces of dried blood were visible on the nose, mouth and ears. OPJ Nishirimbere Gilbert, accompanied by police officers, attended the scene and told those present that it appeared that the victim had been killed elsewhere before his body was abandoned there.

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

Ex3. *On May 14, 2026, around midnight, on Samwe Hill, Rugombo area, 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, and the bullet came out through his abdomen.*

According to local witnesses, everything had started around 6 p.m. with a dispute between two men named Janvier and Jean Gasore, a former CNDD-FDD combatant and head of this branch in the Rugombo area. They met at a woman's house living on Munyika Hill, bordering Samwe Hill, in the Rugombo area, and an argument broke out, each claiming to be the woman's husband. One of them then said: 'You are lying, this woman is mine, because I am the one who pays the rent for the house where she lives.' The quarrel between the two men did not last long; Janvier returned home on the Samwe hill. At that time, the residents thought the incident was over.

Around 10 p.m., Jean Gasore went to request two police officers from the Rugombo zone station and, accompanied by them, went to Janvier's home to arrest him. Upon their arrival, Janvier's family refused to let him be taken, and other residents rushed in large numbers to oppose it. Everyone present stated that Janvier could not be taken at such a late hour and without a warrant.

Shortly after, Jean Gasore called three other police officers for reinforcements, and together they tried to forcibly take Janvier. Out of solidarity and fear for their neighbor's safety, the residents once again intervened, refusing his illegal arrest.

The police fired several shots in the direction of the crowd, and the bullets hit three residents, dispersing the rest of the group. During these events, Eric Niyongabo, the fourth victim of this shooting, was not in the area and was unaware of the situation. While peacefully returning home, he encountered police officers, who then shot him at point-blank range before fleeing back to their station.

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

Shortly after, the station chief arrived on the scene and found the residents gathering the injured to evacuate them to the AGAPE clinic, near the area. Eric Niyongabo succumbed to his injuries before receiving first aid. As for the three other injured individuals, they were still receiving care as of May 15, 2026, but their health is no longer at risk, according to our sources.

The residents of the Rugombo area, shocked and angry, demand above all that justice be served for Eric Niyongabo’s family as well as for the three injured individuals.

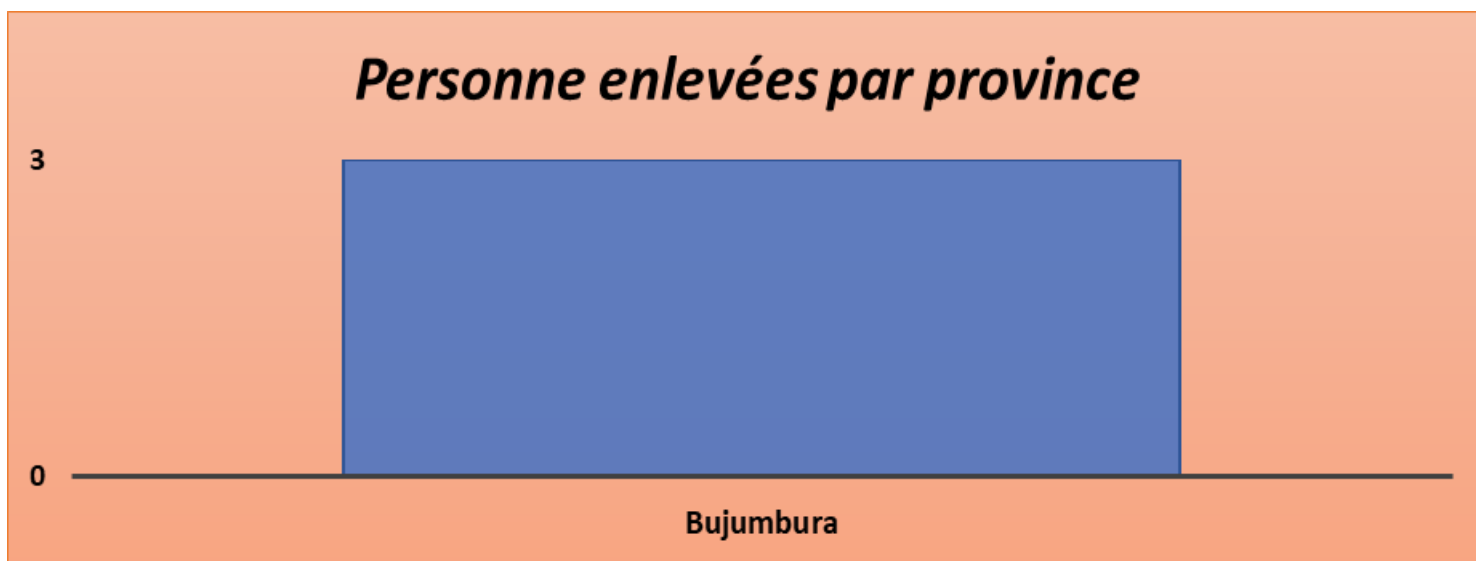
They then call on the higher authorities, both administrative and police, to shed light on the reasons why a member of the ruling party can so manipulate police officers, who are supposed to follow a hierarchy, and push them to commit such a crime.

Finally, the population demands that a public and immediate trial be held in order to severely punish Jean Gasore and the five police officers involved, after they have been formally identified, since the obscurity and speed of the events did not allow witnesses to recognize them with certainty.

II.1.1.2. PERSONS KIDNAPPED AND/OR MISSING

The Constitution of Burundi guarantees all individuals a fair trial, as well as a hearing and judgment within a reasonable time, as stated in Article 38. The Iteka League recorded 3 kidnapped persons, all men, in the Bujumbura province.

Province	Cases of kidnapping	Number of victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	0	0	0	0
Bujumbura	2	3	3	0
Burunga	0	0	0	0
Butanyerera	0	0	0	0
Gitega	0	0	0	0
Overall Total	0	3	3	0



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

⇒ The two documented cases:

Ex1: On May 5, 2026, around 10 a.m., a citizen known as Samuel Nshimirimana was abducted by unidentified persons.

According to information gathered on site, Samuel was at his home, located in the Gisyo neighborhood, Kanyosha area, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province. It was there that he received a phone call. Once he went outside, he was immediately seized by individuals who forced him into a Toyota Probox taxi with tinted windows, bearing the license plate JA 7135.

According to on-site sources, the circumstances under which NSHIMIRIMANA Samuel was kidnapped resemble the numerous cases of abduction carried out by agents of the Burundian National Intelligence Service. The same sources indicate that NSHIMIRIMANA Samuel, a man in his thirties from the Rugombo area in the Cibitoke commune, like other unemployed Burundians, manages through agriculture and other small businesses and lives between Cibitoke and Kanyosha; he is not known as a fervent member or supporter of any political party.

The vehicle left the scene at full speed heading towards Kabezi. Since that moment, his family has had no news of him or of his whereabouts and is concerned about his security situation.

Ex2: Two men, both informant agents of the National Investigation Service (SNR), were kidnapped in Bujumbura on Friday, May 22, 2026.

The incident occurred along Lake Tanganyika, very close to Nyabugete Beach. The two victims of this kidnapping are Vincent Nsengiyumva and Anicet Nsengiyumva. Vincent Nsengiyumva, aged 33, was a footballer on the Burundi National Police team "Rukinzo."

At the same time, he operated as an informant agent of the SNR at the Gatumba border post and was involved in the trafficking of gasoline from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Originally from Manga hill, in Kabarore commune of the former Kayanza province, he lived in Kinama with his family. As for Anicet Nsengiyumva, he is a native of Kabuye hill, in Buraza commune in the Gitega province, and had been living until then in the Nyabugete quarter in Bujumbura.

According to information provided by the organization King Umurundi Freedom, the events began on the morning of Friday, May 22, 2026. Another military investigation officer, named Franck and living in the Musaga area near Gasekebuye, reportedly asked Vincent to drive his Voxy car to a garage in the Buyenzi neighborhood to have some repairs done. Once the work was completed, Vincent went to Franck's place, and it was at that moment that the two men set off for Gatumba.

Upon their return from Gatumba, they had planned to relax in a restaurant-bar called MINA RESTO BAR, located in the Nyabugete neighborhood. On the way, Franck reportedly received a phone call from Anicet, who proposed that he carry out an operational mission to track cloth smugglers coming from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Franck, however, rejected this proposal, arguing that he could not undertake such an action without first obtaining the approval of his superiors.

After some time, Anicet joined his two colleagues at the establishment and ordered a drink to refresh himself. It was then that he received an anonymous call. Taken by intense worry, he is said to have begged his friend Vincent to accompany him outside. Since the bar was built on an upper floor, they went downstairs to meet their interlocutor, who turned out to be a man named Nordin Nsengiyumva, also known as Robati.

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

He informed them that he wished to hand over some packages to them, but that they were located by Lake Tanganyika with another contact. They then all got into the Voxy car, registered FA 9379 and owned by Anicet, to head towards Lake Tanganyika, near Nyabugete Beach. At the location, they met another individual, who remained anonymous, who held the packages in question containing fabrics and bottles of wine.

After loading this merchandise into their car, and at the moment they were making a U-turn to return to the Nyabugete quarter, a white Hilux vehicle, without license plates and equipped with tinted windows, suddenly appeared at high speed to block their way. Three men in civilian clothes and four others in police uniforms immediately got out of the interception vehicle.

They unloaded all the parcels from the Voxy to transfer them into the Hilux, before arresting Vincent and Anicet and forcibly taking them away. Although the two SNR agents tried to call for help, their efforts were in vain. As for Robati and the second intermediary met at the lakeside, they left safe and sound in the company of law enforcement. So far, no one knows exactly where the two SNR agents are.

Some local sources claim that Vincent is already dead, because he held many compromising secrets about the circumstances of Anicet's arrest. Other sources rather assert that the two informant agents were personally involved in extortion activities as well as in gasoline and fabric trafficking networks from the DRC. It is also important to point out that the Hilux vehicle used to carry out this kidnapping reportedly belongs to Police Brigadier General Domitien Niyonkuru.

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

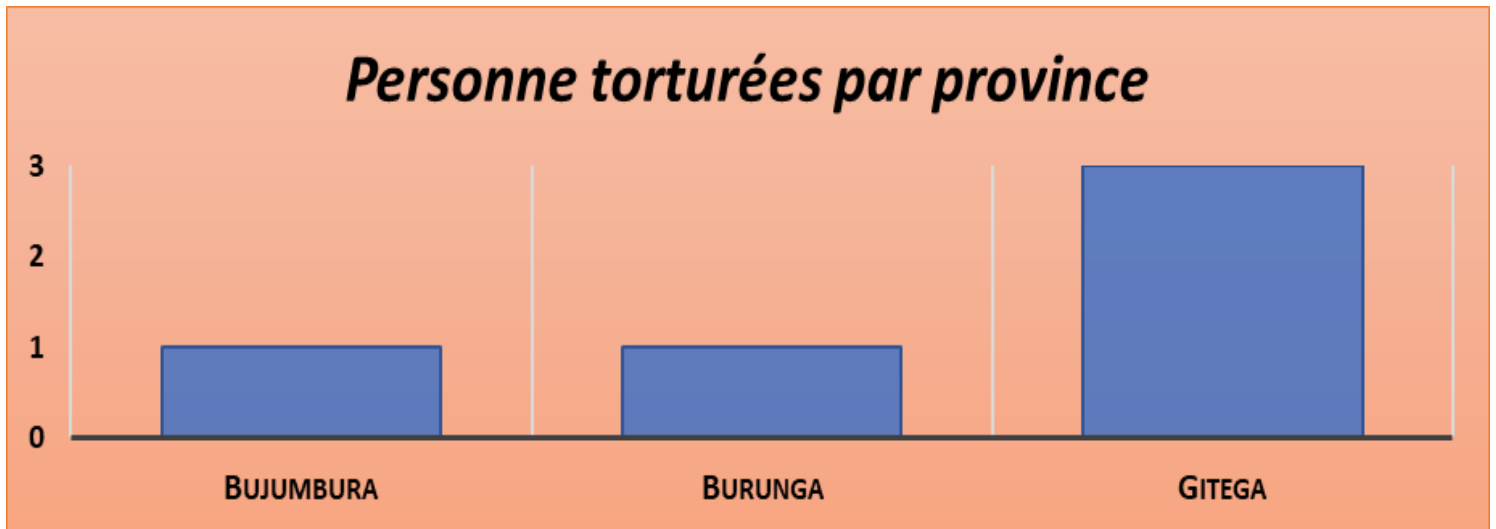
The Burundian Constitution in its Article 21 stipulates that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment." In addition, Law No. 1/04 of June 27, 2016, on the protection of victims defines the rights of victims and provides measures to protect their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

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

For this month of May 2026, the Iteka League recorded 5 victims of torture across the entire territory. The victims are recorded in the provinces of Gitega with 2 cases involving 3 victims, Bujumbura with 1 case, and Burunga with 1 victim. Of this total of 5 victims, 3 are men and 2 are women.

Province	Cases of kidnapping	Number of victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	0	0	0	0
Bujumbura	1	1	1	0
Burunga	1	1	1	0
Butanyerera	0	0	0	0
Gitega	2	3	1	2
Overall Total	4	5	3	2

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



⇒ Illustrative examples:

Ex1: On the night of May 10, 2026, around 11 p.m., at the Kabezi displacement site in Mugere commune, 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, Kibaju was drinking a local alcoholic beverage called ikibangara when another resident of the camp, named Claver, kicked him. Kibaju tried to defend himself and push his attacker away, but that is when the police officers guarding the residence of the Mugere commune 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.

Ex2: On May 12, 2026, at around 6:00 a.m., Niyogushima, a 36-year-old bicycle repairman in downtown Buhiga and a member of the CNDD-FDD, was arrested on Buhiga Hill in Karusi commune, Gitega province. 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 accuses him of having a second wife.

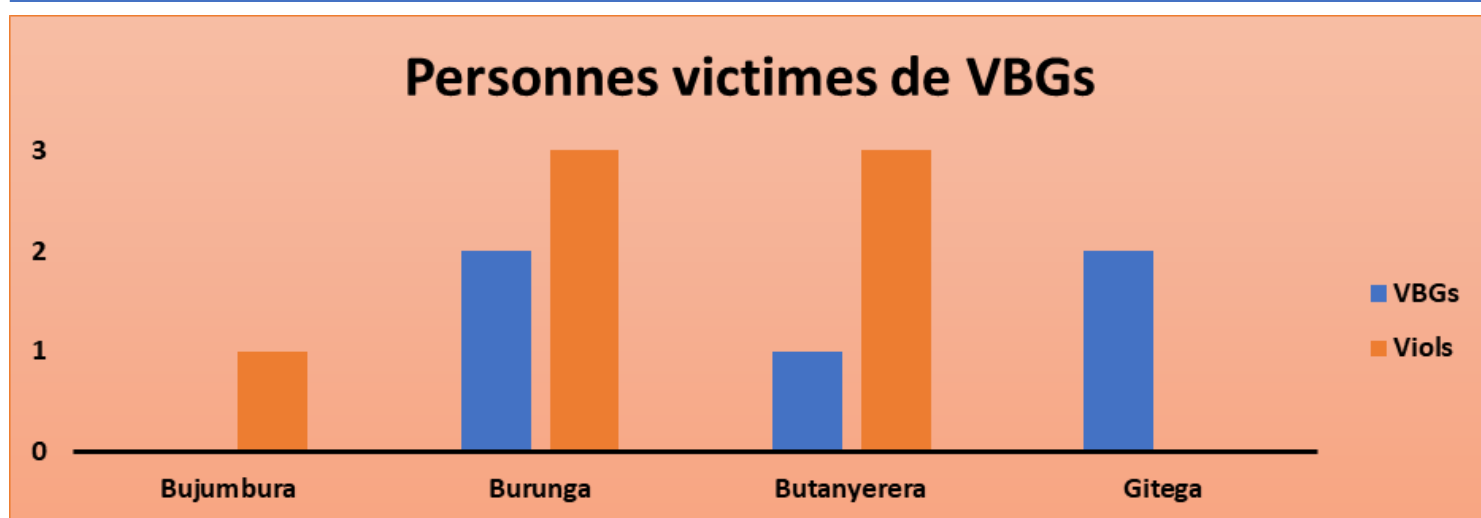
Local sources indicate that Niyogushima owns a motorcycle and a bicycle, which were found on the night of May 11, 2026, at the home of this second woman, along with a bag containing his clothes. After questioning, the zone chief ordered the arrest of Divine, 25, identified as the second wife.

Both received 100 lashes each. The motorcycle and bicycle were seized and taken to the Buhiga zone office. Niyogushima, who can no longer walk, refused to seek 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.1.1.3.2. GBV/RAPE

During the period of this report, the Iteka League recorded 12 victims of gender-based violence (GBV) across the national territory. Among the victims, 7 minor girls were victims of rape. The table below shows the distribution by province, with Burunga in the first place with 5 victims, followed by Butanyerera with 4 victims, and finally Gitega and Bujumbura with 2 and 1 victim respectively.

Province	Cases of GBV	Number of victims		Men	Women
		GBV	RAPE		
Buhumuza	0	0	0	0	0
Bujumbura	1	0	1	0	1
Burunga	5	2	3	1	4
Butanyerera	4	1	3	2	2
Gitega	1	2	0	0	2
Overall Total	11	5	7	3	9



⇒ Illustrative examples:

Ex1: 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 to ensure she was protected against disease. The alleged perpetrator fled after learning that the child had reported everything.

Ex2: On May 18, 2026, a student N. N., 17 years old, in the 12th grade, Language section, at L.C.O Kabezi located in the Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, was allegedly raped by a man who works at the civil registry of the Mubone area.

According to local sources, the facts occurred around 5 p.m. on the hill of Kimina, at the hotel belonging to the perpetrator of the rape, who is known as Alexandre BIRIKUNZIRA. He called the

II.1.1.3.2. GBV/RAPE (the following of page 14)

child to come and pick up the school fees at this hotel. The child went there and received her in a room. He started touching her and asked her to have sex in exchange for the money. The child tried to refuse, but he finally overpowered her.

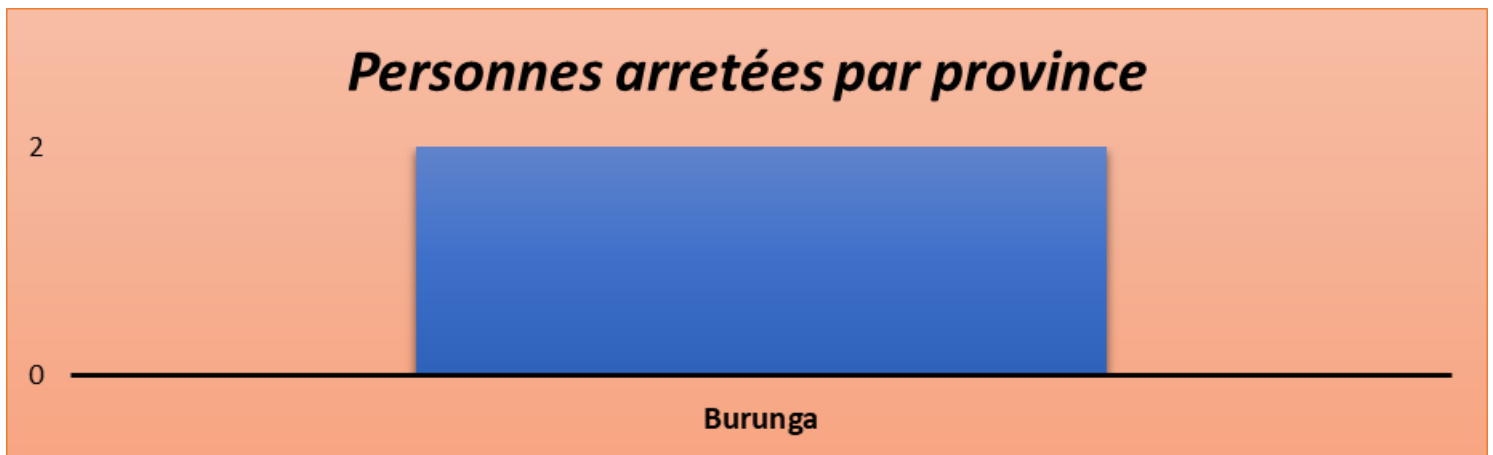
The child was able to tell what happened to her to the supervisors of the Kabezi municipal high school, who immediately took her to the doctor so that she could be protected against diseases. The alleged perpetrator fled after learning that the child had denounced everything.

II.1.2. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.1.2.1. ARBITRARY ARREST

In total, 2 cases of arrests were recorded across the entire territory during the period covered by this report. Of the two cases recorded, 2 people were arrested, all of whom were men.

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



⇒ Documented cases:

Ex1: Information received by the Iteka League on May 12, 2026, indicates that on May 5, 2026, at the Kiremba center, Bururi commune, Burunga province, Barthélémy Ndikuriyo, aged 55, a French teacher at the Kiremba communal high school, was arrested and imprisoned in the Bururi police lockup by the investigating officer named Vasco following a complaint from three teachers of the same establishment, namely Audace Ndayengenge, Emmanuel Manirakiza, and one named Bikomagu.

According to local sources, these four teachers and another named Raoul had taken out a collective loan repayable over 15 years from the Burundi Housing Bank five years ago, and the three teachers mentioned above are unjustly accusing him of having started preparations or steps to go live in Rwanda without having yet completed the repayment of this loan.

II.1.2. RIGHT TO FREEDOM (the following of page 15)

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

Ex2: *Since Monday, May 4, 2025, a man named Séverin Bigirimana, a teacher at Nyabihunge Fundamental School in the commune of Bururi, Burunga Province, has been held in the police jail in that commune.*

According to information gathered from his family, this man, a resident of the neighborhood and an influential member of the SAHWANYA FRODEBU party, is accused of having denigrated and insulted three members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party, who are elected officials from this neighborhood; however, he denies these accusations. These elected officials are demanding that he apologize, but he refuses to apologize for baseless accusations.

Some residents of this neighborhood say he is being illegally detained because of his political affiliation. They confirm that he is being held for refusing to join the CNDD-FDD party. His family and neighbors are demanding his unconditional release so he can return to work.

II.2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Economic, social, and cultural rights, referred to as second-generation rights, are set out in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Burundi ratified this covenant on March 14, 1990, and incorporated it into its 2018 Constitution, notably in Article 19.

A particular feature of these rights is that they are often realized progressively, unlike civil and political rights. Signatory states, including Burundi, commit to guaranteeing the exercise of these rights according to their available resources.

II.2.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

In May, the right to education was disrupted in Burundi. A 7-year-old boy, Jean de Dieu, was permanently expelled from the Sagesse Kabere School in Mugina. Accused of forcing a 3-year-old girl to have sexual relations, the child's family considers the sanction excessive and requests its cancellation, specifying that the incidents occurred between children playing at home, not at school. Neighbors consider it inappropriate to punish minors with school sanctions, instead suggesting family counseling to educate the children.

At the same time, students are forced to participate in the construction work of a party headquarters for the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD, in Gitega. In April, students from 4th to 9th grade were forced to carry bricks from the marshes. Parents are questioning the deprivation of classes for work that is not of public interest. Local officials intimidating students and their parents to ensure their participation have been reported. 9th-grade students report having been threatened with being barred from the national exam if they refused.

On May 29, 2026, all the students in the Muramvya area were required to bring dry banana leaves and were then led to maintain a CNDD-FDD coffee plantation. This situation raises questions about the interruption of school activities in favor of political activities, especially at the end of the school year. The order comes from the area chief Uwimana Jean Marie.

II.2.2. RIGHT TO LIFE

In May, Burundi's public health system faced a concerning disruption caused by unforeseen events. Since April 28, 2026, two cases of a mysterious illness had been treated at Kigutu Hospital in Burunga Province. These patients, from the Birimba neighborhood in Rumonge, showed signs of hemorrhagic fever, but tests did not confirm this hypothesis. During a meeting on May 8, the district chief medical officer, Dr. Jérémie Niyonkuru, announced that the Ministry of Health had committed to conducting investigations to determine the origin of this alarming disease.

In the commune of Karuzi, Gitega province, a severe shortage of medicines has overwhelmed all health facilities. Patients were forced to buy their treatments at pharmacies, making the promise of free care almost illusory, especially for pregnant women and children under five. Hospitals, lacking essential equipment, were facing drug stocks that were gradually running out, while the underpaid health care staff were in a state of great distress. The situation was becoming alarming, as some health care workers had not received their salaries for several months.

In Rumonge, growing concern was spreading among the population regarding a possible Ebola outbreak, due to the rise in cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The port of Rumonge, the main point of entry for travelers from the Congo, was sorely lacking in isolation facilities. Employees and security personnel felt particularly vulnerable, lacking the necessary equipment to control infections. Although an assessment visit by medical officials had been conducted, no official announcement was made to reassure citizens.

Faced with this alarming situation, Rumonge's administrator, Augustin Minani, decided to take action. He convened a local meeting to strengthen control measures at entry points. He also decided to close secondary entry points and direct all travelers from the DRC to the port of Rumonge. However, these actions failed to allay the fears of workers, who urged the authorities to urgently establish a treatment center compliant with WHO standards to prevent the possibility of an epidemic in Burunga Province.

II. 3. CATEGORY RIGHTS

II.3.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Children's rights are protected in Burundi through the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) ratified in 1990. The country has also adopted laws and policies to protect children. Nevertheless, significant challenges remain in practice. During the month of May covered by this report, children's rights were deeply affected. In addition to the sexual violence and other abuses previously mentioned against minor girls, the Iteka League also documented 4 cases of infanticide, mistreatment under the pretext of punishment, and abortion. These events highlight the severity of the violence inflicted on children and raise questions about protection and justice for the most vulnerable in Burundi.



Anyone should be respected

III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the period covered by this report, the deterioration of the human rights situation continued to be observed in various parts of the country. Civil and political rights received considerable attention from the Iteka League, as did economic and sociocultural rights.

This report notes cases of violations of the right to life; physical integrity and freedom; rights to education and health.

The Iteka League denounces the impunity of the observed crimes and recommends the following:

To the President of the Republic of Burundi:

1. To ensure respect for human rights, mainly the right to life, physical integrity, and freedom.

To the Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Gender, and Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security:

1. To take measures to end the impunity of crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.
2. To investigate and severely punish violence against minors, which has become common in Burundi with regard to local administrative leaders and other militants of the ruling party.

To the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research and Gender, and Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security:

1. To end political activities in school environments to protect and promote the right to education for Burundian children.

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

1. To support the efforts of the Iteka League and other human rights organizations in monitoring human rights violations in Burundi.
2. To use their influence to pressure the Burundian authorities to respect human rights and put an end to impunity.