

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS 'ITEKA'

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revising Ordinance No. 550/029 of February 6, 1991

REPORT OF THE BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS 'ITEKA' ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2026



Anyone should be respected

In memory of Madame Marie Claudette Kwizera, treasurer of the Iteka League, who has been missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to August 30, 2026, at least 876 victims of enforced 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 to the Government of Burundi about at least 252 victims.

The Iteka League:

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

¹<https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

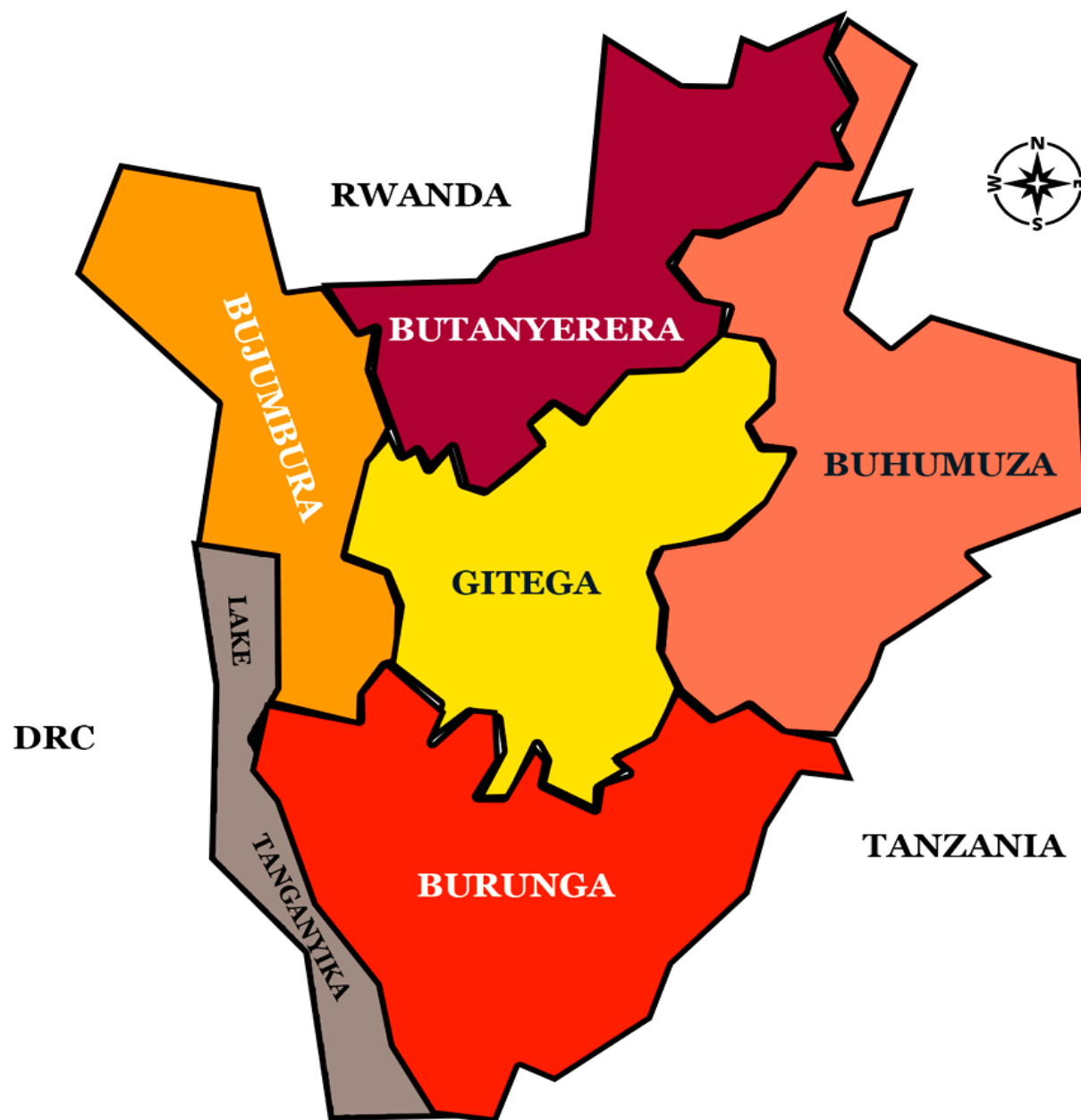


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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

UNGA: United Nations General Assembly

ECOFO: Fundamental School

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

CNL: National Congress for Liberty

CNIDH: National Independent Human Rights Commission

CENI: Independent National Electoral Commission

CEPI: Independent Provincial Electoral Commission

CNL: National Congress for Liberty

ECCAS: Economic Community of Central African States

CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child

ESDC: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

FRODEBU: Front for Democracy in Burundi

FDLR: Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda

OPJ: Judicial Police Officer

UN: United Nations

PNB: National Police of Burundi

DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo

UPRONA: Union for National Progress

SGBV: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

SNR: National Enquiry Service

TGI : High Court

I. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT

This monthly report for August 2026 is the result of a summary of the Iteka n' Ijambo weekly bulletins from numbers 538 to 541. This report analyzes the human rights situation. It returns to civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights. As well as category rights, particularly children's rights. This report finally closes with a conclusion and recommendations.

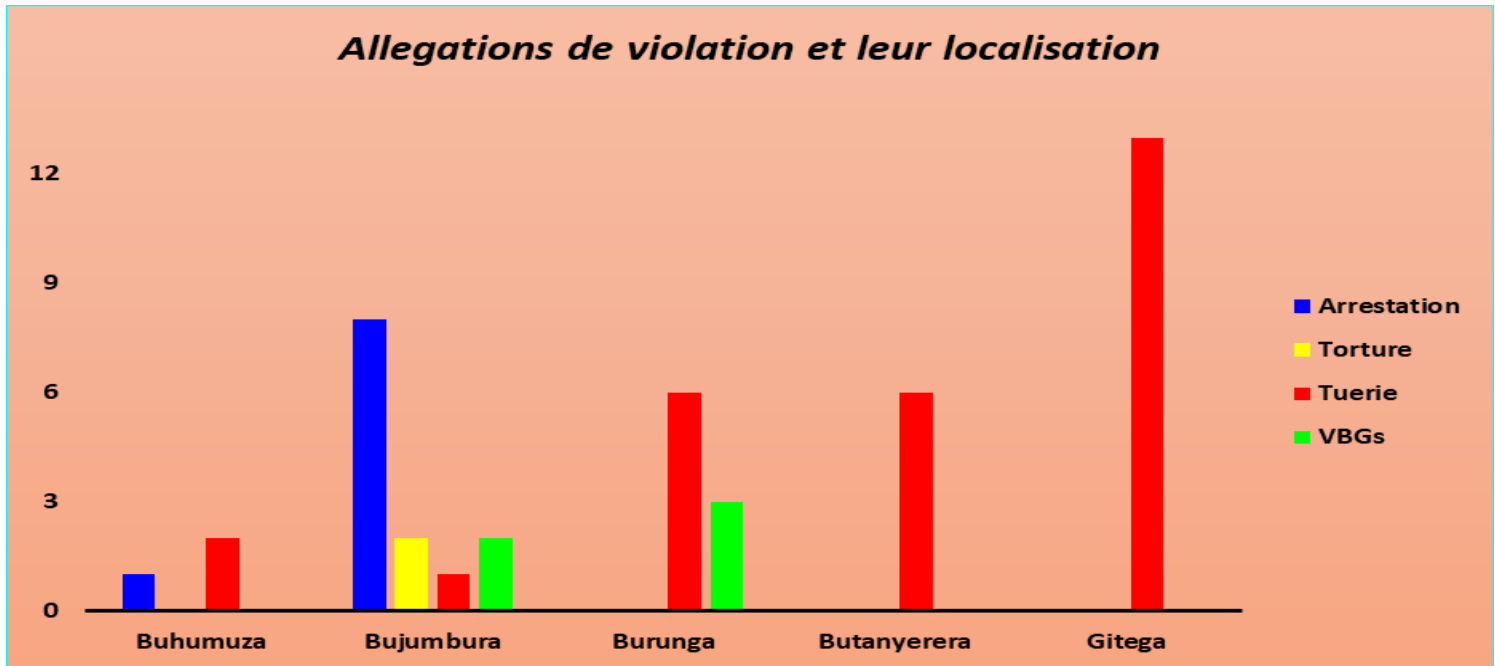
Thus, the situation of civil and political rights for this period covered by this report was illustrated as follows: 28 people were killed including 15 dead bodies found scattered in different places, 2 people tortured, 5 people were victims of GBV, all women raped. Among the victims, 8 are women, including 3 women killed and 5 women raped. 9 people were arrested, all men.

Imbonerakure, police officers, administrative agents and other people not far from members of the ruling CNDD-FDD party are singled out as the alleged perpetrators of most of these human rights violations and murders. Although some perpetrators remain unidentified, the modalities of action often seem similar to those practiced by these indicated groups.

I.1. MAPPING ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

Figure 1: Chart illustrating the main cases of alleged civil and political rights violations observed in Burundi during the month of August 2026.

Place of the incident /Province	Number of Victims					Total
	Arrest	Kidnapping	Torture	Killing	GBV	
Buhumuza	1	0	0	2	0	3
Bujumbura	8	0	2	1	2	13
Burunga	0	0	0	6	3	9
Butanyerera	0	0	0	6	0	6
Gitega	0	0	0	13	0	13
Total	9	0	2	28	5	44



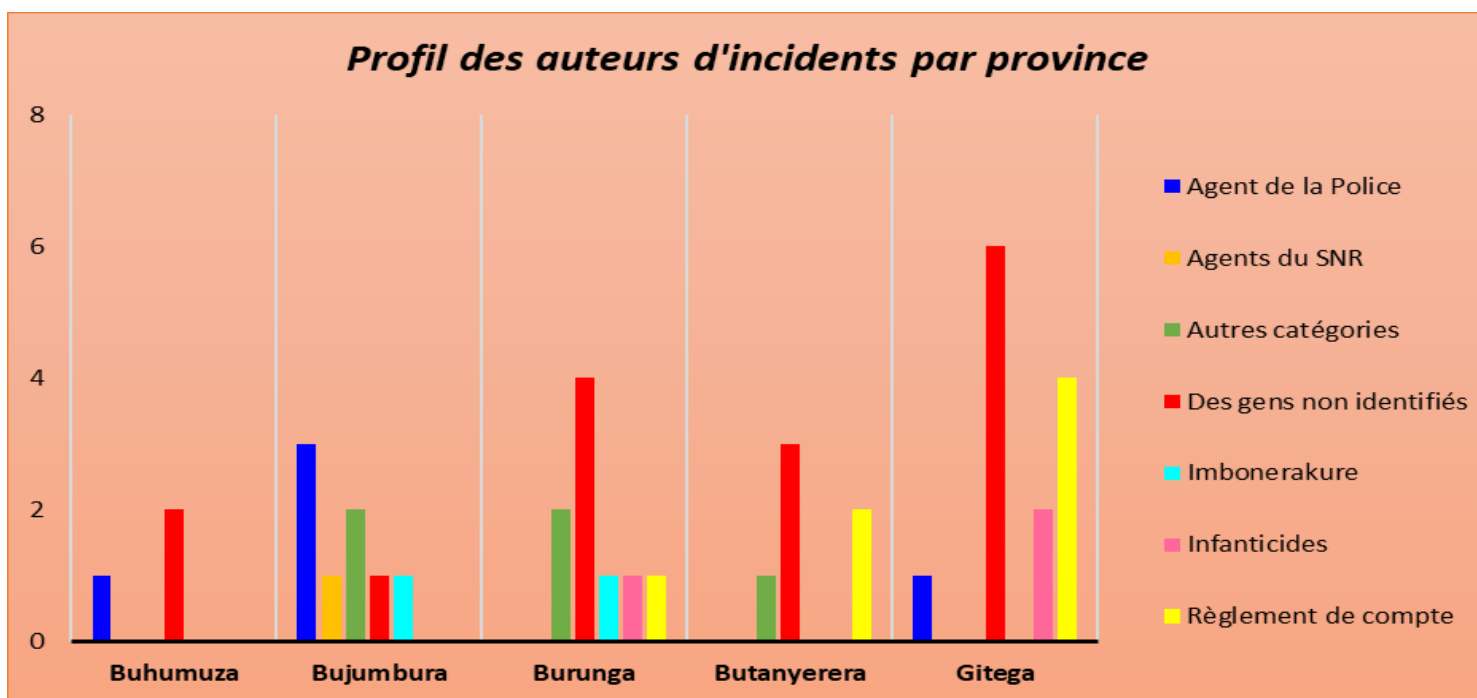
I. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT (the following of page 5)

The chart above shows the 5 categories of violations across the 5 different provinces of the country, with Bujumbura and Gitega leading with the most human rights violation allegations at 13 cases each, followed by Burunga with 9 cases, then Butanyerera with 6 cases, and finally Buhumuza with 3 cases.

So, during this month of August 2026 covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded 44 victims of alleged violations of civil and political rights across the country. These alleged human rights violations break down mainly as follows: 28 people killed, 5 people victims of GBV, 2 people tortured, and 9 people arrested.

Figure 2: Chart showing the main alleged perpetrators of civil and political rights violations observed in Burundi during August 2026

Alleged Authors	Buhumuza	Bujumbura	Burunga	Butanyerera	Gitega	Total
Police Officer	1	3	0	0	1	5
SNR Agent	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other cathegories	0	2	2	1	0	5
Unidentified People	2	1	4	3	6	16
Imbonerakure	0	1	1	0	0	2
Infanticides	0	0	1	0	2	3
Settling Scores	0	0	1	2	4	7
Overall Total	3	8	9	6	13	39

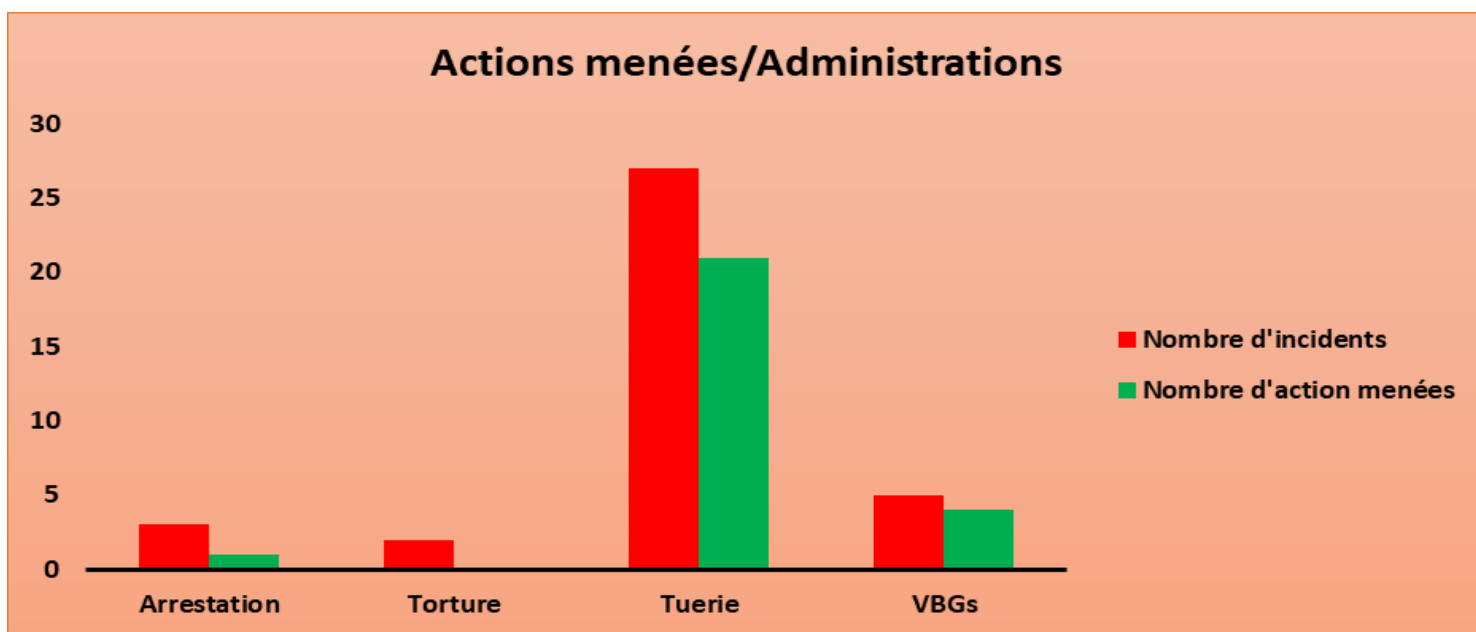


According to the chart, out of all the reported human rights violation allegations during this period in August 2026, the cases carried out by unidentified people were the highest with 16 cases, followed by the 'settling scores' category with 7 cases, and other categories, notably individuals like shopkeepers, with 5 cases. Then there were acts committed by police officers with 5 cases, and acts by the Imbonerakure were recorded at 2 cases. Agents of the SNR committed 1 case. It's worth noting that there were 3 cases of infanticide reported.

I. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT (the following of page 6)

Figure 3: Chart showing the main actions taken by administrative agents following the reported human rights violations.

Types of incident	Number of Incidents	Number of actions done	No action
Arrest	3	1	2
Kidnapping	0	0	0
Torture	2	0	2
Killing	27	21	6
GBV	5	4	1
Overall Total	37	26	11



During the period studied, a total of 37 incidents were recorded, among which 26 actions were taken, divided into three main groups. Most of the actions involved arresting suspects for criminal investigations. Other actions, like organizing the funerals of victims, involved administrative authorities who ordered these measures without necessarily carrying out preliminary investigations. Some incidents were resolved by arresting and trying the perpetrators, leading to their imprisonment, while others are still being processed as part of ongoing legal investigations.



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II. ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

II.1. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

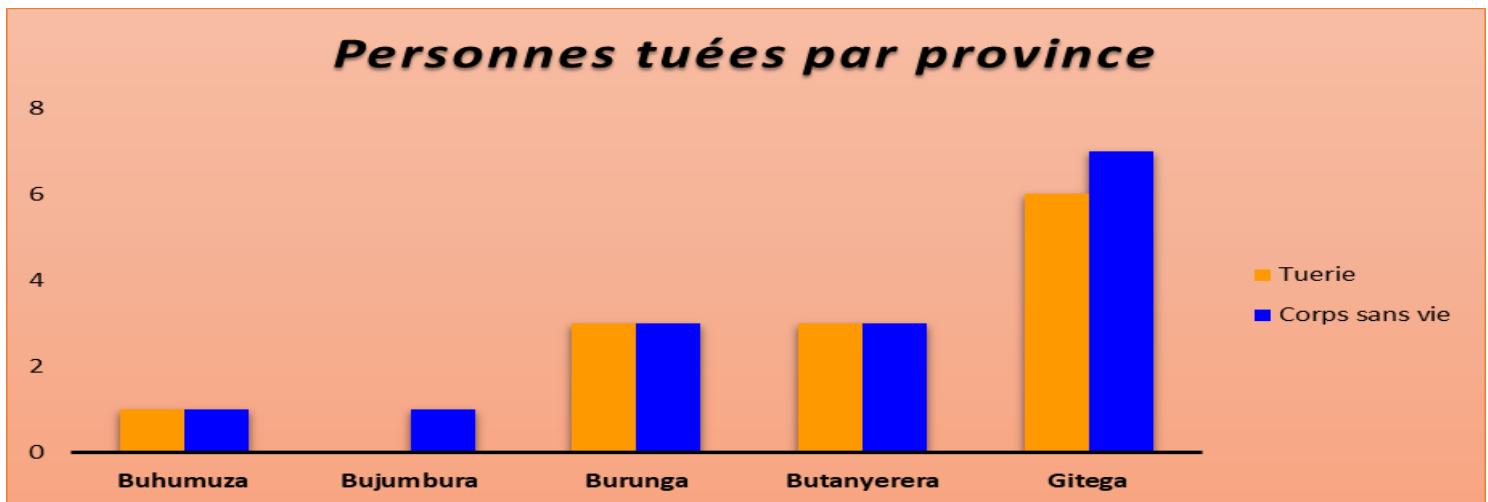
Burundi is one of the countries that adhered to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1965) and its optional protocol (1976) without any reservations on June 9, 1990. As part of implementing this, Burundi has taken measures in its domestic legislation, especially in its Constitution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

II.1.1 RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. 1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

During the period covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded 28 people killed, including 15 bodies found in various locations across the territory. Of the 28 victims, there are 25 men and 3 women. Among the victims, there are 22 adults and 6 children.

Province	Case of the killings	Number of Victims		Men	Women
		Killing	Lifeless bodies		
Buhumuza	2	1	1	2	0
Bujumbura	1	0	1	1	0
Burunga	6	3	3	6	0
Butanyerera	6	3	3	5	1
Gitega	12	6	7	11	2
Overall Total	27	13	15	25	3



⇒ **Some illustrative examples:**

Example 1: A family was wiped out in a grenade attack on the evening of Monday, August 3, 2026, on Nyagoba Hill in Karusi commune, Gitega province. The head of the family and his son were killed instantly, while his wife and their two daughters were seriously injured.

According to witnesses, the attack occurred around 9:00 p.m. Unidentified individuals threw a grenade at the home of Blaise Riyazimana while the entire family was gathered for dinner.

II.1.1 RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 8)

The head of the family, Blaise Riyazimana, and his son, Noël Gakizakimana, died instantly. The information was confirmed by Anaclet Ndihekubwayo, a local elected official from Nyagoba Hill. He indicated that the victim's wife, Aline Murekersoni, and their two daughters, Jeanine Yihamashi and Bénigne Niyonkuru, were seriously injured. The victims were initially evacuated to the Kiranda health center before being transferred to the Natwe Turashoboye Fiftieth Anniversary Hospital in Karusi. The children's mother and little Bénigne are hospitalized there, while Jeanine was transferred to King Khaled Hospital in Bujumbura.

The reasons for the attack remain unknown, and there are no leads. Information gathered on Nyagoba Hill indicates that no suspects have yet been apprehended. Residents are demanding a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators of this attack and bring them to justice.

Example 2: *A 35-year-old man named Nizigiyimana Dieudonné, a member of the CNL party, was killed on the night of Friday, August 28, 2026, to Saturday on Gerangabo Hill, Rwisabi area, in the commune of Bugendana, Gitega province.*

According to information gathered from his neighbors, an argument between the victim and the alleged perpetrator began while they were at a party on Gerangabo Hill.

Around 10:00 PM, the alleged perpetrator waited for Nizigiyimana Dieudonné, then struck and stabbed him in the ribs. Seriously wounded, Nizigiyimana Dieudonné reportedly succumbed to his injuries, according to the same sources. This information is confirmed by Habumukiza Floribert, head of the Rwisabi zone. This official indicates that the alleged perpetrator, known as Ndikuriyo Jean Pierre, has been arrested and placed in police custody at the Rwisabi zone jail. According to this authority, an investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances and motive for this murder.

Example 3: *On August 25, 2026, at approximately 3:00 a.m., six police officers from Bugendana surrounded the home of Joseph Bandora, a resident of the Buhoro sub-hill, located on Gaterama Hill, in the Bitare zone, Bugendana commune, within Gitega Province. Joseph Bandora is reportedly involved in a land dispute with a person named Evariste.*

According to our sources, Joseph Bandora was allegedly the victim of unfair treatment, which led some residents to mobilize to prevent his arrest until the dispute is resolved by the courts. During the ensuing tensions, police forces opened fire, resulting in the death of 25-year-old Nshimirimana Désiré, son of Ndindayaha Fidèle and Sinzobakwira Marie, both from the same Gaterama hill. Subsequently, significant police reinforcements arrived from Bugendana but were unable to apprehend Joseph Bandora. Around 7:00 a.m., the population blocked the road linking Bugendana to Kibimba, closing it until early afternoon.

The situation was gradually brought under control following the arrival of the provincial police commissioner, the communal commissioner, and the communal administrator, as well as a considerable reinforcement of police officers from the provincial police station. According to our sources, without the intervention of these Gitega police officers, the consequences could have been much more serious. However, the population continues to demand that Evariste also be arrested and brought to justice, so that responsibilities within this conflict can be established and further violence can be avoided.

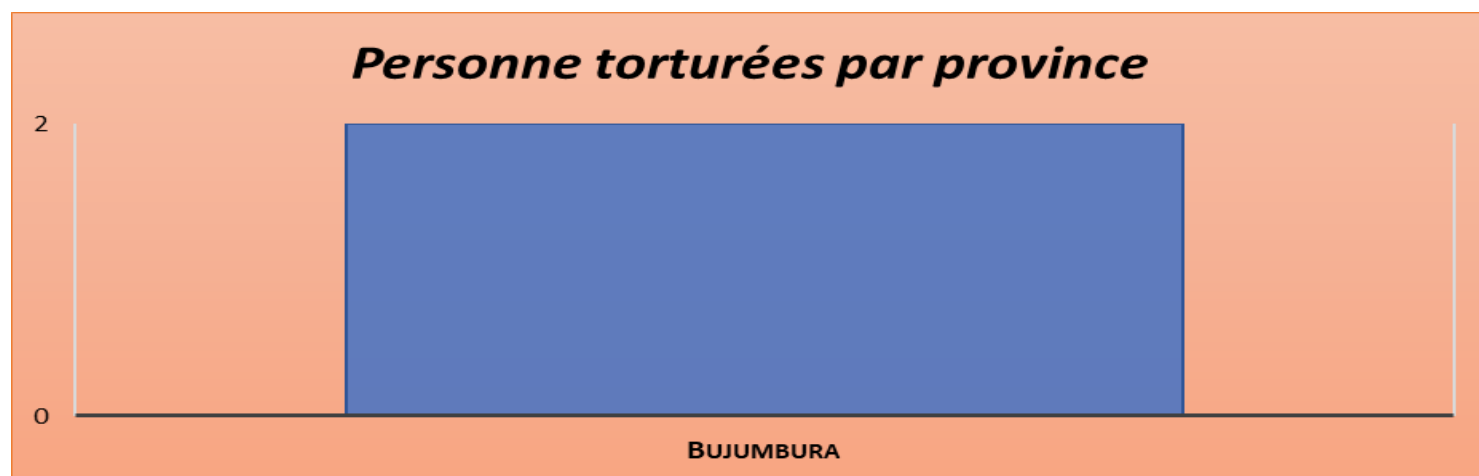
II.1.1.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

The Burundian Constitution in its article 21 states that 'No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment.' In addition, law no. 1/04 of June 27, 2016, on the protection of victims defines the rights of victims and provides measures to protect their physical and mental integrity. This clearly shows the country's commitment to protecting the physical integrity of its citizens.

II.1.1.2.1. TORTURE, PUNISHMENTS, AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENTS.

For this August 2026, the Iteka League recorded 2 victims of cruel and inhumane treatment in Bujumbura province. It should be noted in passing that some acts similar to mistreatment can be observed on people in detention at SNR facilities, according to their families.

Province	Case of killings	Number of Victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	0	0	0	0
Bujumbura	2	2	2	0
Burunga	0	0	0	0
Butanyerera	0	0	0	0
Gitega	0	0	0	0
Overall Total	2	2	2	0



Documented Cases:

Example 1: On Friday, August 28, 2026, at approximately 10:00 AM, Mertus Mpayimana, a man in his thirties and head of household, was working as a motorcycle taxi driver when he was stopped by police officers during a traffic stop. An officer identified as Samson attempted to extort money from him, claiming that the driver had refused to pay him 2,000 francs on Monday, August 24, 2026. Despite the victim's explanations, the officer persisted in demanding 90,000 francs. When the driver continued to refuse to give in to this extortion, Samson and his colleagues issued him an unjustified ticket. Upon arriving at the post office to pay the fine, the victim and the clerk noticed a discrepancy: the amount written in numbers did not match the amount written in words. Merthus Mpayimana then went to the Rugajo police station to have this administrative error corrected.

II.1.1 RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 9)

Disappointed to learn that the motorcyclist had chosen to pay an official fine rather than the demanded bribe, the station chief, named Yves, violently kicked him in the thigh, resulting in an immediate fracture. To this day, officers Samson and Yves, responsible for these acts, remain at large. Lacking the financial resources to obtain adequate medical care at a hospital, the victim is enduring his ordeal with the help of traditional healers. Local motorcyclists and witnesses to the incident are calling for legal proceedings and urgent medical attention for the victim.

Example 2: On the night of August 18, 2026, around 8:00 PM, on Busonga Hill, Mpanda Commune, Bujumbura Province, Jean-Claude Kenese, a suspected thief from the hill, was brutally attacked, stabbed, and burned by Imbonerakure (youth wing of the ruling party) who caught him with a stolen bag.

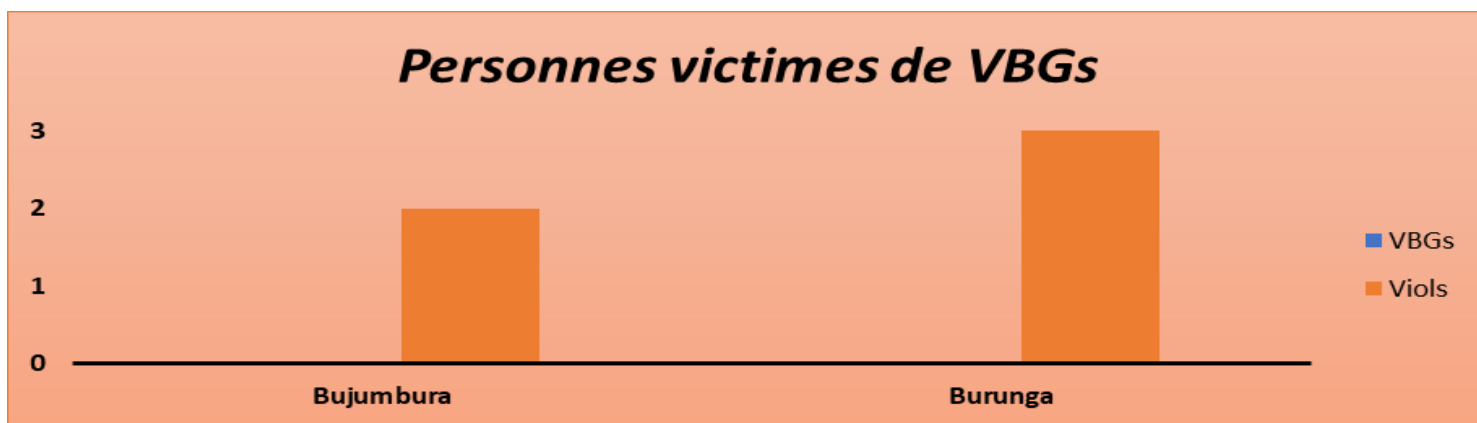
According to local sources, the young man was left unconscious and left to die on an uninhabited plot of land belonging to a man named Didace. He was found by his parents, who had to carry him on their backs to the Gihanga Hospital.

According to the same sources, the victim had recently been repatriated from the Democratic Republic of Congo and lacked the financial means to cover his medical expenses. To date, the perpetrators of this attack have not been identified or officially prosecuted.

II.1.1.3.2. GBV/RAPES

During the period covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded a total of 5 victims of gender-based violence across the country. It should be noted that all the victims are women and girls who were raped, including 4 minors. The table below breaks down these numbers by province. Burunga leads with 3 victims, closely followed by Bujumbura with 2 victims.

Province	Cases of GBV	Number of Victims		Men	Women
		GBV	Rape		
Buhumuza	0	0	0	0	0
Bujumbura	2	0	2	0	2
Burunga	3	0	3	0	3
Butanyerera	0	0	0	0	0
Gitega	0	0	0	0	0
Overall Total	5	0	5	0	5



II.1.1.3.2. GBV/RAPE (the following of page 11)

Illustrative examples:

Example 1: On Monday, August 3, 2026, around 6:00 PM, in the Majambere neighborhood, Rutana zone, Rutana commune, Burunga province, a 7-year-old girl was raped by Batungwanayo Jackson, aged 37. He lured her to his home as she was going to have corn ground, as he lives very close to the mill. The victim was found crying, she recounted the events, and she was quickly taken to Rutana Hospital for protection against HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, while the alleged perpetrator was taken to the Rutana communal police station.

Example 2: On August 15, 2026, around 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 Imbonerakure (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 perpetrator 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 screamed 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 with the help of his cousin, the zonal leader of the ruling CNDD-FDD party. According to local witnesses, the local chiefs have not reported on the case.

Example 3: Information received on August 24, 2026, by the Iteka League indicates that on Gisagara Hill, Mubimbi area, Isare commune, Bujumbura province, a 16-year-old girl named M C M, a 6th-grade student at ECOFO Gisagara, was raped on August 8, 2026, around 10:00 PM by a man named Jérémie Nkeshimana.

The incident occurred during a party held near the suspect's home. Jérémie Nkeshimana met the girl there before taking her to his house to force her to have sex. He then ordered her to leave, but given the late hour, the girl refused to drive home in the middle of the night. During the incident, a man of about 43, a father of four, was also assaulted and suffered a broken thigh.

Worried by his prolonged absence, the minor's parents questioned her the following morning. The girl then revealed that she had spent the night at the suspect's house. She was immediately taken to the Mubimbi health center for medical treatment, as was the injured father.

As for the alleged perpetrator, he was arrested and taken into custody at the Isare police station.



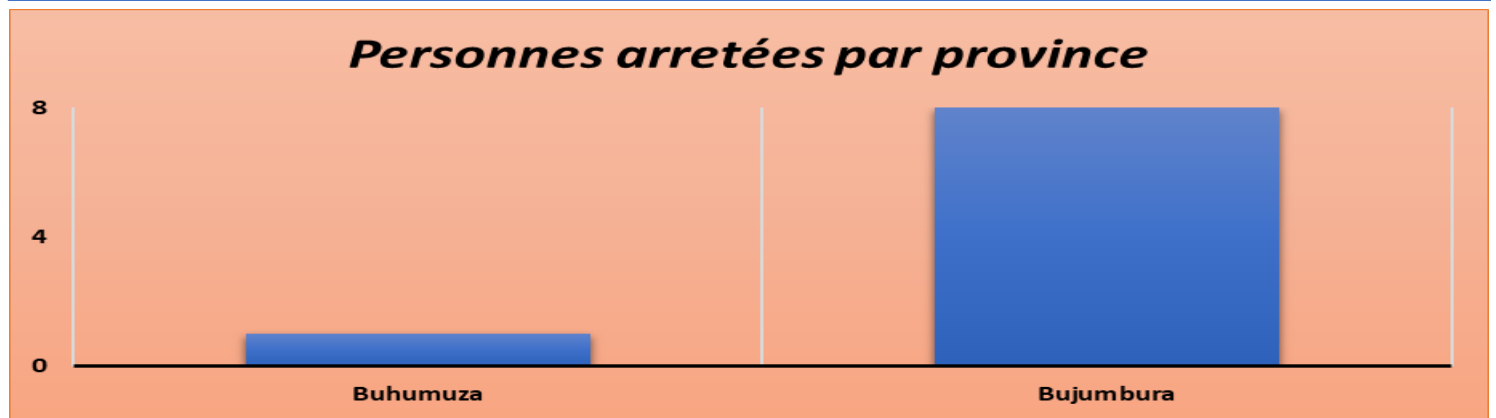
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II.1.2. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.1.2.1. ARBITRARY ARREST

In total, 9 arrests were recorded across the territory during August 2026, as covered by this report. Out of the 3 recorded cases, 9 people were arrested, all of them men. As shown in the table below, Bujumbura had 9 victims and Buhumuza had 1 case.

Province	Cases of arrests	Number of victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	1	1	1	0
Bujumbura	2	8	8	0
Burunga	0	0	0	0
Butanyerera	0	0	0	0
Gitega	0	0	0	0
Overall Total	3	9	9	0



Illustrative Cases:

Example 1: 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 on a bicycle. Ephrem Ciza was accused of intentionally causing the accident and was taken to the Gisagara Communal Jail.

Upon arrival at the jail, 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 sources on the ground, Ephrem had been repeatedly recruited to join the CNDD-FDD party, but he had refused. He also allegedly refused to allow his wife to dance at the Bakenyererarugamba club, the women's league of the ruling party. Ephrem Ciza is currently being held in the Gisagara communal jail, which human rights defenders describe as a flagrant violation of his rights.

Example 2: On August 13, 2026, on Mutara Hill, Muzinda Zone, Bubanza Commune, Bujumbura Province, two people, including the Muzinda Zone Chief and the Mutara Hill and Sub-Hill Chiefs, were arrested and imprisoned in the Muzinda Zone jail.

II.1.2. RIGHT TO FREEDOM (the following of page 13)

According to local witnesses, these arrests followed a religious gathering held on the hill, attended by 180 guests from abroad, notably from Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda.

Local officials are being questioned about the presence and reception of these foreign nationals at this gathering of the Reformed Baptist Church. Currently being held in the Muzinda area jail, they are the subject of an investigation led by the National Intelligence Service.

According to the head of the Muzinda area, this church is legally registered with the Ministry of the Interior, and authorization to hold this assembly was duly granted. The arrested officials are demanding to know the charges against them and denounce their arrest as arbitrary.

Example 3: On the evening of August 25, 2026, in the Buterere area, specifically near the school known as Chez Rukara, in the Ntahangwa commune of Bujumbura province, six people were arrested, including five soldiers and one police officer. They were accused of collaborating with the rebellion and providing information to Bob Rugurika, director of the RPA, and Pacifique NININHAZWE, president of FOCODE. One of them is Ndikumasabo Desiré, a non-commissioned officer with the rank of warrant officer, and another is Corporal Manirambona Jean Marie, commonly known as James. According to information received by the Iteka League, James was found in possession of Bob's collaboration documents, correspondence, and plans, and he was the one who accused the others. He was the first to be questioned by the police and the Ntahangwa commune's records department, where they were detained for the first two days. They were held in separate cells; James was alone in solitary confinement, while the other five were together. On Thursday, August 27, 2026, the four whose identifications we do not know were released and Warrant Officer Desiré Ndikumasabo and Corporal Jean Marie Manirambona were transferred to the office of the National Intelligence Service (SNR) very close to the Regina Mundi Cathedral.

II.2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

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

II.2.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE.

In August 2026, Burundi was plunged into a turbulent period marked by serious violations of socio-economic rights. Bujumbura province, in particular, was the scene of disturbing rumors concerning potential fires affecting markets. In late July, a redevelopment campaign was observed in several modern markets in the area, involving municipal officials, commissioners, and local CNDD-FDD leaders. Despite the imposition of new metal-roofed stalls, traders harbored persistent apprehensions. The threat of fire hung heavily over them, especially after the recent blazes that had ravaged markets such as Gasenyi and Cibitoke.

Within the Cibitoke brigade, a single fire truck was stretched thin, often diverted to supply water to the police force, while flames raged throughout the town. In an already precarious situation, disturbing inspections were being carried out by individuals allegedly linked to the National

II.2.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE (the following of page 14)

Intelligence Service. These individuals patrolled the markets, scrutinizing infrastructure meant to facilitate the rapid passage of emergency services, thus contributing to a growing climate of insecurity. Simultaneously, self-proclaimed prophets traveled to places like Mabayi, Nyeshenza, and Rugombo, announcing divine punishments for activities deemed contrary to God's will.

On August 21, tragedy struck Bujumbura when two shopping arcades, the Ndayizamba Gallery and the Le Parisien Gallery, went up in flames. The fire, which started at the Ndayizamba Gallery, spread like wildfire to the neighboring arcade, resulting in immeasurable losses for many merchants. Reports described scenes of devastation, with some claiming to have lost everything, estimating their losses at billions of Burundian francs. In response to this disaster, figures such as Vice President Prosper Bazombanza visited the affected areas, expressing their compassion for the victims and offering recommendations to strengthen security measures for goods in the face of future fires. Amid the uproar, the theory that an iron was the source of the fire provoked surprise and disbelief among those who had witnessed the events.

This tragedy occurred within an already tense climate, as other markets across the country had recently been struck by fires. The repercussions of these events continued to leave a lasting mark on people's minds, sharpening fears about the economic future. On August 25, the curse of fires continued with the destruction of a house in Kayanza, causing the loss of all the belongings of four people, a situation exacerbated by a power outage. That same day, the Kinindo market in Bujumbura was also ravaged by a fire, plunging many traders into despair as smoke billowed into the sky. Losses amounted to millions, amplifying the already tense atmosphere. Following this series of incidents, Finance Minister Alain Ndikumana made an emergency visit to the site, promising a thorough investigation into the causes, while leaving open the possibility of arson.

Faced with this alarming situation, the government decided to take a proactive approach, offering a substantial reward for information leading to the identification of those responsible, while also imposing closing times for markets as a safety precaution. In this atmosphere of fear mixed with indignation, the population questioned who was truly responsible for the fires, labeling them as acts of terrorism, while hoping that concrete measures would be taken to prevent such tragedies from recurring in the future.

II.2.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

In the field of education, Burundi has recently been shaken by significant events related to the right to education. On August 12, 2026, during a meeting of the Council of Ministers, the government decided to adopt an ambitious plan: the recruitment of 5,000 new teachers for the primary and secondary levels. This urgent need was identified in the face of a total shortage of 14,300 qualified teachers in the country. Thus, this recruitment process, which will be coordinated by the Communal Education Departments (DCEs), aims to specifically address this detrimental gap in the education sector. The Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research has established clear guidelines to regulate the distribution of these new teachers, taking into account the priorities defined by the various provincial education directorates and the DCEs. Within this framework, the Ministry plans to hire teachers with varying levels of qualification: 995 with a D6 diploma, 2,538 with a D7 diploma, 22 with an A2 diploma, and 1,445 with a university degree.

II.2.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 15)

To ensure this process is transparent and fair, a competitive examination will be held. Starting August 14, 2026, committees comprised of administrative and educational authorities, as well as union representatives, were established to oversee this crucial operation. Candidates who participated in the previous examination, if their names appear on the waiting lists, will not be required to retake the test.

To validate these lists, Ministry committees will visit the various municipal education offices between August 20 and 23. In July, the Ministry had already requested that the municipal education offices make these lists public by posting them, an initiative that has been implemented in several offices, facilitating contact with the adult candidates concerned. According to information shared at the last Council of Ministers meeting, Burundi has a critical need for more than 14,300 teachers, and this year, it was decided to recruit 5,000 teachers due to budgetary constraints. The Secretary-General of the Government announced that more than 17 billion Burundian francs have been allocated for the recruitment and salary payments of new teachers, as part of the reforms announced to improve the education system.

In recent years, schools have suffered an exodus of many qualified teachers, both young and old, to neighboring countries, Europe, or even Arab countries, all in search of better living conditions. The poor living conditions of teachers in Burundi are often cited as the reason for this exodus. The economic situation, exacerbated by limited access to basic necessities, water and electricity shortages, as well as rising living costs and rents, is making the profession increasingly untenable. Some teachers, unable to endure these conditions any longer, end up abandoning their jobs. This phenomenon has direct consequences for schools and students, who face a critical teacher shortage.

This recruitment project is raising hopes among some university graduates seeking employment and eager to enter the education sector. However, they are asking the Ministry of National Education to ensure the rigor of this process, in order to avoid favoritism and guarantee the selection of the most competent candidates. For the graduates, the success of this operation will depend not only on the number of teachers recruited, but also on the transparency of the process and the government's ability to select based on merit.

Unfortunately, school dropouts have been reported in the commune of Muramvya, located in the province of Gitega. For the 2025-2026 school year, the dropout rate in this area is deeply alarming, with primary school students being the most affected. According to Mr. Habonimana Remy, head of the Muramvya Communal Education Department, the main reasons include poverty, early pregnancies, illness, family relocations, and early marriage. A survey revealed that poverty is perceived as the primary cause of these dropouts.

Alarming dropout rates have also been reported in the commune of Cankuzo, in Buhumuza province. Information provided to the Iteka League on August 17, 2026, revealed that 2,880 children, at the primary and secondary levels, had dropped out of school during the 2025-2026 academic year. This alarming figure marks an unprecedented turning point in school dropout rates. Local witnesses reported that even children of teachers, principals, and merchants from relatively well-off families have dropped out.

Children's rights are protected in Burundi through the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), ratified in 1990. The country has also adopted laws and policies to protect children.

This August 2026 report highlights the extremely serious impact on children. Numerous cases of sexual violence, as well as other unacceptable abuses, have been reported, particularly against young girls, who are among the most vulnerable.

II. 3. CATEGORY RIGHTS

II.3.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Furthermore, the Iteka League, in its weekly reports, consistently raises awareness of several tragic incidents that are a cause for great concern.

In the communes of Musongati and Bururi, as well as in those of Karusi and Gitega, located in the provinces of Burunga and Gitega, children have been killed or found dead in mysterious and disturbing circumstances, and countless abortions have also taken place. These tragic events underline the urgency of the situation and the importance of acting quickly to protect children and ensure their safety.

III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the period covered by this report, the deterioration of the human rights situation continued to be observed in various parts of the country.

This report documents cases of violations of the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty; as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

It also addresses the disruption of civil and political rights and economic and socio-cultural rights and expresses its concern. The Iteka League denounces the impunity for the observed crimes and recommends the following:

⇒ *To the Government of Burundi:*

1. To guarantee respect for human rights, particularly the right to life, physical integrity, and liberty.
2. To take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable.
3. To investigate and severely punish violence against minors and other abuses in Burundi, particularly those perpetrated by local administrative officials and other members of the ruling party.
4. Take decisive measures to ensure the security of markets and other goods of common and individual interest.

⇒ *To the EU and other technical and financial partners of Burundi:*

1. Support the efforts of the Iteka League and other human rights organizations in monitoring human rights violations in Burundi.
2. Use their influence to compel the Burundian authorities to respect human rights and end impunity.