



BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

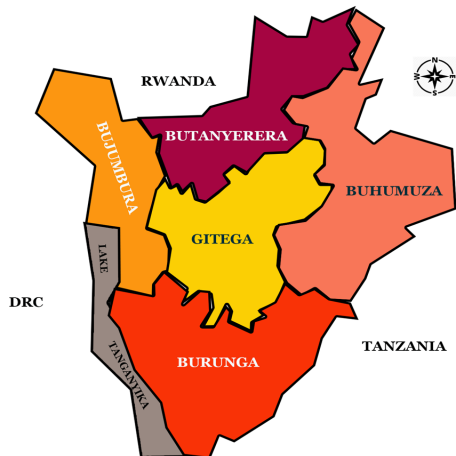
WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

Anyone should be respected

N°529 from 01 to 07 June 2026

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amending Ordinance No. 550/029 of February 6, 1991



In memory of Madame Marie Claudette KWIZERA, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to June 7, 2026, at least 871 victims of forced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 87 victims have reappeared, and 784 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) 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



CDS: Health Center

CIP: Police Training Center

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

DCE: Communal Directorate of Education

DH: Human Rights

FDD: Forces for the Defense of Democracy

FDNB: National Defense Force of Burundi

OPJ: Judicial Police Officer

PNB: National Police of Burundi

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi for the week of May 1 to 7, 2026. The Iteka League also looks at contexts including politics, governance, and the judiciary. It examines examples of violations of civil and political rights, as well as socio-economic and cultural rights for this week.

The violations reported by the Iteka League include at least 8 people killed, including 4 bodies found, 2 cases of domestic violence, 1 person kidnapped, and 1 victim of arbitrary arrest.

The suspects in these violations are government agents, police officers, and young Imbonerakure from the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD.

1. CONTEXT

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Meetings in the form of early election campaigns in the communes of Bukinanyana, Cibitoke, and Mugina, Bujumbura province

Since May 2026, it has been observed that in the municipalities of Bukinanyana, Cibitoke, and Mugina, nonstop meetings have been organized by the ruling party, systematically during community work. Many residents have little desire to attend the various meetings held by this party, so a strategy was put in place to take advantage of the gatherings that form around these activities. Many members of the population, particularly because of the prevalence of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which observes Saturday as a day of rest, prefer to take part in community activities held on Mondays and Thursdays.

So, those days become ones where a large majority of residents can get involved. The CNDD-FDD party then takes advantage of this to hold its meetings before and after the community work. As these gatherings become almost routine and seem nearly compulsory, those who choose not to attend are warned, being accused of opposing the regime or supporting Agathon Rwasa, among other accusations. In addition, the ruling party also uses household mourning periods as a campaigning opportunity, less than a year before the 2027 presidential election.

In many villages and neighborhoods, there is a

tradition of solidarity that involves collecting funds for bereaved families, with contributions usually set at 500 Francs per household. However, according to a source from the CNDD-FDD, it has been observed that most people now refuse to financially support the party without pressure. So, the idea of demanding twice these contributions everywhere has come up in favor of the bereaved families.

Once the funds are collected by agents often linked to the administration or the CNDD-FDD, they are divided fairly: part for the administration, and part for the party. When handing over this contribution, the party representative takes the opportunity to encourage those present to vote for the CNDD-FDD.

The population, represented in all its diversity, whether a member of the CNDD-FDD or of an opposition party, is outraged by these intimidations and forced contributions, while calling for respect for the timing of everything.

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

CNDD-FDD party retreat in Cankuzo Commune in Buhumuza Province

The CNDD-FDD party's representation in Buhumuza province, under the leadership of Mr. Gérard BARUTWANAYO, organized a retreat session for provincial administrative officials, including members of the Governor's cabinet, provincial directors, and heads of provincial services. This event took place in the provincial capital of Buhumuza, in the meeting room called Ruvubu Lodge. The purpose of this retreat was to identify and analyze potential challenges that could hinder the CNDD-FDD party from achieving 100% victory in the presidential election scheduled for 2027.

The participants exchanged views on various concerns related to governance, socio-economic development, and citizens' well-being. They also came up with strategies and recommendations aimed at strengthening the party's achievements while trying to meet citizens' expectations adequately. The retreat took place in a spirit of constructive discussion and strategic thinking, with participants clearly committed to actively working towards the objectives set by the party for the upcoming elections.

I.2. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

The population of the city of Ruyigi is expressing their outrage over the fundraising carried out by young affiliates of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD. The money collected is intended to be used for the commemoration of the death of the late President Pierre Nkurunziza. Each household is required to pay an amount of two thousand Burundian francs (2,000 Fbu) for farmers and five thousand Burundian francs (5,000 Fbu) for

civil servants. The residents believe there are hidden motives behind this fundraising, as no receipt is given as proof of payment, which could lead to misappropriation of the funds.

Moreover, this collection is carried out both among CNDD-FDD party members and non-members, causing controversy within the community.

I.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

Clientelism in the recruitment process of Ministry of Justice staff

On May 29, 2026, Alfred Ahingejeje, Minister of Justice and Human Rights, signed a "Call for Applications for the Recruitment of Judicial Officers," as part of which the ministry is organizing the recruitment of 1,055 officers for the courts as well as for the public prosecutor's offices. Following the release of this call, the CNDD-FDD party bodies across the country, at all levels (provinces, communes, and zones), in cooperation with the National Youth Council, began collecting names of candidates (one per zone) who will be proposed by the party to join the ranks of this ministry.

A young law graduate, affiliated with the ruling party, with whom we spoke, criticizes this process. In his view, the ranking by merit

or competence, based on the results of a selective exam, should be the main criterion, given the large number of unemployed law graduates currently. He also pointed out that, despite the party's backing, whether one is a member of the CNDD-FDD or not, future recruits would be forced to pay bribes to the party. Specifically when it comes to awarding public jobs in exchange for political support, it's more precisely called political clientelism, favoritism, or patronage.

This practice hasn't been anything new since the CNDD-FDD came to power. While it doesn't always directly violate fundamental rights in the strict sense, it does go against the constitutional principle of equality for everyone in public employment and hinders

I.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

the right to equal access to public positions, which requires that recruitment be carried out solely on the basis of merit and skills.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

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

Four people killed in the commune and province of Gitega

Information received by the Iteka League indicates that between May 31 and June 1, 2026, four people were killed over the course of two consecutive days on Murago hill, in the Maramvya area, Gitega commune and province.

According to local residents, the first victim, a veterinary trader known as Gaspard Ngendakumana, was shot on the night of Sunday, May 31, 2026, around 10 p.m., while returning home. To date, those responsible for this murder have not yet been identified.

In response to this tragedy, the local population mobilized early on the morning of Monday, June 1, 2026, and apprehended three people suspected of being involved in the killing. The suspects, identified as Aaron Yamuremye, Pasteur Nininahazwe (aka Kizimya), and Éric Ntakarutimana, were

violently beaten to death by the crowd before the police intervened.

The governor of Gitega province, along with other administrative and security officials, went to the scene. The authorities strongly condemned these acts of mob justice and announced that an investigation would be launched to shed full light on these consecutive killings.

Meanwhile, local residents point out that it's hard to go against mob justice when criminals, once arrested, are often released after a short time. The population is asking for justice to be served fairly and for crime perpetrators to be punished according to the law.

Two lifeless bodies found in the commune of Rutana, Burunga province

As of June 2, 2026, two unidentified male bodies were found in the Malagarazi River, near the village of Ruyagira, on Gihofi Hill, Rutana commune, Burunga province. Information gathered on the scene indicates that local residents discovered the bodies floating in the river. After alerting the local authorities, they called on the Bukemba Red

Cross section to retrieve the bodies. The local population regrets that the authorities ordered the immediate burial of these bodies without any prior investigation being opened to identify these men and determine the cause of their deaths.

A lifeless body found in the Nyanza-Lac commune, Burunga province

On the night from Wednesday, June 3 to Thursday, June 4, 2026, a man identified as Jean-Claude Ndayishimiye, 26 years old, was

found dead in a shop located in the Bogorwa neighborhood, Nyanza area, Nyanza-Lac commune, Burunga province

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 7)

According to the initial information gathered on site, the events are said to have taken place between 9:30 PM and 10 PM. The victim, who was spending the night in this shop owned by her brother-in-law, reportedly locked herself inside before being found dead.

This information was confirmed by Albert Bihangwa, the person in charge of administration at the base.

Local sources indicate that members of the PNB and the FDNB went to the scene to allow access to the closed shop. After the shop was opened, the authorities reportedly found the victim dead.

A police officer and a doctor went to the scene to carry out the necessary checks and start the initial investigation steps. The body was transferred to the Nyanza-Lac hospital morgue while awaiting the results of the examinations and investigations.

A lifeless body found in the Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province

Around noon on May 22, 2026, the lifeless body of Simon Ndacasaba was found in a stream on Busoro Hill, in the Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province. According to local sources, the victim had spent the previous evening at a bar on the same hill.

Initial findings indicate a puncture wound on the victim's left side, through which a needle appears to have been inserted to draw blood. According to witness accounts gathered at the scene, this criminal act is believed to be linked to superstitious practices. Local beliefs suggest that human blood sacrifices facilitate the

At this stage, the exact circumstances of the death have not yet been officially released. Authorities are urging caution and asking people to avoid jumping to conclusions before the investigation results are in.

This is a situation that recalls other cases that have raised questions in the Bururi province. In recent months, several deaths discovered under particular circumstances in different localities of Bururi and other provinces have led to calls for thorough investigations to determine the exact causes of death. Human rights monitoring organizations have regularly stressed the importance of forensic and judicial investigations to avoid any confusion between suicide, accident, or criminal act.

The residents of Nyanza-Lac are still waiting for the official conclusions that will clarify the circumstances of this death.

discovery and extraction of significant gold deposits. Indeed, the neighboring hill of Narunazi is home to a gold mining site.

Although several people are locally suspected of being involved in this murder, notably Jean Bigirimana and Emmanuel Nyarusage, local sources indicate that, to date, they have not been the subject of any legal proceedings by the judicial authorities.

II.1.2. KIDNAPPINGS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

A soldier kidnapped in Mugere commune, Bujumbura province

On June 5, 2026, a soldier known as Bizimana Gérard was abducted in Musaga, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province.

According to an eyewitness, he was with a person named Cédric, and they were having a meal in a bar owned by former MP Lewis. That's when a double-cabin vehicle with tinted windows arrived at the scene. People dressed

in military uniforms got out, grabbed Bizimana Gérard, and forced him into the vehicle, which then drove away. Since this incident, no one knows where he is being held or what has become of him. His family is deeply concerned about his safety, especially since the people behind this abduction are believed to be state agents in uniform.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Physical violence within families in Karusi commune of Gitega province

On the night of Thursday, June 4 to Friday, June 5, 2026, around 11 p.m., violent family disputes broke out in the Nyarurambi neighborhood, on Buhiga hill and zone, Karusi commune, Gitega province. A resident named Nteturuye, over 40 years old, came home drunk and started an argument with his wife, Ancile Kecuru, who is over 35 years old.

When their eldest son, Onésiphore Ntinteretse, an 18-year-old motorcycle mechanic, arrived at the scene, the father began to hurl insults at his wife, baselessly accusing her of having an incestuous relationship with their son. Despite the young man's initial silence, Nteturuye continued to verbally abuse his wife. The situation escalated when the husband grabbed a knife, injuring his wife in the left forearm. The son then intervened to defend his mother, triggering a physical struggle.

Faced with the violence of the scene, the maternal grandmother and the attacker's

brother tried to intervene. During the scuffle, both were slightly injured on the fingers by the young boy who was trying to break free. The uncle then called on members of the Imbonerakure group, who arrested the young man and took him to the Buhiga police lockup, where he spent the night.

The next morning, when she came to visit her son in the cell, Ancile Kecuru testified that her husband regularly smoked hemp and suffered from chronic alcoholism. Meanwhile, to avoid being apprehended, Nteturuye pretended to be ill, claiming he had been severely beaten by his wife and son. However, local sources indicate that he shows no visible injuries and is in good health. The young man, for his part, remains in custody.

A pregnant woman beaten and victim of an induced abortion in Karusi commune, Gitega province

On the night of Thursday, June 4, 2026, around 11 PM, on the Buhiga hill and area, Karusi commune, Gitega province, a young woman named Divine, over 20 years old, was violently beaten by her partner, a man named Niyogushima, over 35 years old. The incident happened inside a kiosk where he had locked her up.

During the argument, a neighbor named Mvuyekure, over 40 years old, tried to intervene. Divine reacted sharply, telling him not to get involved in their private matters. Angry, Mvuyekure slapped the young woman, causing her to lose consciousness.

The victim, who was three months pregnant, was immediately taken to the Buhiga Health Center (CDS), before being transferred to Buhiga Hospital, and then urgently to the Cinquantenaire Hospital in Karusi due to the severity of her condition. The blows she received caused her to miscarry.

On Friday, June 5, 2026, around 10 a.m., Mvuyekure was arrested and taken to the Buhiga police cell. On Saturday, June 6, 2026, Niyogushima, the victim's partner, was also apprehended by two police officers. Both men are currently being held in custody in the same cell.



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II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

A cook arrested and detained in Bururi commune, Burunga province

Ferdinand Nivyabandi, 38 years old and a cook at the police station in Bururi, has just spent three months in the police jail. Sources on site indicate that he was arrested around the end of February this year, 2026. He is accused of stealing kitchen equipment that was once used to prepare meals for the police but was no longer in use.

On their side, police sources say that his arrest was carried out for the needs of the investigation. His file is currently in the hands of Investigator Vasco. The police authorities, notably Police Colonel Venant Barumbanze, commissioner in charge of the Bururi and Matana communes, as well as Police Colonel Ladislav (head of the judicial police in these

same communes), confirm that he was taken into custody to help clarify the case.

Ferdinand Nivyabandi was finally released on June 2, 2026, after more than three months in police custody in Bururi. On the very day of his release, he was fired without notice by Police Colonel Jean-Claude Hakizimana, commander of the Police Training Center (CIP) in Bururi, where he worked. According to Ferdinand, he told him: 'Go work at home.' Feeling wronged, this contract worker announced that he plans to take legal action very soon.

III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

More than 3,400 students drop out of school in the Rumonge commune, Burunga province

In the Rumonge commune, 3,493 cases of school dropouts were recorded during the first two terms of the 2025-2026 school year, according to data from the Communal Directorate of Education (DCE).

Among the students who left school, around 1,513 are girls. Educational officials attribute this situation to several factors, including poverty affecting many families, school failures, illnesses, as well as unwanted pregnancies.

Statistics show that 80 girls stopped attending school after becoming pregnant. According to police sources, the alleged perpetrators of these pregnancies are often hard to identify. Some victims hesitate to report them, which makes legal action very difficult.

According to educational authorities, many students enroll and attend school at the beginning of the year, but gradually drop out as the months go by. This trend contributes to worsening the poor school performance

observed in the commune. Rumonge is actually one of the places that regularly records poor results in national exams.

The geographical location of the commune, situated on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, also encourages dropping out. Attracted by the chance to earn quick money, some young people prefer to focus on trade, look for jobs in neighboring countries, or get involved in fishing activities on the lake.

Faced with this reality, people in the education sector are calling for a general mobilization of authorities, parents, and education partners to fight against the root causes of school dropouts. They believe that extra efforts are needed to support vulnerable families, prevent early pregnancies, and keep kids in school.

IV.1. CHILD'S RIGHTS

A child injured by his stepmother in Musongati commune, Burunga province

On May 29, 2026, on Muzye hill, Musongati commune, Burunga, Dieudonné Bukeyeneza, 6 years old, was beaten and wounded with a machete in the right ribs by his stepmother, Espérance Ciza.

According to local sources, Dieudonné and his two brothers lost their biological mother. After this death, their father remarried to Espérance Ciza. The latter regularly mistreats children, beating them and prohibiting them from going to school. It is in this context of repeated violence that, on the night of May 29,

2026, this woman assaulted the victim and injured her with a machete.

According to the same sources, on June 5, 2026, Espérance Ciza was arrested and held in police detention. This arrest was made possible thanks to the combined efforts of local administrative authorities, including Batururimi, the chief of Muzye hill, the police station chief, child protection officers, as well as neighbors of the suspected perpetrator.

Militarization of children in the commune of Kirundo, Kirundo province

Information received by the Iteka League on June 7, 2026, reveals that in several parts of the Kirundo commune, basic training sessions related to military parades are being held three times a week. These activities are supervised by local leaders of the CNDD-FDD party as well as demobilized soldiers from the former FDD rebellion. According to local sources, participants receive ideological teachings referred to as 'inyigisho z'akarangamutima' (lessons on patriotic or cultural values).

The underlying goal of this paramilitary training is to intimidate political opponents. After receiving instructions at various sites, the young people carry out shows of force by marching through the nearby urban and

commercial centers close to the training locations. More than 200 children per area are mobilized for this training, totaling around 4,000 children across the entire Kirundo commune.

This situation has serious consequences: many children lose valuable time that should be spent on their education, while others display disobedient behavior toward their parents. The future and fate of these minors currently remain particularly uncertain.



Anyone should be respected

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

To the Government of Burundi:

1. Conduct systematic, transparent, and independent judicial investigations as soon as bodies are discovered, in order to formally identify the victims and accurately determine the causes and circumstances of their deaths.
2. Ensure that the families of the victims have the legitimate right to file a complaint and to freely access the findings of autopsy reports and forensic examinations before any burial.
3. Conduct in-depth investigations into the frequency of dead bodies found in different regions of the country, in order to break away from administrative inertia and address the lack of concrete actions taken so far by the government.
4. Implement strict measures to put an end to the impunity surrounding these crimes, and ensure that all perpetrators of human rights violations are held accountable before impartial justice.