

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS 'ITEKA'

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revising Order 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 SEPTEMBER 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 September 30, 2026, at least 885 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 87 victims have reappeared, and 798 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 269 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

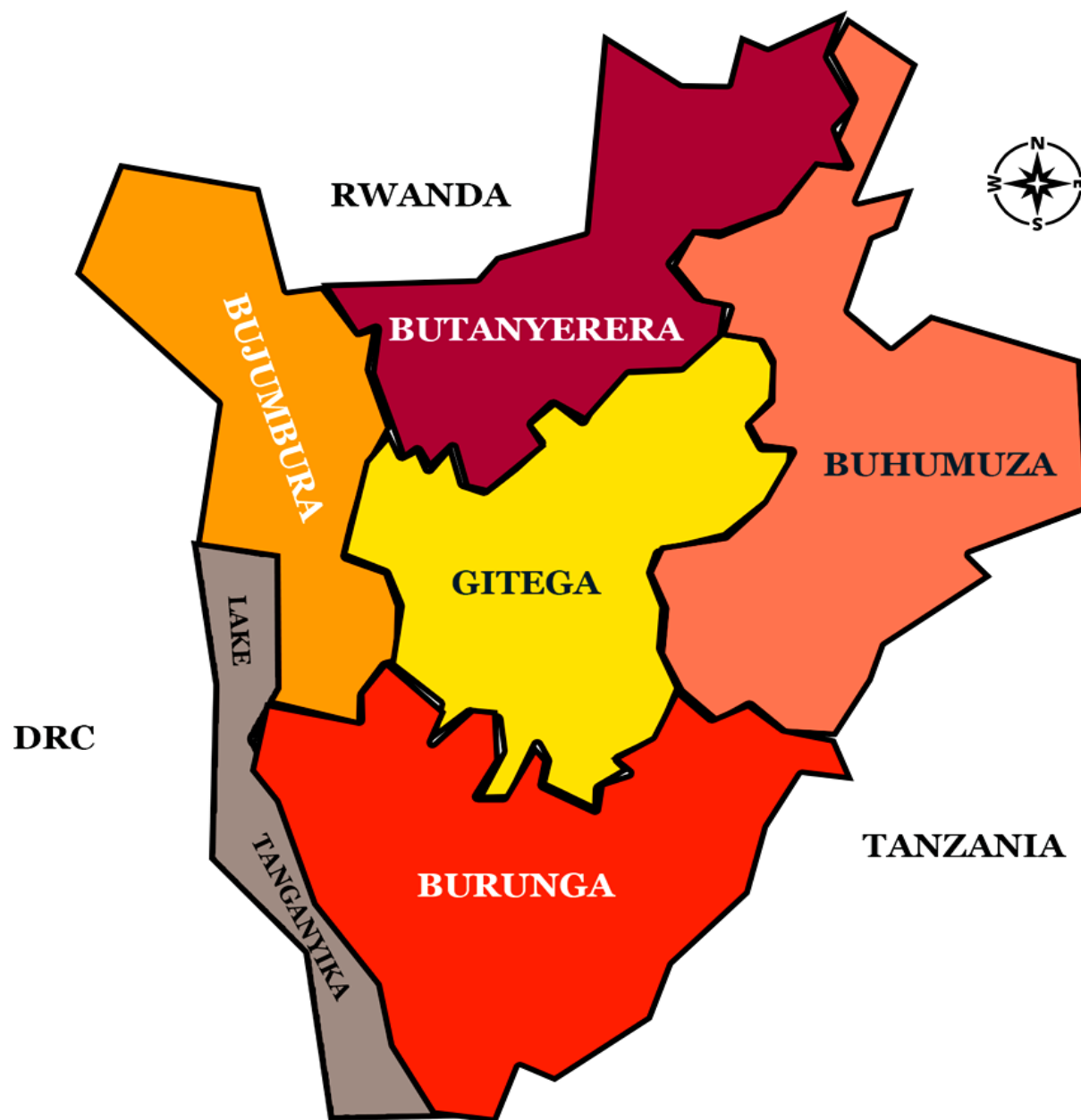


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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

UNGA: United Nations General Assembly

ECOFO: Elementary School

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

CNL: National Congress for Freedom

CNIDH: National Independent Human Rights Commission

CENI: National Independent Electoral Commission

CEPI: Provincial Independent Electoral Commission

CNL: National Congress for Freedom

CEEAC: Economic Community of Central African States

CRC: International Convention on the Rights of the Child

ESC Rights: Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

FRODEBU: Front for Democracy in Burundi

FDLR: Democratic Liberation Front of Rwanda

OPJ: Judicial Police Officer

UN: United Nations

PNB: National Police of Burundi

DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

UPRONA: Union for National Progress

GBV: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

SNR: National Enquiry Service

TGI: High Court

I. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT

This monthly report for September 2026 is a summary of the *Iteka n' Ijambo* weekly bulletins, specifically issues 542 through 545. The report analyzes the human rights situation, covering civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as rights pertaining to specific groups particularly children's rights. It concludes with a summary and a set of recommendations.

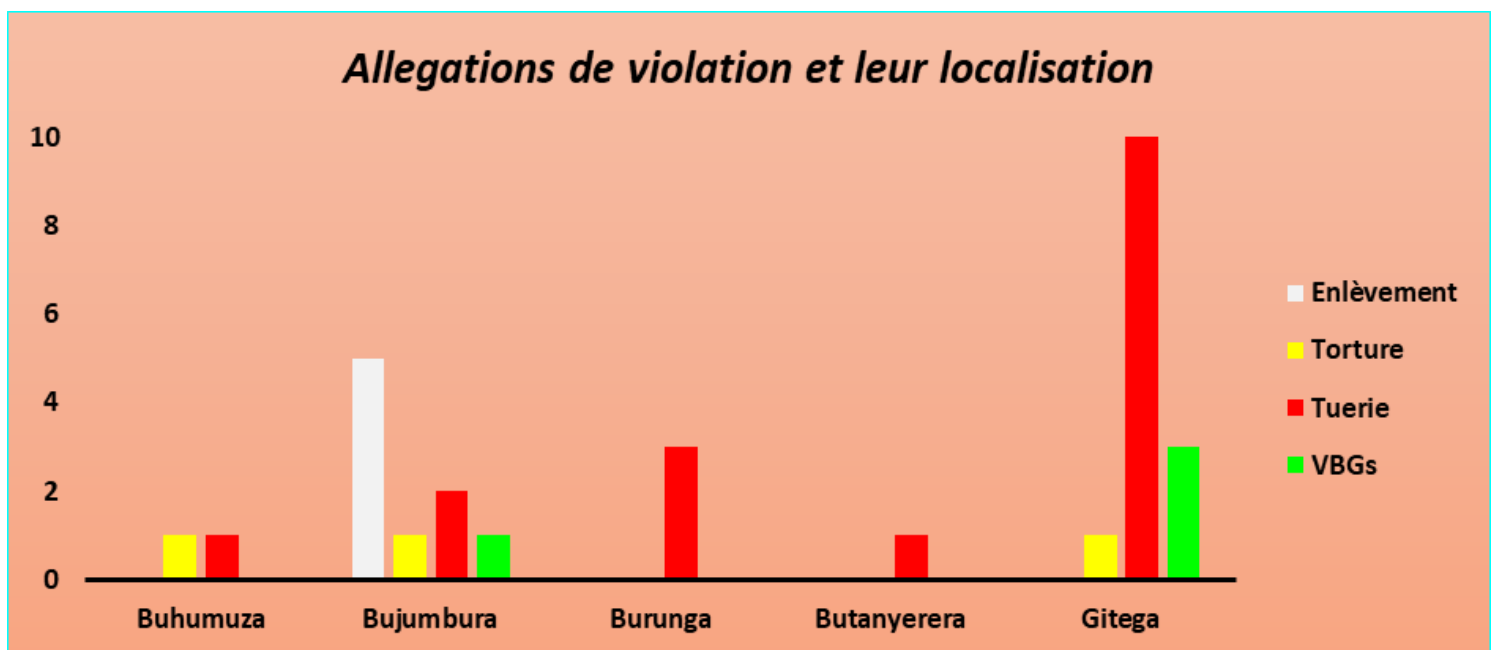
The civil and political rights situation during the reporting period is characterized as follows: 17 people were killed, including 8 whose bodies were found scattered in various locations. Of those killed, 16 were men and one was a woman. Two people were tortured, and four were victims of gender-based violence (GBV) specifically, four women who were raped. In total, there were eight female victims: three killed and five raped. Additionally, three people were tortured, and five were abducted.

Members of the *Imbonerakure* militia, police officers, administrative officials, and individuals associated with the ruling CNDD-FDD party are implicated as the alleged perpetrators of most of these human rights violations and killings. Although some perpetrators remain unidentified, the way of operating often mirrors the tactics employed by the aforementioned groups.

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

Figure 1: Chart showing the main cases of civil and political rights violations observed in Burundi during September 2026.

Place of incident / Province	Number of victims					Total
	Arrest	Kidnapping	Torture	Killing	GBVs	
Buhumuza	0	0	1	1	0	2
Bujumbura	0	5	1	2	1	9
Burunga	0	0	0	3	0	3
Butanyerera	0	0	0	1	0	1
Gitega	0	0	1	10	3	14
Total	0	5	3	17	4	29



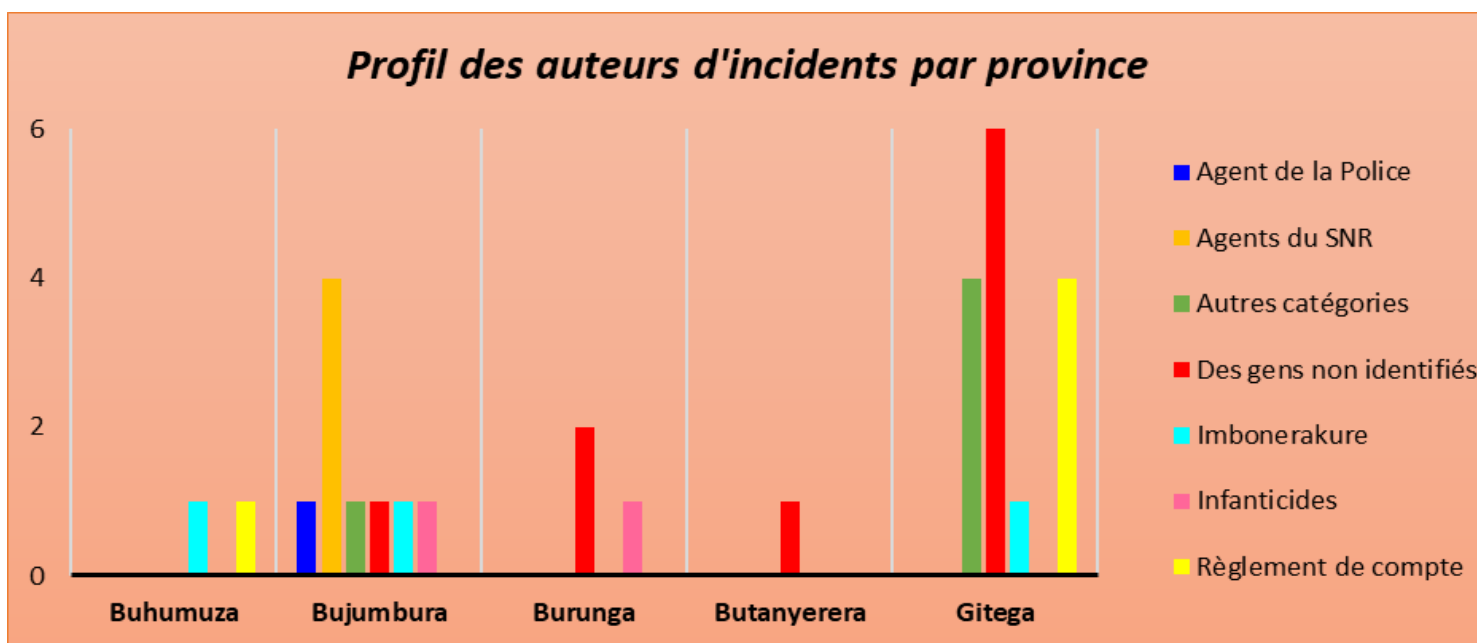
I. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT (the following of page 5)

The chart above shows the 5 categories of violations across the 5 different provinces of the country, with Gitega and Bujumbura leading in terms of human rights violation allegations with 14 and 8 cases respectively, followed by Burunga with 3 cases, then Buhumuza with 2 cases, and finally Butanyerera with 1 case.

So, during this September 2026 period covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded 29 victims of alleged violations of civil and political rights across the country. These alleged human rights violations are mainly as follows: 17 people killed, 4 victims of GBV, 3 people tortured, and 5 people abducted.

Figure 2: Chart illustrating the main alleged perpetrators of civil and political rights violations observed in Burundi during the month of September 2026

Perpetrators	Buhumuza	Bujumbura	Burunga	Butanyerera	Gitega	Total
Police Agent	0	1	0	0	0	1
SNR Agent	0	4	0	0	0	4
Other categories	0	1	0	0	4	5
Unidentified people	0	1	2	1	6	10
Imbonerakure	1	1	0	0	1	3
Infanticides	0	1	1	0	0	2
Account settlement	1	0	0	0	4	5
General Total	2	9	3	1	15	30

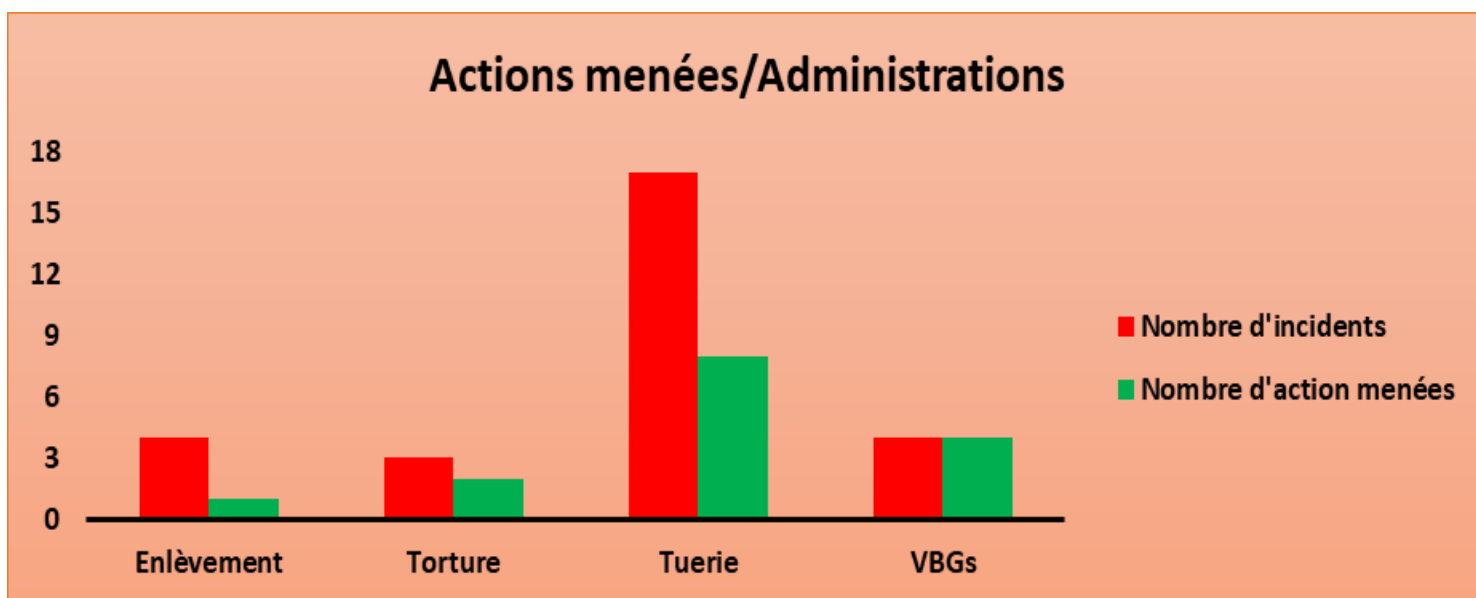


In September 2026, the number of human rights violation allegations was high, especially those committed by unidentified people (10 cases). Other cases included settling scores (5 cases), private individuals (5 cases), SNR agents (4 cases), imbonerakure (2 cases), and the police (1 case). Two infanticides were also reported.

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

Figure 3: Chart showing the main actions done by administrative agents due to identified human rights violations.

Types of incident	Number of incidents	Numbre actions done	No action
Arrest	0	0	0
Kidnapping	4	1	3
Torture	3	2	1
Killing	17	8	9
GBVs	4	4	0
General Total	28	15	13



During the observed period , a total of 28 incidents were recorded, among which 26 actions were done, classified into three main groups. Most of the actions involved arresting suspects for judicial investigation. Other actions, like organizing the victims' funerals, 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, associated with ongoing judicial investigations.



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 it, 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.

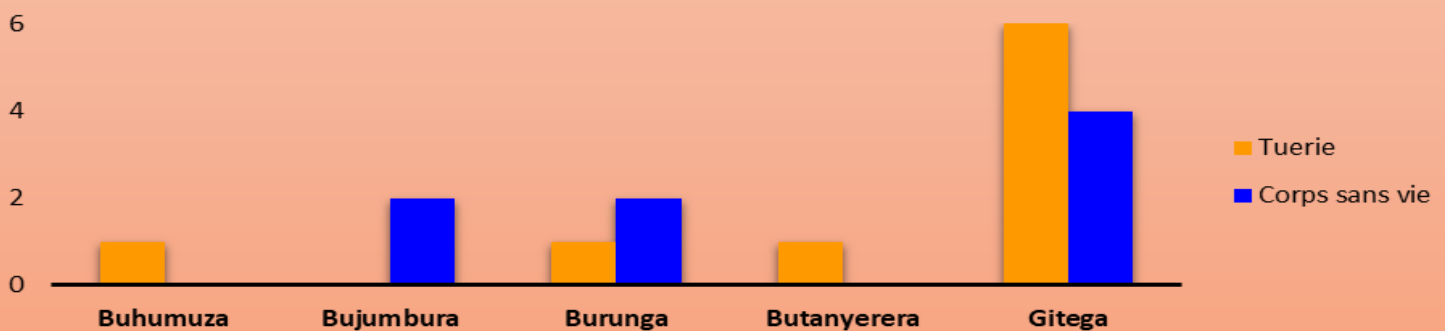
II.1.1 RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1. 1. VOLUNTARY HOMICIDE

During the period covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded a total of 17 killing cases, with 8 bodies found dead across the entire territory during the reporting period. Among the victims were 17 men and 1 woman. Gitega province was the most affected with 10 victims, including 6 killed and 4 bodies found, followed by Burunga with 3 victims, and in third place, Bujumbura with 2 victims, all of them found dead.

Province	Case of killings	Number of victims		Men	Women
		Killing	Lifeless bodies		
Buhumuza	1	1	0	1	0
Bujumbura	2	0	2	2	0
Burunga	3	1	2	3	0
Butanyerera	1	1	0	1	0
Gitega	10	6	4	9	1
Overall Total	17	9	8	16	1

Personnes tuées par province



⇒ *Some illustrative examples:*

Ex1: An individual was fatally attacked by his neighbor in the commune of Karusi, located in Gitega Province. The incident occurred on Thursday, September 3, 2026, around 5:00 PM, on Rwandagaro Hill in the Buhindye zone of Karusi commune. The victim, Sanctus Cimpaye a farmer and CNDD-FDD affiliate over the age of 50 was killed by a blow to the head with a club delivered by his neighbor, Berchmans Congera, who was also a farmer and CNDD-FDD member over the age of 50.

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

According to a witness at the scene, a dispute arose when the victim demanded that the attacker's wife repay a debt for a local tobacco leaf worth 500 FBu, the two-day repayment deadline for which had already passed. Upon hearing his wife crying and suspecting the victim of having an affair with her, the attacker armed himself with a club, went to the victim's home where the victim was standing outside and struck him once on the head. The victim died instantly. The attacker then fled to an unknown location. On Saturday, September 5, 2026, the commune administrator, accompanied by his permanent advisor, visited the site to calm the local population and prevent potential acts of retaliation. Police authorities report that a search is already underway. ————

Ex2: *The lifeless body of an unidentified man was discovered on September 7, 2026, in the Bwiza quarter (Bwiza Zone, Mukaza Commune, Bujumbura Province).*

According to witnesses, the body was found in the drainage ditch separating Nyakabiga and Bwiza. Those who discovered him stated that he was completely naked and appeared to have been strangled before being abandoned at the site.

Local authorities visited the scene and decided to transfer the body to the morgue at Prince Régent Charles Hospital.

Ex: *On September 18, 2026, on Gisitwe Hill (Mugendo Zone, Kirundo Commune, Butanyerera Province), Pierre Nkeraguhiga, a 54-year-old farmer, was killed while returning home after spending the day at the Gisitwe center. He was accompanied by Nibigira, the leader of the *Imbonerakure* on Gisitwe Hill. The two men were ambushed by unidentified individuals. He was killed with a machete. Following the incident, Nibigira was arrested by the police for investigation. At the time the information was gathered, the identities of the ambushers and the motive for the murder had not yet been established.*

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, PENALTIES AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENTS.

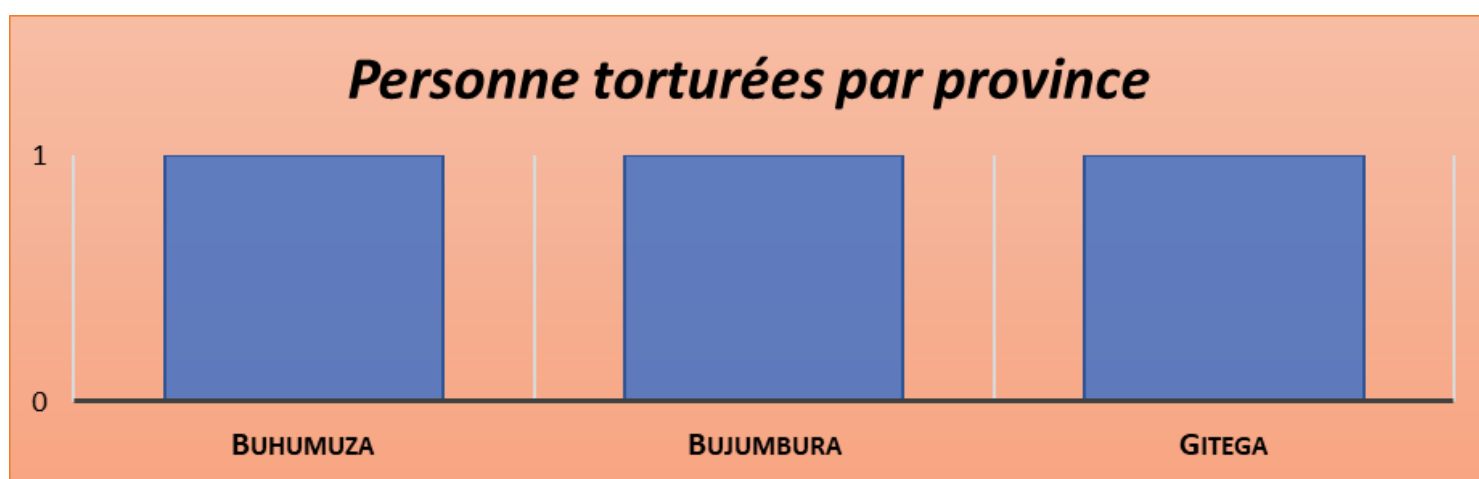
For this September 2026, the Iteka League recorded 3 victims of torture in the provinces of Buhumuza, Bujumbura, and Gitega. It should be noted in passing that some acts similar to mistreatment are noticeable on people in detention in SNR places according to their families.



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II.1.1.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 9)

Province	Case of killings	Number of victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	1	1	1	0
Bujumbura	1	1	1	0
Burunga	0	0	0	0
Butanyerera	0	0	0	0
Gitega	1	1	1	0
Overall Total	3	3	3	0



Illustrative examples:

Ex. 1: On September 25, 2026, in Kabezi (Mugere Commune, Bujumbura Province), Georges Bigirimana alias Mateso, a mediator for Kabezi Hill was physically assaulted by an Imbonerakure member named Rodrigue Niyonkuru. According to eyewitness accounts, Rodrigue Niyonkuru was at a bar called "Kungoma" with about five other Imbonerakure members. An altercation broke out between Rodrigue and a customer named Richard while the latter was pouring himself a beer.

According to these accounts, the dispute began after Richard remarked that REGIDESO services were no longer functioning properly. The verbal exchange quickly escalated into a physical confrontation between the two men. It was in this context that Georges Bigirimana (alias Mateso) intervened to separate them. However, rather than defusing the situation, his intervention reportedly led to a further escalation of violence. The mediator was then violently beaten.

As a result of the assault, Georges Bigirimana sustained injuries and his clothes were torn. After the incident, the individuals involved left the scene. The information available in this bulletin indicates neither the arrest of the alleged perpetrators nor the initiation of legal proceedings against them at the time the information was gathered.

Ex2: On September 3, 2026, around 8:00 a.m., Claude Nahimana a 35-year-old man, son of Pascal Butoyi and Cézallie Nzeyimana, and a native of the area was found in critical condition on Mubuga Hill (specifically in the Muhororo sub-hill area, Mubuga Zone, Gitega Commune and Province).

According to our source, the victim was found wrapped in a sack and bound with a mosquito net cord; his arms and legs were tied behind his back, and he bore numerous wounds across almost his entire body.

II.1.1.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 10)

His condition was deemed very serious, and he was transported to the Mubuga Health Center for urgent medical care.

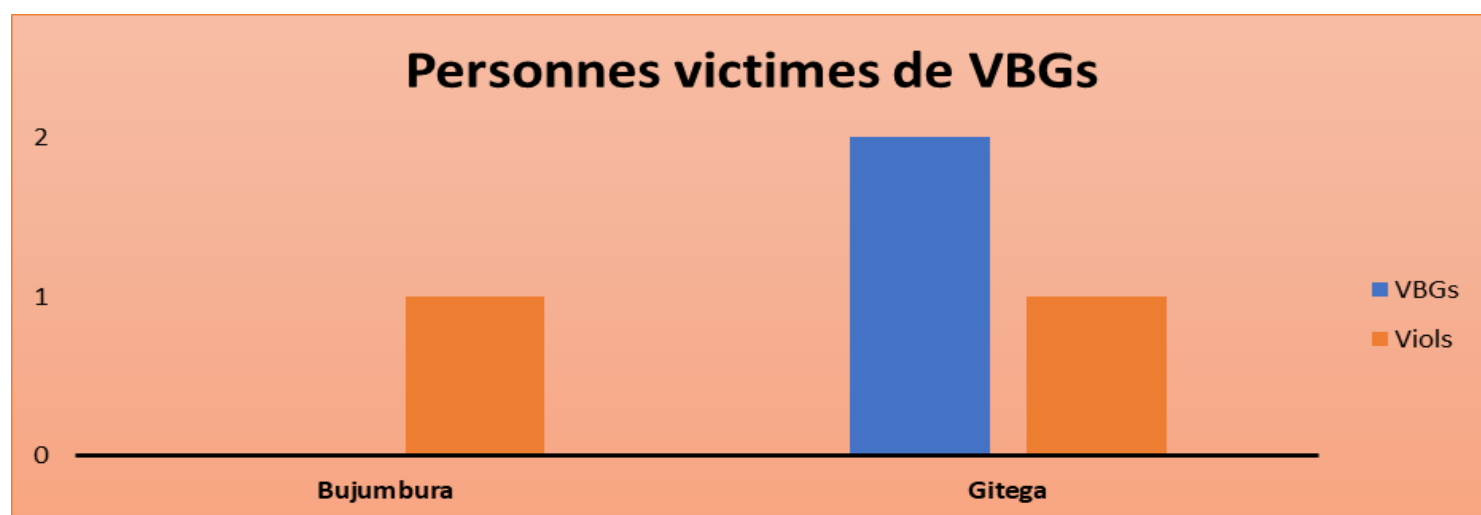
Our source indicates that two individuals are suspected of involvement in this attempted murder: Joël Nizigiyimana, in whose shop the victim's shoes were found, and Clovis Ntahimpera the victim's brother with whom the victim had been in conflict on September 1, 2026. Both men have been detained for questioning.

The victim had been missing since the evening of September 1, 2026, following the disputes with the aforementioned individuals.

II.1.1.2.2. GBV/RAPE

During the period covered by this report, the Iteka League recorded a total of 4 victims of gender-based violence across the country. It should be noted that all the victims are women and girls, including 2 cases of rape of minors. The table below shows a breakdown by province. Gitega leads with 3 victims, followed closely by Bujumbura with 1 victim.

Province	Case of GBVs	Number of victims		Men	Women
		GBVs	Rape		
Buhumuza	0	0	1	0	0
Bujumbura	1	0	0	0	1
Burunga	0	0	0	0	0
Butanyerera	0	0	0	0	0
Gitega	3	2	1	0	3
Overall Total	4	2	2	0	4



Illustrative examples:

Ex 1: On September 1, 2026, around 12:00 PM, Philippe Nkwiye (alias "Musokuru"), aged 43 son of Louis Himbiri and Domitile Bucumi, and a native of Mavuvu Hill, Makebuko Zone, Gitega Commune and Province was arrested on charges of raping a 13-year-old girl named I. Ca. She is the daughter of N. L. and N. F. and a native of Makebuko Hill and Zone, Gitega Commune and Province.

II.1.1.2.2. VBG/VIOL (the following of page 11)

According to our source, the victim was taken to the Humura Center in Gitega for a medical examination and urgent medical care. The alleged perpetrator is being held in the Makebuko Zone detention facility, pending the results of the medical assessment and the continuation of legal proceedings.

A third person, named Reverien, was reportedly present alongside the first two individuals during acts of intimidation directed at the victim. According to the source, he fled upon the arrival of the police on the morning of September 3.

Ex 2: *During the night of Monday, August 31, to Tuesday, September 1, 2026, around 9:00 PM, on Rwingoma Hill (Mission neighborhood, Buhiga Zone, Karusi Commune), a man named Siméon Akeza a CNDD-FDD member over the age of 40 who works as a secretary at Buhiga High School beat his wife, Marianne. She is also a CNDD-FDD member, over the age of 35, and works as a cleaner at Buhiga Hospital. He accused her of sending their children to bed without food. Neighbors who attempted to intervene were driven off by the man, who brandished a machete.*

The Imbonerakure subsequently intervened and took him to the Buhiga Zone police lockup, where he spent the night before being released upon payment of a 50,000 FBu fine issued without a receipt imposed by the zonal Imbonerakure leader, a man named Innocent.

Ex3: *On September 25, 2026, a suspected case of sexual violence was reported in the Busoro neighborhood, Mugere Commune, Bujumbura Province. The victim, an 11-year-old girl, is a fifth-grade student at ECOFO Busoro. According to the information gathered, she was raped by her biological father at the family home while her mother was away. After the incident, the child informed her mother, who immediately alerted the competent authorities. The victim's father was arrested and was in police custody at the time the information was collected. The victim received holistic care following the reported incident. At the time of data collection, the perpetrator was in police custody, but no further details regarding the judicial proceedings in the case had been released.*

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. One thing about these rights is that they are often realized gradually, unlike civil and political rights. The 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

Economically, the month of September in Burundi was marked by significant events, including a devastating morning fire in the Kigwati sector of Cibitoke that reduced nine shops to ashes and caused considerable financial loss for their owners. According to neighbors, the incident stemmed from a fault in the REGIDESO power grid. Those affected are seeking emergency support, while the public is urging REGIDESO to improve the reliability and stability of its services.

During this same period, mismanagement involving fraud related to FOMI chemical fertilizers continues to cause hardship for the Burundian population; despite the launch of an official re-registration campaign for farmers for the 2026 "A" season, the diversion of agricultural inputs

II.2.1. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE (the following of page 12)

persists in Bujumbura province particularly in the communes of Bukinanyana, Cibitoke, and Mugina as well as in other provinces. Local ruling party officials, state agents, traders, and members of the *Imbonerakure* are suspected of orchestrating illicit nighttime shipments to the Democratic Republic of the Congo or of profiteering by reselling stocks at exorbitant prices.

Local authorities struggle to expose the perpetrators, fearing reprisals or threats from individuals protected by those in power. The public views these successive registration drives as a political maneuver aimed at securing votes. Faced with the precariousness and food shortages affecting small-scale farmers who paid deposits without receiving the goods, citizens are demanding that the government immediately liberalize the fertilizer and seed sector.

II.2.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION.

During September in Burundi, a severe economic crisis coinciding with the start of the 2026–2027 school year has jeopardized the right to education. Rising prices for school supplies and increased tuition fees are straining families already struggling to make ends meet, leading children to drop out of school. Furthermore, the 2025 administrative restructuring forces students to make long, costly commutes (exceeding 20 km), a situation that also fosters corruption regarding school transfers. Additionally, the closure of classes with low enrollment creates further logistical and financial burdens for parents.

Compounding these issues are a teacher shortage and the failure of the government-championed "Zero Children Without Seats" program. Despite a government pledge to hire 5,000 teachers, a deficit remains; many educators are abandoning the profession to seek better pay abroad and support their families. There is also a lack of furniture, notwithstanding the national program to manufacture and supply school desks with a target of 336,000 units to all educational institutions. Supply efforts are significantly delayed by electricity and fuel shortages. In Rumonge, a lack of materials has hampered production (only 2,000 desks manufactured out of a planned 5,000), forcing three to five students to share a single desk or attend classes in churches. Furthermore, there are issues with mismanagement, with officials asking families to pay for or transport school benches, even though the program was supposed to be fully funded.

Although the government recommended reopening boarding schools, logistical challenges regarding the accommodation of students persist specifically concerning beds and mattresses, as well as food supplies for student meals at these institutions.

In this regard, the Rumeza and Rumonge secondary schools in Burunga Province are facing a difficult situation just before the start of the school year. They lack sufficient beds, mattresses, dining tables, teachers, and potable water, creating potential hygiene risks. They have run out of food and have not yet received state funding. Moreover, some schools are demanding high fees and expensive lists of school supplies from parents, in violation of the free education policies established by the authorities.

In Buhumuza Province, the school system is overwhelmed by the influx of children from Burundian families repatriated from Tanzania (specifically the Nduta and Nyarugusu camps) and from Congolese refugee populations. Governor Denise Ndaruhakere acknowledges that the

II.2.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 13)

province is ill-prepared to accommodate all these new students, exacerbating existing shortages of classrooms, teachers, and furniture (the province was already short by 48,000 benches last year).

These repatriated children face difficulties in learning the French language, particularly because they attend schools in Tanzania where the language of instruction is English a major challenge for them.

II.3. CATEGORY RIGHTS

II.3.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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

This September report highlights the severe impact on children. Numerous instances of sexual violence and other unacceptable abuses have been documented particularly against young girls, who are among the most vulnerable. Furthermore, the Ligue Iteka continues to raise the alarm in its weekly reports regarding various tragic incidents that are cause for serious concern.

In the communes of Bubanza, Rumonge, and Rutana, cases of abandoned babies or infants found dead under mysterious and disturbing circumstances have been reported, particularly in the first two locations. In Rutana (Burunga province), issues regarding child trafficking are also frequently reported yet persist unabated. These tragic events underscore the urgency of the situation and the critical need for swift action to protect children and ensure their safety.



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III. CONCLUSION ET RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

It also highlights concerns regarding the disruption of civil and political rights as well as economic and socio-cultural rights. Ligue Iteka condemns the impunity surrounding the observed crimes and makes the following recommendations:

⇒ ***To the Government of Burundi:***

1. To guarantee respect for human rights, particularly the right to life and physical integrity.
2. To take measures to end impunity for crimes and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations are held accountable for their actions.
3. To investigate and severely punish violence against minors and other forms of abuse in Burundi, specifically involving grassroots administrative officials and other ruling party activists.
4. To authorities responsible for child protection and fighting against gender-based violence: to strengthen mechanisms for prevention, reporting, victim support, and protection, paying particular attention to child victims of sexual violence.

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

1. To support the efforts of Ligue Iteka and other human rights organizations in monitoring human rights violations in Burundi.
2. To use their influence to compel Burundian authorities to respect human rights and put an end to impunity.

