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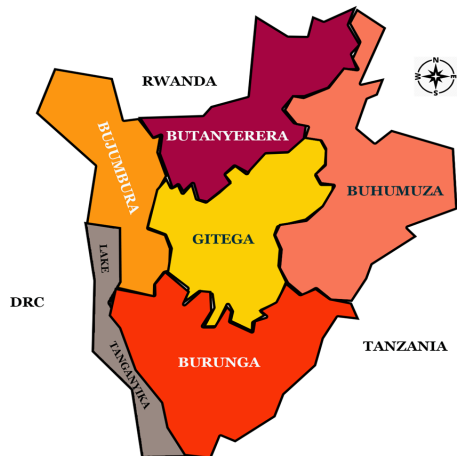
BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

N°541 from 24 to 30 August 2026

Approved by Ministerial Order No. 530/0273 of November 10, 1994,
revising Order 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 30, 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:

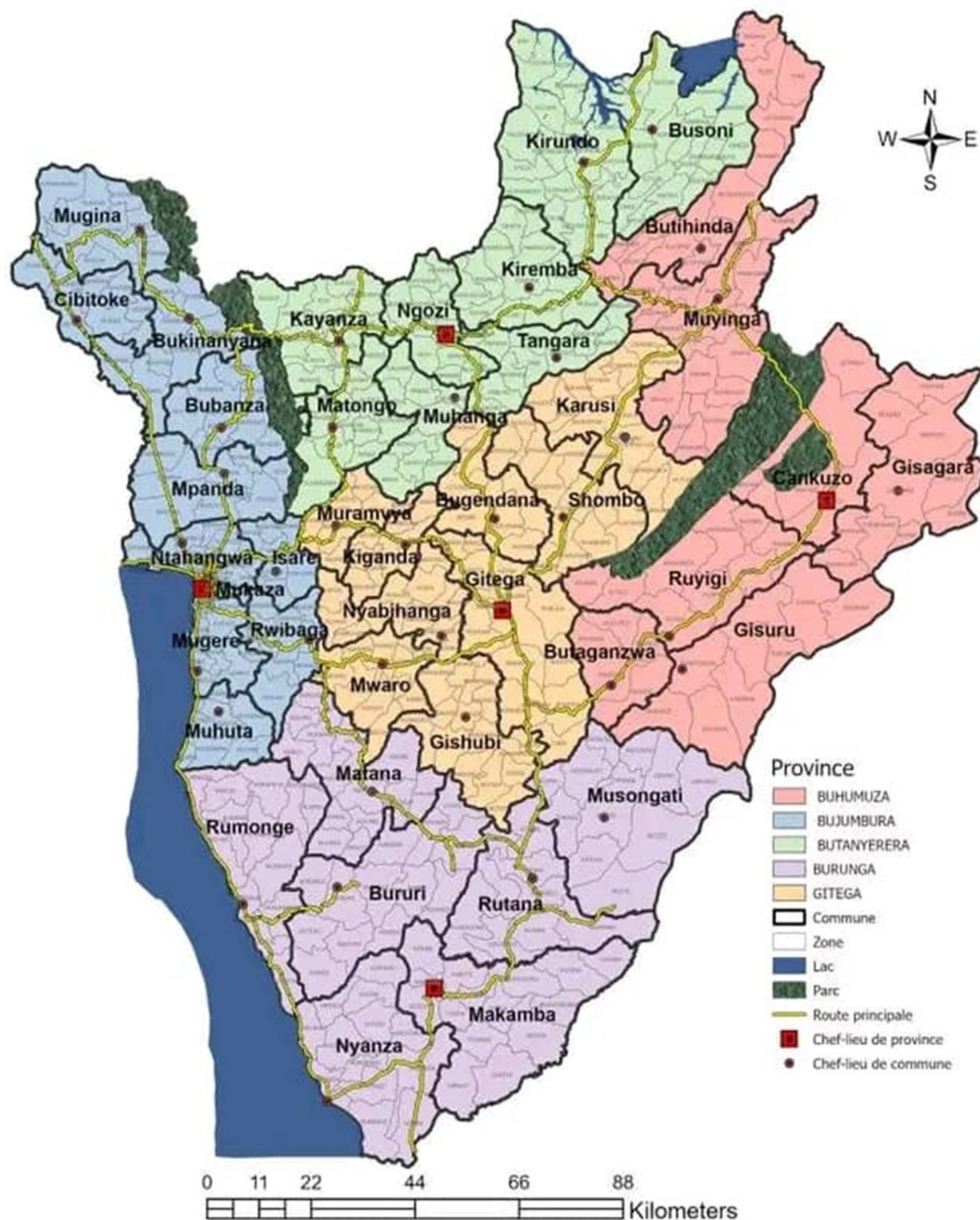
- ♦ 'It is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH),
- ♦ has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236, and is a member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

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ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



CDS: Health Center

CECI: Independent Communal Electoral Commission

CEPI: Independent National Provincial Commission

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

CNL: National Congress for Liberty

RN: National Road

FDLR: Democratic Liberation Force of Rwanda

AFC: Congo River Alliance

M23: March 23 Movement

RDC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

ECOFO: Fundamental School

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0. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin provides an overview of the human rights situation in Burundi for the week from August 24 to 30, 2026. In this report, the Iteka League also assesses the political, security, and governance context. It provides an analysis of incidents illustrating violations of civil and political rights, as well as socio-economic and cultural rights that marked this period.

The human rights violations observed and recorded by the Iteka League are as follows: at least 8 people were killed, including 3 bodies found dead, 1 case of infanticide, and a child who died due to a crocodile attack. There was 1 case of GBV involving a minor girl who was raped, 1 person subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment, and 6 persons who were victims of arbitrary arrests, including 5 soldiers and 1 police officer.

The main suspects in these violations are police officers, young Imbonerakure associated with the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Mass movements of the Imbonerakure heading to Gitega in the Karusi Commune.

On the morning of August 29, 2026, around 4:00 AM, trucks carrying Imbonerakure and other members of the CNDD-FDD were traveling on National Route 12 towards Gitega, where the celebration of Imbonerakure Day was being held. These individuals chanted partisan slogans while intimidating people who were not members of the ruling party. Most of these Imbonerakure wore khaki trousers and shirts, along with matching boots. The population wondered if this might be a new Burundian army.

The organization of this day was impressive, benefiting from meticulously planned logistics and nationwide media coverage. Under the inspiring theme "New Ideas, a New Approach:

Youth, the Pillar of Peace, Security, and Sustainable Development," this celebration was distinguished by its scale and grandeur.

However, this vibrant energy contrasted sharply with the discretion that often surrounds National and International Youth Day. This disparity highlights a major challenge related to inclusivity, linked to the implementation of the Burundi Vision 2040-2060. The Iteka League is concerned about this situation for several fundamental reasons. First, it noted the existence of a two-tiered

youth system. Young people affiliated with the Imbonerakure benefit from privileged access to resources such as agricultural and livestock cooperatives, loans amounting to 300 billion Burundian francs, and visibility in the public sphere, generating a profound sense of exclusion among young people not affiliated with the presidential party.

Furthermore, the line between the party and the state is becoming blurred. The presence of the Head of State, acting as President of the CNDD-FDD Council of Elders at this celebration, while politically legitimate, appears to compromise the universal nature of the national youth policy. Furthermore, social cohesion is jeopardized. Indeed, a letter dated August 24, 2026, addressed to the UN Human Rights Council and drafted by forty civil society organizations, underscores how the shrinking of civic space and the fear of speaking out among unaffiliated youth represent real obstacles to the country's demographic potential.

Faced with this situation, the Iteka League recommends harnessing the enthusiasm and mobilization capacity demonstrated by Imbonerakure Day to establish a truly inclusive National Youth Policy. This should be done in accordance with Article 27 of the Constitution of Burundi and the African

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 5)

Youth Charter. By ensuring equitable access to economic opportunities, training and civic participation for all young people in Burundi, whether affiliated or not, as well as for all girls and boys, it would be possible to make youth a

true pillar of peace, instead of viewing them as a factor of division.

Shows of force by the Imbonerakure in Gisagara commune, Buhumuza Province.

Saturday, August 29, 2026, was marked by intensified activities of the CNDD-FDD party. In almost every commune, the weekend was punctuated by a show of force by young people affiliated with the party on the occasion of "Imbonerakure Day." In the commune of Gisagara, this day began with a long parade of Imbonerakure youth, with the ceremonies taking place in the commune's main town. Parade participants wore party t-shirts and trousers similar to those worn in military drills.

commune and to preserving peace and security. The day also provided an opportunity to share a traditional meal.

Furthermore, all the party's zone chiefs and zonal leaders signed a pledge promising to obtain 100% of the vote in each of their constituencies for the upcoming presidential elections. Observers consider this pledge a maneuver by the ruling party aimed at preparing for electoral fraud in the upcoming presidential elections.

During the event, chants rang out, accompanied by phrases such as: "abakeba ntibakorako, uwuzotwitambika imbere akozabona, intsizi turayibona 100%. abipfuz ubutegets nibateshwe bate, nibarindire imyaka 500." After the parade, speeches were given. During these addresses, the CNDD-FDD party's local leader in Gisagara, Mr. Frédéric Ndayisaba, praised the Imbonerakure youth for their commitment to the development of the

These political activities took place in all the communes of our diocese, notably in Butaganzwa, Cankuzo, Gisagara, Gisuru, and Ruyigi. Everywhere, the messages were uniform and commitments were signed by the leaders and officials of the CNDD FDD party at the zone level to guarantee a score of 100% in their respective sectors.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

A man was stabbed in Rutana Commune, Rutana province.

On August 26, 2026, at around 2 a.m., on Nyamure hill, Gitaba zone, Rutana commune in Burunga province, Mpawenayo Evariste, a member of the CNDD-FDD party, was caught by unidentified people and injected him with a

knife in his stomach when he was returning home from the local bar to quench his thirst. The victim was quickly taken to the hospital in Rutana where he is being treated

Binding measures taken by the municipal administration of Kirundo and the responsibility to control the movement of people granted to the Imbonerakure.

On August 26, 2026, in Kirundo, the commune administrator, Mr. Ndikuriyo Jean Berchmans, chaired a security meeting in response to the market fires observed across the country. This meeting focused on the markets in the Kirundo commune and the control of population movement. The following decisions were made:

market opening hours are set at 6:30 a.m. and closing time at 5:30 p.m.

Any violation of these hours will result in a fine of 50,000 CFA francs. Furthermore, the use of electricity in the markets is prohibited. The public should be aware that working hours have been reduced. At closing time, the

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 6)

police and the Imbonerakure (youth wing of the ruling party) will take firm action against anyone still present on the premises. Regarding movement control, every person entering the market will be registered at the provincial

level. Individuals without identity documents will be directly apprehended by the Imbonerakure and imprisoned.

Increase in gold trafficking and alliances between the FDLR and Burundian armed forces in Kibira, Mugina commune, Bujumbura province

At the end of 2025, the occupation of a large portion of North and South Kivu by the AFC/M23 movement forced the FDLR Interahamwe rebels to retreat towards Burundi. To conceal their retreat on Congolese territory, fighters not engaged on the front lines against the M23 abandoned their strongholds in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to reinforce their positions in the Kibira forest starting in April 2026. Currently, civilians in the Ruhororo, Mabayi, and Butahana areas (Mugina commune), as well as those in the Bumba, Ndora, and Rusenda areas (Bukinyanya commune), maintain close commercial relations with these rebels, supplying them with food in exchange for money.

Several testimonies and investigations indicate that these exchanges also include reciprocal transactions of minerals, primarily gold from the DRC, the interior of Burundi, and Kibira National Park. While certain state and military actors control the entirety of the official mining trade, this rapprochement between civilians and the Interahamwe risks becoming even closer than before. Attracted by an informal

mining trade perceived as more lucrative, the population is exposing itself and the region to a resurgence of crime, including extortion, ransom demands, robberies, and assassinations.

It is essential to recall that, since the CNDD-FDD came to power, these interactions between civilians and rebels have regularly resulted in violence. In August 2023, two clashes within a week in the commune of Mabayi led to the deaths of two military officers and a local Imbonerakure leader. On Wednesday, August 26, 2026, an unidentified individual was apprehended in Kivogero, on Gitukura Hill, as he was heading towards a FDLR position in Kibira. He was carrying a large sum of money, about ten cell phones, and food supplies. Contrary to standard procedure, this individual was neither detained nor questioned by the local police. Intelligence services, in collaboration with military police officers assigned to Camp Mabayi to oversee gold mining, transferred him directly to Bujumbura.

The lack of water exposes children to attacks from crocodiles in Lake Tanganyika, including the death of a 9-year-old girl on August 23, 2026, in Nyanza commune, Burunga province.

In Rubindi, in the Nyanza commune, the lack of drinking water forces residents to use the waters of Lake Tanganyika, where the threat of crocodiles is constant. The tragedy worsened with the death of a 9-year-old girl, attacked on August 23, 2026, while she was swimming near the church. Alerted by her cries, neighbors searched for her in a dugout canoe, but her body was found under reeds, injured.

This is not an isolated incident; crocodile attacks in the area are recurrent. Residents are

in danger, especially children, when they go to the lake to swim or fetch water. The lack of drinking water is a major problem, forcing some families to depend on the lake for basic needs. This situation creates a paradox: the lake water is necessary, but it is also dangerous because of the crocodiles. The death of Marie Ange Chricia underscores that the issue of water in Rubindi is also a matter of children's safety. Without sufficient access to clean drinking water, people will continue to frequent the lake. Authorities are

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

encouraging parents and children to learn about the dangers of the lake. However, preventing crocodile attacks must be accompanied by improved access to clean drinking water.

For the residents, the priority is finding solutions to reduce their dependence on the lake's water. Increasing the number of drinking water points and raising public awareness are

essential. The authorities must address this dual challenge: ensuring access to water while protecting the population from the dangers associated with the lake. The tragedy of this young girl serves as a stark reminder that the water problem has dramatic consequences; for the families of Rubindi, access to safe water is crucial.

A house burned down in Karusi commune, Gitega province

On August 23, 2026, on Ruvumu Hill, Buhiga area, Karusi commune, Gitega province, the house of a certain Mvukiye, a member of CNDD FDD, over 50 years old, was burned down by as-yet unidentified perpetrators. According to local witnesses, 7 goats that were there were all set on fire, along with more than 400 kg of beans. The same witnesses said that the

parents were not at home and that four children managed to escape unharmed. This family is accused of witchcraft, but the local administration wanted to cover up the incident because during a security meeting, the hill chief who wanted to report it was stopped by the Buhiga area chief, saying that the situation was already known.

1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

A shortage of essential products like water, electricity, and fuel in Karusi Commune , Gitega Province.

For the past month, the population of this municipality has been living in a particularly worrying situation, especially in the urban centers of the former Karusi province. Regarding the electricity supply, it would be inappropriate to call it load shedding, as no set time frame is observed. Residents are sometimes without power for more than 24 hours, leading to an increase in burglaries in both businesses and homes. Furthermore, these same areas have been without water for over

three months, and a 20-liter jerrycan now sells for 1,000 francs or more, depending on the location. In addition, all gas stations in the former Karusi province have been out of fuel for over two months, resulting in soaring prices. 1.5-liter plastic bottles are now selling for 20,000 francs or more, depending on the area, thus impacting transportation costs.

Water shortage in the Muyinga commune.

In recent days, the commune of Muyinga has been facing a persistent water shortage. According to one of our witnesses, this situation began in the Muyinga area, where the town center is located. In this area, residents report having had no access to drinking water since May of this year. One of the town's residents indicates that those wishing to obtain water must arrive as early as 5:00 a.m. and can only leave around 1:00 p.m. Moreover, this problem is also affecting rural areas.

Our source specifies that residents of other localities do not use the water supplied by Regideso, but instead draw their water from public taps. For these residents, although they were able to go without water for a period of two weeks, it has now been more than two months since they have been deprived of this essential resource. The population of the commune of Muyinga is uncertain about what actions to take and is calling on Regideso to improve its services.

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

In conclusion, according to several sources, a widespread shortage of water and electricity is observed in many municipalities across the country, a situation which could not only pose a risk to public health due to the inadequacy of

the management of public services by the State, but also constitute a serious infringement of the socio-economic rights of citizens.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. VOLUNTARY HOMICIDES

II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY STATE AGENTS

Tensions during a police operation in Bugendana: A young man was killed

On August 25, 2026, at approximately 3:00 AM, 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 area of Bugendana commune, Gitega Province. Joseph Bandora was allegedly involved in a land dispute with a man named Evariste.

According to our sources, Joseph Bandora was allegedly subjected to 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 opened fire, resulting in the death of 25-year-old Nshimirimana Désiré, son of Ndindayaha Fidel and Sinzobakwira Marie, who were also from Gaterama Hill. Subsequently, significant reinforcements of police officers 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 the route 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 responsibility in this conflict can be established and further violence prevented.

II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED DUE TO A SETTLEMENT OF SCORES

A man stabbed to death in the Bugendana commune in Gitega province

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, in the Rwisabi area of Bugendana commune, 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 p.m., the alleged perpetrator reportedly waited for Nizigiyimana Dieudonné, then struck and stabbed him in the ribs.

Seriously wounded, Nizigiyimana Dieudonné succumbed to his injuries, according to the same sources.

This information has been confirmed by Habumukiza Floribert, head of the Rwisabi zone. He indicated that the suspected perpetrator, known as Ndikuriyo Jean Pierre, has been arrested and detained in the Rwisabi zone jail. According to Habumukiza, an investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances and motive for the murder.

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

A young man killed with a machete in Bururi commune, Burunga province

A 35-year-old man, identified as Egide Kwizera, was fatally wounded on the night of Monday, August 24, to Tuesday, August 25, 2026, on Muzima Hill in the commune of Bururi, Burunga province.

According to testimonies gathered from neighbors, a fight broke out at the family home. Alerted by the noise, neighbors went to the scene and found Egide Kwizera with severe neck injuries. He had reportedly been wounded with a machete, and his younger brother, Thierry Kanteyineza, was identified by witnesses as the alleged perpetrator.

The victim was reportedly taken to the Buta health center, but died en route. The death was confirmed by the chief of Muzima Hill, Hilaire Hamenyimana, who stated that the tragedy was linked to family disputes over land ownership. Egide Kwizera, who regularly demanded his share of the family property, reportedly voiced his demands while intoxicated, according to the same source. The village chief also reports that, on the evening of the tragedy, Thierry Kanteyineza intervened to defend their mother, whom Egide had allegedly threatened or struck.

II.1.1.3. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS OR DEAD BODIES FOUND

Discovery of a lifeless body of a man in Ruyigi Commune, Buhumuza Province.

On August 29, 2026, in Muyange hill, Mubira Zone of Ruyigi commune, a lifeless body of a man was found in a bush along the Mubira road in Ruyigi and Mubuga commune of Gitega commune. The body of the deceased was found about 3 km from the capital of the Mubira zone by passers-by who were going to their fields. Apparently the victim's throat was slit because the head was separated from the rest of the body.

According to our sources on the spot, the victim was killed elsewhere and his body was thrown

in this place because his identity was not known in this locality. The zonal administration of Mubira confirms this crime but informed us that investigations are underway to know the identity of the victim, the motives and the perpetrators of the crime have not been known. The deceased was buried on Sunday by the communal administration of Ruyigi.

A lifeless body found in commune and Gitega province

On August 24, 2026, on Kiremera hill, commune and province of Gitega, the lifeless body of Nepomuk Ntakirutimana was discovered in the Kiruhura Valley.

According to witnesses in the locality, the victim resides on the same hill, the deceased and had been caught stealing small livestock from the household of a woman named Anitha Nshimirimana and beaten to death with clubs

by the inhabitants of the place. The information coming from this locality and confirmed by the head of the Kiremera hill Jean Claude Mfukamensabe who explains that three people including Anitha Nshimirimana, Jacqueline Ndayishimiye and Arsène Ciza were arrested and taken to the police cell in Giheta for investigative reasons.

A lifeless body found in Makamba commune, Burunga province

On August 27, 2026, in the Mushasha district, Kayogoro zone, Makamba commune, Burunga province, a lifeless body of an unidentified man was found very early in the morning.

According to witnesses in the locality, the victim's body had signs showing that he had

been killed, including the wound on the head and tied up with a piece of a mosquito net. He was lying in a tree plantation belonging to the parish of Saint Joseph in Kayogoro. According to the chief of the Kayogoro zone, Annociate Niyomwungere, the victim is from the Dunga zone in the same commune of Makamba. This

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

administrative authority says that this man circumstances of this murder remain was killed with clubs. The perpetrators and unknown.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. TORTURE OR INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT

Police officers break a motorcyclist's thigh in Rugajo, Mugina commune, Bujumbura province

On Friday, August 28, 2026, at around 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.

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 traditional healers.

Local motorcyclists and witnesses to the incident are calling for legal proceedings and urgent medical attention for the victim.

II.2.2. RAPES

Sexual violence and assault in Isare: a suspect in police custody

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 and forcing 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 years old, a father of four, was also assaulted and suffered a broken thigh.

Worried by her 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.

II.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM

II.3.1. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Right to protest ignored by the administrator in Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province.

On Saturday, August 29, 2026, the Men in Distress association organized a march to protest violence against men. However, the local administrator refused to grant permission, suggesting that the association should instead focus its efforts on awareness campaigns through meetings. Boniface Nduwimana received this decision with deep regret, especially given the increasing attention being paid to violence against men.

Indeed, according to the association's president, a worrying increase in cases has been observed in the region over the past two weeks, with

some men being stabbed by their partners, others tied up, and still others subjected to various forms of violence. In Kayanza, in just two weeks, a man was killed by his wife, another saw his house burned down, with his partner suspected of complicity, and a third was fatally attacked by the Imbonerakure youth wing in the market, allegedly for attempting to set it on fire. The local administrator justified this tragic violence by claiming it was a misunderstanding, while emphasizing the absurdity of the situation, given the alarming intensity of these acts.

II.3.2. ARBITRARY ARREST

Arbitrary arrest of five soldiers and a police officer in the Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province.

On the evening of August 25, 2026, in the Buterere area, specifically near the school known as Chez Rukara, in Ntahangwa commune, 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 the one who had Bob's collaboration documents,

correspondence, and plans in his bag, and he himself accused the others because he was the first person questioned by the police and the Ntahangwa commune's records department, where they were detained for the first two days. They were in separate cells; James was alone in solitary confinement while the other five were together. On Thursday, August 27, 2026, the four whose identities are unknown were released, and Warrant Officer Desiré Ndikumasabo and Corporal Jean Marie Manirambona were transferred to the National Enquiry Service (SNR) office near Regina Mundi Cathedral.



Anyone should be respected

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

More fires, more measures are coming down to track the perpetrators

A family home housing four people was destroyed by a devastating fire. The house was completely gutted by flames on the night of August 25, 2026. The blaze reportedly started around 8:00 PM in the house located in the Gisoro neighborhood of Kayanza, Butanyerera province. Despite the neighbors' efforts to extinguish the fire, they were unable to do so due to its intensity, which completely destroyed the contents of the house. The cause of the fire remains undetermined, as neighbors reported that there was also a power outage at the residence, and the head of the household, a career soldier, was not present due to his professional obligations.

On the same day, a fire also broke out at the Kinindo market, located in the Kinindo area of Mugere commune, Bujumbura province. This fire caused significant material damage, plunging the vendors into deep distress. Authorities have announced the opening of an investigation to determine the cause of the fire. Numerous laments echoed through the Kinindo market on Tuesday morning. According to vendors present, the flames broke out around 10:00 AM in an area typically used for selling mattresses, before spreading to adjacent commercial spaces, causing considerable losses for many merchants. They expressed their grief over the destruction of their goods and questioned the frequency of such fires in these markets. The first emergency response teams arrived on the scene approximately twenty minutes after the fire started. After nearly two hours of work, firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control around noon. Several officials, including the Minister of Finance and Digital Economy, Alain Ndikumana, and the Governor of Bujumbura Province, visited the site to assess the damage. Alain Ndikumana stated that it was premature to

accurately quantify the extent of the destruction and announced that an identification of the victims and an assessment of lost property would be carried out in the coming days. He also indicated that the authorities would conduct investigations into the causes of this fire, as well as other recent incidents in the markets.

"What we can already say is that we believe these fires were not accidental," said Alain Ndikumana, urging the exploration of various avenues to identify those potentially responsible. The Minister of Finance also specified that the government would consider providing assistance to traders severely affected by the fire. It should be noted that the Kinindo market reopened this Friday for the sections unaffected by the fire, and that the victims will be directed to the market commissioner and the Kinindo zone chief so that they can resume their business activities elsewhere.

The President of the Republic announced a reward of 500 million Burundian francs for anyone providing information or revealing those responsible for the fires, which he categorized as acts of terrorism. This message was delivered to the Imbonerakure youth wing of the ruling CNDD-FDD party during an end-of-month prayer in Gitega, the political capital. Given claims that no one has been found responsible for these "arson attacks," the question arises: why this sum of money and this mission? Furthermore, it was decided that the Gitega market would close at 5:30 PM and the Kayanza market at 6:00 PM.

IV. CATEGORY RIGHTS

IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Discovery of a newborn's lifeless body in Gitega.

On the morning of Monday, August 24, 2026, residents discovered the lifeless body of a newborn baby in the valley separating the Yoba and Zege neighborhoods, the city of the commune and the province of Gitega. According to our source, the body had a wound in the head.

The administrative authorities have authorized the burial of the newborn, while indicating that investigations will continue in order to identify the person who would have given birth and abandoned the newborn after killing it.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Iteka League strongly denounces the persistent deterioration of human rights in Burundi and condemns 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. Systematically conduct transparent judicial investigations upon the discovery of bodies.
2. Guarantee victims' families the right to file a complaint and access the findings 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. Take appropriate measures to ensure the security of markets and other property of public and private interest.
6. To end the exploitation of Burundian youth and to treat all young people equally in terms of the opportunities available to them, in accordance with the constitution.



Anyone should be respected