



# BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

## WEEKLY REPORT

*"Iteka n' Ijambo"*

*Anyone should be respected*

**N°530 from 08 to 14 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 14, 2026, at least 873 victims of forced disappearance were documented by the Iteka League, at least 87 victims have reappeared, and 786 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEDI) has already informed the government of Burundi about 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 reference number OBS.236 and is a member of ECOSOC".
- ◆ The Iteka League is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections.

### SUMMARY

0. INTRODUCTION.....	P5
I. CONTEXT.....	P5
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.....	P12
III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.....	P15
IV. CATEGORY-SPECIFIC RIGHTS .....	P17
V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	P18

# ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



## *ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS*

BRB: Bank of the Republic of Burundi

CDS: Health Center

CENI: Independent National Electoral Commission

CEPI: Independent Provincial Electoral Commission

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

CNL: National Congress for Liberty

DCE: Communal Directorate of Education

DPE: Provincial Directorate of Education

ECOFO: Fundamental School

FARDC: Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo

FDLR: Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda

FDN: National Defense Forces

FNL: National Liberation Front

M23: March 23 Movement

OBR: Burundian Revenue Office

OPJ: Judicial Police Officer

OTB: Burundi Tea Office

RDC: Democratic Republic of Congo

RN: National Road

# TABLE OF CONTENT

0. INTRODUCTION.....	5
I. CONTEXT.....	5
I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT.....	5
I.2. SECURITY CONTEXT.....	7
I.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT.....	10
I.4. JUDICIAL CONTEXT.....	11
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.....	12
II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE.....	12
II.1.1. VOLUNTARY HOMICIDES.....	12
II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR DEAD BODIES FOUND.....	12
II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED AS A RESULT OF SCORE-SETTLING .....	13
II.1.2. KIDNAPPINGS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES.....	13
II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY.....	13
II.2.1. GBV.....	13
II.2.1.1. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.....	13
II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM .....	14
II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS .....	14
III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHT.....	15
III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE AND FORCED CONTRIBUTIONS .....	15
III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION.....	16
IV. CATEGORY-SPECIFIC RIGHTS .....	17
IV.1. CHILD'S RIGHTS .....	17
V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	18

## 0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of June 8 to 14, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, security, judicial, and governance context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of violations of civil and political rights that marked this week.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least 8 people killed, including 7 bodies found lifeless, among which 4 were children; 2 people kidnapped, and 1 case of arbitrary arrest and imprisonment.

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

## I. CONTEXT

### I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

#### Case of political intolerance in Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province

On June 8, 2026, at around 7 p.m., on the border of the Mwiruzi and Mishiha hills of Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province, the young Imbonerakura of this hill ambushed Abraham Ruberintwari, a former combatant of the PALIPEHUTU FNL movement before becoming an FNL party and a member of the CNL Pro-Agathon RWASA party who was on a motorcycle. After noticing that there is a barrier in the road, he stopped and attacked him.

According to local sources, the victim was beaten by these young Imbonerakure and they stole all his belongings, including his phone, his motorcycle battery, and an amount of money equivalent to 600,000 FBU and 100,000 Tanzanian shillings, then his motorcycle was damaged. He was taken by his family members to the Mishiha Community Hospital in critical condition.

According to the same sources, among the young Imbonerakure being pointed at are Anatole Bigirimana, Claude, known by the

nickname 'commander,' who is responsible for the young Imbonerakure of Mwiruzi hill, and Hakizimana, known by the nickname 'Hakiza.' These three young Imbonerakure are mentioned in many acts of violence committed against members of opposition parties.

The CNL party representative in Buhumuza province, Lameck, is up in arms against this political intolerance, characterized by the inhumane behavior of young CNDD-FDD party members. He urges the general public and CNL party members in particular to stay vigilant, safeguard unity and security, and report any acts of violence against them to the security forces and justice authorities in time.

This same official is asking the authorities and security forces to step in on time to ensure everyone's safety. The victim's family is calling for an independent investigation so that justice is served for Abraham.



*Anyone should be respected*

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

### Presentation of the CEPI members

Since June 11, 2026, the CENI has proceeded with the presentation of the CEPI members.

Province	President	Vice-president	Equipment handler	Other members	Number of Members
<b>Gitega</b>	Joseph Maniriho, Hutu CNDD-FDD	Gérard Ninziza, Hutu CODIP	Vestine Nininahazwe, Tutsi CNDD-FDD	Rémy Nahimana, Tutsi UPRONA	11
				Etienne Manirakiza, Hutu CNDD-FDD	
				Violette Ndayiragije, Hutu CNDD-FDD	
				Léonard Nahimana, Tutsi Religious Confessions Church God is Way	
				Florence Nkurunziza, Hutu (Ministry of the Interior/ CENI)	
				Jean-Marie Vianney Hakizimana, Hutu Sangwe PADER	
				Jean Ndikumana, Hutu PRP Abatuhurana	
				Olivier Nduwimana, Tutsi (Ministry of the Interior /CENI)	
<b>Butanyerera</b>	Désiré Minani, CNDD-FDD Hutu	Janvière Nzemezimana, UPRONA Tutsi	Célestin Minani, Hutu CNDD-FDD	Floride Mukama, Tutsi from CNDD-FDD	10
				Claudine Niyonsavye, Hutu du CNDD-FDD	
				Claver Kimoshori -Twa IPREBAD	
				Placide Migambi, Hutu from Comibu	
				Marvella Nkurunziza, Tutsi from Onelop	
				Janvier Ndayisenga - Hutu from Ranac Party	
				Jean-Claude Miburo, Hutu from Radebu Party	
<b>Buhumuza</b>	Ndayisenga Evelyne, CNDD-FDD Tutsi	Nkurunziza Ferdinand, APDR Hutu	Kaburaburyo Cyriaque, Hutu CNDD-FDD	Ntahondi Godefroid, Hutu CNDD-FDD	9
				Nahimana Reverien, Hutu, Catholic Church	
				Adélaïde Ndayisaba, Tutsi, APRODECO	
				Niyungeko Constantin, Hutu CENI	
				Havyarimana J Claude, Tutsi UPRONA	
				Ntakarutimana Florence, Tutsi FRODEBU	
<b>Burunga</b>	Nahabandi Philémon, Hutu CNDD-FDD	Bukeyenze Amie Clairia Tutsi FPN IMBONEZA	Ciza Gilbert, Hutu CNDD-FDD	Niyokwizera Annociatte, Tutsi CNDD-FDD	9
				Niyuhire James, Hutu (MI/CENI)	
				Ndizeye Jacqueline, Hutu CNDD-FDD	
				Karabashinze Léonidas, Hutu Eglise EUSEBU	
				Bitariho Ferdinand, Hutu Parti PL	
				Pontien Niyongabo, Tutsi UPRONA	
<b>Bujumbura</b>	Ngendambizi Egide, Hutu CNDD-FDD	Ndayizeye Fabiola, Tutsi MSP Inkinzo	Nimbona Nathanael, Hutu CNDD-FDD	Rupereza Carine, Tutsi CNDD-FDD	13
				Niyoyitungira Guillaume, Hutu AJAPE	
				Maître Ndayirorere Bella, Tutsi (given by CENI)	
				Nzisabira Jean Bosco, Hutu religious confession Beloved Church	
				Nikwigize Isaïe, Tutsi (given by CENI)	
				Ntibatorwa Giscard, Hutu A.N.D Intadohoka	
				Dushime Aimée Mylène, Hutu (given by CENI)	
				Habonimana André, Tutsi UPRONA	
				Ingabire Evelyne, Hutu (given by CENI)	
				Nahimana Pierre, Hutu FNL	

## ***1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)***

The president of CENI, Prosper Ntahorwamiye, said that the selection of CEPI members was done in accordance with Article 38 of the current electoral code. This article ensures respect for political, ethnic, and gender balance. He also noted that CENI took into account the concerns of the 5 opposition parties, which had recently sent a letter to President Ndayishimiye to denounce the lack of transparency on CENI's part in preparing for the 2027 presidential elections.

The administration played an important role in choosing the members of the CEPI. As a result, in addition to the official members of the ruling party, CNDD-FDD, the members proposed by the administrative authorities are also activists

close to the ruling party from political parties and civil society organizations aligned with those in power.

The president of the CODEBU party spoke out in the media to denounce the exclusion facing the 4 opposition political parties.

Keffa Nibizi explained that the CENI claims that the setup of the CEPI members is inclusive, while these bodies are dominated by the CNDD-FDD party, its satellite political groups, as well as civil society organizations and religious groups close to CNDD-FDD.

## ***1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT***

**Between silence and disillusion, a disturbing picture is emerging for the families of Burundian Imbonerakure.**

For a week now, in Bujumbura, many families, especially in the communes of Mugina, Cibitoke, Bukinanyana, and Mpanda, have been living in anxiety, having had no news of their loved ones involved in the fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In this context, it is common that only the families of soldiers are sometimes informed about the tragic fate of their members, particularly when they hold high-ranking positions. For the Imbonerakure militiamen, they usually learn about their situation through the stories of those who managed to escape the fighting.

A former militiaman, once responsible for training the Imbonerakure, shared his thoughts with us: "Since June 8, 2026, violent clashes have continued in Minembwe and Fizi as well as in surrounding areas, causing human losses and injuries, spreading despair among many families, especially among ours from Cibitoke. I learned of the deaths of people with whom I shared moments in the DRC. Individuals from Mugina, Rugombo, Buganda, Bubanza, or even rural Bujumbura appear on a long list sent by my contacts in the DRC. For several days now, the M23 has been fighting the FARDC, supported by the FDN and the

Wazalendo, as well as a handful of Rwandans specialized in conflicts, including the FDLR, though I can't name them". With the military buildup of the FDN along the Rwandan border, we deployed many newly trained militiamen to the front lines in Bukinanyana, Ruyigi, and in the DRC. Unfortunately, our forces are facing the air power of the M23, which uses drones a technology that is foreign to us and often decimates our ranks. This source, who decided to pull back from the conflict zones, stresses that the future of the Imbonerakure remains bleak as long as society, both national and international, sees them as criminals with no hope of reintegration.

He adds: "It's true that many of them have committed crimes, but there are also innocents. The current challenge for these two groups is that many of them want to leave, but don't know how to go about it. Those who try to escape risk their lives and are often executed. The few who have managed to get out of this situation took advantage of the capture of Goma and Bukavu to go to Kenya, Zambia, or Uganda. As for those who stay, most of them are

## ***1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 7)***

illiterate and don't have travel documents, making their escape all the more complicated”.

He concludes by pointing out that these Imbonerakure continue to lose their lives in needless circumstances, while those who profit from this war live a peaceful life in Bujumbura.

The latter condemn children from modest families who, at first, hoped that by participating in these fights, some of them

could join the FARDC ranks to earn their living. Others, convinced that the mineral resources in the DRC would bring quick wealth, imagined they could easily get rich by taking advantage of the war. Dreams that, unfortunately, have turned into disillusionment.

### **A lifeless body of a person dug up in Matongo commune, Butanyerera province**

On June 11, 2027, at the Rukoma cemetery Kabuye zone, Matongo commune, Butanyerera province, a lifeless body of Akimana Divine from Gitwe hill, buried on June 10, 2026, was unearthed and then decapitated by unidentified people. According to witnesses in the locality, the perpetrators of this despicable act left with the victim's head to an unknown destination.

The same witnesses indicate that a machete and slippers belonging to Minani, Laurent and Pontien were found on Tuesday morning, which were apprehended and taken to the Matongo communal dungeon for judicial investigations. Another of the suspects, Nyabenda ildephonse, from Gitwe hill Kabuye zone Matongo

commune Butanyerera province was arrested on June 11, 2026 for investigations, according to the same sources in Matongo.

The victim's head was found at the Kazibaziba sub-hill near the Nyakabindi River on June 12, 2026. Angry, the victim's family set fire to the house of Nyabenda ildephonse, considered to be the mastermind of the crime.

Yamuremye Diomede, the chief of Gitwe Hill confirms this information. The victim's family is calling for justice to be done as soon as possible and for the perpetrators to be punished in accordance with the law.

### **Two people injured by gunshots fired by a police officer in Gisagara district, Buhumuza province**

On June 6, 2026, on the Murore sub-hill, Kigati hill, Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province, Venuste Sinzobatohana, representative of the CNDD-FDD party on Kigati hill, who is also a nurse at the Murore Health District Hospital, and the driver of the ARB dump truck were injured by a police officer named Diomède during a fight that broke out between the workers of the Burundi Road Agency (ARB) and their boss. The workers were demanding their salary at the time when their boss wanted to go down to Bujumbura, and that's when the fight started. These workers are employed in compacting the Cankuzo-Gisagara road up to the Gasenyi border between Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania.

This police officer from the Murore police station stepped in to mediate between the two parties and the CNDD-FDD party representative on Kigati hill, arriving quickly wanting to get involved in the matter. A misunderstanding broke out between the officer and Venuste over how to handle the situation, and tension rose between the two. The officer fired, injuring two people.

The police officer was arrested and taken to the communal police station jail in Gisagara, and the victims of this incident were taken to Turashoboye Hospital in Karusi, where they are being treated.

## ***1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 8)***

### **A police officer mistreated by an Imbonerakure in Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province**

On June 9, 2026, on the Murore sub-hill, Kigati hill, in Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province, a man named Etienne, a police officer from the Murore police post, got into a clash with a man named Jean Doe, who represents the Imbonerakure youth from this Kigati hill. According to sources on the ground, the Imbonerakure youth representative from Kigati hill confronted the officer, accusing him of mistreating his wife the day before, on June 8, 2026, and the officer denied all the accusations. The two men started fighting, and the officer went to his station to get his rifle to shoot Jean Doe, but his colleagues quickly intervened to disarm him.

The police officer was ordered to return to the Gisagara communal police station where he is currently. The officer suggests taking legal action to have his rights restored because he was held by the Imbonerakure youth representative from the Kigati hill while performing his duties.

The local community is asking for awareness on social cohesion so that everyone knows their limits while carrying out their responsibilities.

### **Theft of computers at Écofo Rongero in Rutana Commune, Burunga Province.**

On June 9, 2026, at the Fundamental School (ECOFO) located on Rongero Hill, Rongero area, Rutana commune in Burunga province, the Principal of this school, Léonidas Niyungeko, the head teacher, and two watchmen were arrested by the police from the Rutana communal police station, accused of stealing 9 computers and their accessories from the school during the night of June 8, 2026. They were put in the communal police station's cell for investigation since the keys to the room where these computers were kept were in the hands of the Principal and the head teacher.

Teachers and parents are asking for in-depth investigations to be carried out to establish who is responsible in this matter.

The room where these machines were stored apparently showed no visible signs of break-in and still seemed properly locked.

After the report, administrative authorities were alerted before involving the police. The officers went to the site and decided to question the people responsible for managing and supervising the establishment to continue the investigation.

The impact is already being felt on the school's operation. As of June 10, 2026, the students still hadn't returned to classes. The principal's office, where the classroom keys were also supposedly kept, was reportedly closed as part of the investigation.

On the side of the education sector officials, the case is being followed closely. Several admit they were informed but indicate that it remains difficult to understand how such a theft could have been committed under conditions that, at first glance, show no obvious signs of break-in.

These computers had been made available as part of external support aimed at strengthening teaching capacities.

It should be noted that, according to local information, the same case occurred in 2018 at Rutana High School, where about fifteen machines went missing. The school authorities and some staff members were imprisoned and then released, but so far, the machines have not been recovered and those who stole them have not been identified.

## ***I.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 9)***

### **Security meeting in Gisagara Commune in Buhumuza Province.**

On June 12, 2026, in the Mishiha zone hall, Gisagara commune, the Governor of Buhumuza province held a security meeting for all the commune administrators of this province as well as other senior provincial and communal officials in various sectors. The Governor pointed out that security is good but emphasized that everyone should stay vigilant, especially since all the communes in the province border neighboring countries, except for Butaganzwa commune.

Among the elements threatening security, she brought up the highly alcoholic drinks found in plastic bottles, which harm human health and even cause death for some. On this, Governor Denise Ndaruhekere recommended that law enforcement and administrative agents at all levels ensure that these types of drinks no longer enter Buhumuza province. She asks that the drinks already in various local places be sold gradually until they are completely

gone. As for the drinks banned by law (gongo, kanyanga, pineapple beers (umuraha/umunanasi)), the Governor thanks the local authorities for how they track down these drinks.

As for the corn stocks that were bought by ANAGESSA and are still full, the governor points out that the ministry in charge of trade will soon clear out the stocks to allow for new purchases.

Sellers and consumers emphasize that this issue shouldn't be handled locally since it's the government itself that authorized their production through BBIN. They wonder if the country's top authorities are afraid to approach the owners of the factories making these drinks.

## ***I.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT***

### **Contributions required by the Education Department in Nyabihanga Commune, Gitega Province.**

The Principal of Vyuma Primary School of the DCE Nyabihanga in Gitega province, Jean Bosco Gahungu, is requiring all staff members at his school to pay 5,000 FBu in order to get the Performance Evaluation Form valid for the 2025-2026 school year.

The performance evaluation form corresponds to the Report Card for that year for the period from May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026.

Higher school authorities have stopped principals from demanding this amount under the pretext that it is for photocopying these forms.



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## ***I.4. JUDICIAL CONTEXT***

### **Release of the employees of Bar Butanyerera in Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province**

As of June 12, 2026, at the central prison of Ngozi, Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province, 6 employees of the Butanyerera Bar of the national director of PARCEM were released. On June 3, 2026, they had been transferred from the police cells to the central prison of Ngozi. These employees of Butanyerera Bar were accused of illegal possession of weapons and military uniforms, even though they were the ones who called the security forces to investigate a rifle and

other military items seen in the kitchen. A Kalashnikov-type rifle was found in the stock of this bar on May 17, 2026, and since that day the 6 have been in police custody. Faustin Ndikumana had denounced the plots against him and his employees. In a press conference held in Bujumbura, this activist made it clear that his fight is not with firearms but rather exposing what's wrong and the obstacles that hinder Burundi's development.

### **Conviction of a suspect accused of murder in Butihinda Commune, Buhumuza Province.**

On June 10, 2026, the T.G.I of Butihinda sitting on Rugese Hill, Giteranyi Zone, Butihinda Commune, Buhumuza Province sentenced Niyomwungere Janvier known by the nickname of Gihayima, 27 years old, son of Mutabazi Juvenal and Kabatare Véronique. According to sources on the ground, he was charged with the attempted murder of his father with a spear, Mutabazi Juvenal, as well as the brutal murder of a six-year-old girl named Mutoniwase.

At his trial, he pleaded not guilty to the act of murdering his father, saying that the latter had refused to treat him for an epilepsy disease, which has plagued him since 2014. His father also denied the allegations that he

suffered from epilepsy as there was no evidence that he had the condition. He adds that when the boy tried to kill him with a spear but was unsuccessful, he grabbed the little girl by the throat and stabbed her in the neck.

According to our source, the court found the accused guilty of attempting to murder his father and of murdering the little girl. The prosecutor also asked the court to sentence Janvier to life in prison and to pay compensation of three million francs (3,000,000 Frbu), as well as a 15-year detention sentence if the court fees (120,000 francs) aren't paid.

### **Conviction of four men accused of murder in the Butihinda Commune, Buhumuza Province.**

NZOYISABA Adrien, Nkurunziza Pierre, Ndacayisaba Saïdi, Bizuwurema Richard, all from Ngara Hill in the Butihinda Zone and Commune, were charged before the TGI Butihinda for allegedly beating Banyansekeru Imelde to death.

According to information gathered on the spot, they had all initially pleaded not guilty to the charges, but later confessed to the crime.

Still according to our source, this act was motivated by the belief among some members of the deceased's family that she had bewitched them.

All were sentenced to 10 years in prison and to pay one hundred million Fbu to the Rutarati family (Imelde's family of origin) as damages, as well as one hundred thousand francs (100,000 Fbu) to go to the public treasury, and in case of non-payment, they will face a fifty-year sentence.

## 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.

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

On June 7, 2026, around 3 p.m., Jean Noël Nikoyagize left his family home located in Mutanga Nord, Musave Avenue, number 19.

Before leaving, he had told his relatives that he was going to a concert organized by people from the Kinindo area, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province, at the Méridien Hotel. Although the event ended that same evening around 10 p.m., he did not return home. Concerned about this unusual delay, the family immediately started to worry, and the next day, Monday, June 8, 2026, they officially reported Jean Noël missing to friends, relatives, and acquaintances.

At first, the family focused their search on the police. From Monday to Wednesday, they searched the holding cells in different areas as well as the police stations, but with no luck. It wasn't until Thursday that the family decided to extend their investigation to healthcare facilities.

When they went to the morgue at Roi Khaled Hospital, the relatives finally found Jean Noël Nikoyagize's lifeless body. The morgue staff

then informed them that the body had been handed over by the local authorities, namely the zone chief and the Kamenge Quarter chief.

When going to meet with these local authorities for clarification, the family learned about the circumstances of the body's discovery. It was found in Kamenge, in a vegetable field, by women farmers who were going to the area and immediately alerted the neighborhood and zone leaders.

When the authorities arrived, they saw that the victim was wearing his clothes, that his legs were covered in mud, but that his body showed no visible injuries. Moreover, searching his clothes didn't turn up any ID, and his mobile phone was missing.

Since it was impossible to identify the deceased at that moment, the local leaders decided to have the body taken to the morgue at Roi Khaled Hospital.

#### **A lifeless man's body was found this Friday on Mitakataka Hill, Bubanza commune, Bujumbura province.**

The body was lying in some brush not far from the Randa farm. Just a few meters from the Randa military post.

It was in the early stages of decomposition. Almost completely naked, without eyes, it has not been identified. The authorities decided to bury it immediately.

According to our sources, the victim is believed to be from Zina, Buvyuko area, Bubanza commune. The motive for this murder is unknown. No suspects have been arrested.



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### ***II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED FOLLOWING A SETTLEMENT OF SCORES***

#### **One person killed in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province**

On May 13, 2026, at around 8 a.m., in the Munyika neighborhood, Rugombo zone, Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province, Fabien Manirakiza was killed with a machete by, according to sources close to the family of the deceased, his son Fidèle Yamuremye, a 7th grade student at the Rugombo Communal High School, currently wanted by the police because he fled after the crime. According to the same sources, the police and Imbonerakure arrested the victim's wife for investigation.

According to local witnesses, this young boy accused his father of not fulfilling his family obligations well, reproaching him for spending several days absent with the family (working in gold mining sites), without however sharing the money from it with his family.

The body of the deceased was taken to the morgue of the Cibitoke hospital to await burial.

### ***II.1.2. KIDNAPPINGS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES***

#### **A person was kidnapped in Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province.**

Since the beginning of May 2026, CISHAHAYO Nestor, a member of CNDD FDD, over 47 years old, originally from Ngayane hill, Ntunda zone of the former Gitaramuka commune in the former province of KARUSI, who lived in Bujumbura where he had been involved in the charcoal trade for over 8 years, has been missing. According to his relatives, he has been missing for 3 weeks already, although they do not specify the exact date of his disappearance. Sources say he had stopped trading charcoal

and was, at the time, a member of a church committee whose name is not known to his family, and that he had gone to the former province of Cibitoke for a mission of this church while the committee was in conflict. He was arrested by the intelligence service, but no details are given. His family and friends tried to search in several detention centers, but in vain.

#### ***A soldier kidnapped in Musaga, in the commune of Mugere, Bujumbura province***

Information received by the Iteka League on June 12, 2026, indicates that on June 5, 2026, Gérard Bizimana, a soldier, was with a person named Cédric, and they were having a meal in a bar owned by former deputy Lewis. That's when a double-cabin vehicle with tinted windows arrived at the scene.

Individuals dressed in military uniforms got out, grabbed Gérard Bizimana, and forced him into the vehicle, which then drove away. Since this incident, no one knows where he is being held or what happened to him. His family is deeply concerned about his safety.

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

### ***II.2.1. GBV***

#### ***II.2.1.1. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE***

#### **A man burned by his wife in Gahahe, Kayanza commune, in Butanyerera province.**

On June 14, 2026, a man named Nimbona Tharcisse was scalded with boiling water by his wife Ahishakiye Joselyne, all from Gahahe hill in the Kayanza commune of Butanyerera province.

According to information provided by the victim, he was coming home at night when his wife attacked him, accusing him of not properly fulfilling the duties assigned to the head of the

household, especially when it came to giving the family a barely sufficient ration. Nimbona Tharcisse says that feeling threatened, he locked himself in the marital bedroom, and that his wife Ahishakiye Joselyne kept threatening to break in until the victim eventually opened the door voluntarily.

## **II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 13)**

*"I opened the bedroom door and suddenly, my wife poured boiling water on me on the left side of my ribs,"* regrets the victim Nimbona Tharcisse.

At the association Men in Distress, which advocates for men's rights, they regret that the

alleged perpetrator of the attack is free and call for women who commit gender-based violence against men to be brought to justice and punished according to the law, just as men who commit gender-based violence against their wives are."

### **A lifeless body found in Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province**

On the night of June 13, 2026, on Gatungurwe hill, Cankuzo area and commune, Buhumuza province, a lifeless body of Venant Burengere was found in a bean field.

According to sources on the ground, the victim was killed with a knife by his wife named Madaleine and after committing the act,

Madaleine threw her husband's body into a bean field. According to the same sources, neighbors as well as the chief of the Gatungurwe hill say that Madeleine suffers from mental disorders. The police have already opened an investigation to shed light on this case.

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

### **II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS**

#### **Arbitrary arrest and detention of a Congolese national in Bujumbura province**

The arrest of Benjamin Babunga Watuna, a Congolese national, international consultant, and well-known analyst of the history of the Great Lakes region, took place in Bujumbura on May 26, 2026. Very active and followed on social media, Watuna is known for regularly posting independent historical and political analyses on the Democratic Republic of Congo and the sub-region.

In the absence of any official communication from Burundian or Congolese authorities at the time, information gathered by human rights organizations and the victim's close ones highlights a case driven mainly by political motivations.

According to consistent sources, the stop started off very innocently under the pretext of a simple traffic violation, which the Iteka League now considers a deliberate ploy to arrest him without drawing attention.

Approached by a police officer who accused him of parking his vehicle in a forbidden area, Watuna challenged the validity of this accusation.

Soon, backup police arrived on the scene, and an officer forcibly got into his vehicle to make

him follow them to the station. What started as a traffic stop quickly turned into a state security procedure, with the driver being handed directly over to the Burundian National Investigation Service.

Once the analyst was in the hands of the SNR, the case took on a serious political dimension, apparently under the urging of the authorities in Kinshasa. The Congolese government accuses Watuna of collaborating with the rebel M23 movement, suggesting that he might be acting as a financial intermediary to transfer funds to people linked to this rebellion based in Burundi.

After his arrest, his phones and computers were seized to be analyzed by experts. However, according to our sources, no evidence was found on his devices to support Kinshasa's claims.

After ten days in the SNR cells, Benjamin Babunga Watuna was transferred on June 5, 2026, to Bujumbura Central Prison (Mpimba), where he is currently held. This arrest came right after an official meeting in Bujumbura between the Burundian Minister of Defense and the Congolese Deputy Prime Minister of Defense.

### III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

#### III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE AND FORCED CONTRIBUTIONS

##### Disruption of economic activities in Ngozi Commune in Butanyerera Province.

From June 11 to 13, 2026, a prayer crusade took place at Agasaka Stadium, in the town of Ngozi, Butanyerera province, organized by the CNDD FDD party representation in that province in memory of former President Pierre Nkurunziza. It should be noted that the population was forced to contribute financially, including individuals who do not belong to the ruling party. School principals, prefects, and teachers were asked to contribute 15,000 frbu, 5,000 frbu, and 2,000 frbu respectively. In addition, women selling fruits at the Ngozi central market expressed their dissatisfaction, as they were asked to contribute 5,000 frbu for organizing this event, 3,000 frbu for buying food items to put in the baskets during the closing of the crusade, and 30,000 frbu for the rental of outfits for the women carrying these baskets.

On the first day of the ceremonies, the response from the population was moderate.

##### Forced contributions from the CNDD-FDD party in Muyinga Commune in Buhumuza Province.

The municipal secretary of the ruling party CNDD FDD in Muyinga is mobilizing operational funds for the party from the entire population of Muyinga, whether they are party members or not, both voluntarily and by force. Requests for contributions are being sent out to all administrative and private services, starting from 2,000 F and up for each taxpayer. People are getting tired of these constant and cumulative contributions, especially since the commune also asks for monthly contributions of 4,000 F for sanitation, 10,000 F for the construction of the Buhumuza provincial office, and more. The

The next day, young Imbonerakure went around the neighborhoods and hills, encouraging people to stop their farming activities to take part in this crusade.

The police, together with the young Imbonerakure from CNDD FDD, enforced the closure of shops, stores, bars, and even the central market of Ngozi until 6 p.m. Only pharmacies and restaurants were allowed to stay open. Fines of up to 50,000 frbu were imposed on those who dared to open their establishments to sell.

The same situation repeated on the last day, mainly marked by military-style demonstrations of young party affiliates, referred to as 'ibiswi vy'inkona.' People lament these constant contributions as well as the three lost days without income-generating activities.

contributions demanded by the CNDD FDD party go towards the salaries for the communal secretary and the office chief, which are 1,000,000 F and 500,000 F monthly respectively. It's also worth noting that this party often asks for fees to welcome officials at all levels: visits to the hills, then zones, and finally communes, where they are given a welcome envelope for each visit. They ignore the fact that not everyone in the population is affiliated with this party and that everyone contributes to their own original political party.



Anyone should be respected

### **III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE (the following of page 15)**

#### **Rising food prices in Muramvya Commune in Gitega Province.**

In the Muramvya commune, as in other communes across the country, the socio-economic situation is deteriorating day by day. The prices of basic foodstuffs and other services have been rising worryingly in recent days. However, the population had pinned their hopes on Ministerial Ordinance No. 750/1234 of March 23, 2025, which sets the

price scale for food products, but to no avail. We visited the different shops on June 12, 2026, in the main town of the Muramvya commune, and here is what we found:

Article	Measure	Prices set by the State	Current price as of June 5, 2026
Rice	1kg	4 000 - 5 000	8 000
Beans	1kg	2 500 - 3 000	4 000 - 6 000
Cassava Floor	1kg	1 950 - 2 500	3 000
Mais Floor	1kg	1 700	3 500
Kitchen Salt	1kg	1 000 - 2 000	3 500
Palm Oil	1kg	4 000 - 5000	12 000
Meat without Bones	1kg	22 000	30 000
Sweet Potatoes	1kg	700 - 1 300	4 000
Potatoes	1kg	1 000 -1 800	3 000
Fresh tomatoes	1kg	2 000	4 000
Red or white onions	1kg	1 000 -1 300	4 000

### **III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION**

#### **Back to the old education system to raise students' levels in the country.**

In an election context, the Burundian government is preparing to introduce a reform of the education system starting in the 2026-2027 school year. This plan was revealed by André Nduwimana, Director General of Teaching Programs at various levels, during an interview on Nderagakura radio. Prime Minister Nestor Ntahontuye confirmed this reform on June 12, 2026, during a public show attended by many journalists.

This initiative is taking shape after several years of implementing the fundamental school system, whose evaluation revealed some worrying gaps. According to Nduwimana, the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research noticed a troubling decline in students' skills in French, the main language of instruction in the country. He pointed out, 'It is possible to

introduce a new program without teachers having adequate mastery of it, while still hoping for success.' That's why the ministry organizes training sessions for teachers during school holidays, to prepare them for the new teaching content.

The reform will be implemented gradually for students from 7th to 10th grade. The results of a thorough evaluation, carried out in collaboration with various education sector stakeholders, showed that some subjects have unnecessary repetitions while others have notable gaps. Ministry officials attribute these issues to the rushed implementation of the Fundamental School system. The general director explained that the low level of French language skills negatively affects the understanding of other subjects.

### **III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 16)**

To address this situation, the ministry has developed a new knowledge block based on national, regional, and international guidelines.

A plan for educational reform has also been designed for grades 7 through 10, incorporating recommendations from various evaluations. Among the planned changes, 10th grade will be introduced starting in the 2027-2028 school year, a decision approved by the Prime Minister during the same public broadcast.

He also announced the reopening of boarding schools for 7th-grade students admitted to top institutions through the national exam, and the reinstatement of the meal system for students at the University of Burundi. Teachers' unions welcomed these announcements, praising the government's willingness to return to an older educational model. However, they emphasized the importance of proper support to ensure the success of this reform and sustainably improve the quality of education in Burundi.

## **IV. CATEGORY RIGHTS**

### **IV.1. CHILD'S RIGHTS**

**A lifeless body of a newborn was found in Bihanga, Matana commune, in Burunga province.**

On June 9, 2026, on Bihanga hill, in the Matana area and commune of Burunga province, a newborn baby's lifeless body was found. It was buried by Red Cross volunteers, but the person suspected of causing the baby's

death at birth has not been identified, according to local residents. These residents regret that no police investigation has been launched.

**A lifeless newborn body was found in the Matana commune, Burunga province.**

On June 7, 2026, on Migerere Hill, in the Matana zone and commune, Burunga province, the lifeless body of a newborn was found in the yard of a household on that hill. After the discovery of this body, the police had to arrest seven people, including Arakaza Chancellia, 20 years old, a neighbor of the place where the body was found, and a woman over 50, for investigation purposes.

Medical examinations were carried out while the seven were held in the police cell. Sources on the ground say that six of the seven were

eventually released by the police. Arakaza Chancellia was kept in the Matana communal police cell. This information is confirmed by the head of Matana zone, Désiré Niyongabo, who stated that the medical examination conducted by the Matana hospital was questioned, and all the suspects were taken to Muramba clinic, still in Matana commune, for a second examination.

**Two lifeless bodies of two brother children found in the locality of Nyarumanga, Bujumbura province**

On the morning of June 9, 2026, farmers noticed a lot of blood on the dikes of the rice fields. Following these tracks, they first found one body, then a second a little further on. When the news got out, the local people rushed to the scene. Among the onlookers, children quickly recognized the victims: two young children from the same siblings.

Originally, a Burundian man, married to a Congolese woman, had left the country to look for work abroad, leaving his wife and their two children in a rented house.

From the outside, the husband sent money to his family to buy a plot of land that had several houses on it. Following the

#### ***IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS (the following of page 17)***

husband's requirements, the property was registered in the names of his two children. The mother and the children lived in one of the houses, while the others were rented out. According to the agreement between the spouses, the rental income was supposed to cover the family's daily expenses, while the father committed to paying for the children's schooling from abroad.

The situation changed when the wife began a cohabiting relationship with another man, himself the father of four children. She moved in with him, abandoning the marital home. It was then that the new couple came up with a plan to sell the plot of land belonging to the first husband's children. To achieve this and remove any legal obstacles, they decided to plan the murder of the two children.

The plan was implemented in two stages. On Sunday night, the lover took advantage of the children's sleep to kidnap the eldest, aged 5. The child never reappeared alive. The next day, Monday, the man repeated his act by abducting the second child. The bodies of the two victims were eventually abandoned in the rice plantation.

It was the suspect's own kids who helped shed light on how the crime was carried out. They described in detail how their father went about it, twice, to abduct the victims. They specifically mentioned hearing the first child crying in the living room.

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### ***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. Systematically conduct transparent and independent judicial investigations as soon as bodies are discovered to identify the victims and determine the motives behind the killings.
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. 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,
4. End its involvement in the Congolese conflicts to avoid continuing to plunge Burundian families into mourning,
5. Take effective measures to protect children's rights and address the child killings that have recently become all too common in Burundi.