



BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

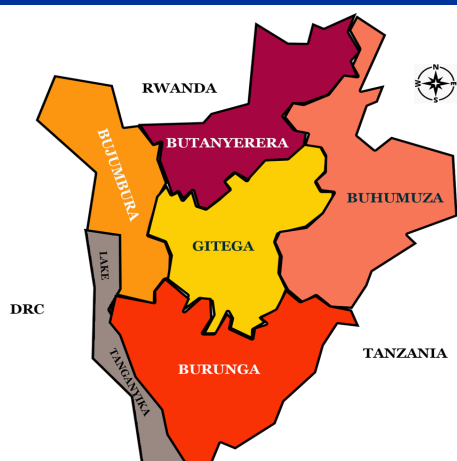
WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

Anyone should be respected

N°538 from 17 to 23 Août 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 23, 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:

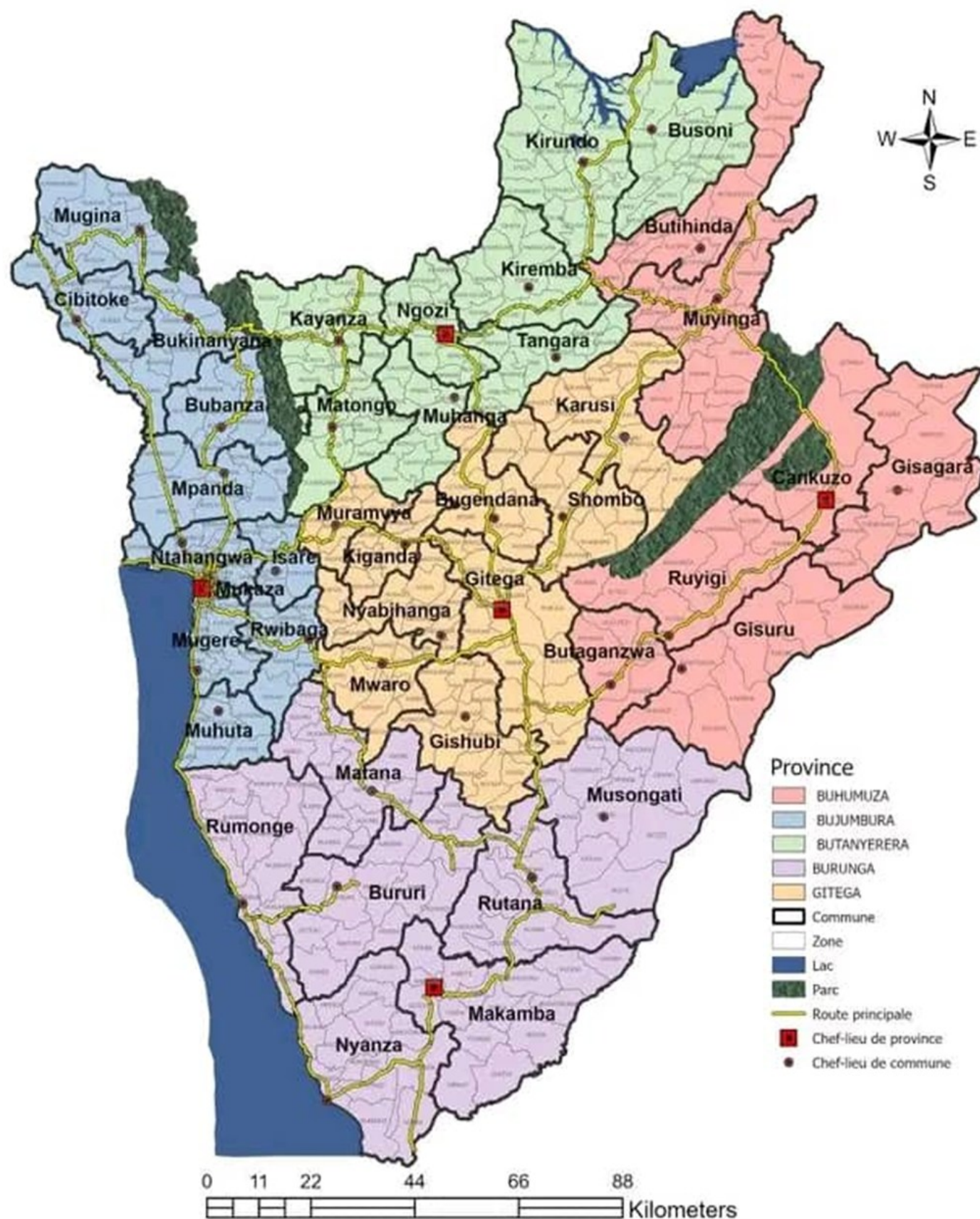
- ♦ 'It is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH),
- ♦ has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236, and is a member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

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ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDISTRIBUTION OF MARCH 16, 2023



CDS: Health Center

CECI: Independent Communal Electoral Commission

CEPI: Independent Provincial National Commission

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

CNL: National Congress for Liberty

DCE: Communal Directorate of Education

DPE: Provincial Directorate of Education

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents an overview of the human rights situation in Burundi for the week of August 17-23, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also assesses the security, political, and governance context. It provides an analysis of illustrative incidents of civil and political rights violations that occurred during this period.

The human rights violations observed and documented by the Iteka League are as follows: at least six people were killed, including two bodies found and three cases of infanticide, as well as two cases of sexual violence, one person subjected to torture, and one arbitrary arrest and detention.

The main suspects in these violations are administrative officials, police officers, intelligence agents, and Imbonerakure youth associated with the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. SECURITY CONTEXT

Distribution of equipment to the Imbonerakure in Butanyerera province

On August 12, 2026, in the Mugendo area of Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province, the CNDD-FDD party's communal secretary, Mr. HABIMANA Tite, organized a visit to the former communes of Kirundo province, including Kirundo, Vumbi, Bugabira, and Ntega. According to testimonies from local residents, Imbonerakure, considered elite members of the youth wing of the ruling party, were invited to this meeting to be briefed on security issues and to receive equipment. They were notably provided with raincoats resembling the uniforms of the Democratic Republic of Congo's police, as well as boots and high-powered flashlights. On August 20, 2026, an intimidating demonstration by

Imbonerakure was observed at the border of Lake Cohoha, where a march took place from the banks of the Kiri River to Kigina, covering a distance of twenty kilometers. Furthermore, this type of movement also takes place at night in various locations within the Kirundo commune. Numerous clandestine meetings are held, and invitations are distributed individually. All of these activities occur within a context marked by speeches from national authorities inciting reprisals against Rwanda in the event of a rebel attack against Burundi.

A person injured in Gisuru commune, Buhumuza province

On August 20, 2026, at the Munazi site, Kabanga area, Gisuru commune, Buhumuza province, a man named Juvenal Mbonabuca attacked Jean Tuyisabe with a knife, inflicting three stab wounds.

The circumstances and motive for this attack are not yet known. The victim, Jean Tuyisabe, was injured and received medical care. After committing the act, the alleged

perpetrator, Juvenal Mbonabuca, fled to Tanzania. The competent authorities have been informed of the situation, and the exact details of the incident are still being determined.

An investigation is needed to establish responsibility and determine the exact causes of this attack.

A person was injured in Butaganzwa Commune.

In the commune of Butaganzwa, on the night of Saturday, August 22, 2026, around 10:30 PM, Imbonerakure youth from Batye Hill, Muriza Zone, stopped passersby returning from a wedding celebration. These youths asked them

where they were from, as they were unknown in the area. They tried to explain that they were from the neighboring hill of Rutonganikwa, but to no avail. These Imbonerakure youths were wearing CNDD-

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

FDD party uniforms and were armed with machetes and clubs. Among them were NSENGIYUMVA Isaïe, the Imbonerakure leader for that hill, as well as Jimmy, Eric, and Jérémie.

The youths began beating them, and a passerby named SIRYUYUMUSI Claver, who asked why they were being treated this way, was subjected to the same treatment. Mr. Claver was injured by a machete blow to the head. On August 23, 2026, the victim was

taken to Rema Hospital in Ruyigi where he is receiving treatment.

The residents of Batye are outraged by this inhumane behavior of these young Imbonerakure and demand that justice be served to punish the perpetrators in order to eradicate this behavior, which has become a habit for these young Imbonerakure, especially since it is not the first time they have displayed such behavior.

I.2. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Holding a press conference of the Secretary-General of the CNDD-FDD Party in Makamba, Burunga Province

In a press conference on August 22, Révérien Ndikuriyo, the secretary general of the CNDD-FDD, spoke fervently to the population and an attentive audience of journalists, instilling in his remarks a vigor that left no room for doubt. The flow of his words was directed towards armed groups such as RED-Tabara and the FNL, who, in his eyes, were fueling threats of violence against Burundi. With palpable confidence, he asserted that these intimidations hardly shook him and issued a bold challenge to mobilize at least 200,000 fighters before considering an offensive. In his eyes, such a force would be wiped out in record time, less than three weeks, leaving them, according to him, without the possibility of reinforcement. He provocatively said that these groups should move on the ground rather than strutting around in military uniforms.

In his speech, Révérien Ndikuriyo did not fail to strongly criticize the comments of the leaders of RED-Tabara and the FNL, describing them as sowers of trouble through repeated threats. The former President of the Senate, determined not to limit himself to simple comments on their statements, invited those who really wanted to fight to take action. In his provocative tone, he insisted that to consider a new offensive, an army of 200,000 men would be necessary, but he was convinced that this force would be quickly neutralized.

Anchoring his arguments in the recent history of Burundi, he mentioned armed incursions in 2012, 2014 and 2015, highlighting that all adversaries attempting to cross the country's borders had been eliminated. He stressed that those who threaten from abroad must abandon their rhetoric and confront the realities on the ground. He did not fail to recall that different countries such as Canada, Belgium, the United States and the Democratic Republic of Congo had made their voices heard, but affirmed that declarations and images in military uniforms were not enough to trigger a new conflict.

Révérien Ndikuriyo, keeping a vigilant eye on the forested areas and the borders, advised that this surveillance extended to both sides of the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. According to him, areas suitable for sheltering combatants could not escape the observation of Burundian forces.

Talking about Aloys Nzabampema, whom he saw as a former member of the FNL and a thief, he said that the latter wouldn't be able to stay in his home region of Ndava, in the commune of Cibitoke, without being noticed. He recalled his visit to that province when he was involved in security responsibilities for his party. To illustrate the popular reaction to a potential attack, he quoted a saying in Kirundi, highlighting the determination of

1.2. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

the citizens in the face of any threat.

The most controversial part of his speech stemmed from a troubling statement: “*erega ni ukwicana*,” suggesting a fight where death was inevitable. This notion seemed to preclude any possibility of capturing or detaining the attackers, even though international humanitarian law stipulates that any surrendering combatant must receive humane treatment. This reminder resonated particularly strongly in a chaotic regional context marked by violent conflicts and violations of the rights of captured combatants.

In an already tense climate, Révérien

Ndikuriyo’s words echoed the palpable threat of renewed hostilities. His rhetoric, both sharp and direct, served as a warning to armed groups, a reference to past battles, and a promise of neutralization in the event of an attack. By examining the limits of political discourse in the face of war and those who would participate in it, he offered a clear vision: those who threaten Burundi must act. However, his insistence on the need to eliminate the enemy raised a crucial question about respect for the rules of armed conflict and the responsibility inherent in political language within an already precarious framework.

1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Redistribution of state-owned land to private investors for farming

On August 21, 2026, in Gitega, Prime Minister Nestor Ntahontuye announced an ambitious and groundbreaking initiative by the Government of Burundi: the development of state-owned lands to meet the pressing needs of farmers and herders. This ambitious project aims to make these valuable state lands available to farmers and herders who are capable of cultivating them effectively. Rather than allowing these agricultural areas, which could contribute to the national economy, as well as these currently underutilized mountain slopes and forests, to deteriorate, it is crucial to take action to fully utilize them. To support this essential initiative, CRDB Bank Burundi will offer loans at an attractive interest rate of 5%, with a significant budget of 300 billion Burundian francs dedicated to this project.

Surrounded by important and influential figures such as the Minister of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock, Calinie Mbarushimana, the Minister of Finance, Dr. Alain Ndikumana, and the Managing Director, Frédéric Siwale, the Prime Minister firmly emphasized the crucial importance of encouraging large-scale agricultural and livestock projects, which are essential for developing the local economy. The ambitions of

this project include diverse components such as mechanized agriculture using modern technologies, as well as the raising of various types of animals and beekeeping, which represents significant potential.

Minister Mbarushimana added that the process of identifying and conducting a detailed inventory of state lands has already begun, with the aim of meticulously determining which plots could be integrated into this new development framework. Interested parties, especially those eager to begin their activities as early as the next agricultural season, are strongly encouraged to submit their applications promptly. The application must include a letter addressed to the Minister, a certificate from the provincial governor validating the proposed project, and a detailed plan outlining the planned activities, the necessary resources, and the expected outcomes. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to transform Burundi's agricultural and livestock sector by promoting sustainable agriculture and local economic development.

1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

Hill chiefs and local dignitaries accused of theft in Bururi commune, Burunga province.

Information received by the Iteka League on August 22, 2026, indicates that on July 25, 2026, a man named Kabura, a security guard at the Bamba Primary School, located on Jungwe Hill in the Bamba area of Bururi commune, Burunga province, was caught with a metal door he had just removed from the school's toilets.

According to local sources, the guard explained that he was transporting the door on the instructions of Mr. Thierry Irambona, head of the hill elders of Jungwe Hill, who had entrusted him with this task. According to witnesses in the area, Kabura also admitted to having previously given another door from the same school to Thierry Irambona in exchange for 10,000 Burundian francs.

The guard was taken to the Bamba police station the same day for questioning before being released the following day. Since then,

residents have been questioning why Thierry Irambona, who is implicated in this case, has still not been arrested or questioned by the relevant authorities.

Parents of students are denouncing what they consider a form of impunity. They accuse the head of the Bamba zone, Ildephonse, of having shown complicity in this affair, particularly because those involved are members of his political party, CNDDFDD.

The residents of the Bamba zone are calling on the judicial authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and shed full light on this case so that those responsible can be held accountable for their actions according to the law and that the first door they had already stolen be returned to the school.

The government is restarting the catering for 4,000 students at the University of Burundi

The Burundian government plans to reinstate meal services for approximately 4,000 students at the University of Burundi starting in September 2026, according to an announcement by the university's rector, Prudence Bararunyeretse.

According to the rector, the government has allocated over 11 billion Burundian francs (Fbu) to provide meals for students across the Muganga, Kamenge, Kiriri, Rohero, and Zege campuses. However, the number of students benefiting may depend on available budgetary resources.

This decision comes after several years of suspended university meal services. Since 2018, students at the University of Burundi have had to arrange their own accommodation and meals in various neighborhoods of Bujumbura and the surrounding area. University authorities

believe this situation has negatively impacted study conditions and, consequently, the quality of education. Many students, particularly those from disadvantaged families, have faced financial difficulties and precarious living conditions, sometimes forcing them to devote more energy to their daily survival than to their studies.

Rector Prudence Bararunyeretse himself acknowledges that the suspension of the cafeteria service has contributed to the decline in the quality of education at the University of Burundi. He believes that improving students' living conditions is crucial for their academic success. Some preparations are already underway. The University of Burundi has renovated kitchen facilities and some of the equipment and materials necessary for the cafeteria service to function.

I.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 8)

The rector also calls on the government to gradually increase the number of students who can be housed in university dormitories. According to him, the University welcomes many young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who risk failing due to the poor living conditions they face during their studies. The resumption of student meals is part of the reforms envisioned by the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research. It marks a return to a system that had been abandoned as part of public spending reduction policies.

The debate on student living conditions also takes place within a broader context of concerns about the quality of education. The gradual closure of several boarding schools at the secondary level had already contributed to shifting some of the responsibility for student care onto families. With the resumption of university meals, the authorities hope to create better study conditions and contribute to raising the level and quality of education provided at the University of Burundi.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

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

A lifeless body found in Mwaro commune, Gitega province

On August 17, 2026, around 7 a.m., on Gitwa sub-Hill, Gihinga Hill, Mwaro commune, Gitega province, the lifeless body of a man about 60 years old, originally from Mbogora in Nyabihanga commune, was found. According to local witnesses, the victim worked as a domestic worker for a family near where he

was found and had been stabbed in the stomach. Two people, including one who works as a grilled skewers vendor at a bar in the Ruvumera neighborhood of the same commune, were arrested by the police during the day on August 17, 2026.

A lifeless body found in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province

On the night of August 18 to 19, 2026, on Avenue du Large, in the Kibenga neighborhood, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province, the lifeless body of a man named Raphaël HAKIZIMANA, a worker at the BBN (Burundian Bureau of Standards), was found. According to local witnesses, the deceased had left his home in the Mugoboka neighborhood on the night of August 18, 2026, without

indicating his destination and went out after answering a phone call from an unknown person. According to the same witnesses, Raphaël HAKIZIMANA's body had no signs of injury, leading people to believe that he was strangled. The perpetrators and the circumstances of this murder remain unknown.



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II.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED AS A RESULT OF SETTLING SCORES

One person killed in Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province

On the night of August 18, 2026, around 9:00 PM, in the Mukoro neighborhood of Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, Jean Paul IRADUKUNDA, 24 years old, was killed by his wife, Nadine IRANKUNDA, 21 years old. According to local witnesses, the couple's neighbors revealed that the murder stemmed from a dispute over the management of family property. These same witnesses stated that Nadine IRANKUNDA attempted to flee after stabbing her husband in the ribs and chest. Just a few steps away from her pursuit, Jean Paul IRADUKUNDA collapsed and died. This information was confirmed by the administrator of Kayanza commune, Godefroid NIYONIZIGIYE, who added that the alleged perpetrator is in the custody of the judicial police awaiting trial.

On August 21, 2026, the public hearing in this case took place, and Nadine chose to be represented by a lawyer. The presiding judge granted this right to the alleged murderer. The Kayanza High Court sentenced Nadine Irankunda to life imprisonment and a fine of 20 million Burundian francs for killing her husband, Jean Paul Iradukunda, on the night of August 18-19, 2026. This mother of one pleaded guilty, stating that the irreparable act was accidental. The family explained to the judges that she intended to stab her husband in the arm, but unfortunately, the knife pierced his heart. Nadine was not represented by a lawyer, as she had wished, because she did not have enough money to pay one.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. RAPES

A person was raped in Rumonge commune, Burunga province

On August 15, 2026, at approximately 1:00 PM, on Gatobo Hill, Rusabagi area, Rumonge commune, Burunga province, H.E., a 32-year-old mother of five residing on the same hill, was raped by Nemeyimana Félix, an Imbone-rakure (youth wing of the ruling party), a motorcyclist from the same hill who had stopped her on her way to a party. According to the victim, she encountered this assailant along the way, sitting with her Bangala drink. He stood up, walked behind her, then suddenly stopped her and began to assault her, along with the child she was carrying on her back. She cried for help, but in vain, because the location was far from any houses.

He raped her after tearing her clothes and left her with injuries all over her face. The victim managed to contact the cell leader, who took her to the Gatobo Health Center, where she was hospitalized for three days for medical treatment. Upon discharge, she filed a complaint at the local police station to initiate legal proceedings. The alleged perpetrator fled in collaboration with his cousin, who is the regional leader of the ruling CNDD-FDD party. According to local witnesses, the local leaders have not reported on the case.

A little girl raped in Rumonge commune, Burunga province

Information received by the Iteka League on August 17, 2026, indicates that on August 11, 2026, on Rutumo Hill, Kiyonza Cell, Minago Zone, Rumonge Commune, Burunga Province, I. A., a 6-year-old girl from Rutumo Hill, was raped by Mandela Wilson, a 16-year-old girl currently residing in Rutumo, originally from Muhuta Commune.

According to local sources, the alleged perpetrator met the child as she was returning

from the market and then took her to a cassava field to commit the crime. The victim arrived home crying, and her mother was alerted and informed the local authorities before taking her to the Rutumo Community Health Center (CDS). She was then transferred to Rumonge Hospital for medical treatment.

The alleged perpetrator was arrested on August 19, 2026, and is being held at the

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 10)

Rumonge police station. It should be noted that the behavior of the administration at the base had taken the case in hand for mediation, which is why the wrongdoer had not been arrested in time due to thorough investigation by the competent services.

II.2.2. TORTURE AND/OR INHUMANE TREATMENT

An alleged thief stabbed and burned in Mpanda commune, Bujumbura province

On the night of August 18, 2026, at around 8 p.m., on Busonga Hill, Mpanda commune in Bujumbura province, Jean-Claude Kenese, an alleged thief, from the said hill, was manhandled, stabbed and burned by Imbonerakure who had surprised him with a stolen bag.

According to sources on the spot, abandoned unconscious and left to die on an uninhabited plot belonging to a man named Didace, the

young man was found dying by his parents. They had to carry him on their backs to take him urgently to the hospital in Gihanga. According to the same sources, the victim had recently repatriated from the Democratic Republic of Congo and does not have the financial means to provide medical care. To date, the perpetrators of this attack have not been identified or officially prosecuted.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

Political intolerance in Gisagara commune, Buhumuza province, which led to an arbitrary arrest

On August 18, 2026, on Runihira Hill, Mwiruzi Zone, Gisagara Commune, Buhumuza Province, Ephrem Ciza, a resident of that hill, was riding his bicycle when he collided with the Mwiruzi Zone Chief, Jean Bizimana, who was also cycling.

Ephreum Ciza was accused of intentionally causing the accident and was taken to the Gisagara Communal Jail.

Upon arrival, he faced three charges: intentionally causing an accident involving the Zone Chief, selling prohibited beverages, and

being a member of the FNL party, the armed wing of Aloys Nzabampema.

According to local sources, Ephrem had been repeatedly recruited to join the CNDD-FDD party, but he had refused.

He also reportedly refused to allow his wife to dance at the Bakenyerera Rugamba club, the women's league of the ruling party. Ephrem Ciza is currently being held in the Gisagara communal jail, which human rights advocates describe as flagrant violations of rights.



III. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

Concerns about a possible market fire in the Bujumbura province

Since July 2026, a redevelopment campaign has been underway in several modern markets in Bujumbura province. Municipal agents, market commissioners, and local CNDD-FDD officials are actively involved. Despite the mandatory reconstruction using corrugated metal sheets for all shop and stall owners, and the ban on selling beauty creams and cooking oils within the markets, several concerns have been raised by traders:

Vulnerability to fire risks: From the Gasenyi market (Bukinanyana) to the Cibitoke market, both recently affected by fires, and including the Rugombo market, as well as those in Nyeshenza and Mabayi, only one fire truck is available at the Cibitoke fire brigade.

According to a source on the ground, this vehicle is most often used to supply the police with water due to the recurring shortages

plaguing the city center. Suspicious Inspections: Unknown individuals, presumed to be agents of the National Enquiry Service (SNR), have been regularly patrolling these markets in recent days. According to their statements, they are inspecting the "lanes prepared for the passage of fire trucks," even though some markets, such as Nyeshenza, Cibitoke, and Gasenyi, have none at all.

Alarmist Prophecies: Alongside the presence of these alleged secret agents, other individuals presenting themselves as prophets have been roaming the markets of Mabayi, Nyeshenza, and Rugombo. They are predicting "divine punishments" that will befall these markets, claiming that many vendors and traders are conducting their business against God's will.

A violent fire rages through two shopping malls in downtown Bujumbura

On the morning of August 21, 2026, a violent fire ravaged two shopping arcades in downtown Bujumbura: the Ndayizamba Gallery and the Le Parisien Gallery. Both establishments were almost entirely reduced to ashes, resulting in significant losses for the merchants.

According to witnesses and several merchants present at the scene, the fire started first at the Ndayizamba Gallery before spreading to the nearby Le Parisien Gallery. Despite the intervention of fire trucks, the flames continued to spread, making extinguishing operations difficult. Scenes of devastation marked the area. In tears, several merchants stated that they had lost all of their merchandise. Some estimate their losses at several billion Burundian francs, although the exact amount has not yet been determined.

Merchants from the Le Parisien Gallery also lamented the conditions under which they attempted to evacuate their goods. They claim they were mobilized by law enforcement to move their belongings to safety as the fire still threatened the Ndayizamba Gallery. Despite their efforts, they watched helplessly as the flames spread to their own gallery.

The cause of the fire remains unknown at this time. An investigation is expected to determine the exact circumstances of the blaze.

The two galleries housed, among others, traders from the former central market of Bujumbura, which was destroyed by fire in 2013. Since then, they had become important spaces for the commercial activities of numerous business owners.

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE (the following of page 12)

Several Burundian officials visited the site to assess the extent of the damage. Vice President Prosper Bazombanza expressed his sympathy to the affected traders and indicated that the government should consider ways to enable them to resume their businesses. The first vice-president, for his part, encouraged traders to insure their goods with insurance companies to better protect themselves against the consequences of such disasters. He also suggested that the fire might have been caused by an iron, which surprised many people at the scene.

This latest tragedy comes as several markets across the country, notably those in Kinama, Ngozi, and Cibitoke, have been affected by fires in recent months. The precise extent of the losses suffered by the Ndayizamba Gallery and the Le Parisien Gallery remains to be assessed. Traders are expressing their concern about a possible significant economic crisis and are calling for urgent action to facilitate the resumption of their businesses.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

School dropouts have increased in Muramvya commune, Gitega Province.

During this 2025-2026 school year, the number of school dropouts in the Muramvya commune is very alarming. The primary school classes are the most affected. According to the head of the communal Education Department in Muramvya, Mr. Habonimana Remy, the main causes are: poverty, unwanted pregnancies, illness, family relocations, early marriage, and

others. According to a survey conducted among the population, poverty appears to be the main cause of these dropouts. Thus, the cases of dropouts by area, by level, and by category are:

⇒ FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL

AREA	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Bugarama	92	44	136
Bukeye	88	64	152
Kibumbu	74	68	142
Mbuye	64	72	136
Muramvya	113	88	201
Nyarucamo	68	76	144
Shombo	48	70	118
Total	547	482	1029

⇒ POST-FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL

AREA	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Bugarama	86	36	124
Bukeye	82	62	144
Kibumbu	72	64	136
Mbuye	68	60	128
Muramvya	123	92	215
Nyarucamo	54	68	122
Shombo	44	52	96
Total	529	434	963

Worrying school dropouts in Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province

Information received by the Iteka League on August 17, 2026, indicates that in Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province, 2,880 children

(primary and secondary) dropped out of school during the 2025-2026 academic year. This is the first time such a high number of

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 13)

dropouts has been observed, and it is alarming. According to local witnesses, even children of teachers, principals, merchants, and other families of varying means have left school. These same witnesses say that the issue is no longer simply poverty, job search, or other

causes; it stems from disillusionment with the current education system and the lack of employment opportunities for those who graduate.

IV. CATEGORY RIGHTS.

IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

A newborn killed in Karusi commune, Gitega province

On August 20, 2026, at approximately 7:00 PM, in the Gasave sub-hill, Ruvumu hill, Buhiga zone, Karusi commune, Gitega province, 19-year-old Uwimana Aline was arrested by the hill chief and taken to the Buhiga zone police station, where she is being held. She is accused of giving birth to a male child on August 18, 2026, and throwing the child into a 12-meter-deep latrine after strangling it. According to local witnesses, the latrine is located behind an agricultural shed on the hill.

The alleged perpetrator claims that a neighboring woman, Consolate Niyogisenga, lied to her, telling her that the father of her child would not accept it and giving her traditional medicine. The two women are incarcerated together and the child's mortal remains were removed from the toilet on August 22, 2026 and then buried in the cemetery on the said hill by the local administration in the presence of the police.

A lifeless body of a newborn was found in a toilet in Bururi commune, Burunga province.

On August 19, 2026, on Gitwaro Hill, Binyuro area of Vyanda, Bururi commune, Burunga province, the lifeless body of a newborn baby was found in a toilet at the home of a man named Ndayishimiye in the Mwura-Bukanda area.

The main suspect is a 21-year-old single woman named Cynthia Niyogushima, the daughter of Ndayishimiye and Émilienne Emerusabe.

According to local witnesses, alerted by the local administration, a judicial police officer and two national police officers went to the scene and recovered the body. According to the same witnesses, the baby was killed on August 17, 2026, just after birth, and left in the toilet.

Since August 19, 2026, Cynthia Niyogushima has been held in a police cell in the Binyuro area for investigative purposes, according to the police. When questioned, the young woman claimed to have given birth to a stillborn baby, thus rejecting accusations of infanticide.

Voluntary abortion in Karusi commune, Gitega province

On August 16, 2026, on Nyakabugu Hill, Kibumbwe Zone, Karusi Commune, Gitega Province, a woman named Joselyne, over 25 years old, voluntarily aborted a six-month-old fetus and buried it in a banana grove. According to local witnesses, she was arrested on August 17, 2026, by the Kibumbwe Zone police chief, who had been alerted by a community leader from the hill. After questioning, she accused her lover, Philbert, a 48-year-old member of the CNDD-FDD party from Nyagoba Hill, Bugenyuzi Zone, also from

Gitega Commune, and an elderly woman, Mathilde, aged 60, also from Nyagoba Hill, Bugenyuzi Zone. The elderly woman was arrested, while the man responsible for the pregnancy fled. Both women are currently being held at the Karusi police station. The reason given by this woman is that they wanted to deceive her husband who left a year ago for Uganda in search of work.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Iteka League strongly denounces the persistent deterioration of human rights in Burundi and condemns the impunity of perpetrators of 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 upon the discovery of bodies.
2. Guarantee victims' families the right to file a complaint and access the conclusions of autopsy reports before any burial.
3. Investigate the phenomenon of bodies found in various parts of the country without any action being taken by the government.
4. Take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable.
5. Investigate and severely punish the violence against minors, which has become commonplace in Burundi, perpetrated by local administrative officials and other activists of the ruling party.
6. Take appropriate measures to ensure the security of markets and other goods of common and individual interest.



Anyone should be respected