



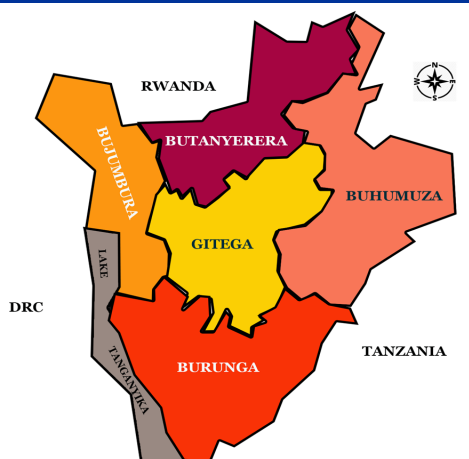
BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

N°543 from 7 to 13 September 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, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to September 13, 2026, at least 879 victims of forced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 87 victims have reappeared, and 792 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:

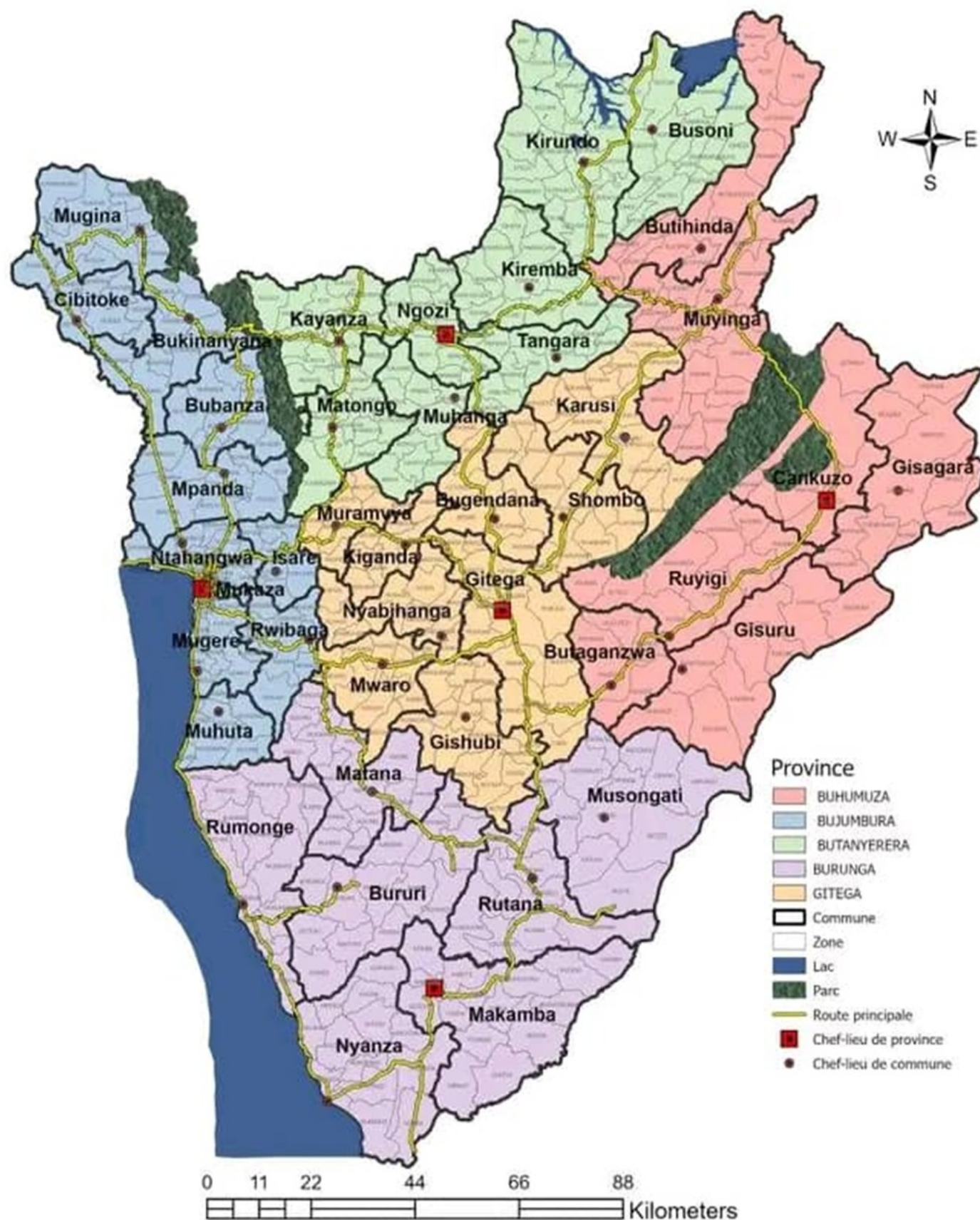
- ♦ 'It is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH),
- ♦ has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236, and is a member 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 Provincial Electoral Commission

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

CNL: National Congress for Freedom

SNR: National Enquiry Service

FDLR: Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda

AFC: Congo River Alliance

M23: March 23 Movement

OPJ: Judicial Police Officer

RDC: Democratic Republic of Congo

VBG: Gender-Based Violence

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0. INTRODUCTION

This weekly bulletin reports on the human rights situation in Burundi during the period from September 7 to 13, 2026. It also outlines key developments in the political, security, environmental, and governance spheres, as well as events likely to impact the exercise of socio-economic and cultural rights. During the period under review, Ligue Iteka documented at least five killings: four bodies were found, one person was killed in a settling of scores, and two others died in security-related incidents. Two cases of gender-based violence and one case of abduction were also documented.

The information gathered indicates the alleged involvement in some incidents of police officers, agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR), *Imbonerakure* youth affiliated with the ruling CNDD-FDD party, and unidentified individuals. Beyond the directly documented violations, the week was also marked by concerns regarding financial contributions imposed on the population, restrictions affecting commercial activities, forced labor imposed on certain groups, persistent difficulties in the education sector, and several environmental and health-related incidents.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

Awareness meeting for the people of Cankuzo Commune, by the Governor of Buhumuza Province

On September 10, 2026, Ms. Denise Ndaruhekere, Governor of Buhumuza Province, held a meeting for natives and residents of Cankuzo Commune at the "Kabeza Motel," located on Cankuzo Hill. According to a witness present at the meeting, there was a single item on the agenda: the redevelopment of Cankuzo town, the construction of permanent housing, and the expansion of the road network. The Governor also listed the names of owners of plots located within the urban perimeter, urging them to develop their land as soon as possible.

She further stipulated that plots would be confiscated from any owner who failed to meet the deadlines for development. Additionally, to facilitate the town's expansion, new roads are to be laid out across the surrounding hills; banana and cassava plantations on hills such as Muterero and Rurama have already been destroyed. However, the affected population

has not yet received compensation. According to the same source, the Governor plans to hold another meeting the following week.

Among the issues given, a question from a trader named Muduri who lives in the commercial district caught our attention: **"Why were fines imposed on plot owners who failed to pave the area along the tarmac road, when this requirement was not enforced in front of public facilities?"** The public services housed in those buildings should arguably have been fined as well.

As he was leaving, Muduri was detained by *Imbonerakure* members and taken back into the meeting room. He was threatened with imprisonment and accused of insolence and insulting the provincial authority. He was finally released after unjustly paying a fine of 50,000 FBU.

1.2. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT.

Bushfires have taken away part of the KIBIRA National Park

On September 10, 2026, the ITEKA League was informed that Kibira National Park has been experiencing significant bushfires over the past few days. According to a reliable source, more than 30 hectares of the park have reportedly been destroyed by fires that began on September 5, 2026. Forest rangers stationed at Rwegura identified Rwegura and Kabarore, as well as parts of the former communes of Musigati and Bukinanyana, as areas particularly affected.

This information was confirmed by Abel Nteziryayo, the Park Warden, who stated

that 30 hectares including some tea plantations have been completely reduced to ash. No human casualties have been reported to date; however, it is reported that many animals have fled the reserve. Security forces, including the police and the army, have been mobilized, but no arrests have been made. It should be noted that local administrative officials attribute these fires to beekeepers lighting fires in search of honey.

1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT.

Financial contributions imposed by the CNDD-FDD Party in Kirundo Commune, Butanyerera Province.

Since November 2025, all zones in Kirundo commune have been notified through their CNDD-FDD party secretaries of a directive to collect contributions to support the 2027 elections. According to available information, the ruling party (CNDD-FDD) is collecting 500 Burundian francs (BIF) per month from each household via its local representatives. This activity is ongoing. Access to water is contingent upon presenting a receipt proving that the household has made its contribution. Without this receipt, access is denied.

Merchants, particularly those of Tutsi ethnicity, face significant pressure; they are sometimes forced to pay amounts of 50,000 BIF or more, whereas their Hutu counterparts are required to pay only 10,000 BIF or 5,000 BIF. Furthermore, reports indicate that churches are also being asked to contribute. It should be noted that the CNDD-FDD is the only political party conducting such collections among the population, acting as if it were a single ruling party.

Money collections by the CNDD FDD in Karusi Commune, Gitega Province.

The heads of the ten households (NYUMBAKUMI) are collecting 2000 BIF from every household, under the pretext of contributing to the construction of the Gitega provincial office. People are complaining about these multiple contributions at a time when most of them haven't received prepaid fertilizer for the last three seasons or selected corn

seeds. There are also complaints among these heads of ten households that they are forced to make lists of all the women, including their names, ages, education, and phone numbers. They complain about this difficult work without any pay.



Anyone should be respected

I.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT. (the following of page 6)

Closure of retail stores in downtown Ngozi, Butanyerera Province.

On September 13, 2026, the CNDD-FDD party disrupted business activities throughout the afternoon across all trading hubs in the Muremera neighborhood, located in the urban zone of Ngozi commune. Residents expressed their dissatisfaction, as even those who were not members of the ruling party were forced to close their businesses. Grocery stores and drinking establishments particularly in the areas known as "Kuryamivo," "Kw'iferemi," and "Mu Burengo" remained closed until 6:00 PM. This situation stemmed from a CNDD-FDD

ceremony held at Muremera Stadium for the swearing-in of new members, according to information provided by local traders.

The forced closures were overseen by influential *Imbonerakure* members, including an individual known as "Bumwe" at the "Kw'iferemi" site and Pierre Burato at the "Kuryamivo" site. Fearing reprisals, the traders were compelled to shut down their businesses.

Forced labor in the Cndd-Fdd fields in Muramvya Commune.

Since the start of the dry season, the population of certain hills in the Muramvya area and commune has regularly found itself in a situation of forced labor on CNDD-FDD party fields. Indeed, since the second half of July, households have been forced to buy watering cans, jerrycans, and buckets to water avocado trees and coffee plants located on Ndago and Masango hills. All children on vacation are

required to water these fields three times a week, and attendance registers are regularly filled out and checked. Each absence results in a payment of 10,000 BIF that the parent must give to the Imbonerakure, the hill leaders, without any receipt. This forced labor does not only affect CNDD-FDD party members but the entire population.

I.4. SECURITY CONTEXT

Gunshots heard in Nyamitanga, Ndava area, Bukinanyana commune in Bujumbura province.

According to residents of the Nyamitanga zone in Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province, gunfire has been reported since the morning of Friday, September 11, 2026. This heavy exchange of fire occurred between armed elements from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundian soldiers, following the controversial killing of a hippopotamus in the waters of the Rusizi River.

According to the head of the Ndava zone, three local civilians sustained gunshot wounds, while other reports indicate the death of one soldier and injuries to several others. The casualty toll

among the armed elements from the DRC remains unknown.

The Burundi National Defence Force (FDNB) has issued no comment. The Nyamitanga community reports a complete halt to economic activities due to the gunfire, resulting in the theft of goods and massive losses. Residents are calling for guarantees regarding their safety and urging the parties involved to prioritize dialogue over the use of force.

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

A child dies in a fire that broke out in a house in Butanganzwa Commune, Buhumuza Province.

On September 8, 2026, around 1:00 a.m., a fire broke out at the home of a woman identified as Jeanne Nduwarugira, located in the Musenga sub-hill area of Mihama Hill, in the Butanganzwa commune of Buhumuza province. According to a witness at the scene, Ms. Nduwarugira went to the room where her children were sleeping after feeling as though she had stepped on a snake. She rushed outside to find banana leaves to use for light in the room. Upon her return, she spotted the snake. Accidentally, the fire caught onto clothing and other items in the room before spreading rapidly. The children became trapped by the flames. According to the same witness, Bellanger Ikoribikomeye died in the fire, while Grâce Niyonsaba was seriously injured. The latter was taken to a health center for medical treatment. The fire survivors are appealing for support, having lost all their belongings in the blaze. The children's father was in Tanzania at the time of the incident, having gone there in August 2026 in search of work.

A lifeless body was found on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, in the Mutimbuzi area, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province.

The body of an unidentified young boy was found on the shore of Lake Tanganyika on the Kajaga side, Mutimbuzi area of the Ntakangwa commune in Bujumbura province. According to witnesses, the boy may have drowned. The lifeless body was taken to the morgue at Baho Hospital in Kajaga.

A widow's household was burned in Matana Commune in Burunga Province.

On the night of September 10, 2026, on Sakinyonga Hill, Gasibe Zone, Matana Commune, Burunga Province, a fire completely destroyed the home of a widow known as NDIKUMANA. According to our source on site, 5 goats and 3 sheep were burned, but no human casualties have been reported. It should be noted that the local administration, represented by the chief of Sakinyonga Hill, confirms the information while specifying that the cause of this fire remains, so far, unknown.

House fire and attempted murder in Mutaho.

During the night of September 12–13, 2026, in the Mukobe sub-sector (Nyangungu Hill, Mutaho Zone, Bugendana Commune, Gitega Province), the home of 76-year-old Salvator Makobero was set on fire while he and his wife, Concesse Nizigiyimana, were inside. According to our source, Salvator shouted for help during the blaze and managed to escape, whereas his wife, Concesse Nizigiyimana, was seized by *Imbonerakure* members who attempted to kill her by burning her. She was ultimately rescued and is currently receiving medical treatment at Mutaho Hospital. On the morning of September 13, police accompanied by administrative officials from Mutaho Zone and the Communal Executive Secretary visited the scene and arrested six *Imbonerakure* members: Richard Ndayikeza (28), Jimmy Nduwimana (43), Hilaire Ntahombaye (45), Édouard Nzambimana (45), Fabrice Nimpagaritse (33), and Léonard Nzeyimana (36). They are being held in the Mutaho Zone detention facility. According to our sources, the two victims had been accused of witchcraft by the individuals involved in the attack.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. VOLUNTARY HOMICIDES

II.1.1.1. LIFELESS BODIES FOUND

A lifeless body was found in the Bwiza Quarter, Mukaza commune, in Bujumbura province.

A lifeless body of an unidentified man was discovered on September 7, 2026 in the Bwiza district, Bwiza zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura province.

According to witnesses, the body was found in the gutter separating Nyakabiga and Bwiza.

Those who discovered it say it was completely naked and appeared to have been strangled before being abandoned there.

Local authorities went to the scene and decided to transfer the body to the morgue of the Prince Regent Charles Hospital.

Discovery of a lifeless body in Rutana Commune, Burunga Province.

On Tuesday, September 8, 2026, around 8 a.m., by the Maragarazi River, on Gihofi Hill, Bukemba Zone, Rutana Commune in Burunga Province, a lifeless body was found drowned. According to the information received, the locals who saw this body early in the morning

informed the hill chief, who in turn informed the zone chief and the Rutana communal administrator. They all carried out the burial with the help of the Red Cross, which disinfected the body that was starting to give off a strong odor.

II.1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED OVER SETTling SCORES

One person killed in Karusi commune, Gitega province

On September 3, 2026, on Rwandagaro Hill in Karusi Commune, Gitega Province, Sanctus Cimpaye a CNDD-FDD member over the age of 50 and a farmer was killed with a club by his neighbor, Berchmans Congera, who is also a CNDD-FDD member and a farmer. According to local witnesses, the incident stemmed from the fact that the victim had bought a local tobacco leaf worth 500 BIF on credit from the perpetrator's wife and had missed the two-day deadline for repayment.

According to the same witnesses, the perpetrator suspected the man of sleeping with his wife; he went to the victim's home, found him sitting outside, and struck him once on the head, killing him instantly. He then fled to an unknown location. On September 5, 2026, the commune administrator and his permanent advisor visited the site to calm the residents of the hill and the surrounding area and to prevent potential acts of retaliation. The police state that they are searching for the perpetrator.



Anyone should be respected

II.1.1.3. ABDUCTION AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCE.

A person kidnapped in the Mugere commune of Bujumbura province

An individual named Diomède Ngendahonankwa was abducted by intelligence service agents on Saturday, September 8, 2026, at a location known as "Mw'ikora" in the Mugere commune, Bujumbura province. According to eyewitnesses, Diomède had come from his home in Kamesa and gone to Mw'ikora to wait for a vehicle to Bujumbura. While he was waiting for public transport there, a Toyota vehicle with license plate L8795A arrived at the scene. Two police officers stepped out, arrested him, and forced him into the car, which immediately drove off toward Bujumbura. Célestin, the intelligence chief for the Mugere commune, was already inside the vehicle. Diomède's friends and family are deeply concerned for his safety.

II.2. PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

A woman beaten by her husband in the KIGWATI neighborhood in Karusi Commune.

On the afternoon of Saturday, September 12, 2026, around 5:00 PM, in the locality of Buhiga (Karusi Commune) specifically in the Kigwati neighborhood an individual named Eric Ntezimana (a 30-year-old Muslim farmer and CNDD-FDD member) assaulted his wife, Hidaya (also a CNDD-FDD member, aged over 25). According to a source close to the situation, she had been caught sleeping with another man of unknown identity. Furthermore, the source stated that upon learning this distressing news, the husband went to the market to obtain a machete with the intention of mutilating her, after first setting fire to all her clothes. Neighbors alerted the police before the tragedy could unfold. The man managed to escape through the ceiling of his bedroom, while the police recovered the machete, which was brand new and very sharp. It is worth noting that neighbors report the couple had been living amidst constant tension, as the husband suspected his wife of infidelity.

A woman was injured with a machete by her husband on Musave Hill, Kayanza commune, in Butanyerera province.

On September 12, 2026, a woman named Sinzobatohana Asiya, a resident of Musave Hill in the Kayanza Commune of Butanyerera Province, was wounded with a machete by her husband, Nzeyimana Jean Claude. Information provided by the victim and confirmed by the local hill chief, Nestor Ndaribamare indicates that the alleged perpetrator returned home around 8:30 PM in a state of intoxication. He had consumed a potent alcoholic beverage commonly known as "Bangala." Finding his wife chatting with the children, he grabbed a machete and struck her in the face. When the children screamed for help, he fled the scene; his whereabouts remain unknown, although police state that he is being sought so he can face justice. The victim was taken to a health center in the town of Kayanza for treatment. There has been a recent surge in domestic disputes linked to the excessive consumption of these potent alcoholic drinks, and some authorities in the country have repeatedly called for a ban on such beverages.

III.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

A fire causes huge losses in Cibitoke in Bujumbura province

Nine kiosks were reduced to ashes about a kilometer from the main town of the Cibitoke commune, in the area known as Kigwati, at Nisubire's place, on the morning of Thursday, September 10, 2026. The owners of the affected kiosks report that they have suffered significant losses and are asking for assistance. Around 9:00 AM, police officers from the

Cibitoke commune began assessing the damage caused by the fire. Local residents suggest that the fire might have been caused by a malfunction in REGIDESO's electrical circuit. They are asking this electricity distribution company to improve the consistency of its supply and the quality of its services.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

A back-to-school season tested by human rights violations

As the 2026–2027 school year approaches, access to equitable and inclusive education remains an elusive goal amidst a widespread socio-economic crisis that significantly impacts the fundamental rights of Burundian children. Insurmountable financial barriers, a lack of desks and benches in many schools, and a shortage of teaching staff severely undermine the right to education as guaranteed by the Burundian Constitution. Soaring inflation, rising costs for school supplies (notebooks, uniforms, etc.), and a ministerial order from September 3, 2026, raising school fees are affecting thousands of families living below the poverty line, leaving them unable to purchase necessary school materials.

Furthermore, new challenges are affecting students and their parents notably reports of corruption in the Mugina commune regarding requests to change academic tracks or schools. Several communes saw their surface area increase following the country's administrative

redistricting in 2025. Students and parents must submit their requests at the "zone" level, where an education official is stationed. In contrast, requests to change schools are processed at the commune level, where only the head of the education department has the authority to receive them. This creates transport costs for some families, who are forced to travel more than 20 km. The situation also fosters corruption. Additionally, the elimination of certain classes specifically those with fewer than 25 students in Cycle 4 of basic education or fewer than 15 students at the basic education level has profound economic and logistical repercussions for families whose children must now make long daily commutes or rent accommodation. These additional expenses, not provided for in family budgets, could lead some children to drop out of school during the academic year due to a lack of sufficient resource

Persistent teacher shortage

Despite the government's announcement of hiring 5,000 teachers, the lack of staff remains worrying in several schools. The successive

departures of teachers looking for better pay continue to keep this shortage going.

III. 2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 11)

The 'Zero Poorly Seated Child' program faces implementation challenges

Despite the government program "Zero Children Sitting Badly," which plans to manufacture 336,000 school desks, several schools still do not have the necessary equipment. According to the information collected, some administrators and heads of education departments waited until the start of

the school year to ask principals, students, and their parents to help with transporting the desks. This situation is even more worrying given that the program had resources meant to cover all costs, from cutting the wood to transporting the finished products to the beneficiary schools.

Two boarding high schools facing major challenges on the eve of the school year in Burunga province.

As the 2026-2027 school year approaches, the Rumeza and Rumonge boarding high schools are facing logistical and financial challenges. Rumeza plans to accommodate approximately 500 boarding students but is short of 57 beds, 100 mattresses, 26 benches, and 10 dining hall tables. The classrooms lack 68 desk-benches and require new teachers for several subjects. Rumonge needs an additional 400 beds and 200 mattresses, as well as 10 teachers and educational materials. The situation is exacerbated by inadequate access to drinking water, which could compromise student hygiene. School principals are calling for urgent measures to improve the drinking water supply.

Financially, the schools have not yet received the necessary operating subsidies, and food

stocks are nearly depleted. They are urging the government to quickly release funds to cover student meals and other needs. This situation unfolds against the backdrop of a government-announced revival of boarding schools, which includes the reopening of several institutions.

Recruitment committees have been established for this initiative, yet officials are still awaiting the publication of the lists of hired teachers. Although the government planned to recruit 5,000 new teachers, candidates remain concerned about the transparency of the process. With the start of the school year drawing near, Rumeza and Rumonge believe that swift action is essential to ensure classes resume and boarding students are properly cared for.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

The dirty water coming from the Kayanza market latrines worries the people of Kayanza town in Butanyerera province.

Wastewater from the Kayanza market latrines flows into a drainage ditch surrounding the market. Nearby, there are parking areas for motorcycles and bicycles, as well as spaces designated for selling various food products such as cassava flour, bananas, and cassava. A proliferation of flies has been observed, settling on these foodstuffs. A foul odor permeates the area around the ditch.

Vendors selling these products have voiced

their concerns, emphasizing that if no action is taken to remedy the situation, they risk contracting diseases linked to unsanitary conditions. They even note that some customers have stopped buying their products. Kayanza municipal authorities are aware of the situation; however, according to available information, no adequate solution had been implemented by the time this bulletin was written.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The week of September 7–13, 2026, was marked by a series of incidents revealing persistent vulnerabilities regarding civil and political rights, security, governance, education, health, and the population's living conditions.

The discovery of bodies in various locations, cases of domestic violence, a reported kidnapping in Mugere, and security tensions in the Nyamitanga area require the competent authorities' special attention.

At the same time, reports regarding financial contributions, forced labor imposed on certain populations, restrictions on commercial activities, and difficulties in the education sector highlight concerns that warrant appropriate institutional responses.

Ligue Iteka calls on the Burundian authorities to strengthen the protection of fundamental rights, guarantee access to justice, and ensure that anyone suspected of an offense receives the legal safeguards provided by law.

To this end, Ligue Iteka recommends:

To the Government of Burundi:

1. Systematically conduct transparent judicial investigations whenever bodies are discovered;
2. Guarantee victims' families the right to file a complaint and access autopsy report findings prior to burial;
3. Investigate the phenomenon of bodies being found in various parts of the country without government action being taken;
4. Take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable;
5. Strengthen fire prevention and firefighting measures, particularly in commercial areas, schools, and vulnerable housing;
6. Improve conditions in boarding schools, specifically regarding beds, mattresses, tables, desks, drinking water, food, and teaching staff.

Finally, the Iteka League reaffirms the need to place the **protection of human life, dignity, physical integrity, fundamental freedoms, and socio-economic rights** at the heart of public action.

It urges the competent authorities to address the incidents reported in this bulletin with all due diligence, to ensure victims and their families have access to justice, and to take the necessary measures to prevent a recurrence of the documented violations.

