

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS 'ITEKA'

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KU GICANIRO No. 6/2026. "Ku Gicaniro is a program by the Iteka League that focuses on all areas of the country's life"

REPORT OF THE BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS 'ITEKA' FOR THE PERIOD OF MAY AND JUNE 2026



Anyone should be respected

In memory of Madame Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, who has been missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to June 30, 2026, at least 874 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 87 victims have reappeared, and 787 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has already communicated to 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 of 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.
- ♦ Is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections."

¹<https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

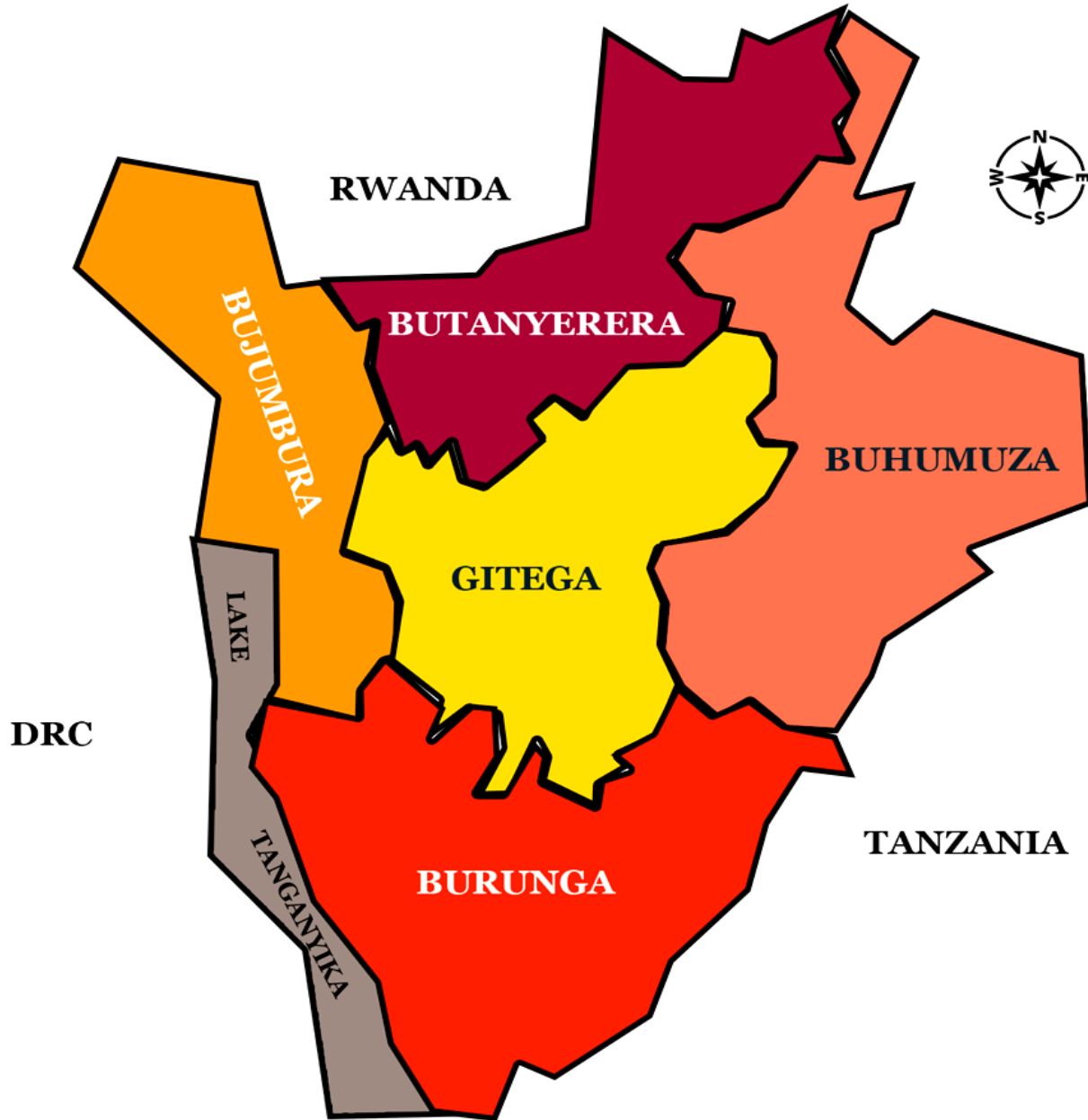


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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

UNGA: United Nations General Assembly

DESC: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

CNL: National Congress for Liberty

EU: European Union

EAC: East African Community

ECOFO: Fundamental School

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

M23/AFC: March 23 Movement / Congo River Alliance

FRODEBU: Front for Democracy in Burundi

FDLR: Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda

UPRONA: Union for National Progress

AU: African Union

PNB: National Police of Burundi

SNR: National Investigation Service

TGI: High Court

DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

GBV: Gender-Based Violence

OPJ: Judicial Police Officer

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During May and June 2026, Burundi faced a tragic period, marked by serious human rights violations attributed to state agents as well as other individuals closely associated with the presidential party. Against this backdrop of impunity, civil society though resilient struggled to make its voice heard. Sustained efforts to denounce these abuses seemed futile in the face of the government's blatant indifference, which ignored urgent calls for justice and a thorough investigation.

The Iteka League, which has systematically monitored the human rights situation in the country, recorded a tragic toll of 42 people killed during this period. Furthermore, abductions and enforced disappearances are a source of deep concern, with 7 cases involving 9 victims. Opposition figures, members of civil society, and retired military personnel remain targets of the authorities, who sought to silence any dissenting voices, thereby urging everyone to rally behind the presidential party. These acts of persecution were often carried out by law enforcement or the Imbonerakure militias, who were close to the government. These disappearances left families in a state of uncertainty and despair, with no news of their loved ones.

This context was also marked by acts of torture; the Iteka League reported six victims in the provinces of Gitega where three cases were recorded and Burunga where two victims had suffered such inhumane treatment as well as in Bujumbura, with one victim who was a retired military officer. Furthermore, during this same period, 21 victims of gender-based violence (GBV) were documented. Among them, 13 people had been raped, 10 of whom were underage girls. The province of Burunga had the highest number of reported cases, totaling 9 victims, followed by Butanyerera with 6 cases, Gitega with 4 victims, and Bujumbura with 2 victims. The Imbonerakure, as well as administrative officials and police officers, were frequently identified as the main perpetrators of these atrocities. Finally, the Iteka League also documented 6 arbitrary arrests: 2 victims in each of the provinces of Burunga and Gitega, and 1 victim in each of the provinces of Buhumuza and Bujumbura.

Illustrative charts:

Out of the 75 reported incident cases during the period considered, 84 people were targeted in these incidents.

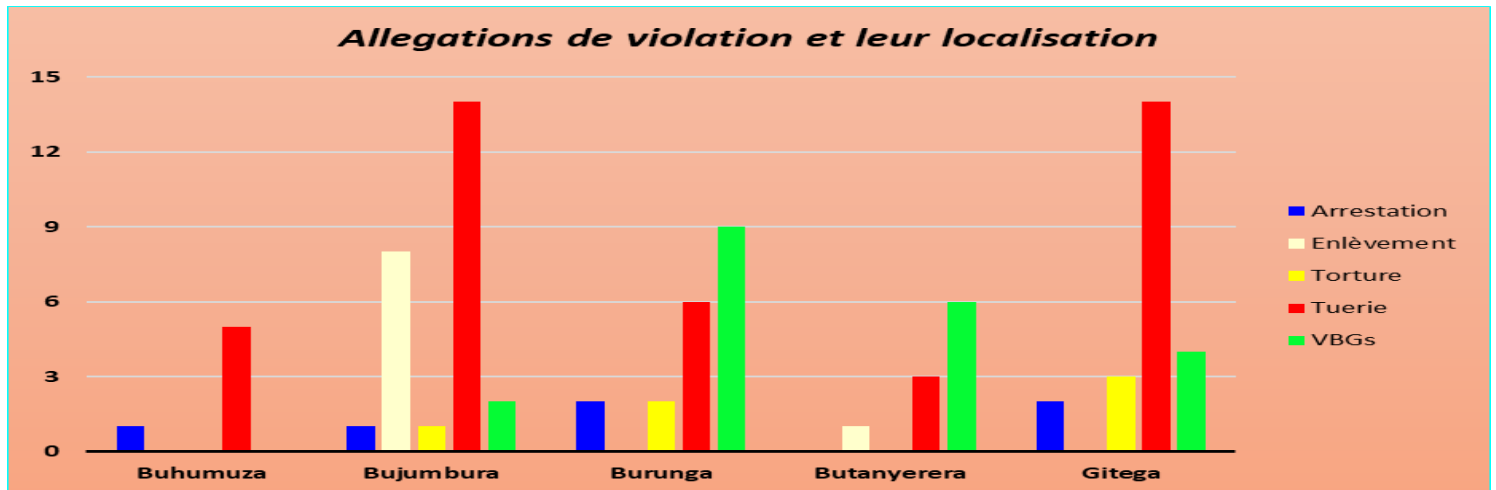
Place of the incident / Province	Number of victims					Total
	Arrest	Kidnapping	Torture	Killing	GBV	
Buhumuza	1	0	0	5	0	6
Bujumbura	1	8	1	14	2	26
Burunga	2	0	2	6	9	19
Butanyerera	0	1	0	3	6	10
Gitega	2	0	3	14	4	23
Total	6	9	6	42	21	84



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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (the following of page 5)

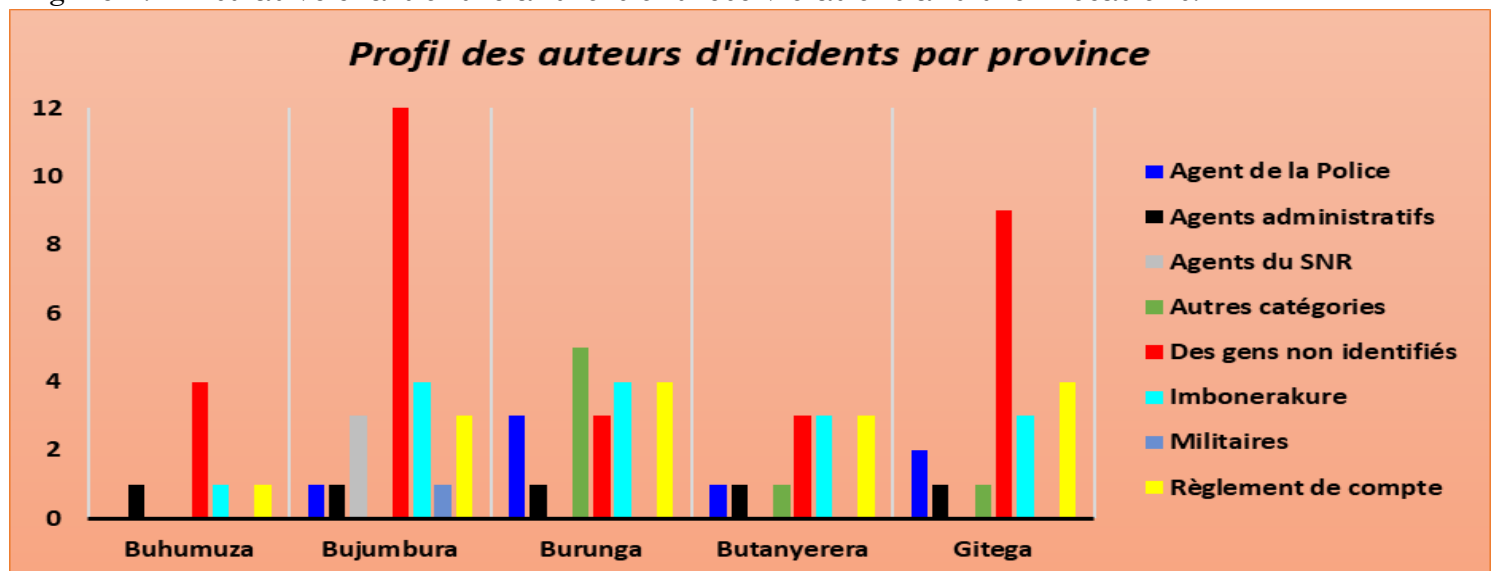
Figure 1: Illustrative chart of allegations of violations and their locations



The table shows a total of 75 cases spread across 8 categories of perpetrators recorded during the period in question. The Iteka league also points out in this report violations committed, with the highest number of cases involving unidentified people, which include several incidents such as GBV and dead bodies found in various localities, the Imbonerakure, and revenge attacks. Bujumbura, Burunga, and Gitega are the provinces most affected.

Suspected Authors	Buhumuza	Bujumbura	Burunga	Butanyerera	Gitega	Total
Police Officer	0	1	3	1	2	7
Administrative Agents	1	1	1	1	1	5
SNR Agents	0	3	0	0	0	3
Other Categories	0	0	5	1	1	7
Unidentified People	4	12	3	3	9	31
Imbonerakure	1	4	4	3	3	15
Military	0	1	0	0	0	1
Settling Scores	1	3	4	3	4	15
General Total	7	25	20	12	20	84

Figure 2: Illustrative chart of the authors of these violations and their locations:



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (the following of page 6)

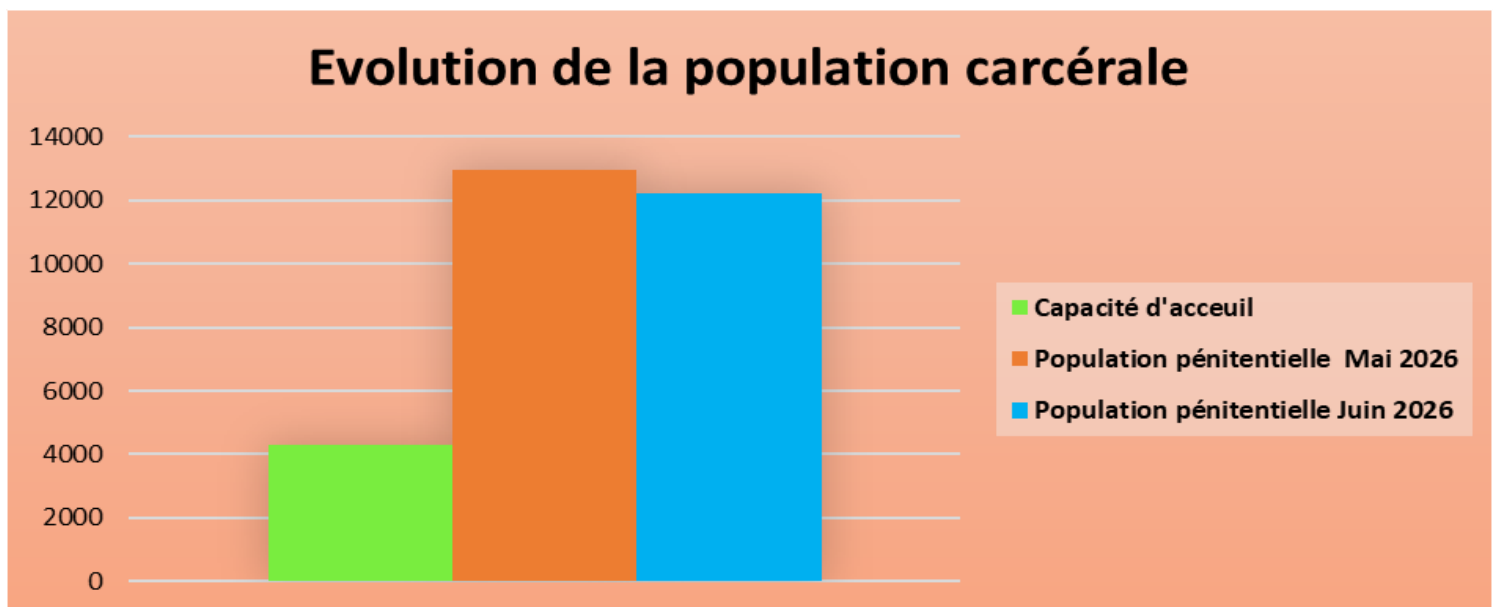
Out of a total of 75 cases involving 84 victims (chart above), 1 case is attributable to the military, 7 cases to police officers, 15 cases to the Imbonerakure, 31 cases fall under the category of unidentified agents, and the 'others' category (infanticides, drowning, poisoning) has 7 cases, revenge-related cases are 15, SNR agents are involved in 3 cases, and 5 cases involve administrative agents.

As part of this report, the Iteka League examines the prison situation in Burundi over the past two months, highlighting human rights violations. The collected data shows, as illustrated in the graph below, a general decrease in the prison population between May and June 2026. The total number of inmates dropped from 12,980 to 12,216, representing a reduction of 764 people, or about a 5.9% decrease. The capacity of the prison facilities remains set at 4,294 places, which means that prisons continue to hold nearly three times their intended capacity. The average occupancy rate fell by 17.79%, see the table below:

Prisons	Capacity	PRISON SITUATION MAY 2026				PRISON SITUATION JUNE 2026				Change in rates from May to June 2026
		Prison population	Number of defendants	Number of convicts	Occupancy rate	Prison population	Number of defendants	Number of convicts	Occupancy rate	
BUBANZA	200	434	214	220	217.00%	393	177	216	196.50%	-20.50%
BURURI	250	305	162	143	122.00%	261	122	139	104.40%	-17.60%
GITEGA	400	1456	690	766	364.00%	1327	590	737	331.75%	-32.25%
MPIMBA	800	4230	2657	1573	528.75%	4125	2663	1462	515.63%	-13.12%
MURAMVYA	100	1063	428	635	1063.00%	827	309	518	827.00%	-236.00%
MUYINGA	300	606	118	488	202.00%	569	115	454	189.67%	-12.33%
NGOZI F	250	199	77	122	79.60%	206	84	122	82.40%	2.80%
NGOZI H	400	1841	699	1142	460.25%	1807	697	1110	451.75%	-8.50%
RUMONGE	800	1471	525	946	183.88%	1481	545	936	185.13%	1.25%
RUTANA	350	448	160	288	128.00%	418	158	260	119.43%	-8.57%
RUYIGI	300	780	333	447	260.00%	668	265	403	222.67%	-37.33%
CMCL RUYIGI	72	50	11	39	69.44%	44	9	35	61.11%	-8.33%
CMCL RUMONGE	72	97	19	78	134.72%	90	21	69	125.00%	-9.72%
TOTAL	4294	12980	6093	6887	302.28%	12216	5755	6461	284.49%	-17.79%

764 338 426

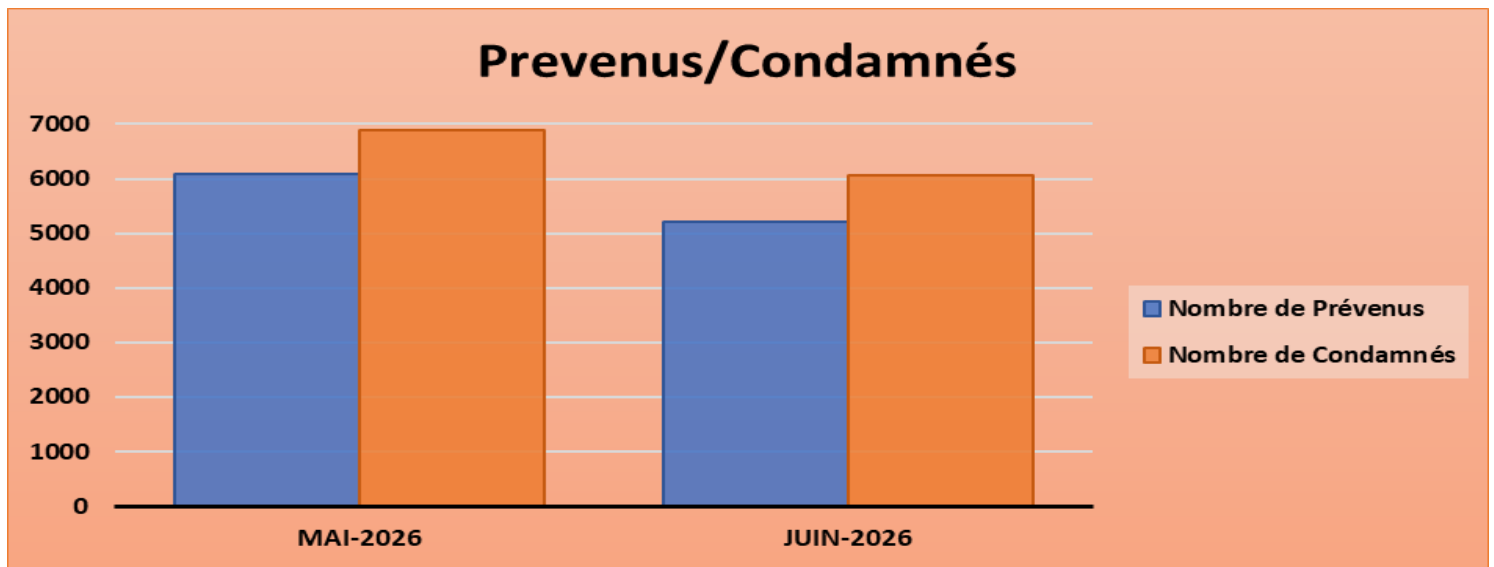
Figure 3: Illustrative graph of the evolution of the prison population



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (the following of page 6)

Regarding defendants and convicts, the data shows a drop in the number of defendants and convicts between May and June 2026, indicating an overall decrease in the prison population. The number of defendants fell from 6,093 in May to 5,215 in June, a decrease of 878 individuals, which is a 14.4% drop. This decrease is more significant than that observed among convicts, which could suggest a faster handling of certain court cases, early releases, or other measures aimed at easing prison overcrowding. The number of convicts also went down, from 6,887 in May to 6,053 in June, a reduction of 834 people, representing a 12.1% decrease. In June 2026, convicts still make up the majority of the entire prison population, with 6,053 inmates (53.7%) compared to 5,215 defendants (46.3%).

Figure 4: Illustrative chart of the evolution of the number of defendants and convicts



In addition to violations of civil and political rights, socioeconomic rights were undermined in May and June 2026 in Burundi.

⇒ **Economically**, the events of June 11 and 13, 2026, had a significant impact on economic rights. A memorial ceremony for former President Nkurunziza was held at Agasaka Stadium, where the public was forced to make financial contributions. Fixed amounts were imposed on school principals and teachers. Female merchants expressed their dissatisfaction with these demands. The following day, young Imbonerakure members exacerbated the situation by disrupting agricultural activities.

The police ordered shops and markets to close until 6:00 p.m. Small-scale protests then broke out, reflecting strong opposition to the forced contributions and the economic losses they cause. In the commune of Muyinga, the CNDD-FDD commune secretary intensified demands for contributions, adding to citizens' monthly financial obligations. In Muramvya, the food situation was deteriorating rapidly despite attempts to regulate prices. Farmers were facing a fertilizer shortage, exacerbated by a lack of government assistance, thereby jeopardizing their harvests and food security.

⇒ **In terms of education**, the months of May and June saw more than 3,400 students drop out in the commune of Rumonge, primarily due to poverty and unwanted pregnancies. Educators

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (the following of page 6)

are calling for initiatives to combat school dropout rates and for increased support for vulnerable families. The government is also considering a reform of the education system for the 2026–2027 school year, aimed at improving French language instruction and strengthening teacher training.

- ⇒ **On the health front**, public health has also been affected, with the emergence of cases of a mysterious illness in Kigutu. The shortage of medicines in the province has forced patients to purchase their treatments at their own expense. In Rumonge, fears of an Ebola outbreak have sparked concern, exacerbated by the province's proximity to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The port of Rumonge, which is of crucial importance, lacked adequate facilities to treat potential cases. Control measures have been strengthened; however, the population is demanding more significant actions to prevent any outbreak.
- ⇒ **On the humanitarian front**, the voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees continued; for this period from May to June, 6,784 refugees were assisted by the UNHCR, while at the same time, there was the forced repatriation of Burundian refugees in Tanzania. The Nyabikere site received 1,879 families totaling 4,022 people in May, and 2,026 in June.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

During the period analyzed in this report, there has been a continuous deterioration of the human rights situation in various parts of the country. This report highlights violations of the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty, as well as infringements on economic, social, and cultural rights.

The Iteka League expresses its concern over the persistent impunity for the crimes observed and makes recommendations in this regard:

To the President of Burundi:

1. Guarantee democratic governance by ensuring respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens.
2. Guarantee respect for human rights, particularly the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty;
3. Continue his positive initiatives aimed at reducing prison overcrowding through presidential pardons, which have already proven effective.

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

1. Take concrete measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions;
2. Investigate and severely punish acts of violence against minors, which have become commonplace in Burundi at the hands of local administrative officials and other activists of the presidential party;

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

1. Put an end to political activities in schools to protect and promote the right to education for Burundian children

II. RECOMMENDATIONS (the following of page 9)

To the Minister of Finance, Budget, and the Digital Economy, and the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock:

1. Ensure that farmers have timely access to agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizer, and that organizations involved in the collection and purchase of agricultural produce honor their commitments to the government;

To the Attorney General of the Republic and the Director of the General Directorate of Prison Administration (DGAP):

1. Strictly enforce laws guaranteeing the right to a fair trial and punish violations of detainees' rights;
2. Ensure respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights, put an end to arbitrary arrests, and release those who are being unlawfully detained;

To the technical and financial partners of the Government of Burundi, including the UN, the EU, and diplomatic missions accredited to Burundi, etc.:

1. Hold the Burundian government accountable for its commitments regarding respect for fundamental rights and demand structural reforms to prevent further violations;
2. Support the protection of human rights defenders and journalists, whose role is essential in exposing abuses;
3. Provide financial and logistical support to civil society organizations defending human rights and to humanitarian organizations working with returnees and refugees in Burundi;
4. Use their influence to compel the Burundian government to honor its commitments to protect human rights.

To the Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi (CNIDH):

1. Conduct independent investigations into human rights violations and publish regular reports, particularly on bodies found, sexual violence against minors, enforced disappearances, and arbitrary detentions.

To human rights organizations:

1. Continue to monitor the human rights situation in Burundi and advocate for the protection of fundamental rights;
2. Prioritize collaborative efforts to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of their diverse interventions;
3. Provide support to victims of human rights violations and work to ensure their access to justice.



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III. REPORT OBJECTIVES

The Iteka League produces this condensed two-month report on the socio-political and economic context and human rights in Burundi with the goals of:

1. Raising awareness among the government of Burundi for the respect of human rights and the fight against impunity for crimes;
2. Allowing other stakeholders to monitor the evolution of the context and human rights in Burundi over a specific period, identifying trends, challenges, and progress made;
3. Informing policymakers, human rights organizations, and international actors in their decision-making and actions concerning Burundi;
4. Raising awareness among national and international public opinion on critical issues related to human rights and security in Burundi, and advocating for specific reforms or actions.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The Iteka League regularly publishes weekly bulletins titled **Iteka n'Ijambo**, as well as monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, annual, thematic, and summary reports on the human rights and security situation. These documents are shared with various partners, particularly with the Government of Burundi and its various institutions.

This report is based on ongoing monitoring conducted by volunteers and observers from the Iteka League, who work to promote human rights through 17 provincial federations and 32 local chapters. The members of this organization are guided by ethical and humanitarian principles, committed to preventing human rights violations while continuing to monitor and document abuses and acts of violence committed by the ruling regime against its population.

The research methodology adopted to analyze the human rights situation in Burundi under the regime of Evariste Ndayishimiye is based on several complementary and rigorous approaches. A qualitative approach was prioritized, which includes gathering information as well as conducting interviews with key stakeholders, such as human rights defenders, members of civil society, and government representatives. This method allows for the collection of diverse perspectives on the human rights situation in Burundi, thereby providing a nuanced view of the challenges faced and the progress made since Ndayishimiye came to power in 2020. In addition, interviews were conducted with victims of human rights violations to gather firsthand accounts, thereby enriching the analysis by grounding the data in lived experience.

However, drawing on its weekly bulletin **Iteka n' Ijambo**, this report compiles data covering the two months of May and June 2026. The organization's KOBOTOOLBOX database, in which all data is entered, was used to generate the charts and illustrative examples.

V. OVERVIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI: MAY TO JUNE 2026

V.1. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Burundi is one of the countries that adhered to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1965) and its optional protocol (1976) without any reservations on May 9, 1990. As part of implementing this, Burundi has taken measures in its domestic legislation, notably in its Constitution of June 7, 2018 (main law), in Article 19, which guarantees that all rights proclaimed and guaranteed by regularly ratified international texts are an integral part of this constitution. Implementation texts have been established, including the Penal Code of December 29, 2017, and the Code of Criminal Procedure of May 11, 2018, and other institutions to protect human rights in Burundi have also been created.

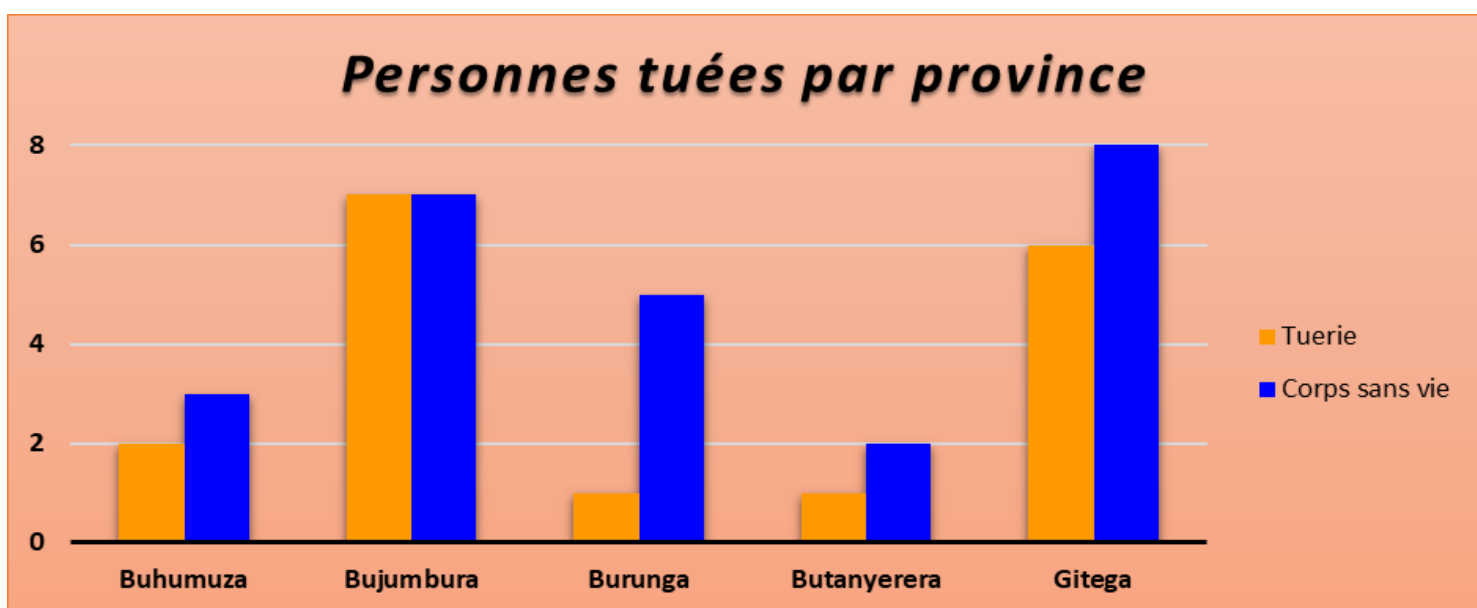
V.1.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

V.1.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES

During the period from May to June 2026, the Iteka League recorded 42 people killed across the country, including 31 men and 11 women. Among the victims, 25 were found dead. As the chart below shows, Gitega and Bujumbura provinces were the hardest hit with 14 victims each, followed by Burunga province with 6 victims, Buhumuza in third with 5 victims, and finally Butanyerera with 3 victims. It should be noted that among the victims, there were 8 children and 36 adults.

Province	Cases of killing	Number of victims		Men	Women
		Killing	Lifeless bodies		
Buhumuza	5	2	3	4	1
Bujumbura	14	7	7	10	4
Burunga	5	1	5	6	0
Butanyerera	3	1	2	3	0
Gitega	11	6	8	8	6
Overall Total	38	17	25	31	11

Figure 5: Illustrative graph of people killed during the period from May to June 2026



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

Iconic illustrative cases:

Case of persons killed by Imbonerakure :

Ex1: According to information received by the Iteka League on June 23, 2026, as of May 31, 2026, a citizen named Seif Ntakirutimana died from his injuries after being beaten by youths affiliated with the ruling party on May 27, 2026, in the Buterere area of Ntahangwa commune, in Bujumbura province.

Around 11:00 p.m., as he was preparing to return home, Seif was intercepted by Imbonerakure members who were conducting a night patrol. They demanded to see his ID card. Since he did not have it on him at the time, the victim offered to take them to his nearby home to retrieve it.

The patrol members refused and forcibly took him to the sewage collection site, commonly known as the “muma bassins.” There, they beat him violently until he lost consciousness, then left him there.

After regaining consciousness, Seif managed to stagger back to his home. Severely weakened and ill since the attack, he succumbed to his injuries a few days later, on May 31, 2026.

The day after his death, he was buried at the Mpanda Cemetery. Following this tragedy, the leader of the Imbonerakure group involved, identified as Élie, was arrested by the authorities and is currently being held at the Mpimba detention center.

Ex2: On May 28, 2026, on 4th Avenue in the Muyinga neighborhood, Kinama area, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province, Didier Nkurunziza, a 21-year-old apprentice mechanic, was stabbed to death in the evening by an Imbonerakure named Yamuremye in a restaurant. According to local witnesses, the victim was in the restaurant and was a regular there.

According to the same witnesses, when he went to pay his bill, he was short by 1,000 francs, and the alleged perpetrator jumped on him and stabbed him in the side; he died instantly. His body was taken to the morgue at the Kamenge Military Hospital.

The same sources add that the alleged perpetrator was arrested by the police and taken to the Kinama detention center.

Cases of people killed by police:

Ex3: On May 14, 2026, around midnight, on Samwe Hill in the Rugombo area of the Cibitoke commune, Bujumbura province, Eric Niyongabo, who was on his way home, was stopped by police officers who ordered him to raise his hands.

At that moment, one of the police officers shot him in the armpit; the bullet exited through his abdomen. According to local witnesses, it all began around 6:00 p.m. with an argument between two men named Janvier and Jean Gasore, a former CNDD-FDD combatant and leader of that faction in the Rugombo area. They met at the home of a woman living on Munyika Hill, which borders Samwe Hill in the Rugombo area, and an argument broke out, with each claiming to be the woman’s husband. One of them then shouted, “You’re lying this woman is mine, because I’m the one who pays the rent for the house where she lives.”

The argument between the two men did not last long; Janvier returned home to Samwe Hill. At that point, the residents thought the incident was over. Around 10:00 p.m., Jean Gasore went to ask two police officers from the Rugombo area station for assistance, and, accompanied by them, he

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

went to Janvier's home to arrest him.

Upon their arrival, Janvier's family refused to let him be taken away, and many other residents rushed to the scene to oppose the arrest. Everyone present insisted that Janvier could not be taken away at such a late hour and without a warrant. Shortly afterward, Jean Gasore called for three additional police officers as backup, and together they attempted to forcibly remove Janvier. Out of solidarity and fear for their neighbor's safety, the residents once again intervened, refusing to allow his illegal arrest.

The police fired several shots into the crowd, and the bullets struck three residents, scattering the rest of the group. During these events, Eric Niyongabo, the fourth victim of the shooting, was not in the vicinity and knew nothing about the situation. As he was peacefully returning home, he encountered police officers on his way; they shot him at point-blank range and then fled back to their station. Shortly afterward, the station chief arrived on the scene and found residents gathering the wounded to evacuate them to the AGAPE clinic, located near the area. Eric Niyongabo succumbed to his injuries before receiving first aid. As for the three other injured individuals, they were still receiving treatment as of May 15, 2026, but their lives are no longer in danger, according to our sources.

Residents of the Rugombo area, shocked and angry, are demanding above all that justice be served for Eric Niyongabo's family as well as for the three injured individuals. They are also calling on higher authorities both administrative and police to shed light on why a ruling-party activist was able to manipulate police officers, who are supposed to follow a chain of command, and push them to commit such a crime.

Finally, the public is demanding that a public and immediate trial be held to severely punish Jean Gasore and the five police officers involved, once they have been formally identified since the darkness and the speed of the incident prevented witnesses from recognizing them with certainty.

Cases of people killed by unidentified individuals:

Ex4: On May 24, 2026, around 6 a.m., in the main town of the Mugeru Zone, Gisagara Commune, Buhumuza Province, the lifeless body of Jean Claude, a retired Ex-FAB officer in his fifties, was discovered by passersby who were heading to the first mass. According to local witnesses, the deceased's clothes were torn, suggesting that they were ripped while he tried to defend himself against the criminals, and he had a severe injury on his face. The same witnesses said that political motives might be behind this murder, as the deceased was a member of the CNL party, associated with Honorable Agathon RWASA. The body was taken to the morgue of the Mishiha commune hospital awaiting burial. The administrator of Gisagara Commune, NZIRUBUSA Japhet, said he was not aware of it but would look into the situation, as he is on a work mission in the People's Republic of China.



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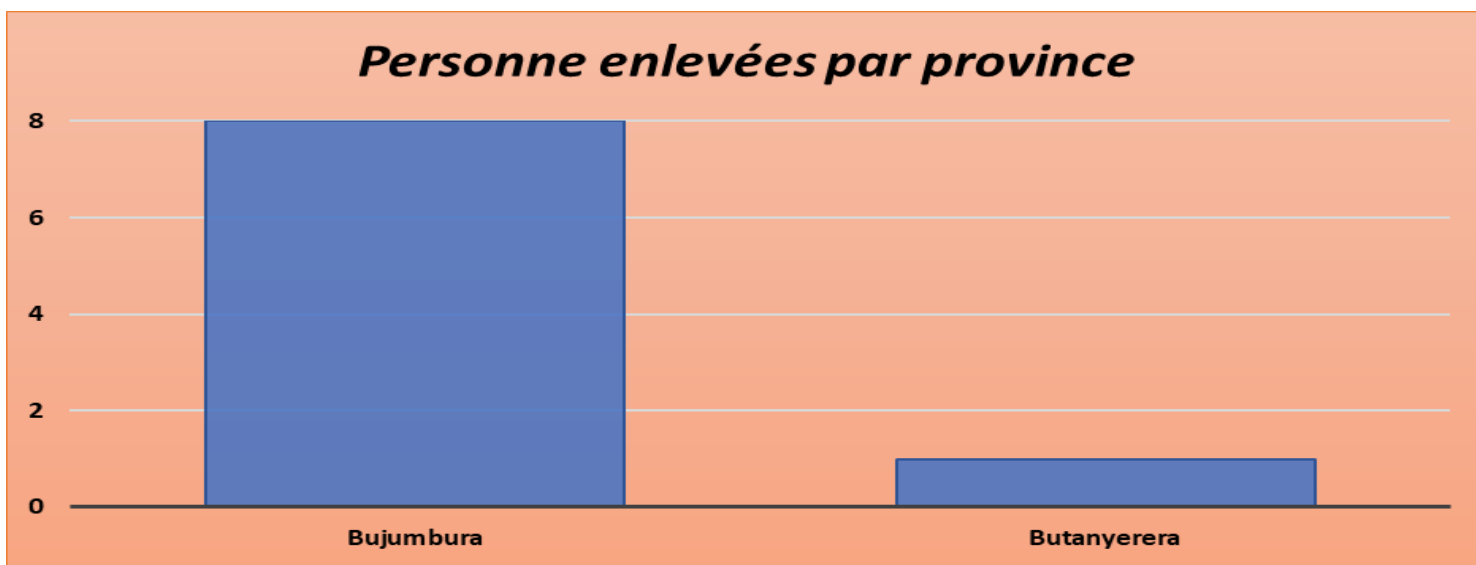
V. 1.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

During the period covered by this report, cases of abduction and/or enforced disappearances in Burundi revealed a major issue in the country's security and political practices. Several documented cases show situations where individuals, seen as opponents or simply suspects, were abducted by security forces or their allies, the 'youth of the ruling party.' These victims often disappeared in unknown locations, leaving their families completely uncertain about their fate or where they were being held.

During the two months of this report, the Iteka League recorded 9 people being abducted across the country, all of them men. The affected provinces were particularly Bujumbura, which had a high number of 8 victims, and Butanyerera with 1 victim.

Province	Kidnapping cases	Number of victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	0	0	0	0
Bujumbura	6	8	8	0
Burunga	0	0	0	0
Butanyerera	1	1	1	0
Gitega	0	0	0	0
Overall total	7	9	9	0

Figure 6: Illustrative chart of people kidnapped during the period from May to June 2026.



Illustrative cases:

Cases of people kidnapped by police:

Ex1: On June 2, 2026, the ITEKA League received a report that two men, both informants for the National Intelligence Service (SNR), had been 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, 33, was a soccer player on the Burundi National Police team "Rukinzo."

At the same time, he worked as an informant for the SNR at the Gatumba border post and was involved in smuggling gasoline from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A native of Manga Hill

V. 1.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES (the followin of page 15)

in the 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 the Buraza commune of Gitega province, and had been living in the Nyabugete quarter of Bujumbura until then.

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

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

After a while, Anicet joined his two colleagues at the establishment and ordered a drink to refresh himself. It was then that he received an anonymous call. Overcome with deep concern, he reportedly begged his friend Vincent to accompany him outside. Since the bar was located on an upper floor, they went downstairs to meet the caller, who turned out to be a man named Nordin Nsengiyumva, alias Robati.

The man told them he wanted to hand over some packages, but that they were located on the shores of Lake Tanganyika with another contact. They then all got into Anicet's Voxy, license plate FA 9379, and headed toward Lake Tanganyika, near Nyabugete Beach. Once there, they met another individual, who remains anonymous, who was in possession of the packages in question, containing traditional cloth and bottles of wine.

After loading these goods into their car, and just as they were making a U-turn to return to the Nyabugete neighborhood, a white Hilux without license plates and with tinted windows sped up and blocked their path. Three men in civilian clothing and four others in police uniforms immediately got out of the intercepting vehicle.

They unloaded all the packages from the Voxy and transferred them to 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 encountered by the lake, they left unharmed in the company of law enforcement officers. To date, no one knows exactly where the two SNR agents are.

Some local sources claim that Vincent is already dead, as he held many compromising secrets regarding the circumstances of Anicet's arrest. Other sources, however, claim that the two informants were personally involved in racketeering as well as in networks trafficking gasoline and traditional cloth from the DRC. Finally, it is important to note that the Hilux vehicle used to carry out this kidnapping is believed to belong to Police Brigadier General Domitien Niyonkuru.

V. 1.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES (the following of page 16)

Cases of people kidnapped by the soldiers:

Ex2: On June 5, 2026, a soldier known as Bizimana Gérard was kidnapped 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. People wearing 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 worried about his safety, especially since the kidnappers are believed to be state agents in uniform.

Cases of people kidnapped by strangers:

Ex3: A retired soldier missing in Mugere commune, Bujumbura province

Jean Claude Nduwimana, a retired soldier originally from Gitaba hill in Rutana commune and province, and living in the Busoro neighborhood, Kanyosha zone, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province, has gone missing. He left his home on the morning of June 20, 2026, to go exercise, but he hasn't returned since. His family hasn't heard from him to this day.

V.1.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

The right to physical integrity is protected in Burundi by several constitutional and legal provisions, as well as by international commitments. The Constitution of Burundi guarantees the right to life, liberty, and personal security. It prohibits torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. The Burundian Penal Code punishes violations of physical integrity, including intentional violence, assault and battery, as well as sexual assault.

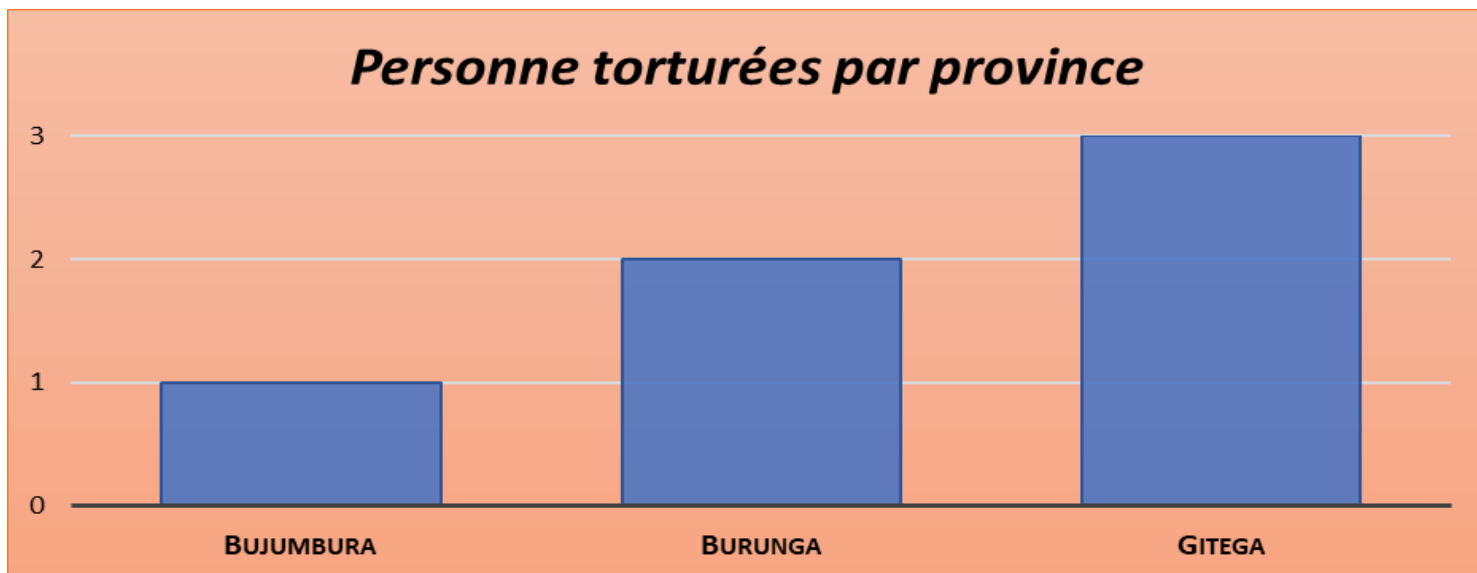
V.1.2.1. ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENTS OR TREATMENTS

In total, 5 cases of torture were recorded by the Iteka League across the country during the period covered by this report. Out of these 5 cases, 6 people were tortured, 4 men and 2 women. As the table below shows, the affected provinces are Gitega with 3 victims, Burunga with 2 victims, and Bujumbura with 1 victim.

Figure 7: Illustrative chart of people tortured during the period from May to June 2026

Province	Case of tortures	Number of victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	0	0	0	0
Bujumbura	1	1	1	0
Burunga	2	2	2	0
Butanyerera	0	0	0	0
Gitega	2	3	1	2
Overall total	5	6	4	2

V.1.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 17)



Documented cases:

Cases of inhuman treatment by police

Ex1: On the night of May 10, 2026, around 11:00 p.m., at the Kabezi displacement camp in the 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 was when the police officers guarding the residence of the Mugere commune administrator intervened. Instead of stepping in to calm the dispute, the police officers viciously 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: A shopkeeper named Léandre Nsabiraduha, a resident of the Bururi neighborhood in the commune of Bururi, Burunga Province, was assaulted on June 24, 2026, around 4:00 p.m. by police officers at the Kiryama station, located in the commune of Matana, Burunga Province, according to information from local sources. While attempting to obtain fuel, his black Probox-model vehicle drove through the barrier set up by the police officers in charge of managing fuel distribution.

He then got out of his vehicle to inquire about the situation. A police officer, Staff Sergeant Nzoyisaba J. Claude, stationed in Ruvumu, in the commune of Songa, detained him. The officer and other colleagues, whose names remain unknown to this day, kicked him in the chest.

In critical condition, the victim was transported to Bururi Hospital by this police officer and two other officers who were waiting to be served, under the authority of the Matana municipal police commissioner. This police officer is currently covering all medical expenses related to Léandre's care at Bururi Hospital, where he is in Room 27. This information has also been confirmed by the victim, who is demanding that this police officer and his colleagues be punished. As of June 27, 2026, Léandre remained hospitalized at that facility.

V.1.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 17)

Torture by government agents:

Ex3: 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 accused 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 district office. Niyogushima, who can no longer walk, refused 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.

V.1.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/ RAPE

During the period covered by this report, a total of 19 cases involving 21 victims were recorded by the Iteka League, including 16 women and 5 men. Of the 22 people, 6 are adults and 16 are children. Among the 21 GBV victims, 13 were rapes, of which 10 were minor girls.

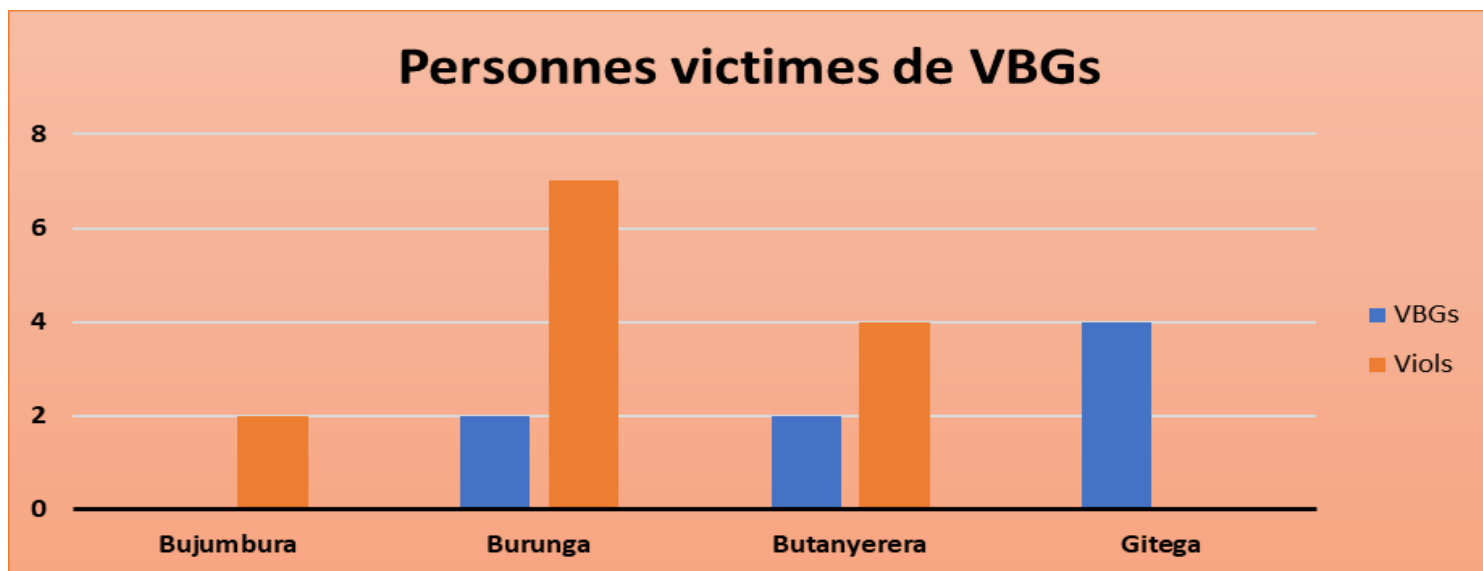
Province	Cases of GBV	Number of victims		Men	Women
		GBV	Rape		
Buhumuza	0	0	0	0	0
Bujumbura	2	0	2	0	2
Burunga	9	2	7	1	8
Butanyerera	6	2	4	3	3
Gitega	2	4	0	1	3
Overall total	19	8	13	5	16



Anyone should be respected

V.1.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULTS (the following of page 19)

Figure 6: Illustrative chart of people affected by GBV during the period from March to April 2026.



Cas d'illustrations :

Ex1: According to information received by the Iteka League on May 25, 2026, on May 20, 2026, on Kanyenkoko Hill, in the Rumonge commune, Burunga province, F. S., a 14-year-old sixth-grade student at the Congolese school, was raped by the alleged perpetrator named Kampaya, a Congolese national residing on the same hill, who is 14 years old according to his statement during the police interrogation. The alleged perpetrator had no proof to demonstrate that he was a minor. The victim was taken to Rumonge Hospital, and the alleged perpetrator was detained in the holding cell at the Rumonge police station before being released due to a lack of documentation refuting his status as a minor.

The incident occurred when the alleged perpetrator attempted to call the girl and then led her to an unoccupied house to lock her inside and commit the act. It was the parents who noticed the child's absence, began searching for her, and found her in that house.

Ex2: A Girl Raped on Mutambara Hill, Gatete Area, Rumonge Commune, Burunga Province Information received by the Iteka League on June 28, 2026, indicates that on June 10, 2026, on Mutambara Hill, in the Gatete area of Rumonge Commune, Burunga Province, a girl named N. A, a 13-year-old student at Ecofo Mutambara 2, was raped. The alleged perpetrator is Ndayishimiye Idi, a 22-year-old shopkeeper, who lured her into his shop by offering her doughnuts and then raped her.

Passersby saw the child come out crying; they took her to the Humura Center in Rumonge for comprehensive care, and the alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to the zonal detention center before being transferred to the Rumonge municipal police station's detention center

Ex3: 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.

V.1.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULTS (the following of page 20)

According to local sources, the incident occurred around 5:00 p.m. on Kimina Hill, at the hotel owned by the rapist, who is known as Alexandre BIRIKUNZIRA. He called the girl and asked her to come to the hotel to collect her school fees.

The girl went there, and he welcomed her into a room. He began touching her and asked her to have sex with him 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 a doctor to ensure she was protected against disease. The alleged perpetrator fled after learning that the child had reported everything.

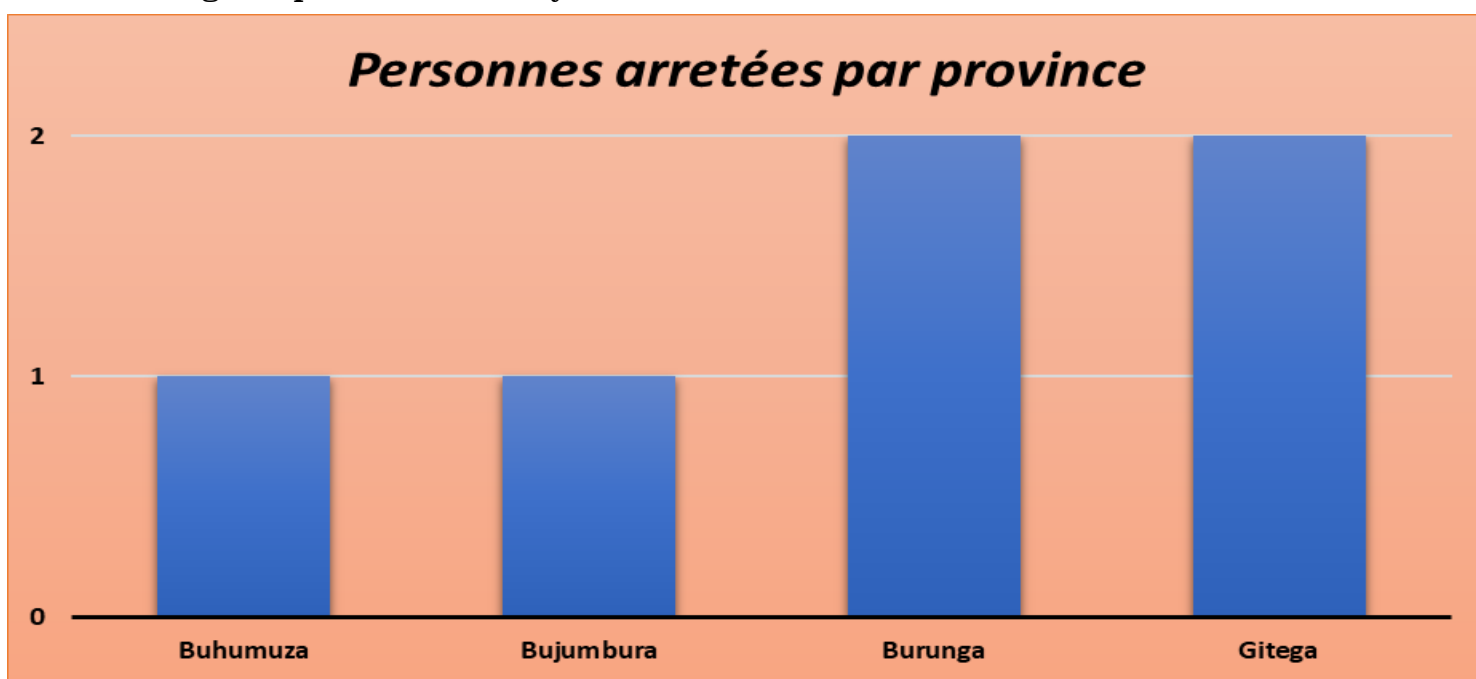
V.1.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

V.1.3.1. ARRESTS AND ARBITRARY DETENTIONS

The Iteka League recorded a total of 6 arrest cases across the entire territory during the period covered by this report. The provinces of Burunga and Gitega each had 2 arrests, while the provinces of Bujumbura and Buhumuza each had 1 victim.

Province	Cases of arrests	Number of victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	1	1	1	0
Bujumbura	1	1	1	0
Burunga	2	2	2	0
Butanyerera	0	0	0	0
Gitega	2	2	2	0
Overall total	6	6	6	0

Figure 9: Illustrative chart of people who were victims of arbitrary arrests and detentions during the period from May to June 2026



V.1.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM (the following of page 21)

Illustration case:

Cases of people arbitrarily arrested by police

Ex1: Since Monday, May 4, 2025, a man named Séverin Bigirimana, a teacher at the Nyabihunge Elementary School in the Bururi commune, Burunga province, has been detained in the police holding cell 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 denigrating and insulting three members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party who were elected from this neighborhood, but 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 that he be released unconditionally so he can return to work.

Ex2: A man named Claude, an employee of the Bancobu Bank branch in Mwaro, has been detained at the Mwaro Provincial Police Station, located in Gatare, for one week (as of the morning of Monday, June 15, 2026).

This detention follows an incident between him and Uwayezu Claude, a prominent member of the ruling party in Mwaro, while they were at a nightclub on Saturday, June 13, 2026. The confrontation stemmed from Claude's (a bank teller) refusal to congratulate Uwayezu Claude, who was recently appointed head of the ruling party's Imbonerakure Youth League in the Mwaro area.

Uwayezu also serves as head of the health department in the municipality of Mwaro, a position he has held since the country's administrative reorganization, which took place a year ago.

Information gathered on the ground indicates that Uwayezu Claude filed a complaint with police authorities, accusing him of assaulting a leader ("yakubise urwego"). Uwayezu has a habit of provoking others in entertainment venues, relying on his affiliation with the ruling party an attitude that constitutes an abuse of power and is carried out with total impunity.

V.1.3.2. PRISON SITUATION IN BURUNDI

The Iteka League, through this report focused on prisons, shows that between May and June, there was a decrease in the number of people behind bars. This reflects efforts made to ease prison overcrowding. Still, in some prisons, the numbers remain worrying.

Prisons	Capacity	May 2026	June 2026
BUBANZA	200	434	393
BURURI	250	305	261
CMCL RUMONGE	72	97	90
CMCL RUYIGI	72	50	44
GITEGA	400	1456	1327
MPIMBA	800	4230	4125
MURAMVYA	100	1063	827
MUYINGA	300	606	569
NGOZI F	250	199	206
NGOZI H	400	1841	1807
RUMONGE	800	1471	1481
RUTANA	350	448	418
RUYIGI	300	780	668
General Total	4294	12980	12216

V.1.3.2. PRISON SITUATION IN BURUNDI (the following of page 22)

Figure 10: Illustrative chart comparing different prisons



It's important to acknowledge this effort, which is starting to show results. The most significant reductions were observed in the following places:

- ⇒ **Mpimba:** -105 inmates (from 4,230 to 4,125);
- ⇒ **Gitega:** -129 inmates (from 1,456 to 1,327);
- ⇒ **Muramvya:** -236 inmates (from 1,063 to 827), making it the largest decrease;
- ⇒ **Ruyigi:** -112 inmates (from 780 to 668);
- ⇒ **Ngozi H:** -34 inmates (from 1,841 to 1,807);
- ⇒ **Muyinga:** -37 inmates (from 606 to 569).

On the other hand, two facilities have seen a slight increase in their numbers:

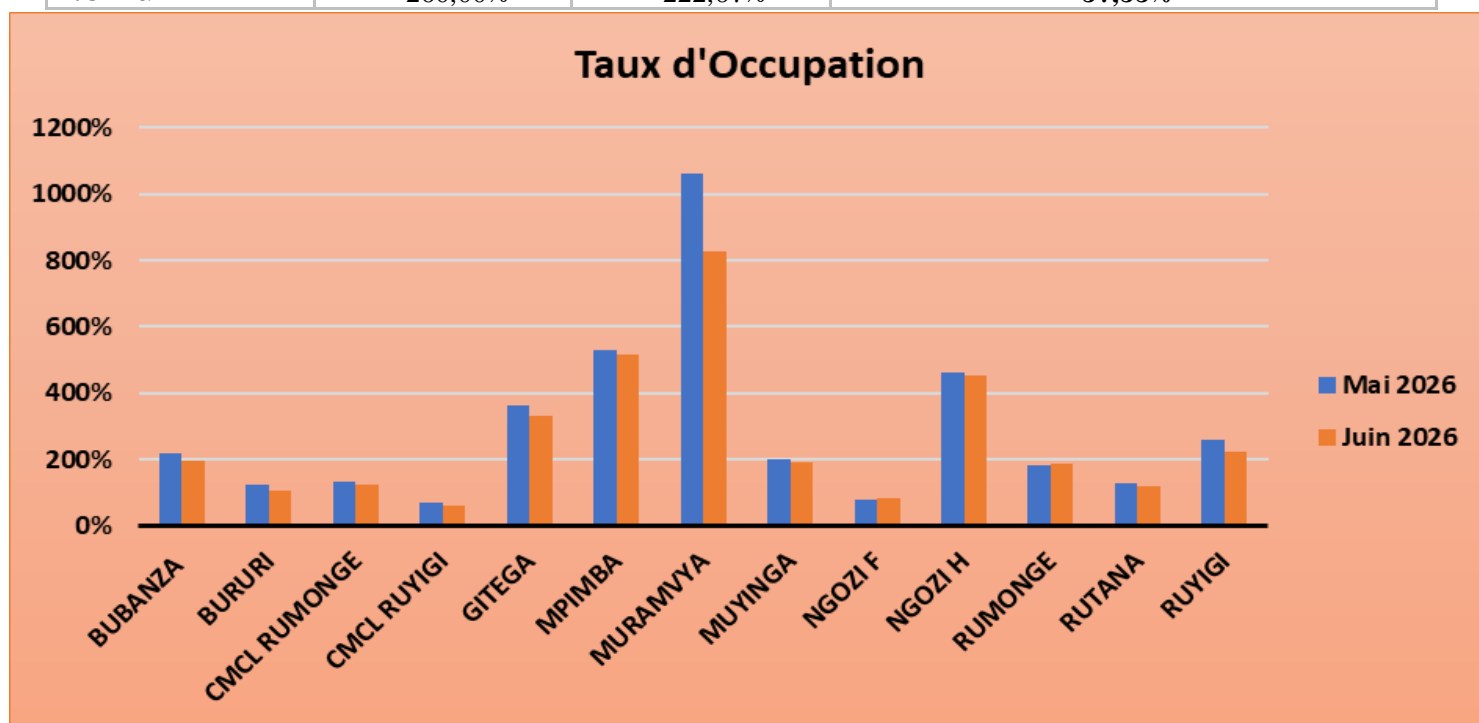
- ⇒ **Ngozi F:** +7 inmates (from 199 to 206);
- ⇒ **Rumonge:** +10 inmates (from 1,471 to 1,481).

Note: These numbers don't exactly reflect how many people left each prison, especially considering there are both releases and new arrivals; they just confirm that there were more releases than new entries.

V.1.3.2. PRISON SITUATION IN BURUNDI (the following of page 23)

Figure 11: Graph showing the occupancy rates in different prisons

Prisons	May 2026	June 2026	Rate changes from May to June 2026
BUBANZA	217,00%	196,50%	-20,50%
BURURI	122,00%	104,40%	-17,60%
CMCL RU-MONGE	134,72%	125,00%	-9,72%
CMCL RUYIGI	69,44%	61,11%	-8,33%
GITEGA	364,00%	331,75%	-32,25%
MPIMBA	528,75%	515,63%	-13,12%
MURAMVYA	1063,00%	827,00%	-236,00%
MUYINGA	202,00%	189,67%	-12,33%
NGOZI F	79,60%	82,40%	2,80%
NGOZI H	460,25%	451,75%	-8,50%
RUMONGE	183,88%	185,13%	1,25%
RUTANA	128,00%	119,43%	-8,57%
RUYIGI	260,00%	222,67%	-37,33%



The data shows a general decrease in prison occupancy rates, going from 302.28% in May 2026 to 284.49% in June 2026, which represents a reduction of 17.79%. This change indicates a slight improvement in overcrowding, although occupancy levels remain extremely high in most facilities. Despite this overall drop, the issue of overcrowding is still particularly worrying in several prisons. Among the most crowded facilities in June 2026 are:

- ⇒ **Muramvya**, with 827 inmates for 100 spots, over eight times its capacity;
- ⇒ **Mpimba**, with 4,125 inmates for 800 spots;
- ⇒ **Ngozi H**, with 1,807 inmates for 650 spots;
- ⇒ **Gitega**, with 1,327 inmates for 400 spots;
- ⇒ **Rumonge**, with 1,481 inmates for 800 spots.

V.2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Economic, social, and cultural rights, known as second-generation rights, are set out in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Burundi ratified this pact on March 14, 1990, and incorporated it into its 2018 Constitution, particularly in Article 19. One thing about these rights is that they are often realized gradually, unlike civil and political rights. The signatory states, including Burundi, commit to ensuring the exercise of these rights based on the resources they have available.

II.2.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE.

Between May and June in Burundi, the economy was severely impacted by the events of June 11 and 13, 2026, marked by a prayer service for former President Nkurunziza at Agasaka Stadium. However, this event sparked tensions, as people without sufficient income most of whom were not affiliated with the CNDD-FDD were forced to make mandatory contributions. School principals, prefects, and teachers were required to pay 15,000, 5,000, and 2,000 FRBU, respectively. Female fruit vendors at the Ngozi market expressed their dissatisfaction with the additional fees for the event. While the first day passed calmly, the situation deteriorated on the second day, with Imbonerakure forcing a halt to agricultural activities. The police imposed strict restrictions, closing shops and markets until 6:00 p.m. On the final day, protests broke out, reflecting frustrations over the imposed contributions and financial losses.

In Muyinga, the CNDD-FDD's communal secretary intensified calls for donations, in addition to the monthly requirements to support the party's local offices. Conditions also deteriorated in Muramvya, where food prices soared, despite a price control decree. Farmers in Matana and Bururi in Burunga Province were in crisis, facing a fertilizer shortage. Despite advance payments to the ministry, authorities announced that stocks had been depleted for Season C, with no resupply planned. The Prime Minister acknowledged the difficulties caused by increased demand for assistance and import complications. Although ideas for liberalizing the sector had been discussed, no concrete action had been taken, leaving farmers concerned about local production and food security.

II.2.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

In May and June, access to education in Burundi was severely disrupted, leading to more than 3,400 students including 1,513 girls dropping out of school in Rumonge. These dropouts are primarily attributable to poverty, academic difficulties, health problems, and early pregnancies affecting approximately 80 young girls. These circumstances jeopardize students' academic performance. Living near the shores of Lake Tanganyika, some young people turn to trade or fishing to support themselves. Stakeholders in the education sector are calling for increased support for vulnerable families and are working to prevent early pregnancies.

The government is planning an education system reform for the 2026–2027 school year, aimed at addressing gaps in French language proficiency and improving teacher training. Evaluations have also highlighted unnecessary grade repetition in certain subjects. A tenth-grade class will be introduced for the 2027–2028 school year, along with plans to reestablish boarding schools for seventh-grade students and introduce a dining service at the University of Burundi. Teachers' unions support these initiatives.

In May, a 7-year-old student, Jean de Dieu, was expelled from École Sagesse Kabere following an assault, a decision his family considered excessive. Additionally, students are forced to participate in labor for the CNDD-FDD party, raising serious concerns among parents about missed classes. Cases of intimidation and threats of exclusion from exams in the event of non-participation have

II.2.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 25)

been reported. Finally, students in Muramvya are required to provide banana leaves and work on coffee plantations that belong not to the school but to the ruling party, raising questions about the interruption of academic activities in favor of political ones within the educational system.

V.2.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

In terms of public health, Burundi faced significant disruptions during the period covered by this report. Since late April 2026, two cases of a mysterious illness have been reported at Kigutu Hospital in the Rumonge commune, Burunga province, presenting with symptoms of hemorrhagic fever, although laboratory tests have not confirmed this hypothesis. On May 8, the district chief medical officer for that region, Dr. Jérémie Niyonkuru, stated that the Ministry of Health would launch an investigation.

Meanwhile, the Karuzi commune in Gitega province suffered a shortage of medications, forcing patients to turn to private pharmacies, thereby making access to free healthcare nearly impossible for pregnant women and young children. Hospitals were facing a shortage of equipment, and underpaid health care workers were struggling, with some having gone several months without receiving a salary.

During this same period, in Rumonge, concerns were growing about a potential Ebola outbreak due to the rise in cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The port of Rumonge, the main point of entry, lacked isolation facilities, thereby exposing employees to risk. Despite a medical assessment, no official statement was able to allay these fears. The administrator of Rumonge, Augustin Minani, organized a meeting to strengthen control measures at entry points by closing secondary checkpoints and directing all travelers to the port. However, these actions failed to reassure the workers, who demanded the establishment of a treatment center compliant with WHO standards to prevent an outbreak.

VI. CONCLUSION

The human rights situation in Burundi in May and June 2026 continues to reveal systematic violations, as in previous periods. The Iteka League and other organizations report the discovery of bodies, arbitrary detentions, torture, and abductions and/or disappearances, illustrating the chronic instability threatening fundamental freedoms; the number of people in prison remains high. These events expose a repressive policy aimed at crushing all political opposition, and freedom of expression is seriously threatened by strict media control. The rights of women and children are also subject to severe violations, including sexual violence against children at an alarming rate. The Iteka League calls on the government and its officials to recognize the need to respect human rights and to implement urgent reforms. This period reflects a continuation of violations and a deterioration in various sectors. It is crucial to initiate coordinated actions and an inclusive national dialogue to strengthen the protection of human rights.



Anyone should be respected