



BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

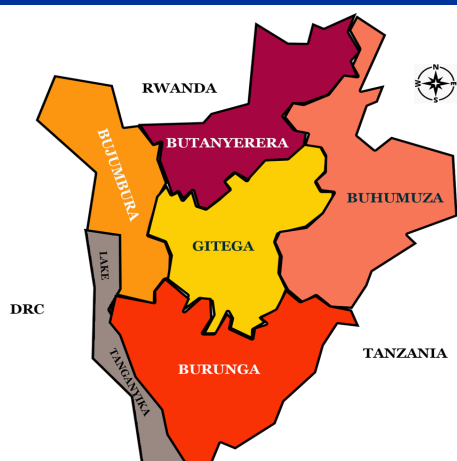
WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

Anyone should be respected

N°535 from 13 to 19 July 2026

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



In memory of Madame Marie Claudette KWIZERA, treasurer of the Iteka League, who has been missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to July 19, 2026, at least 876 victims of forced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 87 victims have reappeared, and 789 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has already communicated at least 252 cases to the government of Burundi.

The ITEKA League:

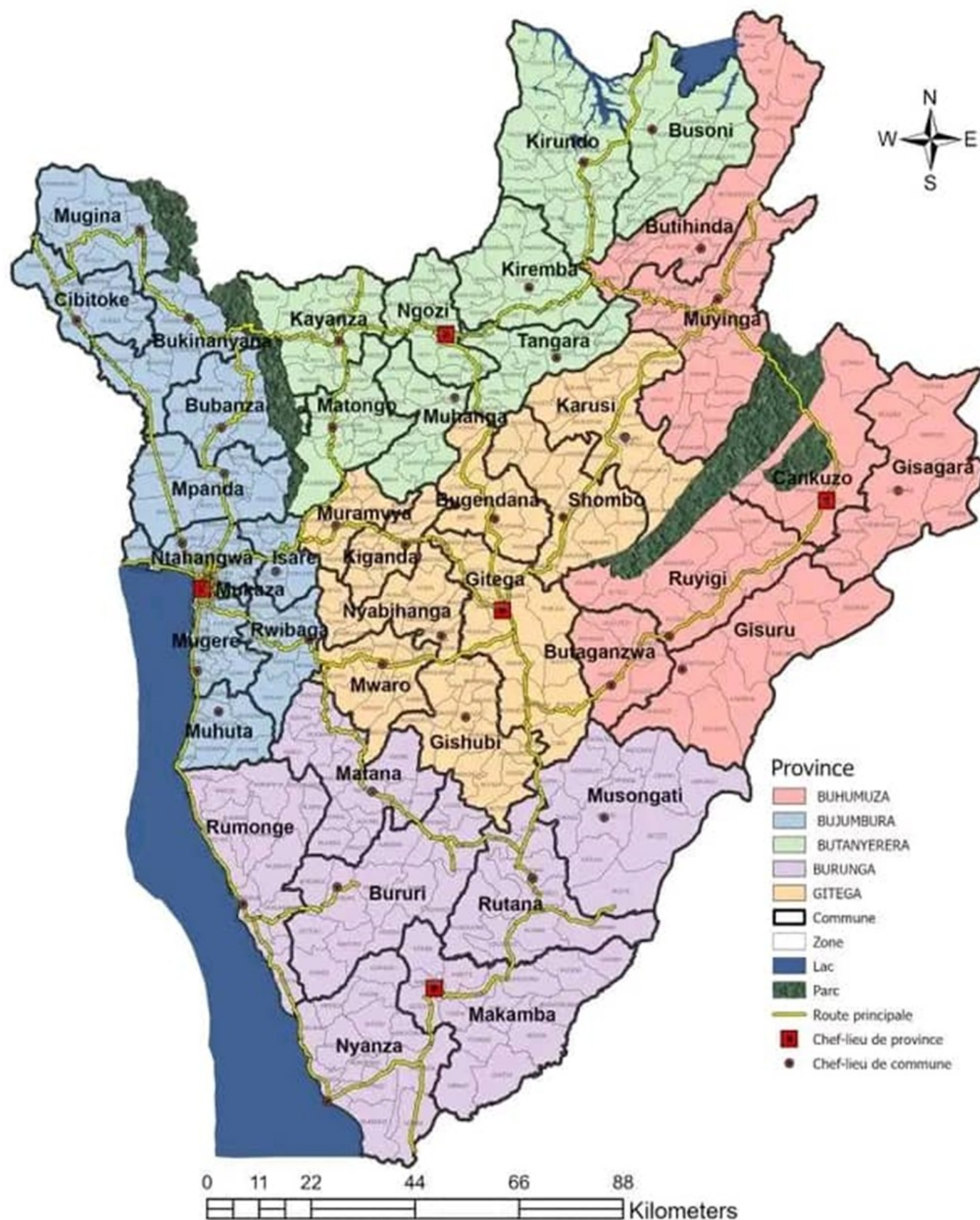
- ♦ 'It is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH),
- ♦ has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236, and is a member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

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ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABUBEF: Burundian Association for Family Well-being

CDS: Health Center

CECI: Independent Communal 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 Freedom

DCE: Communal Directorate of Education

DPE: Provincial Directorate of Education

ECOFO: Fundamental School

FARDC: Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo

FDLR: Rwandan Defense and Liberation Forces

M23: March 23 Movement

OBR: Burundian Revenue Office

OPJ: Chief Police Officer

OTB: Burundi Tea Office

RDC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

RN: National Road

UPRONA: Union for National Progress

TGI: High Court

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of July 13-19, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, judicial, security, and environmental context. It also analyzes illustrative incidents of violations of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League during this period are as follows: at least 7 people killed, including 2 whose bodies were found, 2 suicides, and 8 people who died in accidents during the Kanguka crusade. Among those killed was 1 child who died in circumstances that remain unclear and suggest infanticide. There were 6 victims of gender-based violence, including 4 victims of rape, comprising 3 minors and 1 adult woman. In addition, 1 person was arbitrarily arrested.

Members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party's youth wing, police officers, and administrative officials are accused of being the main perpetrators of these human rights violations.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Interruption of the UPRONA meeting in Muyinga Commune, Buhumuza Province

On July 11, 2026, a meeting of the UPRONA party committee was scheduled for Muyinga Hill in the Muyinga Zone and Commune of the new Buhumuza Province.

According to local sources, the President of the UPRONA Party, the Honorable Olivier Nkurunziza, had arrived to speak with party members in the Muyinga Commune. However, they were unable to hold the meeting as planned.

The same sources indicate that just as they were about to begin their meeting at the UPRONA party headquarters, the Muyinga Zone Chief, Mr. Ndayavugwa Abdoul Karim, sent a group of Imbonerakure (youth wing of the ruling party) accompanied by the

Commissioner of the Judicial Police in the Muyinga Commune to interrupt them. They were ordered to stop the meeting and leave. Thus, the President of the UPRONA Party returned to Bujumbura without any explanation.

It should be noted that the previous week, another meeting of the UPRONA party committee in Cankuzo commune had also been cancelled, and this comes after the party's central committee announced that it would not be fielding candidates in the May 2027 presidential elections due to irregularities.

Hearing and submission for deliberation of the case on the management of the CNL at the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court adjourned its deliberations on Thursday, July 16, 2026, in the case between Agathon Rwaswa and Nestor Girukwishaka concerning the leadership of the National Congress for Liberty (CNL). This major judicial decision marks a key step in the protracted conflict over the party's direction. The court's decision in this high-stakes case is now expected within 60 days, a deadline eagerly awaited by political observers and party members alike.

Indeed, the Supreme Court in Bujumbura, Burundi, convened for the third hearing in the

leadership dispute between Agathon Rwaswa and Nestor Girukwishaka. This third hearing in the trial demonstrates the complexity and persistence of the legal battle. The hearing was held in the economic capital, marking a new stage in this high-profile case that has captured national attention.

According to our sources at the court, Agathon Rwaswa attended the hearing in person, demonstrating his direct involvement in the legal proceedings. Nestor Girukwishaka, the other party to the dispute,

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

was represented by his lawyer, who presented his defense before the judges. The court heard arguments from both sides while continuing to deliberate on the party's leadership, meticulously examining the evidence and legal arguments presented by the respective legal teams. The legal proceedings are being closely monitored, given the CNL's importance as a political force in Burundi.

This verdict comes as Burundi approaches the 2027 presidential election, scheduled for that year, making the resolution of the internal CNL conflict particularly timely. The outcome of the trial could have a significant impact on the CNL's role in the next electoral cycle and potentially reshape the country's political landscape and the dynamics of the opposition.

It should be noted that this conflict over the leadership of the CNL party began in March 2023 with an extraordinary congress held in Ngozi. This event triggered the current legal battle. At this congress, delegates elected

Nestor Girukwishaka as head of the CNL for a five-year term, a decision immediately contested by Agathon Rwasa and his supporters.

The resolutions from this congress were subsequently confirmed by the former Burundian Minister of the Interior, Martin Niteretse. Minister Niteretse officially recognized the decisions made at the Ngozi congress, thus endorsing the change in leadership within the party. This confirmation from the Ministry of the Interior formalized Girukwishaka's claim to the party leadership, paving the way for the legal challenge that has now reached the Supreme Court. The minister's recognition demonstrated the government's acceptance of the new leadership structure established at this extraordinary meeting, further entrenching the conflict.

1.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

A man arrested for killing his wife in Rumonge commune, Burunga province.

The Rumonge police, in Burunga province, caught an alleged perpetrator named Jonas Nteturuye, accused of murdering his wife Mukamarakiza Évelyne on October 7, 2025, on Mutambara hill in the Rumonge commune. According to the victim's family, a co-perpetrator in this crime was arrested on July 16, 2026, by the police in the Gihwanya neighborhood of Rumonge town. The victim's family is asking that these alleged perpetrators

be brought before a court. It should be noted that this suspected murderer of his wife Mukamarakiza Évelyne was seen and arrested in the Ruziba neighborhood of the Mugere commune in Bujumbura province. Recall that this alleged perpetrator had strangled his wife on October 7 and had been living in hiding in the Ruziba neighborhood until now.

Conviction in a flagrante delicto trial at Gitega prison in the Commune and Province of Gitega.

A man named Jean Paul Nduwumukama was sentenced this Thursday, July 16, 2026 by the High Court of Gitega in a flagrante trial that took place at the central prison of Gitega to a life sentence in prison as well as the payment of compensation of one hundred (100) million francs. It was at the time when on Friday, July 11, 2026, on 5th Avenue of the Nyamugari district of the city of Gitega, Jean Paul Nduwumukama had killed his older brother Jean Pierre Nduwayezu with a machete

following land conflicts. Jean Paul Nduwumukama pleaded not guilty while specifying that he had not taken part in this crime. According to the president of the headquarters, in the event of non-payment of the one hundred (100) million francs bu, Jean Paul Nduwumukama will be sentenced by imprisonment for five hundred (500) years and will then have to pay this sum.

1.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

Complaints from the population against the oppressor are multiplying in the Nkonge area, Kayanza commune, in Butanyerera province.

In the commune of Kayanza (specifically in the Nkonge area, formerly part of the Muruta commune), a man named Evariste held the position of area chief. An influential member of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD, he exercised his authority oppressively, using his political affiliation to intimidate the population.

According to information gathered on site, while in office, he expressed his intention to buy land. As soon as he learned that someone wished to sell even a small plot, he would buy it, particularly targeting land adjacent to larger properties owned by the seller. After the purchase and initial surveying, he would secretly move the boundary markers to enlarge his property and begin cultivating the land he had thus acquired. He would then falsify the necessary property documents himself. He frequently targeted Tutsis with these tactics, seeking to harass and intimidate them into fleeing the area; at least six such cases have been documented.

If a victim attempted to file a complaint against him for these abuses, the zone chief would present his forged documents to the local authorities. Fearing this influential man, the

authorities would refrain from awarding the plot to him. He justified his actions by claiming that Tutsis had a history of dispossessing others and were now trying to steal from him, even though he had legally purchased the land.

The seller often ended up in prison, accused of insulting the zone chief and attempting to rob him. As a high-ranking party official, he was untouchable; even the local mediation council would ultimately validate the boundaries as the chief had moved them, leaving the victim with no recourse. A report was drawn up mentioning the placement of boundary markers on the land and alleging that the seller had attempted to resell a plot already acquired by the zone chief.

The latter has since been dismissed from his position due to his lack of formal training. The citizens he dispossessed are now filing lawsuits to try to reclaim their land. The Kayanza High Court is preparing to travel to the Nkonge area to summon all those involved and rule on their cases. According to the latest reports, Evariste, the former zone chief, has fled.

1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT

MUGINA: Tensions between Rwandans and Burundians around the Ruhwa River.

The week of July 13-19, 2026, was marked by a risk of clashes amid tensions between Burundians from Mugina commune and Rwandans from Rusizi district. On Tuesday, July 14, 2026, these tensions erupted at the Ruhwa River, which separates Burundi and Rwanda, in the Nyamakarabo area, Nyamakarabo hill. The two sides exchanged stones, with the Rwandans retaliating against Burundian provocations. The conflict, which centered on a riverfront area, was triggered by gold mining activities.

Similar events occurred on Friday, July 17, in the Ruhororo area, Miremera hill. This was also related to gold mining. Our sources on the

ground indicate that Imbonerakure youth wing meetings had taken place shortly beforehand to create conflict situations that would provoke a response from the Rwandan army a way for Burundi to attract the attention of the international community. These meetings were exacerbated by hate speech against Rwanda, delivered throughout the week by various CNDD-FDD party officials in Bujumbura province, who were conducting raids across the province.

These conflicts involved gold miners digging underground tunnels towards Rwanda. The Rwandan army and administration calmed

1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

the situation, and the Burundian army also managed the situation, although the local Burundian administration did not intervene.

With both areas affected by these tensions located near the Kibira River, which shelters both the Burundian army and FDLR rebels,

fear grips the residents of Mugina, who dread an escalation of tensions that could lead to a wider conflict between Burundi and Rwanda. These residents are calling on Burundian leaders to engage in dialogue with the leaders of neighboring Rwanda to prevent war.

Eight people died in a stampede accident during the Kanguka crusade in Bujumbura

On July 18, 2026, on the grounds of ETS Kamenge, a tragic event occurred following the Kanguka Evangelistic Crusade. That day, excitement and enthusiasm quickly turned to chaos. As people emerged from the main gate, a massive crowd surged forward, pushing and shoving in a disorderly surge that led to the collapse of the walls, plunging the scene into panic and devastation.

In this tumultuous situation, many people were injured, while others struggled to breathe. The consequences of this incident were devastating. At King Khared Hospital, six of those evacuated died: five women and one man. Four others, two women and two men, remain in intensive care, all suffering from serious injuries. Similarly, the Military Hospital

recorded the deaths of two women, whose bodies were transferred to the morgue, while five other women were also being treated for various injuries.

According to local sources at the hospitals, it should be noted that apart from one person at King Khaled Hospital and another at the Military Hospital who presented visible injuries, the other victims showed no apparent signs of physical harm. This suggests that they died of suffocation. That day, a profound sense of sadness descended upon everyone, marked by the loss and suffering of those affected by this tragedy.

Two people dead in Tangara commune, Butanyerera province

Two people from the Tangara commune in Butanyerera province committed suicide within 4 days. On July 13, 2026, on Kamira hill, Kananira area, Tangara commune, Butanyerera province, 44-year-old Ndayizeye Libert was found hanging from a rope. Local officials say this father of five lived in perfect harmony with his family and neighbors.

On July 11, 2026, on the same hill, a 55-year-old woman, a widow and mother of five, also

committed suicide. Tangara commune officials confirm these deaths and say that no reason for these suicides is known. Both were living in perfect harmony with their own families and neighbors. The police are investigating to determine the causes of these deaths.

A child dies in Muyinga commune, Buhumuza province

On July 18 around 1:30 a.m. in the Kinyota neighborhood under Muyaga hill, in the Kungoro area of Muyinga zone, Muyinga commune, Buhumuza Province, a child named Manariyo Adidja died under unclear circumstances. The victim was the child of Kamariza Claudine and Ciza Vianney, but the

two have separated. Kamariza remarried another man named Ciza Patrice, and they settled in the Kinyota neighborhood. The woman says she went to bed with the child in good health and noticed upon waking that the child had died in bed. During the check, there were no marks found on the child's lifeless

1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 8)

body. The child's body was taken to the Muyinga hospital morgue, and the presumed individuals, including Ciza Patrice and

Kamariza Claudine, are being held at the Muyinga PJ cell for a related criminal case.

A person injured in Karuzi commune, Gitega province

On July 17, 2026, at approximately 9:00 PM, in the Vyiniro sub-hill, Gitaramuka hill and zone, Karusi commune, Gitega province, Ntawuyamara Léopold, also known as Issa, a member of the CNDD-FDD party, over 40 years old, was wounded with machetes by Mpawenimana Nestor, a CNDD-FDD member over 25 years old. According to a local source, Nestor was having arguments with his wife, Evelyne, accusing her of having an affair with Issa, but she consistently denied the accusations. According to witnesses in the

area, Nestor ambushed Issa as she was returning from a nightclub on the hill and wounded her three times with a machete, striking her on the head and arms. Bystanders intervened and took the injured man to Buhiga Hospital. The perpetrator was arrested and taken to the Gitaramuka police station. The woman escaped to an unknown location; a search was conducted at her parents' house, but sources on the ground say she has not been seen.

1.4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Bushfires are threatening the Vyanda nature reserve and Nyakabenga Hill in Bururi commune of Burunga province.

Residents living on the edge of the Vyanda nature reserve in Bururi commune, BURUNGA province, indicate that the fires broke out since Thursday July 16, 2026 in this protected area, more precisely in the locality of Muzimu on Karirimvya hill in the Vyanda zone. This is when the agents responsible for the protection of this forest say that the first outbreak of fire was reported last week and it had been brought under control, but a new fire broke out. declared this Friday. The intervention teams managed to extinguish it despite the difficulties of accessing the site marked by rugged terrain, ravines and other obstacles according to the same sources.

These bush fires pose a threat to this forest which is home to a wealth of flora and fauna. Furthermore, another fire quickly brought under control by the population was reported this Friday July 17, 2026 on Nyakabenga hill in the same area. According to the head of this area, this fire was accidental because it was caused by children. Vianney Dushemezimana indicates that the authors of these bush fires which recurrently threaten the fauna and flora of the Vyanda nature reserve of more than

5,000 hectares have not yet been identified but breeders are already suspected of being at the origin, with the aim of facilitating the regrowth of pastures for their livestock. According to him, they are wrong because the law on permanent settlement still remains in force.

This administrative authority calls on its population to be extra vigilant by intervening quickly in the event of a fire. The Agents responsible for protecting this natural area believe that only increased involvement of the local administration will make it possible to prevent these fires and deter their perpetrators. My sources indicate that such fires are reported in vyanda every dry season and many of them are said to be burnt by Imbonerakure youths of the ruling party who will later during the rainy season be responsible for inflicting so-called almonds or simply collecting corruption from the herders whose domestic animals will be caught in the young regrowth (Imiyonga).

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. VOLUNTARY HOMICIDES

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

A man dies from his injuries in Nyanza commune, Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka League indicates that on July 13, 2026, a severely injured man, whose identity remains unknown, died after being found by passersby around 6:00 a.m. on July 12, 2026, on the side of the Mabanda-Mugina road, on Bikobe Hill, Gitara area, Nyanza commune, Burunga province. The circumstances of his death remain unknown, and an investigation is pending.

According to several witnesses, the victim had serious injuries suggesting he had been violently beaten. He was bleeding from the nose and also had marks on his wrists, suggesting he may have been tied up before being attacked. Witnesses also indicated that a significant amount of blood was visible on his face.

The first people to arrive stated that the man was still breathing when they approached him.

When asked what he wanted to drink, he reportedly asked for beer. The residents eventually brought him milk, but he died before he could be rescued.

According to information gathered at the scene, the man had been brutally beaten elsewhere during the night of July 11-12, 2026, before being left at the location where he was found. His body was transferred to the morgue at Rusenyi Hospital, located in the Mabanda area of Nyanza commune, where it is being held pending further investigation and possible identification.

At this time, administrative authorities and security services have not yet commented on the circumstances of his death. An investigation is expected to identify the perpetrators of this attack and establish the facts.

A bike repairman murdered in Makamba commune, Burunga province

Kabura Yared, a motorcycle mechanic well-known to local residents, was found dead on the morning of July 14, 2026, on Mushasha Hill, Kayogoro area, Makamba commune, Burunga province.

According to local sources, the victim was allegedly stoned to death before his body was found tied to a cross. Local authorities in Kigaza, Dunga area, his hometown, described him as a man with no criminal record, well-liked in his community.

Two people have been arrested as part of the investigation. According to reports, one of them suffers from mental illness. Residents

are demanding that the investigation be carried out fully to establish the exact circumstances of the murder and identify all those responsible.

This latest homicide adds to a series of crimes that are fueling a deep sense of insecurity in the former Kayogoro commune. In recent months, several people have been murdered there and their bodies found in the Maragarazi River, which marks the border between Burunga province and Tanzania.



Anyone should be respected

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 10)

A lifeless body found in Muhanga commune, Butanyerera province

On July 14, 2026, at approximately 4:00 PM, a lifeless body was found on the banks of the Ruvubu River on Muhanga Hill, Muhanga Commune, Butanyerera Province.

Akimana Belyse was married on July 11, 2026. On July 13, 2026, Belyse was struck by an illness of unknown origin. Her husband called upon religious leaders to pray, and the illness disappeared. On July 14, 2026, at approximately 10:00 AM, Belyse and her husband went to the small market near their home to buy charcoal. On the way, Belyse told her husband she was returning home to get a

bag for the charcoal. Her husband waited, but Belyse did not return. Her husband went back home, and the neighbors reported that she had not returned. The neighbors helped her husband search everywhere, but to no avail. Around 4 p.m., Belyse was found dead. Her body was on the bank of the Ruvubu River. There were no signs on her body indicating drowning or any other trace of foul play. The investigation is ongoing, but no results have been reported so far.

II.1.1.2. PEOPLE WHO DIED AS A RESULT OF SETTLING SCORES

Death of a man after an attack in Mutaho Commune, Gitega Province.

On Saturday, July 11, 2026, around 9:00 PM, a fight unexpectedly broke out at the Ikirezi Hotel, located on Mutaho Hill in the Bugendana commune of Gitega province. The incident involved Mpitabakana Antoine and a man known as "The Man." According to our well-informed source, Thierry, Antoine's son, quickly intervened to defend his father and beat "The Man."

Later, as "The Man" was walking home, he was allegedly intercepted at a checkpoint by another of Antoine's sons, nicknamed Kabebe, who was accompanied by a man named Biyuki.

The two men reportedly brutally beat "The Man," leaving him seriously injured and in critical condition.

The victim was then rushed to Mutaho Hospital, where she tragically died on the afternoon of Friday, July 17, 2026. Following these disturbing and violent events, Antoine Mpitabakana and his son Thierry were arrested and are currently being held in the Mutaho police station. Meanwhile, the two other suspects, Kabebe and Biyuki, are still at large and actively being sought by police.

II.2. PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

II. 2.1. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

II.2.1.1. RAPES

A young girl raped in Rusabagi, Rumonge commune

Information received by the Iteka League on July 15, 2026, indicates that on July 11, 2026, around 3:00 PM, in Gitaba Hill, Rusabagi area, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, a 15-year-old girl named K. J. was raped. The incident occurred when she was collecting firewood in the bush and encountered Mr. Habonayo Claver, 40 years old, who raped her

after threatening to kill her if she dared reveal anything. Despite this, she told her parents what had happened, and they took her to the Muyange health center for medical treatment. The perpetrator was arrested and taken to the zonal jail and then to the Rumonge municipal police station.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 11)

A child raped in Rumonge commune, Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka League on July 13, 2026, indicates that a child from Mutambara Hill, Gatete area, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, was a victim of rape. The incident happened in the evening of July 3, 2026, around 6 PM. The parents noticed their child was missing from home and started searching around the neighborhood. Passersby then alerted them after hearing

cries for help coming from a gutter on Gatete Hill.

The victim was found and taken to Rumonge Hospital for medical care. The alleged perpetrator has not yet been identified. According to the child's parents, he reportedly fled immediately after the incident.

A minor raped in Rumonge commune, Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka League on July 13, 2026, indicates that on July 10, 2026, a minor from Nkayamba Hill, in the city of Rumonge, known as M. ch, aged 14, was a victim of rape. The alleged perpetrator, named Emile Ndayisenga, was identified by the

police, arrested, and held in the Rumonge police station detention cell. The child received medical care at the ABUBEF branch located in the main town of the Rumonge commune.

A woman was the victim of a nighttime attack in Kigwena, Rumonge commune, Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka League on July 13, 2026 indicates that a 38-year-old woman named Nd. E was a victim of rape on Cabana hill, Kigwena zone, Rumonge commune, Burunga province. According to local authorities, two men forced their way into her home on the night of June 9, 2026, taking advantage of her husband's absence.

The victim screamed for help. Neighbors intervened and one of the alleged perpetrators named Adrien Ndikuriyo was arrested by the police before being taken to the Rumonge dungeon. The second suspect managed to flee, according to the same sources.

II.2.2. OTHER GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A woman was beaten by her husband in Kiganda Commune in Gitega Province.

On July 11, 2026, on Nkonyovu Hill in the Rutegama area of Kiganda commune, a family dispute erupted, and a woman was severely beaten. Hatungimana Valérie, a 33-year-old woman married to a 39-year-old man named Ntungwanayo Ezechiel, was the victim of this attack. Ntungwanayo had abandoned his family in September 2025.

He had left his home to be with a mistress living in Bubanza commune. He had been absent for over seven months, leaving his wife and children in a precarious situation. When Ntungwanayo finally returned on July 11, he

violently beat his wife and drove her from their home, causing profound distress to their children, aged 5 and 2.

On Monday, July 13, the victim, still in shock, decided to file a police report. However, the perpetrator had already fled and was nowhere to be found. Following these tragic events, the woman had to return to her family's home while awaiting the outcome of this difficult situation.

II.2.1.2. OTHER GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (the following of page 12)

A woman beaten and chased away by her husband in Rutana commune, Burunga province

On July 16, 2026, in the Karindo neighborhood, Rutana zone and commune, Burunga province, Lydia Nizigiyimana was beaten and kicked out by her husband, Parfait Urakoze, who accused her of having intimate

relationships with other sexual partners. According to local sources, Parfait says that on that day Lydia came home around 9 PM, accompanied by a man he didn't know because the one she was with ran away. Lydia is staying at her place today.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

A young resident of Kinama was illegally arrested in the Ntahangwa commune of Bujumbura province.

The young man known as NIBIRANTIJE Trésor, born on April 14, 2001, son of BIGIRIMANA Seth Prosper and NDACAYISABA Joselyne, living in the Kinama area, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province, is reported to have been illegally arrested by police on July 17, 2026.

According to available information, this young man is a member of the CNL party led by

Agathon Rwasa. He had gone to the court to attend a hearing related to a case involving the CNL party. He was wearing a T-shirt of that party.

When leaving the premises, he is said to have been stopped by police on the grounds that he was wearing this T-shirt. To this day, his family and friends do not know where he is, and his place of detention remains unknown.

III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. ECONOMIC DISRUPTION

On the evening of Sunday, July 19, 2026, in the commune of Bukinanyana, Bujumbura province, a fire ravaged all the stalls behind the Buganda market. Surprisingly, the main market itself was spared. Although no lives were lost, the material losses are immeasurable. Local residents mobilized to fight the flames and managed to bring the fire under control without the intervention of a fire truck, equipment that does not exist in the area.

The administrator of the Bukinanyana commune, Isaac Niyokwizera, expressed his regret over the losses. He urged the traders at the Gasenyi market to build their stalls with more fire-resistant materials, to avoid any practices that could cause a fire, to keep access routes to the market clear to facilitate emergency response, and to insure their businesses with insurance companies. An investigation is expected to determine the cause of the fire. Traders, shaken by the disaster, are expressing their despair. As one

victim recounted, "It was our only source of income," and in a single night, families saw their livelihoods reduced to nothing, plunging them into deep hardship. This tragedy brings back into focus the crucial issue of economic and social rights in Burundi. It comes just ten days after another fire at the central market in Ngozi, which occurred during the night of July 9-10, bringing the number of similar incidents in markets to six in seven months, according to local sources.

The labor law, although enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ratified by Burundi, often remains illusory for thousands of traders. Indeed, the lack of insurance and compensation mechanisms renders this right a mere theory. Civil society organizations have been condemning this lack of resources for years, whether due to the absence of systematic insurance, an insufficient number of fire trucks, or

III.1. ECONOMIC DISRUPTION (the following of page 13)

inadequate public awareness. The example of Bujumbura's central market, still in ruins thirteen years after the fire and affecting nearly 5,000 people, remains etched in people's memories.

In Ngozi, the governor promised swift rehabilitation, but regarding Buganda, the authorities in Cibitoke are still waiting to

publish an official report. More than just an urgent matter, this incident raises structural challenges: it is essential to provide traders with a safe and dignified workspace. Without prevention and repair policies, each fire wipes out years of progress and plunges communities even deeper into poverty.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Iteka League strongly condemns the ongoing deterioration of human rights in Burundi and denounces the impunity of those committing 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 judicial investigations when dead bodies are discovered.
2. Ensure that the families of victims have the right to file complaints and access the findings of autopsy reports before any burial.
3. Take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable.
4. Investigate and severely punish violence against minors, which has become common in Burundi in view of local administrative leaders and other presidential party activists.



Anyone should be respected