



**Kampala, June 25, 2026**

## **Dispatch No. 1 on detainees' rights.**

The CNIDH should double its efforts in advocating for the respect of detainees' rights:

**The prison population at Rumonge prison goes from 173% to 202.5% over the period of a year.**

The Iteka League has been contacted in recent months by several inmates and some prison staff about the alarming situation of prisoners' rights. The bitter reality is that information from different prisons all confirms an alarming situation in all aspects.

Today, the Iteka League is sharing the situation at the prison of Rumonge, commonly called Murembwe, located in the Gatete area, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, as of June 25, 2026.

Indeed, Rumonge prison has a capacity for 800 inmates. As of June 30, 2025, the prison population was 1,384 inmates, which is 173%, and a year later, on June 25, 2026, the prison population is 1,620 inmates, or 202.5%. This is an increase of 29.5% over a period of 13 months.

According to the same sources, inmates live in conditions that do not respect their fundamental rights, especially regarding housing, food, and health. Moreover, overcrowding is a major factor in this situation. Concerning **the right to food**, our sources report that prisoners only get one meal a day, usually made up of beans and maize bread, a meal considered insufficient to meet their nutritional needs.

Regarding the **right to health**, prisoners suffering from illnesses would not receive regular care and would often be forced to ask their families for help to get medicines or medical treatment. However, nurses are assigned to the prison, but they supposedly lack



# LIGUE BURUNDAISE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

"ITEKA" association sans but lucratif

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both adequate medical equipment and enough medicine. The same sources say that because of overcrowding, many inmates don't have sleeping materials, and prisoners also wouldn't have mosquito nets, even though the prison is near Lake Tanganyika, an area known for its high mosquito density. This situation puts them at a higher risk of contracting malaria. According to the information gathered, inmates with this disease would not always have access to the necessary antimalarial drugs.

Added to these difficulties is the problem of access to drinking water because, according to the sources consulted, the Rumonge prison does not have a water supply, which further complicates the living conditions of the inmates and increases health risks.

Given this very worrying situation, which is reportedly even worse in some prisons in the country that currently exceed 450% capacity, such as Muramvya prison, Mpimba, and Ngozi men's prison, the Iteka League calls on:

## **1° The National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH):**

- To increase visits to prisons to assess the situation and advocate with the country's authorities for the respect of prisoners' rights.

## **2° To the Attorney General of the Republic and the Director of the General Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration (DGAP):**

- To take urgent actions to relieve overcrowding in prisons and to ensure respect for the fundamental rights of detainees, particularly the right to food and health.

**For the Iteka League**

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