



BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

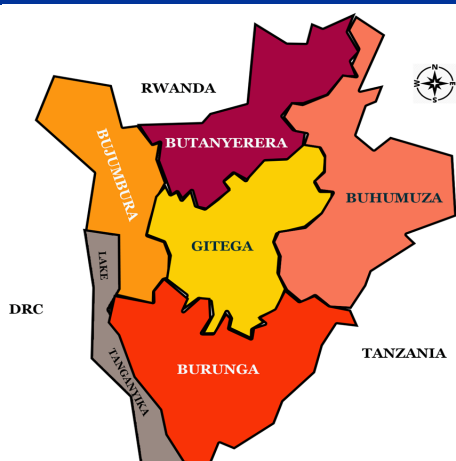
WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

Anyone should be respected

N°539 from 10 to 16 August 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 August 16, 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 victims to the government of Burundi.

The ITEKA League:

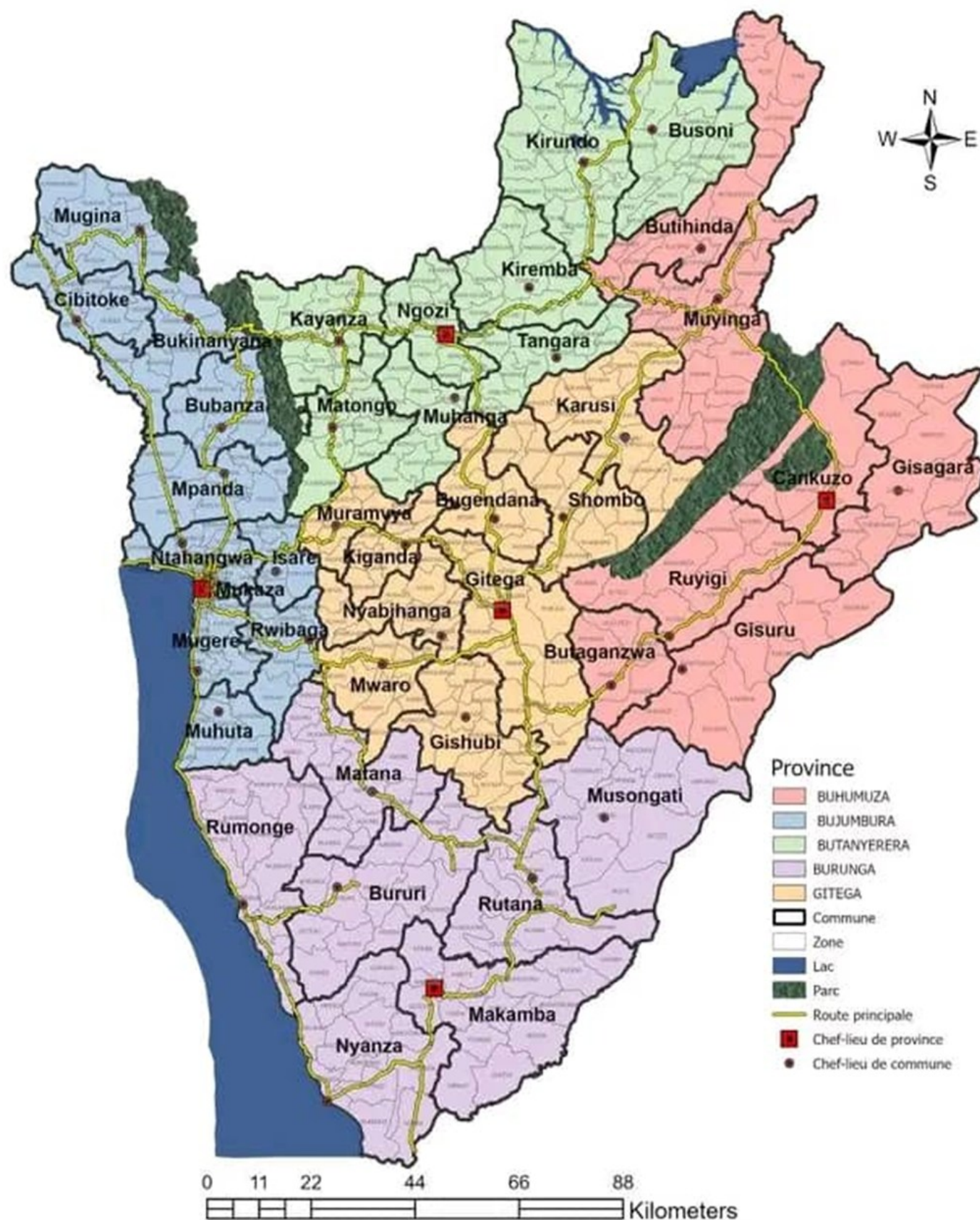
- ♦ 'It is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH),
- ♦ has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236, and is a member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

SUMMARY

0. INTRODUCTION.....	P5
I. CONTEXT.....	P5
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.....	P9
III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.....	P11
IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	P12

ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDISTRIBUTION OF MARCH 16, 2023



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS: Health Center

CECI: Independent Communal Electoral Commission

CEPI: Independent National Provincial Commission

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

CNL: National Congress for Liberty

DCE: Communal Directorate of Education

DPE: Provincial Directorate of Education

ECOFO: Elementary School

OBR: Burundian Revenue Office

RDC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

TABLE OF CONTENT

0. INTRODUCTION.....	5
I. CONTEXT.....	5
I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT.....	5
I.2. SECURITY CONTEXT.....	6
I.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT.....	7
I.4. HEALTH CONTEXT.....	7
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.....	9
II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE.....	9
II.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED AGENTS OR LIFELESS BODIES FOUND.....	9
II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY.....	10
II.2.1. RAPE.....	10
II.3. RIGHT TO LIBERTY.....	10
II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARREST.....	10
III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS	11
III.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION	11
IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	12

0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents the human rights situation in Burundi during the week of August 10 to 16, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also examines the political, security, governance, and health context. It also analyzes illustrative cases of civil and political rights violations that marked this week.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least 5 people killed, all bodies found lifeless, one case of GBV, and 2 people subjected to arbitrary arrests.

The main suspects of these violations are administrative agents, police officers, intelligence service agents, and young Imbonerakure members of the ruling party, CNDD-FDD.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Delay tactics aimed at easing the population's suffering due to the lack of fertilizers provided by the company FOMI, in the Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province.

On August 13, 2026, in the meeting room of the Cankuzo Municipal High School, located near the town center, the zone chief, Jean Bucumi, held a meeting for residents of the Cankuzo hill. Among the topics discussed was the use of organic manure in every household, in accordance with a policy encouraging the digging of compost heaps on properties and plots. This official stated that individuals not digging a compost heap on their land would not be eligible to receive any administrative documents issued by the zone or the municipality.

Furthermore, they would not be able to benefit from the fertilizer distributed by the FOMI company, for which the certificate of compost heap ownership would be issued by the agricultural monitor or the hill chief. According

to witnesses, Jean Bucumi held a dissuasion meeting amid suspicions among the residents of Cankuzo regarding his involvement in the disappearance of FOMI vouchers, which have not been distributed to residents since 2022. For the C growing season, no Cankuzo resident received a bag of FOMI fertilizer, which threatens to significantly reduce agricultural yields.

Furthermore, the zone chief stated that security was satisfactory and reiterated the importance of hygiene and sanitation measures, paving along paved roads, planting avocado and coffee trees, and the mandatory contribution to the second phase of funding for the construction of a five-story provincial office building.

CNDD-FDD party meetings in Gisagara Commune, Buhumuza province.

The CNDD-FDD party held two meetings in the Gisagara area, located in the Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province, on August 13, 2026. One meeting was dedicated to the Imbonerakure youth league, while the other concerned the women's league. The first meeting aimed to prepare for the ruling party's demonstration of strength, scheduled for August 21, 2026, in the Bumba area, also in the same commune.

This preparation saw the participation of the Honorable Shabani NIMUBONA, who took the opportunity to urge the Imbonerakure youth to become the pillars of development. He added that it was imperative for them to make their presence felt everywhere and at all times. The second meeting aimed to mobilize women for the upcoming elections. Ms. Béatrice Hakizimana, President of the Women's League of Buhumuza Province, emphasized the need for women to become

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

more involved in politics in order to both elect and be elected. Meanwhile, another meeting of the ruling party took place in the Butezi area, within the Ruyigi commune. This meeting brought together party members to introduce them to the newly elected communal bodies. Mr. Sylvestre Niyonzima, the new party leader,

took this opportunity to invite members to prepare for the 2027 elections, scheduled for May 3rd.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

Police officers and the Imbonerakure are disturbing the safety of the population following rumors of an external attack.

Since the beginning of August, the population of Bujumbura has been facing numerous social and economic disruptions, as the Imbonerakure youth wing has been conducting increasingly frequent military-style training exercises in various areas and hills of Bujumbura. Our sources indicate that these activities are reported on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays in Bukinanyana, Mpanda, Cibitoke, and Mugina. These activities, which often take place between 2 and 5 a.m., disrupt the sleep of residents. During these training sessions, ethnic hate speech, weapons handling, and combat techniques are reported; a recent example is one such exercise in which one of our sources participated on August 13, 2026, in the Rugajo area of the Mugina commune.

unless they pay the required bribes. As for those who make a living from small-scale trading between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., they face harassment from the Imbonerakure and the police, who often confiscate or damage their goods.

While these Imbonerakure and police disrupt order under the guise of maintaining it, the military, supposedly protecting the country from any invasion, is concentrated on patrolling the mining areas of the communes of Bukinanyana, Cibitoke, and Mugina, where cases of extortion and beatings are also reported.

In the evening, the Imbonerakure and police disrupt traffic and commercial activities, and beat people who do not have identity cards

The population denounces all these maneuvers and believes that these rumors are yet another tactic used by the regime to allow the Imbonerakure, police, and military to profit from them by exploiting civilians.

Desecration of cemeteries in the Matongo commune, Butanyerera province

On August 14, 2026, at around 2 p.m., on Mudusi Hill, in the Mbirizi area of Matongo Commune, Butanyerera Province, members of the joint human security committee, working closely with the police officers from the Mbirizi station, arrested Barutwanayo Mélange, son of Nzeyimana Albert and Nsengiyumva Hilaire,

aged 25. The arrest happened as he had just vandalized the tomb of the late Ntabiriho Emmanuel, located in the Kamurango cemetery in Kayanza. The suspected individual is currently held at the Gatara station, due to the need for thorough investigations.

Night patrols are reported in Gisuru commune.

In the Gisuru commune, night patrols are still reported where young Imbonerakure wear military shoes and clothes, which causes confusion among the population. It becomes difficult to distinguish the young Imbonerakure from the security forces. Sometimes these young Imbonerakure are accused of human

rights violations.

The most recent example is from August 14, 2026, at 10 PM, in the Nyabitare area, Nyakirunga hill, where these young people beat up a certain Jérémie BURIKUKIYE, a merchant in the center of Nyabitare.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

He was accused of staying open past the closing hours of his cabaret. The locals are outraged by the inhumane behavior of these young people linked to the ruling party. They can't

understand how these young people would take such a step when the authorities haven't declared a curfew.

1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Farmers unhappy about the corn seed shortage in Bugendana

In the commune of Bugendana in Gitega province, a significant number of farmers are expressing their dissatisfaction with the shortage of maize seeds for crops grown in marshy areas. This situation is particularly acute in the Rwisabi area. According to a local farmer, seeds of the PAN 53 variety have been available since the end of June.

However, he maintains that Habumukiza Floribert, head of the Rwisabi area, Manirambona Daniel, director of the Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock Department of the Bugendana commune, and local representatives of the CNDD-FDD party distributed them discreetly. According to this source, a 2 kg bag, officially sold for 9,000

Burundian francs (FBu), is currently being resold by some beneficiaries for prices ranging from 35,000 to 40,000 FBu. Farmers are expressing concern that this delay could disrupt the agricultural calendar.

They point out that at this time of year, maize grown in marshy areas should already be well-developed, while October is traditionally dedicated to rice planting, a situation that could disrupt the planting schedule for other crops.

1.4. HEALTH CONTEXT

A climate of worry is prevailing, fueled by the threats posed by the Ebola virus, cross-border movements on Lake Tanganyika, and the water crisis in Burunga province.

Health officials, aware of the alarming evolution of the Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo, fear a potential spread to Burundi. In this tense context, they are calling for the immediate strengthening of control measures for travelers arriving from the DRC.

These concerns are further heightened by the accounts of fishermen from Nyanza, who highlight the lack of reliable information and appropriate health facilities for their crossings between the two shores of the lake. Health professionals are also echoing a pressing need: to improve access to the Mudubugu health center, which is considered too isolated to effectively meet the needs of vulnerable populations. Dr. Jérôme Niyongabo, head of the provincial health department, warns of the dangers of potential contamination in remote

areas, which could complicate the transfer of patients to healthcare facilities.

The stakes are clear: preventative measures must be strengthened. For this reason, healthcare professionals are advocating for the creation of additional care facilities near at-risk areas to reduce the time between the detection of a suspected case, its isolation, and its transfer to a qualified facility. The need for this approach is all the more pressing given the increasing exchanges between the DRC and Burundi, particularly on Lake Tanganyika. Fishermen in Nyanza, who represent a high-risk population, acknowledge frequent interactions with their Congolese counterparts, and some even travel to fishing grounds in the DRC. These fishermen are requesting awareness sessions and a health screening system upon their return to prevent potentially infected individuals from going directly home and

I.4. SANITARY CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

risking the contamination of their families and communities.

Adding to this vulnerability linked to cross-border travel is the water crisis affecting some localities. Although water scarcity is not directly linked to Ebola transmission, it complicates essential prevention and control measures, such as hand hygiene and sanitation practices within health facilities. In communities already lacking access to water, the threat of an outbreak could exacerbate the difficulties faced by the population and health services.

For this reason, Dr. Niyongabo is calling for increased vigilance from the police and the Burundi Revenue Authority, even recommending stricter controls on travelers,

including at night. Authorities in border communes are also tasked with educating the population on the importance of reporting arrivals from the DRC so that these individuals can be directed to appropriate care.

For healthcare workers, the focus now is on anticipation, not reaction, to the emergence of the first case. Geographical proximity to the DRC, frequent border crossings, a lack of adequate infrastructure, the distance from the center of Mudubugu, insufficient awareness campaigns, and water scarcity all contribute to a climate of vulnerability. It has therefore become urgent in Nyanza, Rumonge, and other border areas to strengthen preventative efforts within communities, as everyone's health depends on it.

The alleged diversion of therapeutic foods is worrying, and child malnutrition persists

Officials at some health centers in Burunga province are accused of diverting and reselling therapeutic food intended for malnourished children. According to health sector sources, some products are being sold in shops and consumed by children who are not malnourished. These revelations come as nutritional needs remain significant and cases of childhood diabetes have also been reported recently, raising further health concerns.

In several health districts of Burunga, health sector sources are denouncing the alleged diversion of therapeutic food intended for malnourished children. According to these sources, some health officials are collecting nutritional products, particularly those rich in energy and protein, without always distributing them to the children on the treatment lists. Some of these products are then allegedly being resold in shops and purchased by families for their healthy children. The same sources also mention alleged manipulation of malnutrition statistics. The number of children reported as malnourished is, in some cases, inflated to obtain larger quantities of therapeutic

products, with some orders reaching several million Burundian francs.

This phenomenon has direct consequences for children who are genuinely malnourished. The quantities available for their care may be insufficient, while stocks are being used outside the intended distribution channels.

Sources also denounce a problem with oversight. They assert that these practices have persisted for several years despite the existence, at the district health level, of mechanisms responsible for monitoring malnutrition. They also mention similar suspicions concerning certain medications intended for patients. The consumption of these therapeutic foods by children who do not have a medical indication for them is therefore raising concerns among professionals in the sector. These concerns arise in a context where cases of diabetes in children have been reported recently in Burunga. However, no investigation is required to establish a direct link between

I.4. SANITARY CONTEXT (the following of page 8)

the consumption of these diverted therapeutic foods and the onset of diabetes in children.

Faced with these accusations, an administrative, or even judicial, inquiry would allow for verification of the quantities ordered, received, and distributed, a comparison of the lists of children receiving care with the reality on the ground, and the tracing of the stockpiles' destination. According to some health officials, it would also make it possible to determine whether malnutrition figures have been deliberately inflated and to establish the extent of any potential diversion.

The issue goes beyond mere stock management. In a province where childhood malnutrition remains a serious concern, each diverted therapeutic product is likely to deprive a vulnerable child of the care they need. Transparency in the management of these resources is therefore essential to protect children and preserve the effectiveness of programs to combat malnutrition.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS OR BODIES FOUND.

A lifeless body was discovered in Musongati Commune, Burunga Province.

On August 10, 2026, on the Muvumu sub-hill, Butezi hill, Butezi area, Musongati commune, Burunga province, the lifeless body of an unidentified man was found. The local authorities, helped by Red Cross volunteers,

went ahead with the burial because the body was starting to decompose. The police are continuing their investigation to catch those responsible.

A lifeless body of a child found in Musongati commune, Burunga province

On August 15, 2026, on Kabingo hill, Butezi zone, Musongati commune, Burunga province, a lifeless body of a child named Zabulon Shemezimana, aged 6, was found on the banks of the Mulagalazi River. According to sources on the spot, as of August 14, 2026, at around 8 p.m., the child was called by an unidentified

man who was hiding behind one side of the house, and the child did not return. His body had wounds on his throat like traces of a person's fingernails showing that he had been strangled.

A lifeless body found in Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province

On August 12, 2026, on Kinyami hill, Ngozi commune, Butanyerera province, the lifeless body of Nduwimana Gaston, aged 48, was found in a large ditch located 3 meters from his home. According to local witnesses, the victim's wife, Mpawenimana, and their four children say that the victim came home around

10 p.m., put his phone on the table, then went out and did not return. The body was found at the bottom of the ditch, and local officials say that investigations have been started.

A lifeless body found in Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province

On August 14, 2026, in Lake Cohoha, on Kigina Hill, Kigina Zone, Kirundo Commune, Butanyerera Province, the lifeless body of an unidentified person was found floating in the

water. According to local witnesses, fishermen, upon first spotting the body, alerted the local authorities. The zone chief, Murindangabo Prosper, and the communal

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 9)

commissioner, along with the Kigina Zone Judicial Police Officer, intervened. After the body was recovered from the water, it showed no signs of disfigurement, and no one was allowed to take photos, use cameras, or file any

reports. An order from Butanyerera Province authorized the burial of the body on the shore of the lake. The same witnesses who saw the body claim that it was brought from elsewhere and thrown into the lake.

A lifeless body of a man was found in Gisuru Commune in Buhumuza Province.

On August 11, 2026, on Nyakibere hill, Kinyinya area, Gisuru commune, Buhumuza province, the lifeless body of Manirambona Salvator, a resident of the said hill, was found hanging in the morning by passersby heading to their fields. According to the information gathered, he also served as the head of ten households in his community and was a

member of the CNL party. Administrative authorities and relevant services went to the scene. An investigation is ongoing to determine the exact circumstances of the death. The deceased's body was buried on August 12, 2026, by his family in collaboration with the administration.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. RAPES

A person raped in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province

On August 6, 2026 in the Nyakabiga district, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province N.D., a 16-year-old domestic worker was raped by her employer's son. According to witnesses on the scene, the alleged perpetrator, Iraganje Don Fleurie, who has already finished high school, waited until the parents were not home and called the employee to come and clean the

room. The victim entered with the broom and the boy directly closed the door. She struggled but to no avail, and eventually he raped her. The neighbors arrived when it was already done. The girl was treated at the SOS health centre, and the boy is being held in the Nyakabiga area.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARREST

Two local officials arrested in Bubanza commune, Bujumbura province

On August 13, 2026, on Mutara hill, Muzinda zone, Bubanza commune, Bujumbura province, two people including the Muzinda zone chief as well as the Mutara hill and sub-hill chiefs were arrested and put in the Muzinda zone cell. According to local witnesses, these arrests followed the organization of a religious assembly on this hill, attended by 180 guests from abroad, notably from Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

Administrative officials are questioned about the presence and reception of these foreign

nationals within the framework of this gathering of the Reformed Baptist Church.

Currently held in the Muzinda zone cell, they are the subject of a procedure led by the National Intelligence Service.

According to zone chief Muzinda, this church is legally registered with the Ministry of Interior, and permission to organize this assembly had been duly granted. The arrested administrative officers demand to know the offenses with which they are accused and denounce an arbitrary arrest.

III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Recruitment of 5,000 new teachers out of a need for 14,300 teachers

On August 12, 2026, during the Council of Ministers meeting, the Burundian government approved a plan to recruit 5,000 new primary and secondary school teachers. This measure aims to address the shortage of qualified human resources in the education sector.

The recruitment process will cover the entire country and will be organized through the Communal Education Departments (DCEs). According to the terms of reference published by the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, the allocation of new teachers will take into account the priorities expressed by the provincial education directorates and the DCEs.

The Ministry plans to recruit teachers with various levels of training, including 995 with a D6 diploma, 2,538 with a D7 diploma, 22 with an A2 diploma, and 1,445 university-level teachers.

To ensure transparency and equal opportunity, recruitment will be based on a competitive examination. Committees tasked with organizing this operation have been in place since August 14, 2026. They include administrative and educational authorities as well as representatives from unions.

Candidates who participated in last year's recruitment test and were successful should not be required to retake the exam, provided they are on the waiting lists.

To this end, committees from the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research are scheduled to visit the various municipal education directorates from August 20 to 23 to verify these lists.

In July, the Ministry instructed the heads of the municipal education directorates to publish the waiting lists by posting them. Some

municipal directorates have already published them and contacted the candidates concerned.

According to information presented at the last Council of Ministers meeting, Burundi needs more than 14,300 additional teachers, although the government has allocated 5,000 teachers for this year. The choice of this staffing level is primarily linked to available budgetary resources. According to the Secretary General and government spokesperson, a budget of over 17 billion Burundian francs has been allocated for the recruitment and salaries of the new teachers.

This recruitment had already been announced as part of the new reforms planned by the Ministry to improve the education system.

In recent years, schools have faced the departure of many qualified teachers, both young and experienced. Some of them have left the country for neighboring countries, Europe, and especially Arab countries, in search of better living and working conditions. The poor living conditions of Burundian teachers are regularly cited as one of the reasons for these departures. The economic situation, marked in particular by difficulties in accessing certain basic necessities, problems with water and electricity, fuel supply issues, as well as rising prices and rents, exacerbates the difficulties faced by teachers. Some say they can no longer endure these conditions and prefer to leave the profession. This situation has direct consequences for schools, schoolchildren, and students, who are facing a teacher shortage.

The recruitment project is welcomed by some university graduates facing unemployment. They hope this initiative will offer them a chance to enter the education sector.

III.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION(the following of page 11)

However, they are asking the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research to rigorously oversee the process to prevent favoritism and ensure that the most deserving candidates are indeed recruited.

For these graduates, the success of this operation will depend as much on the number of teachers recruited as on the transparency of the process and the government's ability to select candidates based on their skills and qualifications.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

To the Government of Burundi:

1. Establish enhanced vigilance mechanisms for local administrative and political officials to prevent targeted acts of violence.
2. Systematically conduct transparent judicial investigations upon the discovery of bodies.
3. Guarantee victims' families the right to file a complaint and access autopsy reports before any burial.
4. Take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable.



Anyone should be respected