

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS 'ITEKA'

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KU GICANIRO No. 7/2026

Ku Gicaniro is a program by the Iteka League that focuses on all areas of the country's life

REPORT OF THE BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA" ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY TO 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 874 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 87 victims have reappeared, and 787 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.
- ♦ It is decentralized into 17 federations and 32 sections."

¹<https://docs.un.org/fr/A/HRC/57/54>

THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

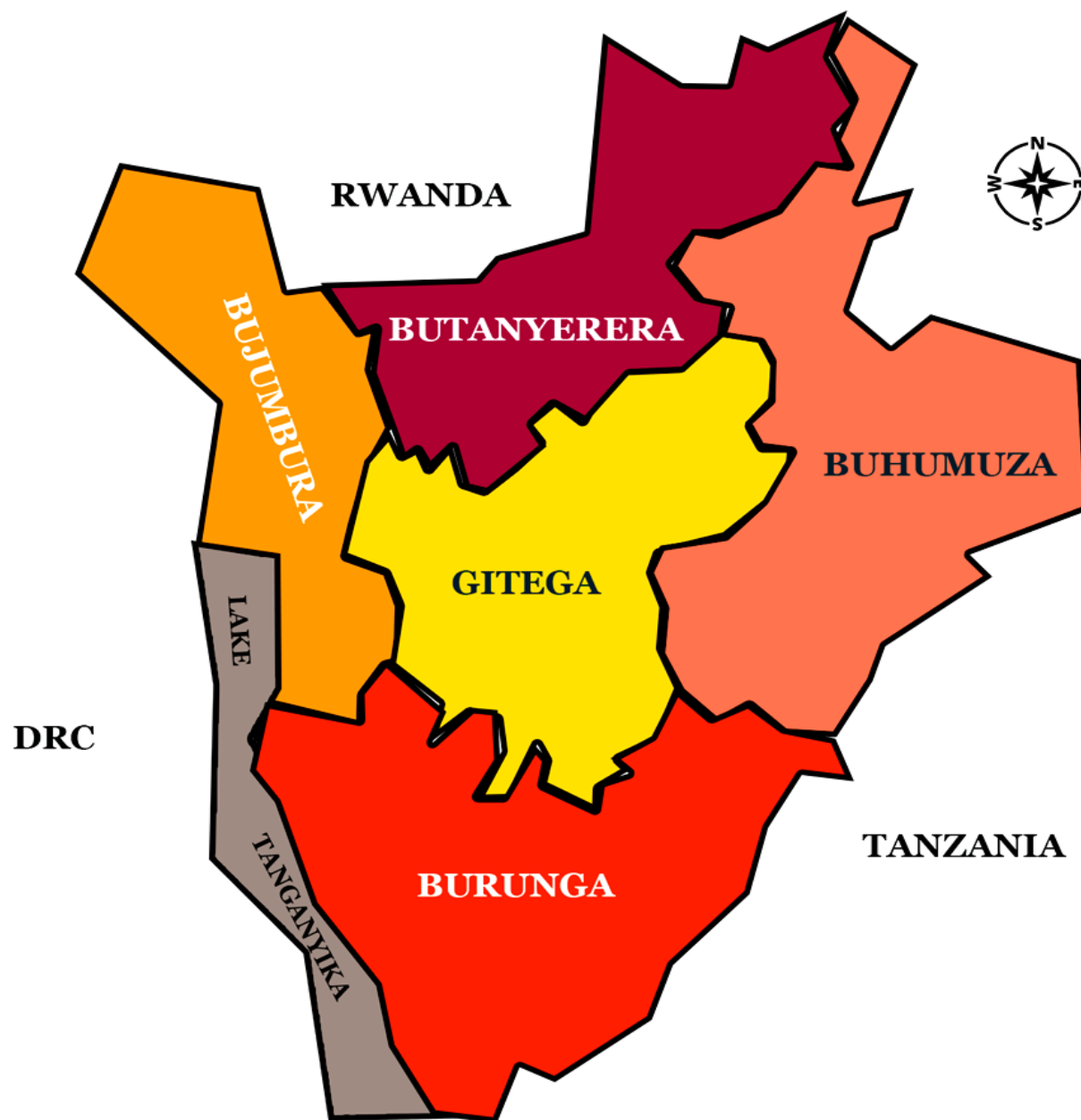


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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

CNIDH: National Independent Human Rights Commission

ECOFO: Primary School

F: Female

GBV/VBG: Gender-Based Violence

H: Male

ITEKA: Burundian Human Rights League "ITEKA"

KOBOTOOLBOX: Platform for collecting and managing data used for incident documentation

M: Male

SNR: National Intelligence Service

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus

VSBG: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

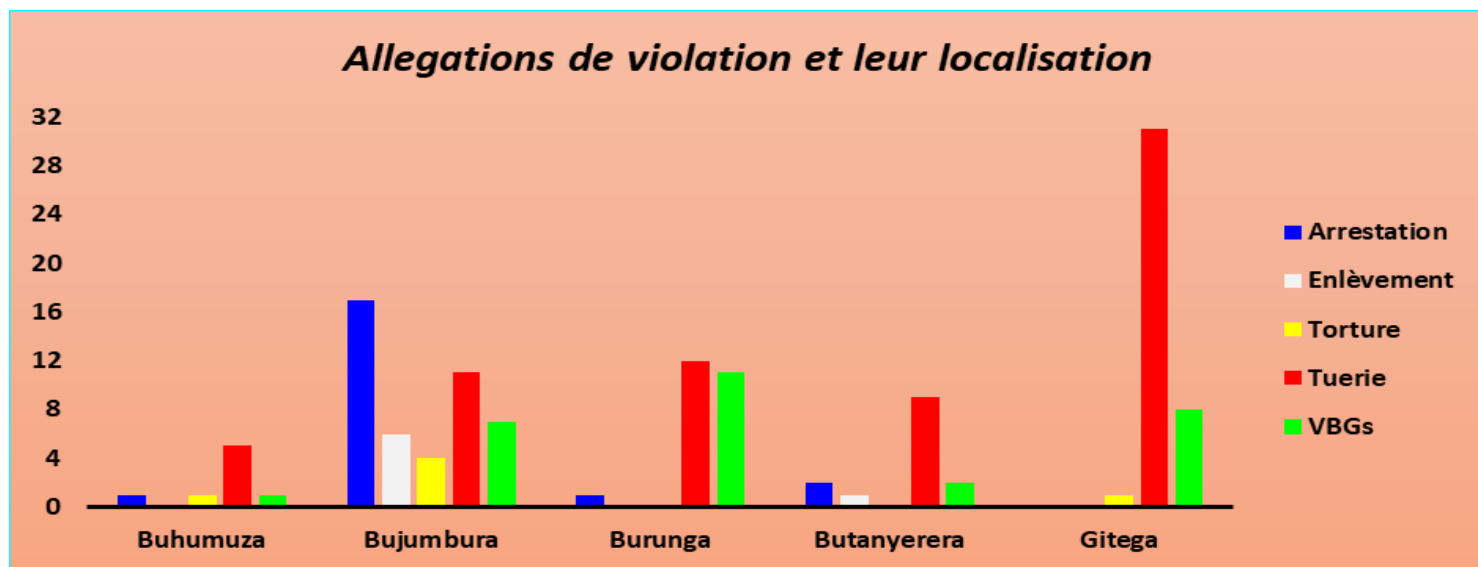
CSO: Civil Society Organization

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report analyzes the human rights situation in Burundi during the period from **July 1 to September 30, 2026**, based on incidents documented by the Burundian League for Human Rights "ITEKA" through its data collection and monitoring networks. The analysis focuses primarily on violations of civil and political rights, gender-based violence, and prison conditions during the quarter. A total of **118 incidents** were documented during this period, involving **131 victims**. The breakdown of incidents reveals a clear predominance of violations of the **right to life**, with **67 cases** of killings, representing **56.8% of all recorded incidents**. These cases involved 68 victims, accounting for **51.9% of all documented victims**. This prevalence of lethal violence is a key characteristic of the human rights situation during the quarter.

Gender-based violence (GBV) constitutes the second most frequent category, with **29 incidents and 29 victims, representing 24.6% of incidents and 22.1% of victims**. Among the GBV victims, **15 suffered rape and 14 experienced other forms of gender-based violence**. Women accounted for **26 of the 29 victims**, compared to three men, highlighting the strongly gendered nature of this violence. Other documented violations include **arrests, abductions, and acts of torture**. Arrests accounted for **10 incidents involving 21 victims**; abductions, **6 incidents involving 7 victims**; and torture, **6 incidents involving 6 victims**. A particularly significant finding emerges from the analysis of these categories: the victims identified in cases of arrest, abduction, and torture are exclusively men. This pattern contrasts sharply with that observed for gender-based violence and reflects distinct vulnerability profiles depending on the nature of the violations.

Figure 1: Illustrative chart of alleged violations and their locations



⇒ A Concerning Territorial Concentration

The geographical distribution of incidents reveals a significant concentration in certain provinces. **Gitega** ranks first with **39 incidents** representing **33.1%** of the total followed by **Bujumbura with 33 incidents (28.0%)**. Together, these two provinces account for **72 of the 118 documented incidents, or 61.0%** of the total. However, this concentration does not follow the exact same pattern in both provinces. In **Gitega**, lethal violence is overwhelmingly predominant.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (the following of page 5)

Of the 39 documented incidents, **30 involved killings**, representing approximately **76.9%** of the incidents recorded in the province. Gitega thus accounts for nearly half of the killing cases documented nationwide (**30 out of 67**). This situation makes the province the primary hotspot for lethal violence during the quarter.

In **Bujumbura**, the profile of violations is more diverse. The province recorded 33 incidents, including **11 killings, 6 arrests, 5 abductions, 4 acts of torture, and 7 cases of gender-based violence (GBV)**. Mainly, it accounts for **17 of the 21 victims of arrest and 6 of the 7 victims of abduction** recorded nationwide. Bujumbura thus emerges as an area particularly marked by restrictions on freedom, abductions, and acts of torture, in addition to violations of the right to life. Meanwhile, **Burunga** province shows a remarkable concentration of gender-based violence. With **11 GBV cases out of 24 total incidents**, GBV accounts for nearly **45.8%** of the incidents recorded in the province. Burunga thus accounts for **11 of the 29 GBV cases documented nationwide, or 37.9%**. The provinces of **Butanyerera** and **Buhumuza** recorded **14 and 8 incidents**, respectively. Although their volume is lower than that of Gitega and Bujumbura, they are not spared from serious violations, including killings, arrests, abductions, torture, and SGBV violations for which establishing perpetrator responsibility remains difficult in some cases.

Table 1: Illustrative table of the perpetrators of violations and their locations

Alleged Authors	Buhumuza	Bujumbura	Burunga	Butanyerera	Gitega	Total
Police officer	1	7	1	1	1	11
Administratifs Agents	0	1	0	0	0	1
SNR Agents	0	5	0	1	0	6
Other categories	0	5	5	1	8	19
Unidentified People	4	6	12	5	16	43
Imbonerakure	1	7	1	1	3	13
Infanticides	0	2	2	1	2	7
Military	0	1	0	0	0	1
Settling Scores	2	3	4	4	11	24
Overall Total	8	37	25	14	41	125

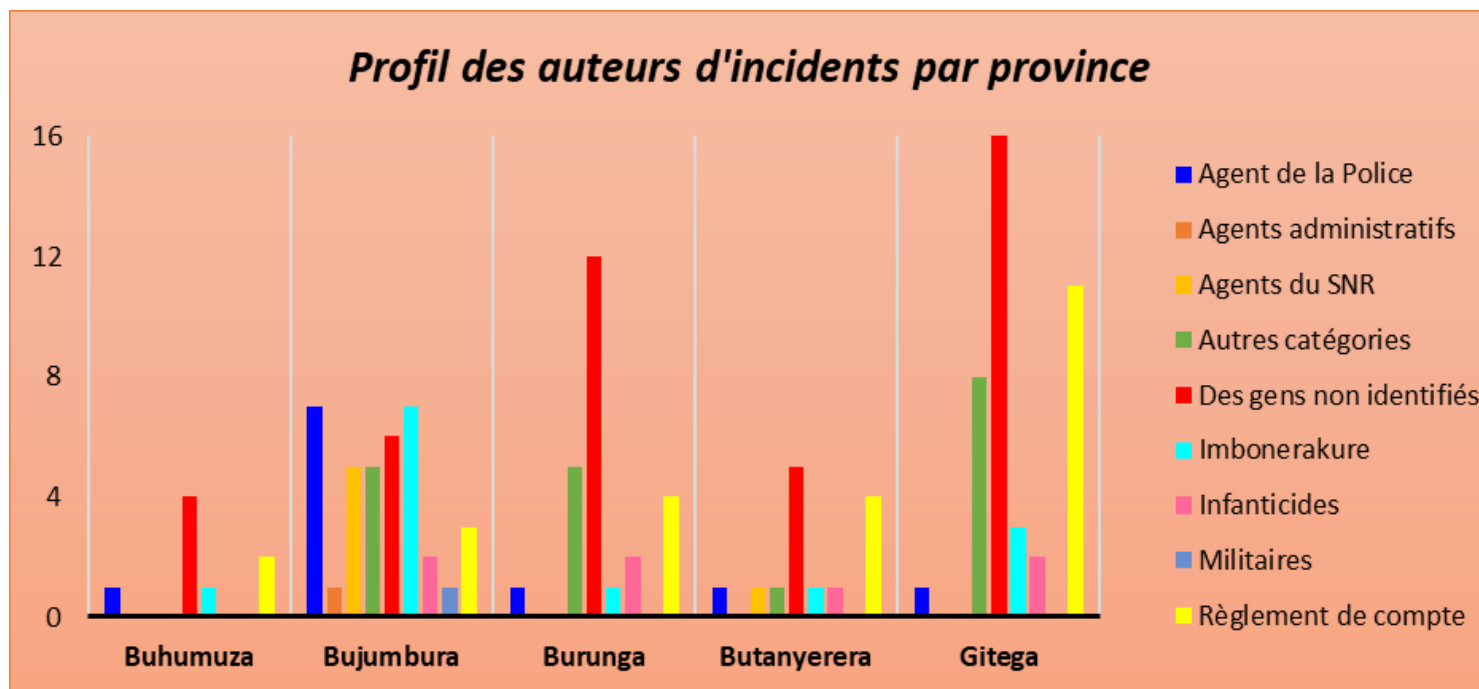
The analysis of presumed or identified perpetrators shows a significant challenge in establishing responsibility. Out of **125 recorded instances concerning perpetrator categories in the database**, the category of unidentified individuals comes out on top with **43 occurrences, or 34.4%**. This high proportion is a major issue when it comes to fighting impunity. It means that a large share of documented violations does not allow, at the data collection stage, a precise identification of the perpetrators. This situation is particularly notable in **Gitega**, with 16 occurrences involving unidentified perpetrators, and in **Burunga**, with 12.



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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (the following of page 6)

Figure 2: Illustrative chart of the violators and their locations



At the same time, categories of perpetrators linked to institutional or political-security actors are also documented. The database notably shows **11 cases involving police officers, 6 involving SNR agents, 13 involving Imbonerakure, one involving administrative agents, and one involving military personnel.** The simultaneous presence of unidentified perpetrators and actors belonging to state or political-security structures highlights the need to strengthen mechanisms for investigation, identification of those responsible, and establishment of individual accountability.

⇒ An still uneven institutional response

Out of the **118 documented incidents**, action was taken in **69 cases**, while **no action was recorded in 49 cases, which is 41.5% of the incidents.** The overall rate of incidents that saw recorded action thus reaches **58.5%.**

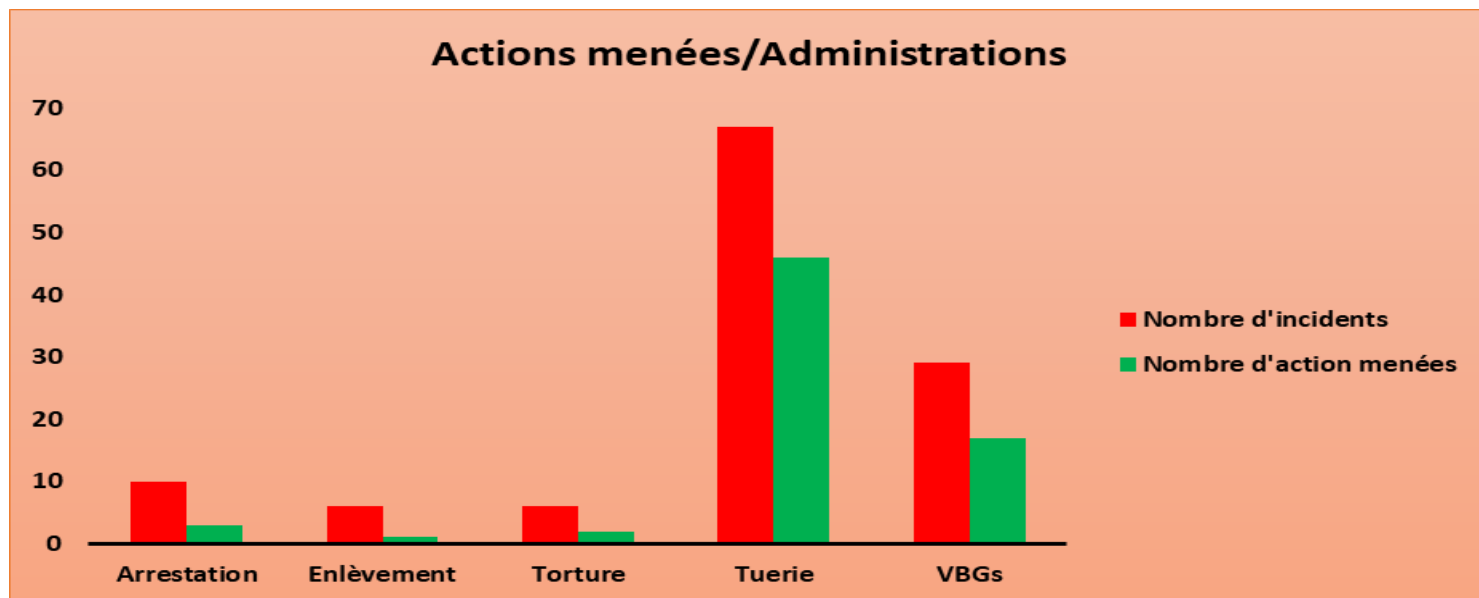
Table 2: Comparative table of incidents and actions taken

Types of incident	Number of incidents	Numbre of actions done	No action
Arrest	10	3	7
Kidnapping	6	1	5
Torture	6	2	4
Killing	67	46	21
GBVs	29	17	12
Overall total	118	69	49

However, the nature of the responses provides some additional important information. A **judicial investigation was opened in 53 cases, an internal investigation in 9 cases, a disciplinary measure in one case, while 6 incidents were reported.**

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (the following of page 7)

Figure 3: Illustrative chart of the violators and their locations



The response varies a lot depending on the type of violation. Killings show the highest level of recorded action, with **46 out of 67 cases, or 68.7%**. On the other hand, **31.3% of killing cases show no recorded action**. The situation is much more worrying for kidnappings: **5 out of 6 cases, or 83.3%**, show no recorded action. Arrests also have a high level of no action, with **7 out of 10 cases, or 70%**, while torture has **4 out of 6 cases, or 66.7%**, with no recorded action.

Table 3: Administrative Response Table

Types of incidents	Internal investigation	Judicial investigation opened	Disciplinary Measures	Declaration	No action
Arrest	1	1	0	1	7
Kidnapping	0	1	0	0	5
Torture	1	1	0	0	4
Killing	4	37	0	5	21
GBVs	3	13	1	0	12
Overall Total	9	53	1	6	49

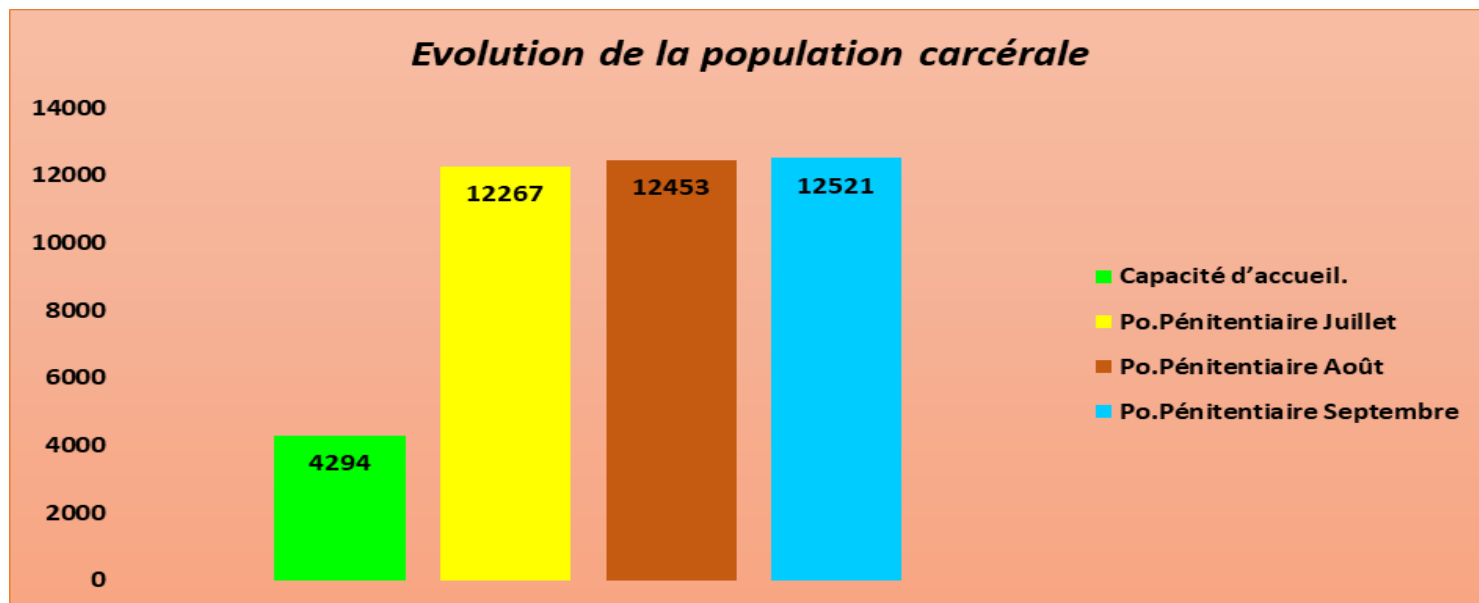
These data do not warrant the conclusion that the authorities failed to take any action in all the cases concerned. Similarly, the opening of a judicial investigation does not, in itself, mean that proceedings resulted in the identification of those responsible, their prosecution, or effective redress for the victims. The very limited number of **disciplinary measures just one out of 118 incidents** is nevertheless a matter of particular concern regarding accountability for perpetrators who fall under the State's disciplinary authority.

⇒ ***A prison situation that continues to deteriorate***

Conditions in penal institutions constitute another key indicator of the human rights situation during the quarter. Against a national capacity of **4,294 places**, the prison population rose from **12,267 inmates in July to 12,453 in August, and then to 12,521 in September 2026**. Between July and September, the prison population thus increased by **254 people**, or approximately **2.1%**. The overall occupancy rate rose from **286% in July to 292% in September**, confirming the persistence of **extremely high levels of prison overcrowding**.

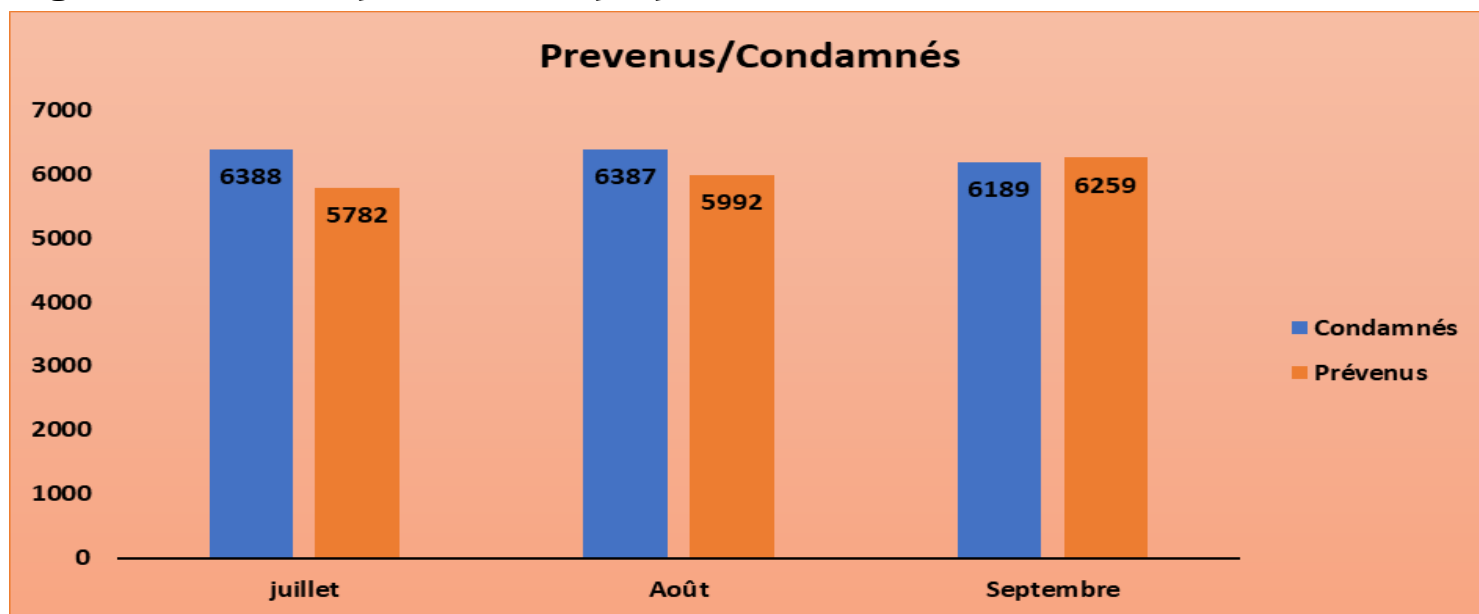
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (the following of page 8)

Figure 4: Evolution of the prison population



The changes in the prison population deserve some attention. The number of people awaiting trial went from **5,782 in July to 6,259 in September**, an increase of **477 people**. At the same time, the number of convicted prisoners dropped from **6,388 to 6,189**, a decrease of **199 people**. By September, those awaiting trial had thus become slightly more numerous than the convicted.

Figure 5: Evolution of the number of defendants and convicted



This development is an important signal regarding the use of pretrial detention and calls for particular attention to procedural delays, access to justice, and the principle that preventive detention must remain regulated by law.

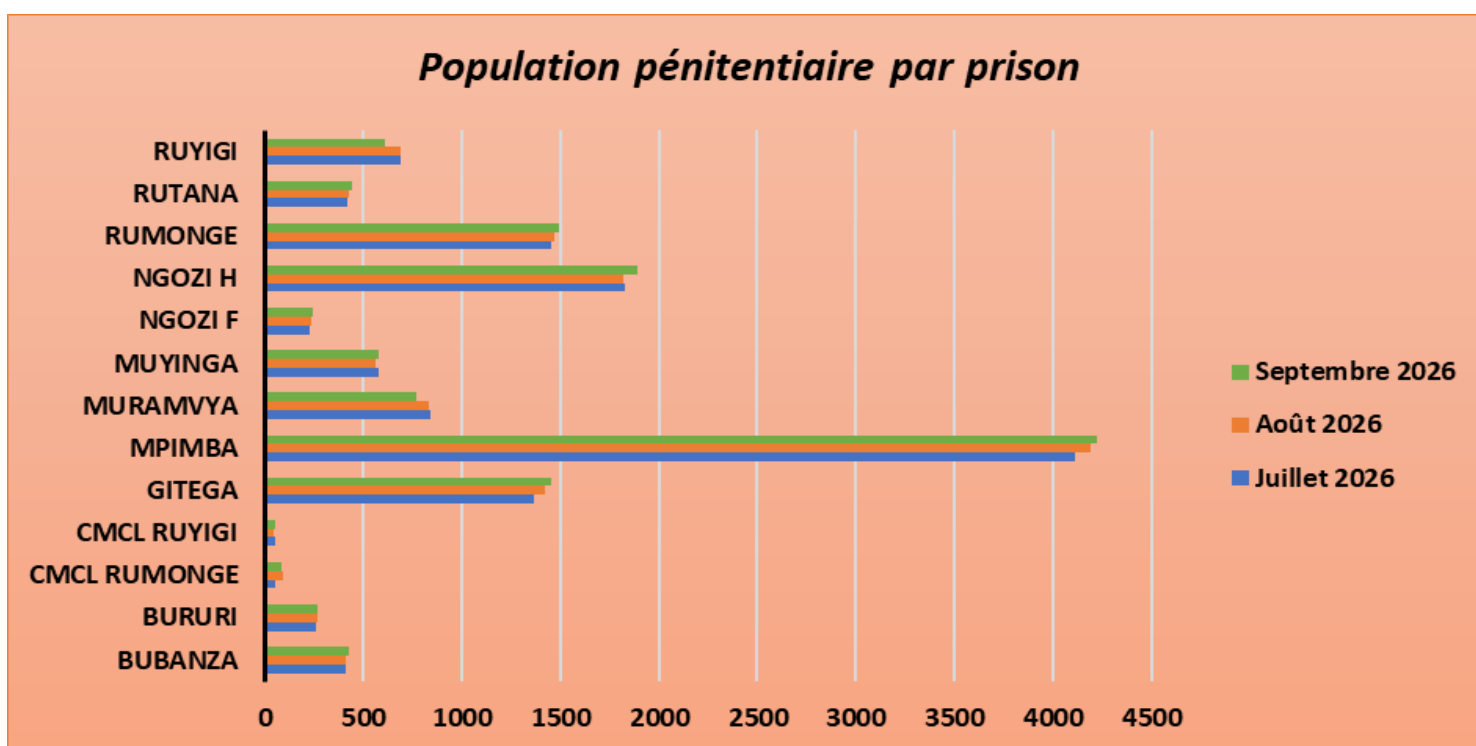
The situation is particularly critical in several facilities. In September, the occupancy rate reached **771% in Muramvya, 528% in Mpimba, 472% in Ngozi-H, and 363% in Gitega**. Even in facilities where a decrease is observed, like Muramvya and Ruyigi, the level of overcrowding remains extremely high.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (the following of page 9)

Table 4: Comparison by prison

Prisons	Capacity	July 2026	August 2026	September 2026
BUBANZA	200	407	412	423
BURURI	250	258	264	268
CMCL RUMONGE	72	47	90	86
CMCL RUYIGI	72	47	44	52
GITEGA	400	1365	1422	1450
MPIMBA	800	4117	4190	4226
MURAMVYA	100	840	835	771
MUYINGA	300	578	562	578
NGOZI F	250	228	233	240
NGOZI H	400	1826	1823	1889
RUMONGE	800	1450	1470	1489
RUTANA	350	420	422	437
RUYIGI	300	684	686	612
Overall total	4294	12267	12453	12521

Figure 6: Evolution of the prison population by prison



⇒ **A general trend marked by the persistence of serious violations**

A cross-analysis of the quarter's data reveals several major trends.

First, **lethal violence remains central to the human rights situation**, with killings accounting for more than half of the documented incidents and victims.

Second, violations are not evenly distributed across the territory. **Gitega and Bujumbura account for 61% of incidents**, though the profiles differ: lethal violence predominates in Gitega, whereas Bujumbura sees a significant share of arrests, abductions, and acts of torture.

Third, gender-based violence (GBV) constitutes a significant component of the situation, representing nearly a quarter of documented incidents, with a particularly high concentration in Burunga, Gitega, and Bujumbura.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (the following of page 10)

Fourth, the high proportion of unidentified perpetrators and the large number of cases with no recorded action raise questions regarding the **effectiveness of mechanisms for establishing accountability and combating impunity**.

Fifth, the prison situation remains extremely concerning. The continuous rise in the prison population, combined with a national occupancy rate nearly three times the theoretical capacity, indicates that the prison issue is no longer merely an isolated difficulty but a **structural problem requiring coordinated judicial, administrative, and penitentiary measures**.

Overall, the situation documented in the third quarter of 2026 thus reveals the persistence of serious violations affecting, simultaneously, the **right to life, the right to physical and mental integrity, the right to liberty and security of person, the right to protection against gender-based violence, and the rights of persons deprived of liberty**. The available data call for an institutional response that goes beyond merely reacting to incidents and focuses instead on **prevention, accountability, effective access to justice, the protection of victims and witnesses, and the reduction of prison overcrowding**. Only in this way can the measures taken move beyond the ad hoc management of incidents and contribute to a lasting improvement in the human rights situation in Burundi.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

⇒ To the President of Burundi

1. **Ensure** effective protection of the right to life, physical integrity, and personal security, notably by strengthening mechanisms for prevention, oversight, and accountability regarding public officials and other actors involved in documented violations.
2. **Order** a prompt, independent, and impartial investigation into every serious allegation, and ensure that suspected perpetrators are subject to appropriate judicial proceedings, regardless of their position, affiliation, or status.
3. **Create** an environment conducive to the work of human rights organizations, journalists, and other actors responsible for documenting violations, by guaranteeing their safety and access to necessary information.

⇒ To the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development, and Public Security

1. **Ensure** that every arrest is lawful, duly recorded, and subject to the safeguards provided by law, including access to a lawyer, notification of the family, and presentation before the competent judicial authority.
2. **Strengthen** mechanisms for tracking arrests and detainees, as well as supervisory oversight of security service operations, particularly in cases of abductions, arbitrary arrests, and unlawful detentions.
3. **Regularly train** public security officials on human rights, procedural safeguards, and the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

⇒ To the Ministry of Justice and judicial authorities

1. **Ensure** effective follow-up on the **53 judicial investigations** opened during the quarter and **expedite** the processing of cases concerning the most serious violations, including killings, gender-based violence, torture, abductions, and arbitrary arrests.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS (the following of page 11)

2. **Strengthen** the independence, impartiality, and capacity of judicial actors to ensure investigations and proceedings comply with justice and human rights standards.
3. **Reduce** the excessive use of pre-trial detention particularly given the rise in the number of pre-trial detainees from 5,782 in July to 6,259 in September 2026 by prioritizing alternatives to detention where the law permits.

⇒ *To the Burundi National Police, the SNR, and other security services:*

1. **Prevent and sanction** any acts of torture, abduction, arbitrary arrest, or unlawful treatment committed by their agents.
2. **Ensure** the traceability of all operations involving the deprivation of liberty and prohibit the transfer, relocation, or detention of any person outside of legal procedures and judicial oversight.
3. **Cooperate** fully with judicial authorities in investigations concerning their agents and **strengthen** supervisory accountability when violations are committed or tolerated.

⇒ *To the prison administration and the Ministry of Justice:*

1. **Implement** a national plan to relieve prison overcrowding, prioritizing facilities with the highest overcrowding rates.
2. **Regularly** review the legal status of detainees particularly those in pre-trial detention and facilitate access to legal assistance and legal mechanisms that prevent prolonged detention.
3. **Improve** material conditions of detention, including access to water, sanitation, healthcare, and dignified living space, and regularly publish updated data on inmate numbers, facility capacity, and detainees' legal status.

⇒ *To the Ministry responsible for Gender, Social Affairs, and Human Rights:*

1. **Strengthen** mechanisms for the prevention, care, and protection of victims of gender-based violence, particularly regarding access to medical care, psychosocial support, legal assistance, and social services.
2. **Ensure** the protection of victims and witnesses, and strengthen mechanisms for documenting and prosecuting alleged perpetrators of gender-based violence.
3. **Improve** the collection and disaggregation of data on gender-based violence to enable better monitoring of trends and the institutional response.

⇒ *To the National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH):*

1. **Strengthen** independent monitoring of places of detention and conduct regular visits, particularly to facilities with the most concerning levels of overcrowding.
2. **Follow up** on complaints and cases of torture, abduction, and arrest where the institutional response remains limited, and formulate specific recommendations accompanied by monitoring mechanisms.

⇒ *To the leaders of the CNDD-FDD and the leaders of the Imbonerakure*

1. **Give** public and unambiguous instructions prohibiting any involvement of their members in acts of violence, intimidation, illegal arrest, kidnapping or human rights abuses.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS (the following of page 12)

2. **Cooperate** with judicial authorities and **take** appropriate internal measures when members are involved in violations, without political or organizational affiliation constituting protection from justice.

⇒ ***To provincial and local administrative authorities***

1. **Strengthen** early warning mechanisms and transmission of information relating to human rights violations to the competent authorities.
2. **Facilitate** the work of investigators, human rights organizations and other actors responsible for documenting violations, and refrain from any obstruction or intimidation.

⇒ ***To international partners, diplomatic missions, United Nations and other international organizations***

1. **Strengthen** monitoring of the human rights situation in Burundi and encourage national authorities to conduct independent, impartial and effective investigations into documented violations.
2. **Support** justice mechanisms, legal assistance, protection of victims and witnesses, prevention of torture and care for victims of gender-based violence.
3. **Support** efforts to reduce prison congestion, improve detention conditions and strengthen national systems for collecting and analyzing human rights data.

⇒ ***To civil society organizations, human rights defenders and media***

1. **Strengthen** the rigorous documentation of violations, particularly those whose perpetrators remain unidentified, and **ensure** follow-up of cases with the competent institutions.
2. **Improve** the collection, disaggregation and analysis of data to contribute to a better understanding of trends and the development of advocacy actions based on verifiable evidence.
3. **Lead** victims to available protection, medical, psychosocial and legal assistance mechanisms, while **strengthening** security measures for defenders, witnesses and sources.
4. **Respect**, in the media treatment of violations, the principles of verification of information, protection of the dignity and private lives of victims and witnesses, and **avoid** any publication likely to compromise their security.



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III. OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT

III.1. GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of this report is to **provide an analytical and evidence-based overview of the human rights situation in Burundi during the period from July 1 to September 30, 2026**, based on incidents and victims documented in the five provinces covered by the monitoring system of the Burundian League for Human Rights "ITEKA."

III.2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. **To document and quantify** the main human rights violations recorded during the third quarter of 2026 specifically killings, gender-based violence, arrests, abductions, and acts of torture as well as the number of victims involved;
2. **To analyze the distribution and trends** of documented violations by province, category of violation, and where data is available by the victims' gender and the reported categories of perpetrators;
3. **To examine institutional responses to the documented** violations including internal investigations, judicial inquiries, disciplinary measures, and other reported actions in order to identify any discrepancies between the violations observed and the responses provided;
4. **To analyze the prison situation** during the quarter, particularly trends in the inmate population, overcrowding levels in penal institutions, and the status of pre-trial detention relative to the convicted population.

III.3. SCOPE OF THE ANALYSIS

These objectives are pursued within the limits of the data actually documented and available for the period in question. The report does not, therefore, claim to account for all violations that may have been committed in Burundi, but rather analyzes the facts that could be documented and verified by the ITEKA League's monitoring system.

The analysis distinguishes, to the extent permitted by the data, between **incidents and victims**, reported categories of perpetrators, and recorded institutional responses. The results should therefore be interpreted as a documented snapshot of the situation during the quarter, rather than as an exhaustive measure of all violations committed within the national territory.



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IV. METHODOLOGY

The Burundian Human Rights League "ITEKA" relies on **continuous monitoring of the human rights situation**, carried out by its volunteers and observers through its federations and sections. Documentation is based notably on information gathering, interviews with various stakeholders, and testimonies from victims and other available sources. The information collected is entered and consolidated into the **KOBOTOOLBOX database**, which facilitates data processing and the production of the tables and graphs presented in the report.

This approach has been maintained for the current quarterly report. Data for **July and August 2026** come from the ITEKA League's monthly reports, while data for **September 2026** are derived from weekly bulletins available at the time of data consolidation. This combination of sources allows for a presentation of the situation over the quarter while accounting for the varying levels of data consolidation across the different periods. Data have been aggregated and analyzed based on factors such as **province, nature of violations, number of incidents, number of victims, victims' gender, categories of alleged perpetrators, and recorded institutional responses**. A distinction is maintained between the number of incidents and the number of victims, as a single incident may involve multiple victims.

The figures presented in this report should be understood as **cases documented by the ITEKA League's monitoring system**, rather than an exhaustive tally of all violations occurring in Burundi. Caution is advised when interpreting the data, particularly regarding cases where documentation or verification may be incomplete or subject to change.

Finally, data regarding institutional responses reflect **actions recorded at the time the report was consolidated**. The absence of recorded action therefore does not necessarily mean that no steps were taken by the authorities, but rather that no action was documented in the available information.

V. STATE OF AFFAIRS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURUNDI: JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2026

During the third quarter of 2026, the Burundian League for Human Rights "ITEKA" documented **118 incidents affecting 131 victims** across the five provinces covered by its monitoring system. The recorded incidents primarily involved violations of the right to life, gender-based violence, arrests, abductions, and acts of torture. **Killings constituted the largest category**, with 67 incidents and 68 victims accounting for more than half of the incidents and victims documented during the period. These were followed by gender-based violence, with 29 incidents and 29 victims. Arrests, abductions, and acts of torture accounted for 10, 6, and 6 incidents, respectively.

The geographical distribution reveals a particularly high concentration of incidents in the provinces of **Gitega and Bujumbura**, which together account for 72 of the 118 documented incidents or **61%** of the total. This concentration warrants special attention in the analysis, as do the specific patterns observed in certain provinces, notably the prevalence of killings in Gitega and the significant incidence of gender-based violence in Burunga. The following analysis examines these data by category of rights and seeks to highlight beyond the raw figures the main trends observed during the quarter, their geographical distribution, and the institutional responses recorded.

V.1. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Civil and political rights were the main area affected by documented violations during the third quarter of 2026. The infringements mainly concern the **right to life, the right to physical and mental integrity, as well as the right to personal freedom and security**. The predominance of killings in the quarterly data is the main point of concern. This is accompanied by other forms of violence, including kidnappings, arrests, and acts of torture, which mostly affect male victims according to available data. The analysis below lays out the main trends regarding these rights.

V.1.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

During the third quarter of 2026, the ITEKA League documented **67 cases of killings resulting in 68 victims** across the five provinces covered by its monitoring system. Killings thus constituted the largest category of violations for the quarter, accounting for **56.8% of the 118 documented incidents and 51.9% of the 131 recorded victims**. The geographical distribution reveals a particularly high concentration in **Gitega** province, where 30 cases of killings were documented representing **44.8% of all cases recorded nationwide**. Bujumbura ranks second with 11 cases, followed by Burunga with 12 cases, Butanyerera with 9 cases, and Buhumuza with 5 cases.

The situation in Gitega stands out not only due to the absolute number of cases but also because of the significant proportion of killings relative to the total number of incidents documented there. Of the 39 incidents recorded in this province, 30 were killings, amounting to **76.9%**. This proportion gives Gitega a profile heavily marked by violations of the right to life during the period in question. Bujumbura, meanwhile, presents a more diverse profile. With 11 cases of killings out of 33 documented incidents, violations of the right to life account for **33.3%** of incidents there. However, this province accounts for a significant share of other serious violations documented during the quarter, notably arrests and abductions.

In Burunga, 12 cases of killings were recorded out of 24 incidents, or **50%**. In Butanyerera, 9 cases out of 14 incidents represent **64.3%**, while in Buhumuza, the 5 cases of killings account for **62.5%** of the 8 incidents documented in the province. Regarding the gender of the victims, consolidated data indicate that there were **33 men and 35 women** among the 68 victims. Women thus account for slightly more than half of the victims of killings documented during the quarter. This breakdown warrants particular attention when analyzing the circumstances of the deaths and documenting acts of violence that may affect men and women differently.

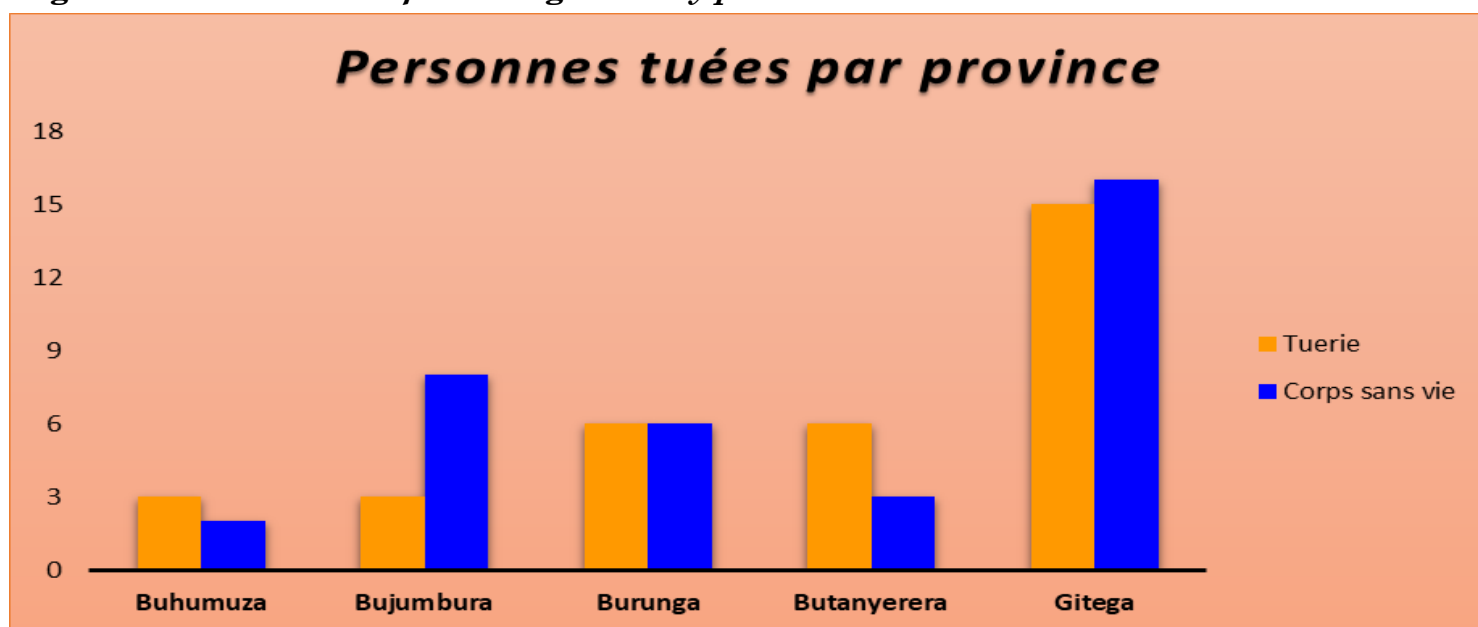
Furthermore, **58 lifeless bodies were recovered** from among the recorded victims. While this figure is a significant element in documenting violations of the right to life, it is not sufficient on its own to determine the exact circumstances of each death or to automatically establish the perpetrators' liability. These details must be assessed in light of the information available for each case. Overall, the data for the quarter reveal a **high prevalence of violations of the right to life**, with a particularly marked concentration in Gitega. The persistence of a high number of killings, combined with the difficulty of identifying perpetrators in a significant proportion of documented incidents, is a matter requiring special monitoring, particularly regarding investigations and judicial follow-up.

II.1.1 RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 16)

Table 5: Breakdown of killing cases by province

Province	Case of killings	Number of victims		Men	Women
		Killing	Lifeless bodies		
Buhumuza	5	3	2	4	1
Bujumbura	11	3	8	10	1
Burunga	12	6	6	11	1
Butanyerera	9	6	3	6	3
Gitega	30	15	16	27	4
Overall total	67	33	35	58	10

Figure 7: Distribution of shooting cases by province



Illustrative cases of documented killings

Ex 1: Murder of a man aged approximately 60 in Bubanza: July 4, 2026.

The man was hacked to death with machetes by two *Imbonerakure* members while on his way to prayers in Gitanga (Muramba Zone, Bubanza Commune). He had reportedly been accused of witchcraft amidst a family land dispute. The ensuing reprisals resulted in houses being set on fire and the temporary displacement of three households. This case illustrates lethal violence involving community actors affiliated with the ruling party, accusations of witchcraft, land disputes, and retaliatory violence.

Ex2: Discovery of Olivier Nzoyihaya's body in Mugina: July 9, 2026.

Olivier Nzoyihaya, aged 20, who had been reported missing the previous day, was found dead in a well in Nyamikoma (Buhoro Zone, Mugina Commune). Information gathered indicates head injuries and signs of strangulation. Guards from the gold mining site and two cooperative officials were arrested, though the latter were subsequently released. A police source alleged that a sum of 25 million FBu was paid to secure their release. This case is particularly illustrative of the potential link between disappearances, suspicious deaths, mining operations, alleged corruption, and the need for an effective investigation.

Ex3: Discovery of Musafiri's decapitated body in Rutana: September 26, 2026.

Musafiri, a merchant aged approximately 46 and a member of the CNDD-FDD, was found dead and decapitated near the Malagarazi River in Gihofi (Bukemba Commune, Rutana Province). The

II.1.1 RIGHT TO LIFE (the following of page 17)

exact circumstances of his death, the identities of the perpetrators, and any subsequent legal proceedings remained unknown at the time of documentation. This case illustrates the persistence of extremely violent killings where the perpetrators remain unidentified, as well as the difficulty of rapidly establishing accountability.

V.1.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL INTEGRITY

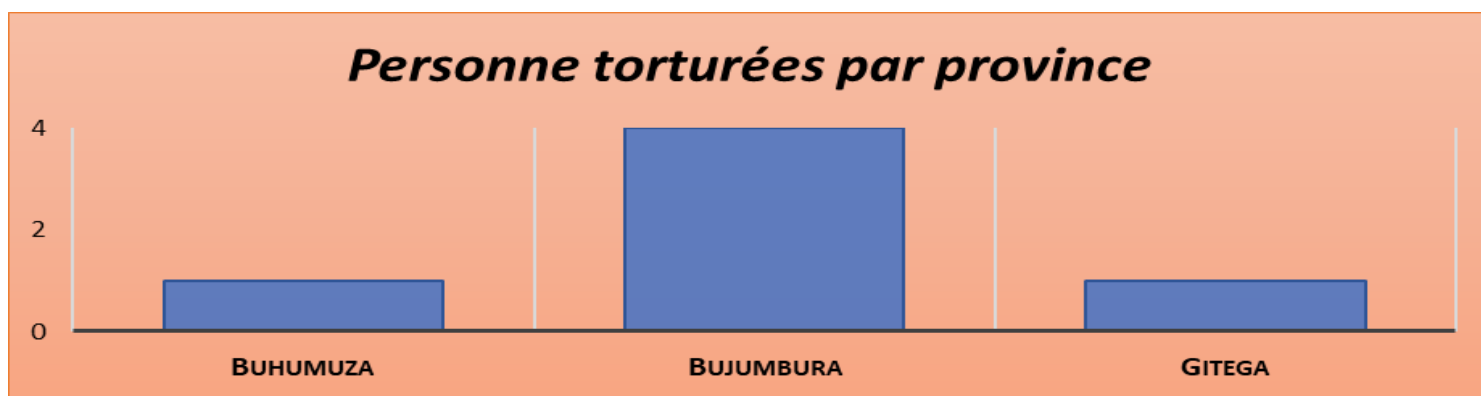
The documented physical and mental harm during the third quarter of 2026 mainly includes **acts of torture and some physical violence related to other recorded incidents**. The ITEKA League documented **6 cases of torture involving 6 victims**. All six victims of torture are male. The cases were recorded in the provinces of **Buhumuza, Bujumbura, and Gitega**. Bujumbura alone accounts for four of the six cases, or **66.7%**, while Buhumuza and Gitega each have one case.

Table 6: People tortured by province

Province	Case of tortures	Number of victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	1	1	1	0
Bujumbura	4	4	4	0
Burunga	0	0	0	0
Butanyerera	0	0	0	0
Gitega	1	1	1	0
Overall total	6	6	6	0

The concentration of cases in Bujumbura deserves special attention. However, it should be interpreted with caution, because the number of documented cases alone does not reflect the true extent of the phenomenon in each province. It mainly reflects the cases that could be recorded by the monitoring system during the period.

Figure 8: People tortured by province



Data regarding torture must also be viewed in conjunction with other documented violations. Indeed, Bujumbura is the site of multiple categories of violations affecting personal liberty and security, notably arrests and abductions. This concentration warrants close monitoring of the conditions under which individuals are apprehended, detained, and treated by the relevant agents or services. The institutional response is also a significant factor. Of the six documented cases of torture, **two resulted in recorded action specifically**, an internal investigation and a judicial

V.1.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 18)

investigation whereas no action was recorded for the other four. Thus, **66.7% of the identified torture cases showed no record of action** in the data available at the time of consolidation. This situation underscores the importance of following up on complaints and investigations regarding acts of torture, particularly when victims are able to identify the circumstances, places of detention, or individuals involved.

⇒ *Illustrative cases of torture and other cruel treatment*

Ex 1: Assault on Ndabihimana Audace in Kabezi: July 28, 2026.

*Ndabihimana Audace was violently assaulted by a group of *Imbonerakure* led according to information gathered by HABONIMANA Vianney, alias "Launcher." He was reportedly questioned about his movements and then beaten after stating he had returned from South Africa and being accused of membership in the CNL. He was hospitalized and remained in a severely weakened physical state.*

Ex 2: Violence inflicted on Mertus Mpayimana at the Rugajo police station: August 28, 2026.

Mertus Mpayimana, a motorcycle taxi driver, was detained in Rugajo, Mugina commune. Following a dispute specifically regarding a sum of money demanded by a police officer he was violently beaten at the police station by the officer in charge, "Chief Yves," resulting in a fractured thigh. No legal action had been taken against those responsible at the time the case was documented.

Ex 3: Nahimana Claude found critically injured in Gitega: September 3, 2026.

Nahimana Claude, 35, who had been missing since September 1, was found critically injured in Mubuga, Muhororo commune. He was bound and had sustained numerous injuries. Two individuals were arrested in connection with the investigation.

V.1.3. RIGHT TO FREEDOM AND PERSON SECURITY

During the third quarter of 2026, the ITEKA League recorded **10 arrest cases involving 21 victims and 6 kidnapping cases involving 7 victims**. Together, these two categories account for 16 incidents and 28 victims.

V.1.3.1. CASES OF ARRESTS

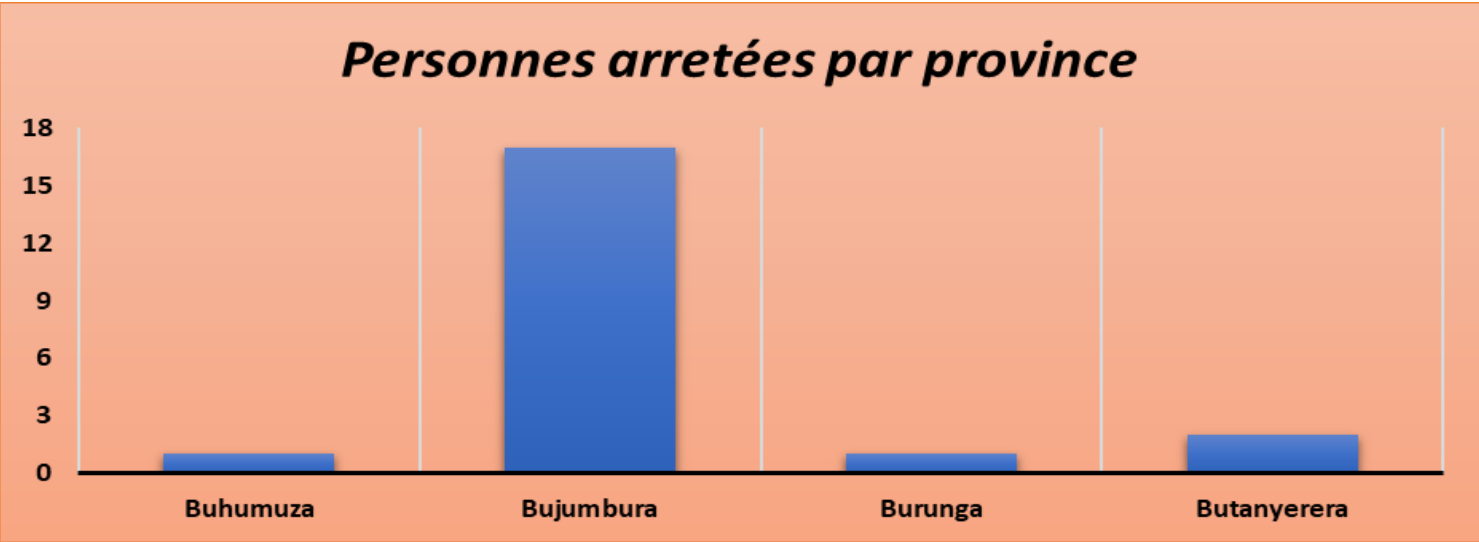
The arrests are heavily concentrated in certain areas. **Bujumbura accounts for 6 of the 10 documented cases and 17 of the 21 victims**, which is 60% of the cases and 81% of the victims. The other cases were recorded in Buhumuza, Burunga, and Butanyerera. No arrests were documented in Gitega during this period.

Table 7: Cases of arrests and number of victims by province

Province	Case of arrests	Number of victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	1	1	1	0
Bujumbura	6	17	17	0
Burunga	1	1	1	0
Butanyerera	2	2	2	0
Gitega	0	0	0	0
Overall total	10	21	21	0

All 21 recorded arrest victims are male. This feature sets arrests apart from gender-based violence, but it should only be looked at in light of the cases documented during the quarter.

Figure 9: People arrested by province



The institutional response seems limited based on the available data. Out of 10 arrests, **3 had some recorded action**, while 7 didn't have any recorded action. So, the rate of no recorded action is **70%**.

⇒ **Illustrative cases of arrests.**

Ex 1: Arrest of Emmanuel Bizimana in Kirundo: July 2026

Emmanuel Bizimana, a 26-year-old Rwandan national, was arrested after crossing the Kanyaru River to gather grass. He had been summoned by the local **Imbonerakure** leader, who subsequently demanded 100,000 Rwandan francs from him. He was accused of illegal border crossing and espionage.

Ex 2: Arrest of administrative officials following a religious gathering in Bubanza: August 13, 2026

Two local administrative officials were arrested after a religious gathering attended by approximately 180 foreign guests notably from Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda took place. The operation involved the SNR (National Intelligence Service), even though the officials maintained that the church was legally registered and the meeting had been authorized.

Ex 3: Arrest of Ephrem Ciza in Gisagara: August 18, 2026

Ephrem Ciza was arrested following a bicycle accident involving Zone Chief Jean Bizimana. He was accused, among other things, of deliberately causing the accident and belonging to an armed faction of the FNL. Information gathered also indicates that he had previously refused overtures to join the CNDD-FDD.

These three cases illustrate, respectively, issues related to the border and security-related accusations; potential restrictions on the exercise of religious freedoms; and the risk of arrests being used in the context of political rivalries or intolerance.

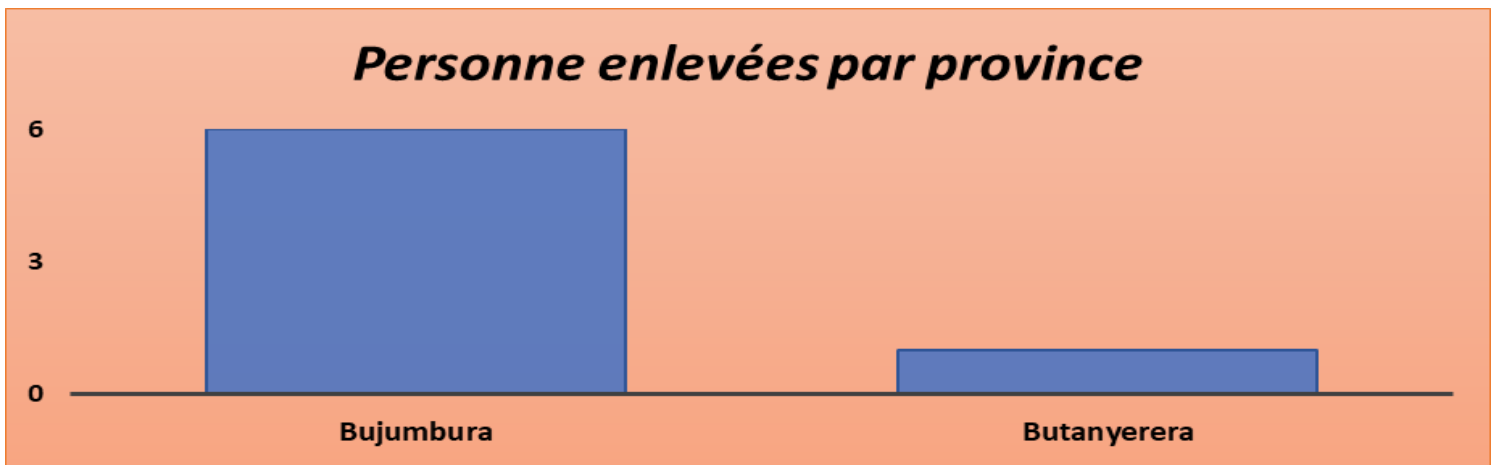
V.1.3.2. CASES OF KIDNAPPINGS

The situation is even more worrying when it comes to kidnappings. Out of the **6 documented cases, 5 had no recorded action, which is 83.3%**. Bujumbura accounts for 5 of the 6 cases and 6 of the 7 victims. All the recorded kidnapping victims are also male.

Table 8: Kidnapping cases and number of victims by province

Province	Cases of kidnappings	Number of victims	Men	Women
Buhumuza	0	0	0	0
Bujumbura	5	6	6	0
Burunga	0	0	0	0
Butanyerera	1	1	1	0
Gitega	0	0	0	0
Overall total	6	7	7	0

Figure 10: People kidnapped by province



⇒ **Illustrative cases of abduction**

Ex 1: Abduction of Déogratias Ndayisaba in Bujumbura: July 4, 2026.

Déogratias Ndayisaba, 37, was apprehended on the Gasenyi road, in Ntahangwa commune, by men wearing police uniforms. He was forced into a white Toyota double-cab vehicle with tinted windows, which drove him to an unknown destination.

Ex 2: Second abduction of Joël in Kayanza: July 10, 2026.

Joël, a merchant in his forties from Mugina, was abducted at the Musave market in Kayanza. He had previously been abducted a few weeks earlier by SNR agents in Ngozi before being released. Following this second abduction, his relatives searched for him in various detention centers but were unable to locate him.

Ex 3: Abduction of Niyungeko Jean Berchmans in Mugere: September 1, 2026.

A member of the CNL, Niyungeko Jean Berchmans was abducted from his workplace in Kibembe, Ruziba zone. After receiving a phone call, two men arrived at his home, beat him until he lost consciousness, and then placed him in a double-cab vehicle with tinted windows before driving away with him. He has not been seen since.

V.1.3.2. CASES OF ABDUCTIONS (the following of page 21)

These three cases illustrate three different dimensions of the phenomenon: the alleged involvement of uniformed agents, the recurrence of abductions, and a potential political dimension. The concentration of arrests and abductions in Bujumbura, combined with the significant proportion of cases where no action was recorded, constitutes a trend that warrants specific monitoring. In particular, it warrants special attention to the traceability of persons arrested or abducted, access to judicial safeguards, and the progress of investigations where these have been opened.

V.1.4. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

During the third quarter of 2026, the ITEKA League documented **29 cases of gender-based violence (GBV), involving 29 victims**. GBV is the second most common category of violations in the data for the quarter, after killings, accounting for **24.6% of all documented incidents**. Available data shows that **26 of the victims are women and 3 are men**, representing **89.7% and 10.3%** respectively. This high proportion of women among the victims highlights their particular vulnerability to the documented violence in this category.

Among the 29 victims, **15 were victims of rape**, while 14 were affected by other forms of gender-based violence documented by the monitoring system. Sexual violence thus represents a significant part of the GBV cases recorded during the quarter.

Table 9: Distribution of GBV victims by sex and by province.

Province	Case of GBVs	Number of victims		Men	Women
		GBVs	Rape		
Buhumuza	1	1	0	0	1
Bujumbura	7	3	4	1	6
Burunga	11	4	7	0	11
Butanyerera	2	1	1	1	1
Gitega	8	5	3	1	7
Overall total	29	14	15	3	26

Illustrative cases of gender-based violence

Ex 1: Murder of Léocadie by her husband in Gisuru: June 30, 2026.

Léocadie was killed at her home in Gacokwe, Gisuru Commune, by her husband, Sirabahenda, who struck her multiple times with a machete. The couple had three children. Marital conflict and accusations regarding the paternity of a pregnancy are reported as contributing factors.

Ex 2: Severe assault on a woman by her husband in Bubanza: July 4, 2026.

A woman sustained a severe throat injury inflicted by her husband, Eduard, who serves as a mediator in their local community. She was hospitalized in critical condition, and her husband was arrested. Community members demanded justice and called for the man to be removed from his position as a mediator.

Ex 3: Alleged rape of an 11-year-old girl by her biological father in Mugere: September 25, 2026.

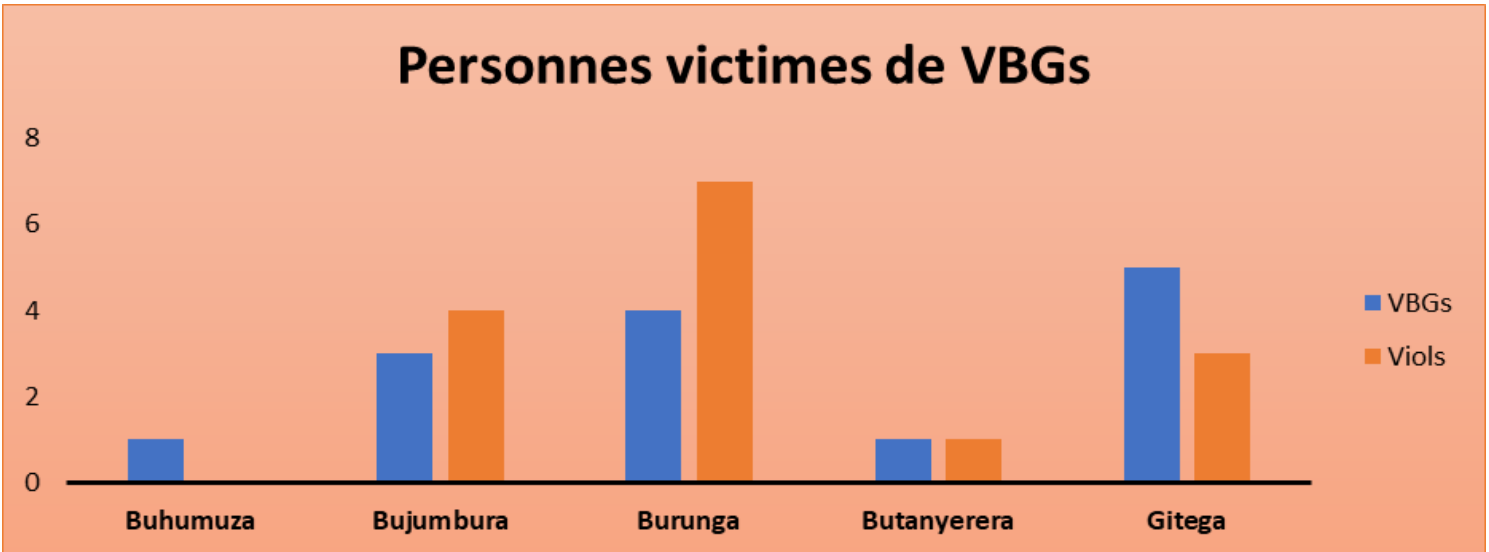
An 11-year-old fifth-grade student at ECOFO Busoro reported being a victim of sexual violence committed by her biological father at their home. The mother alerted the authorities, and the father was arrested. The victim received comprehensive care.

V.1.4. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (the following of page 22)

⇒ Geographical distribution of GBV cases.

The GBV cases are mainly concentrated in three provinces. **Burunga leads with 11 cases, making up 37.9%** of the national total, followed by **Gitega with 8 cases (27.6%)** and **Bujumbura with 7 cases (24.1%)**. These three provinces alone account for **26 out of 29 cases, or 89.7%** of all documented GBV cases. Butanyerera has 2 cases and Buhumuza has 1 case.

Figure 11: People who are victims of GBV by province



The situation in Burunga warrants particular attention. The 11 cases of SGBV account for **45.8% of the 24 incidents** documented in this province during the quarter. SGBV thus represents a significant component of the profile of recorded violations there, unlike in Gitega, where killings overwhelmingly dominate the documented incidents.

However, this geographical concentration alone does not justify the conclusion that SGBV is more frequent in these provinces than in others, as the data reflect only those cases actually documented by the monitoring mechanism. Nevertheless, it serves as a **signal requiring enhanced follow-up**, particularly regarding prevention, support services, and access to justice.

⇒ Institutional response

Of the 29 documented SGBV cases, **17 resulted in recorded action**, while no action was recorded for the remaining 12. The recorded action rate is thus **58.6%**, while **41.4%** of cases involved no recorded action. Recorded actions included the opening of **13 judicial investigations, 3 internal investigations, and 1 disciplinary measure**. While opening an investigation is a first step in the institutional response, it does not prejudice the outcome or the likelihood of the perpetrators being convicted.

The 12 cases with no recorded action remain a cause for concern given the nature of the violence involved. Consequently, the follow-up of complaints, victims' access to medical, psychosocial, and judicial services, and protection against reprisals are key areas requiring monitoring. Overall, the data for the quarter highlight three major findings: **the high proportion of women among victims, the significant prevalence of sexual violence, and the concentration of cases in the provinces of Burunga, Gitega, and Bujumbura**. These trends must be monitored over the coming periods to determine whether they are persistent or occasional character.

V.2. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Economic, social, and cultural rights are an important part of the human rights situation. During the third quarter of 2026, documentation from the ITEKA League highlighted concerns regarding **access to education and the conditions under which some educational services are provided**. The challenges identified show that the economic constraints faced by the population can directly affect actual access to essential social services. The analysis below focuses on the situations documented during the period in question.

V.2.1. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The situation regarding the right to education remains marked by challenges linked, in particular, to **material learning conditions and the financial burdens borne by families**. In certain localities, documentation reveals that financial contributions are requested from parents to cover needs related to school operations or the remuneration of volunteer teachers. Such practices raise concerns regarding equal access to education, particularly for households with limited resources.

Available data also indicate that the challenges extend beyond mere access to schooling to encompass **the conditions under which education is delivered**. A lack of infrastructure, equipment, or sufficient resources can affect the quality of learning as well as the working conditions for teachers and students. These situations must be assessed in light of the goal of ensuring effective and equitable access to education. When the financial burdens placed on families become significant or accumulate, they can create an additional barrier for the most vulnerable households. However, the analysis of these challenges must remain confined to situations actually documented during the quarter and cannot be generalized to the entire national education system.

Table 10: Summary of some concerns in teaching.

Documented Concern	Location	Observed Element
Contributions related to the support of volunteer teachers	Muyinga / Butanyerera	Contributions requested from parents
Material difficulties in schools	Various locations documented across the country	Learning conditions and equipment
Burdens borne by families	Various locations documented across the country	Contributions or expenses related to schooling

V.2.2. RIGHT TO HEALTH

During the third quarter of 2026, several factors indicated that **access to healthcare and the availability of health services and products remained significant challenges in Burundi**, particularly for vulnerable populations. The issue of **medicine availability** was a particular focus of interventions during this period. In July and August 2026, operations to supply and monitor medicines were carried out at the Giharo District Hospital and the Makombe mobile clinic in Burunga Province. These interventions aimed specifically to boost the availability of medical supplies and improve the quality of care for vulnerable populations.

V.2.2. RIGHT TO HEALTH (the following of page 24)

The situation at the Makombe mobile clinic also highlights the importance of support mechanisms in reducing financial barriers to healthcare access. In September 2026, a fresh supply of essential medicines was delivered to the clinic to ensure the continued provision of free care, particularly for Congolese refugees and vulnerable members of host communities. Patients requiring specialized care could be referred to Rumonge Hospital.

In terms of public policy, the quarter also saw measures aimed at improving healthcare access for specific population groups. Notably, on **September 16, 2026**, a joint ministerial order established a strategy for contracting care services with hospitals and pharmacies as part of medical assistance for vulnerable groups. The period also featured initiatives in the area of **maternal and reproductive health**. In August 2026, a national campaign for the screening and treatment of obstetric fistula was announced for the period of August 24 to September 4, mobilizing efforts to provide care for affected women.

These various initiatives demonstrate ongoing efforts to improve access to healthcare. However, they also highlight the enduring importance of mechanisms for support, supply, and the provision of care to vulnerable populations. The fact that specific interventions are required to maintain the availability of medicines or reduce the cost of care is a factor that must be taken into account when assessing actual access to health services. Nevertheless, one should not draw a general conclusion about the entire Burundian health system based on these various elements. The available information is insufficient, on its own, to quantitatively measure access to care across all provinces or to determine national trends in health coverage over the quarter.

V.2.3. RIGHT TO WATER, SANITATION, AND LIVING CONDITIONS

Access to water is a fundamental component of the right to an adequate standard of living, health, and human dignity. During the third quarter of 2026, available documentation highlighted **difficulties regarding regular access to water in certain localities**, notably Rumonge and Ruyigi. In Rumonge, water distribution remains irregular. Documented information indicates that service is limited to approximately one or two hours per day, a situation compounded by difficulties in obtaining the fuel required to operate the distribution system. This affects households in meeting their daily needs and can also hinder the maintenance of adequate hygiene standards.

In **Ruyigi**, the population has also faced challenges regarding water availability. This is a matter of particular concern, given that regular access to water is essential for domestic needs, hygiene, and the prevention of health risks. These instances demonstrate that difficulties in accessing water are not confined to a single locality. However, as these are **documented, localized cases**, they do not in themselves allow for an assessment of the problem's nationwide scale.

An analysis of these cases underscores the importance of ensuring the continuity of essential services and preventing prolonged interruptions to the water supply. It also highlights the need to pay close attention to the technical, logistical, and financial factors that can impact water distribution.

V.2.3. RIGHT TO WATER, SANITATION, AND LIVING CONDITIONS (the following of page 25)

⇒ Analysis

The difficulties observed in Rumonge and Ruyigi illustrate the impact that operational constraints of public services can have on access to essential services. They can affect living conditions, hygiene, and the health of the populations concerned. However, in the absence of quantitative data to measure the duration, extent, and frequency of interruptions across all affected areas, these situations should be considered as **documented cases during the quarter**, rather than as a measure of water access across the entire country.

V.3. CATEGORY RIGHTS

An analysis of violations documented during the third quarter of 2026 also highlights abuses that disproportionately affect certain categories of people based on their age, gender, or vulnerability. These situations require specific attention, as the consequences of violations can be more severe for individuals with limited capacity to protect themselves, access essential services, or assert their rights. Notably, available data for the period show a high prevalence of women among victims of gender-based violence, whereas men account for all documented victims of arrests, abductions, and torture. The situation of persons deprived of liberty is also a major concern, given the persistently high level of prison overcrowding.

However, the analysis of this data must take into account the limitations of the available documentation. Victim categories are not always recorded in sufficient detail to allow for a comprehensive analysis of all forms of vulnerability. The findings presented below therefore relate only to situations actually documented during the period.

V.3.1. WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Women appear to be a particularly exposed category in data relating to gender-based violence. Of the **29 GBV victims documented during the quarter, 26 are women, or 89.7%, compared to 3 men, or 10.3%**. This high proportion confirms that gender-based violence continues to mainly affect women among documented cases. The recorded events include in particular 15 cases of rape, to which must be added **14 other cases of gender-based violence**.

The territorial distribution also shows that GBV is not concentrated in a single province. **Burunga has 11 cases**, followed by **Gitega with 8 cases and Bujumbura with 7 cases**. These three provinces thus bring together **26 of the 29 documented cases**, or **89.7%** of the total. The situation calls for particular attention in terms of prevention, medical, psychosocial and legal care, as well as the protection of victims and witnesses. It also highlights the importance of documenting the follow-up given to complaints, in order to determine to what extent victims actually benefit from access to justice.



Anyone should be respected

V.3.2. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Child protection is also a key aspect of the analysis of rights pertaining to specific groups. Available data show **seven cases classified as "infanticide"** regarding the perpetrators or circumstances associated with the documented violations. This points to the existence of particularly serious situations requiring specific documentation and a response tailored to children's vulnerability.

Data documented during the third quarter of 2026 also highlight a concerning level of exposure to sexual violence among children. **Thirteen child rape victims** were identified among the cases documented by Ligue ITEKA. When compared to the 15 rape cases recorded during the period, this figure represents **86.7%** of the victims involved.

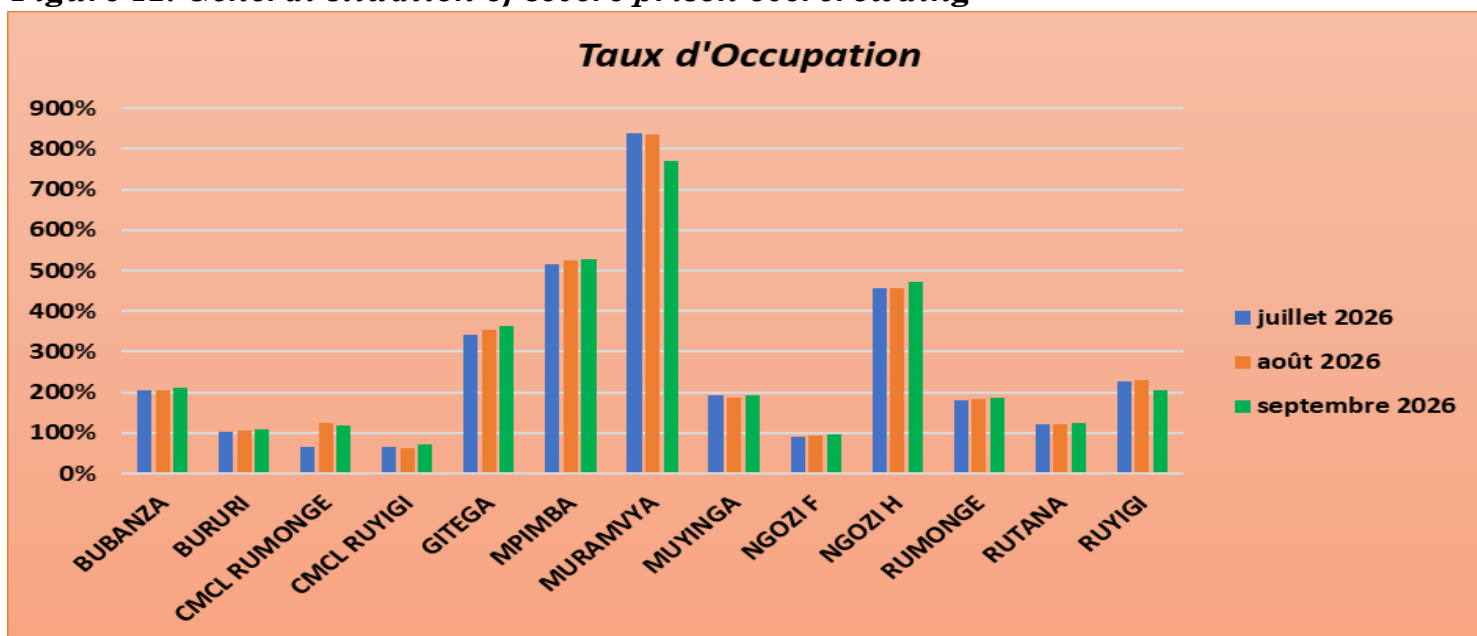
[This proportion is comparable to that observed by the Seruka Center, which provided care to 387 minors out of 486 rape victims between January and June 2026 a rate of 79.6%.¹](#) This alignment between Ligue ITEKA's documentation data and the figures from Seruka's care services reinforces the finding that children are highly exposed to sexual violence. It calls for the strengthening of prevention and protection mechanisms, psychosocial and medical care services, and access to justice for child victims.

V.3.3. RIGHTS OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

The situation of persons deprived of liberty was a major concern during the quarter. Total prison capacity remains fixed at **4,294 places**, while the prison population rose from **12,267 inmates in July to 12,453 in August, and then to 12,521 in September 2026**. This represents an increase of **254 inmates**, or approximately **2.1%**, between July and September. By September, correctional facilities were thus holding nearly **2.9 times their theoretical capacity**, with an overall occupancy rate of approximately **292%**.

Overcrowding is particularly concerning in several facilities. In September, occupancy rates reached **771% in Muramvya, 528% in Mpimba, 472% in Ngozi-Men's Prison, and 363% in Gitega**. These levels point to a structural issue likely to affect detention conditions specifically access to space, hygiene, water, and healthcare, as well as living conditions consistent with human dignity.

Figure 12: General situation of severe prison overcrowding



¹ <https://abpinfo.bi/2026/09/21/vbg-au-burundi-des-blessures-qui-depassent-les-sequelles-physiques/>

V.3.3. RIGHTS OF PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY (the following of page 27)

The composition of the prison population is another important factor. The number of people in pre-trial detention rose from **5,782 in July to 6,259 in September**, an increase of **477 individuals**. During the same period, the number of convicted prisoners fell from **6,388 to 6,189**. Consequently, in September, the number of people in pre-trial detention slightly exceeded the number of convicted prisoners.

The most concerning situations in September were:

- ♦ **MURAMVYA: 771%**, despite an 8.2% drop since July;
- ♦ **MPIMBA: 528%**, with a 2.5% increase;
- ♦ **NGOZI H: 472%**, up 3.3%;
- ♦ **GITEGA: 363%**, up 6.5%;
- ♦ **RUYIGI: 204%**, despite a 10.5% decrease;
- ♦ **BUBANZA: 212%**, up 3.9%.

The situation at **CMCL RUMONGE** warrants special attention. Its rate rose from **65% in July to 119% in September**, representing a relative increase of **83.1%**. Although the rate remains lower than that of several other facilities, the change observed over the period is particularly significant.

Conversely, two facilities saw an improvement between July and September:

- ♦ **RUYIGI**, where the rate fell from 228% to 204% **(-10.5%)**;
- ♦ **MURAMVYA**, which dropped from 840% to 771% **(-8.2%)**
- ♦ **MUYINGA**, the rate returned to its July level **(193%)** following a slight decrease in August. This development warrants particular attention from judicial authorities, particularly regarding the duration of pre-trial detention, the diligent handling of cases, and recourse where the law permits to alternatives to detention.

V.4. ANALYSIS OF AUTHOR CATEGORIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Analysis of the data regarding perpetrators provides insight into the main profiles associated with violations documented during the third quarter of 2026. A total of **125 perpetrator category instances** were recorded in the consolidated data, distributed across nine categories. This figure must be distinguished from the **118 documented incidents**, as multiple categories can be associated with a single incident; thus, these do not represent 125 separate incidents. The largest category is that of **unidentified individuals**, with **43 instances (34.4% of the total)**. This is followed by cases classified as **score-settling**, with **24 instances (19.2%)**, and then by **"other categories," with 19 instances (15.2%)**. The **Imbonerakure** appear in **13 instances (10.4%)**, **police officers** in **11 instances (8.8%)**, and **SNR agents** in **6 instances (4.8%)**. The **categories of infanticide, administrative officials, and military personnel** account for **7 (5.6%), 1 (0.8%), and 1 instance (0.8%), respectively**.



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V.4.1. A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF UNIDENTIFIED AUTHORS

The predominance of unidentified perpetrators is one of the main analytical findings of the quarter. With **43 cases out of 125, or more than a third**, this category reflects an ongoing difficulty in establishing the identity of perpetrators in a significant portion of documented violations. This situation is particularly noticeable in **Gitega**, which has 16 instances of unidentified perpetrators, and in **Burunga**, with 12. It is also significant in Bujumbura (6), Butanyerera (5), and Buhumuza (4). Beyond the issue of identification, the main challenge lies in the ability of investigative mechanisms to establish the circumstances of incidents, identify those responsible, and, when the evidence allows, initiate the appropriate procedures. So, the lack of documented identification of perpetrators should not be taken as an absence of responsibility but rather as a limitation observed in the information available at the time of compilation.

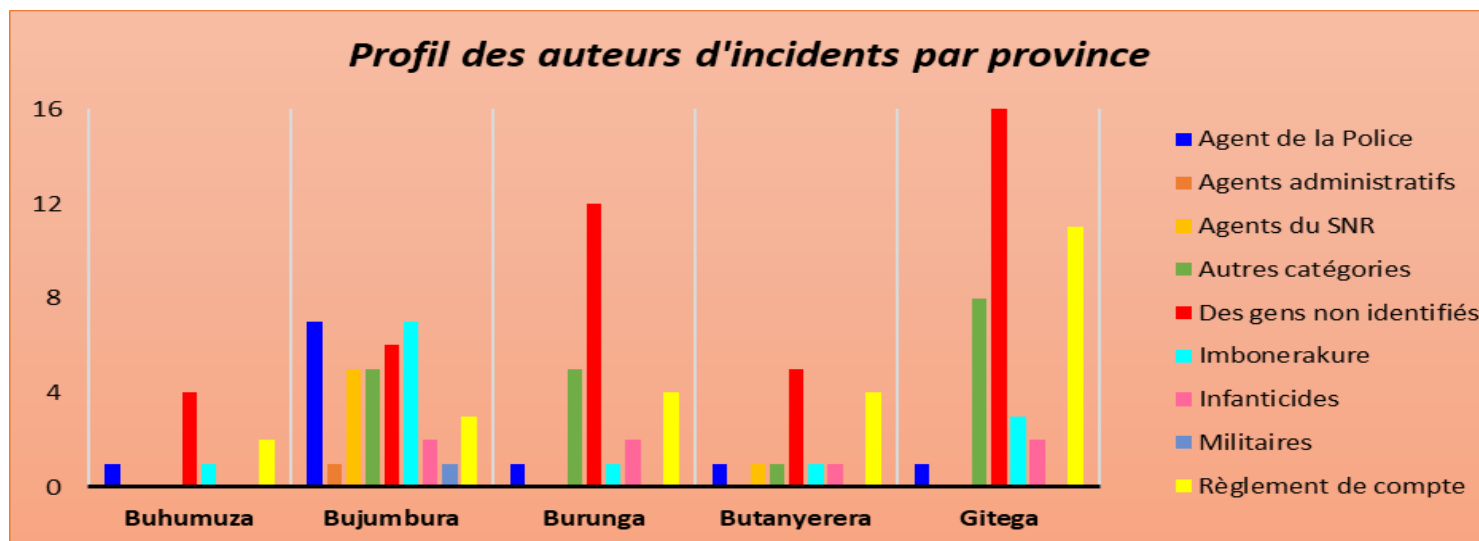
V.4.2. INVOLVEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL ACTORS AND SECURITY STRUCTURES

The data also reveal categories directly linked to public institutions or security structures **police, SNR, military personnel, and administrative agents** alongside the **Imbonerakure**, who appear as a documented political/activist category. Together, these categories account for **32 out of 125 occurrences, or 25.6%**. However, this proportion must be interpreted with caution, as perpetrator categories can overlap, and their presence in the data does not, in itself, constitute proof of individual or institutional responsibility. The **police** account for 11 occurrences, 7 of which were in Bujumbura. **SNR agents** appear in 6 occurrences, 5 of which were in Bujumbura. The **Imbonerakure** are mentioned in 13 occurrences, primarily in Bujumbura (7) and Gitega (3). These data warrant particular attention to mechanisms regarding hierarchical oversight, the tracking of interventions, investigations, and individual accountability whenever an agent or member of a structure is implicated by verifiable evidence.

V.4.3. TERRITORIAL CONCENTRATION OF AUTHORS' OCCURRENCES

The territorial distribution shows that **Gitega and Bujumbura** have the highest number of occurrences of author categories, with **41 and 37 occurrences** respectively, making a total of **78 out of 125 (62.4%)**. This concentration partly matches what was already seen in the overall analysis of violations, where Gitega and Bujumbura accounted for **61% of the documented incidents**.

Figure 13: Distribution of occurrences by author category and by province



V.4.3. TERRITORIAL CONCENTRATION OF AUTHORS' OCCURRENCES ***(the following of page 29)***

She confirms the interest in a strengthened territorial analysis of the mechanisms for prevention, alert, investigation, and monitoring in these two provinces. However, it is important to avoid automatically concluding that these provinces necessarily have the highest actual level of violations nationwide. The figures reflect the cases documented by the monitoring system during the period and can also be influenced by access to information and documentation opportunities.

V.5. ANALYSIS OF THE INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO VIOLATIONS

Analyzing institutional responses is an important indicator of how effectively human rights are being protected. It helps to assess to what extent documented violations lead to investigations, administrative or disciplinary measures, or other forms of action by the relevant authorities. During the third quarter of 2026, out of **118 documented incidents**, an institutional response was recorded in **69 cases**, while no action was documented in **49 cases**. This means that the recorded responses cover **58.5%** of the incidents, compared to **41.5% of cases where no action was noted in the consolidated data**. However, this last figure should be interpreted with caution: the note 'no action' means that **no response had been documented in the monitoring system at the time of consolidation**. It doesn't necessarily mean that the authorities didn't take any steps.

V.5.1. A MAINLY JUDICIAL INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE

Out of the 69 recorded actions, **53 correspond to the opening of a judicial investigation, which is 44.9% of all 118 documented incidents** and the vast majority of recorded institutional responses. The judicial investigations particularly involve: **37 of the 67 cases of killings, 13 of the 29 cases of GBV, 1 of the 10 cases of arrest, 6 cases of kidnapping, and 1 of the 6 cases of torture**. The predominance of judicial investigations is a positive point as it shows that several serious incidents were taken up by the judicial mechanisms. However, just **opening an investigation does not in itself lead to establishing responsibility, prosecuting the perpetrators, or convicting those responsible**. The key challenge for institutional follow-up lies in the ability to document the different stages of the process: identifying the perpetrators, collecting evidence, any prosecutions, judgment, and execution of the decisions made.

V.5.2. SIGNIFICANT GAPS ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF VIOLATIONS

The institutional response varies significantly depending on the type of violation. Killings elicit the highest level of response: **action was documented in 46 out of 67 cases (68.7%)**, while no action was recorded in 21 cases (**31.3%**). Regarding SGBV, action was documented in **17 of the 29 cases (58.6%)**, whereas 12 cases (**41.4%**) showed no recorded action. The situation is far less favorable for violations concerning liberty and security. In the case of arrests, action was documented in **only 3 out of 10 instances (30%)**, compared to 7 cases with no recorded action. For **abductions**, action was noted in only one of the 6 cases (**16.7%**), while **5 out of 6 cases (83.3%)** involved no documented institutional response.

Regarding **torture**, action was recorded in 2 out of 6 cases (**33.3%**), compared to 4 cases with no documented action. This disparity demonstrates that the institutional response remains particularly weak for certain violations that directly infringe upon individuals' liberty, security, and physical integrity. Cases of abduction are of particular concern due to the low level of documented response.

V.5.3. OTHER NON-JUDICIAL RESPONSES STILL LIMITED

Besides judicial investigations, the data show **9 internal investigations, 1 disciplinary action, and 6 reports**. Internal investigations account for **7.6% of all incidents**, while only one disciplinary action was documented during the quarter. This low proportion alone doesn't allow us to determine whether a functional disciplinary system exists or not, but it shows that the measures explicitly recorded in this category remain limited compared to the total number of documented violations. The 6 recorded reports also represent a form of institutional response, but they should be distinguished from investigation or sanction measures. A public report, on its own, does not constitute a judicial or reparative response towards a victim.

V.5.4. A FOLLOW-UP DEFICIT PARTICULARLY CONCERNING FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS

A cross-analysis of violations and institutional responses highlights a key issue: **documenting incidents does not automatically guarantee an effective institutional response**. Of the 118 documented incidents, 49 are not linked to any action in the available data. This proportion is particularly high for abductions, arrests, and cases of torture. A lack of documented response can have several consequences: reduced access to justice, difficulties in establishing accountability, a risk of impunity, and diminished victim confidence in institutional mechanisms. However, these implications should be viewed as issues requiring monitoring rather than proof that the authorities took no action in any of the cases concerned. More systematic case tracking would make it possible to determine, for instance, how many initiated investigations actually lead to the identification of perpetrators, prosecutions, court rulings, and where applicable reparations for victims.

V.6. CROSS-SECTIONAL ANALYSIS OF MAIN TRENDS

The cross-analysis of the data collected between **July 1 and September 30, 2026**, highlights several major trends regarding the human rights situation in Burundi. The **118 documented incidents that resulted in 131 victims** don't make up a comprehensive record of all violations committed in the country, but they do help identify recurring patterns and areas that need special attention.

V.6.1. A PREDOMINANCE OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

The first trend is the predominance of violations of the right to life. With **67 incidents and 68 victims**, killings account for **56.8% of all documented incidents and 51.9% of the victims**. This means that more than one in two documented incidents during the quarter involved a violation of the right to life. The seriousness of this trend is highlighted by the fact that **58 bodies were found** among the documented cases. Killings are recorded in all five provinces covered by the documentation system. They are particularly numerous in **Gitega (30 cases)**, followed by **Burunga (12), Bujumbura (11), Butanyerera (9), and Buhumuza (5)**. The concentration of cases in Gitega deserves particular attention: killings account for **30 of the 39 documented incidents in the province, or 76.9%**. This proportion is also high in Butanyerera (**64.3%**) and Buhumuza (**62.5%**).

V.6.2. A SIGNIFICANT TERRITORIAL CONCENTRATION OF DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

The second trend concerns territorial concentration. **Gitega and Bujumbura alone account for 72 of the 118 documented incidents, or 61% of the total.** Gitega has 39 incidents, or 33.1% of the total, while Bujumbura has **33, or 28%.** These two provinces are followed by Burunga with 24 incidents (20.3%), Butanyerera with 14 (11.9%), and Buhumuza with 8 (6.8%).

However, this concentration should be interpreted with caution. It can reflect both the frequency of violations and the conditions of documentation, including access to information, the presence of observers, and the ability to verify facts. Nevertheless, the fact that Gitega and Bujumbura are simultaneously the two provinces recording the highest number of incidents and the largest number of occurrences by attacker category justifies closer monitoring of these two areas.

V.6.3. A HIGH EXPOSURE OF MEN TO SECURITY-RELATED VIOLATIONS

Disaggregated data by gender reveal significant differences depending on the type of violations. **All 21 documented arrest victims are men.** The same goes for the **7 kidnapping victims and the 6 torture victims.** In contrast, women make up the vast majority of SGBV victims: **26 out of 29 victims, or 89.7%.** This distribution shows that documented risks do not occur uniformly across genders. Men appear more exposed, according to the available data, to violations related to deprivation of liberty, abductions, and torture, while women are overwhelmingly represented among SGBV victims. Data on killings show a more balanced distribution: **33 men and 35 women** among the 68 documented victims.

V.6.4. AN UNEQUAL INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE ACCORDING TO VIOLATIONS

The analysis of institutional responses reveals another important trend. Out of the 118 incidents, 69 had a documented institutional response, compared to **49 where no action was recorded,** which is **58.5% versus 41.5%.** However, the level of response varies considerably. Mass killings have the highest documented response rate, with **46 actions out of 67 cases (68.7%).** GBV cases **had 17 actions out of 29 cases (58.6%).**

On the other hand, only **3 arrests out of 10 (30%)** were linked to a documented action, while kidnappings had just 1 action out of 6 **cases (16.7%).** For torture, 2 actions were recorded out of 6 cases (33.3%). The gap is therefore particularly noticeable for violations related to freedom and security. This is a major point of concern, especially since kidnappings also show a high number of cases with no documented action.

V.6.5. THE PERSISTENCE OF DIFFICULTY IN IDENTIFYING AUTHORS

The breakdown of author categories shows **43 instances of unidentified individuals out of 125, or 34.4%.** This proportion is a significant challenge when it comes to assigning responsibility. It's particularly high in Gitega, with 16 instances, and in Burunga, with 12. At the same time, the data mentions institutional or political-security categories, including the Police, the SNR, the military, administrative agents, and the Imbonerakure. These categories add up to **32 instances, or 25.6%.** However, these numbers don't automatically allow for individual or institutional responsibility to be assigned. They indicate the categories mentioned in the documentation and need to be compared, case by case, with the available evidence and the results of competent investigations.

V.6.6. A PRISON SITUATION THAT REMAINS STRUCTURALLY WORRISOME

The prison situation is a distinct but closely related trend to access to justice and legal guarantees. The prison population went from **12,267 inmates in July to 12,521 in September**, while the total capacity remains at 4,294 places. This brings the overall occupancy rate to **292% in September**. The situation is particularly critical in **Muramvya (771%), Mpimba (528%), Ngozi-Men (472%), and Gitega (363%)**.

At the same time, the number of people in pretrial detention went from **5,782 to 6,259**, an increase of **8.2%**, while the number of convicted inmates went from **6,388 to 6,189**. The reversal observed in September, when people in pretrial detention slightly outnumber the convicted, is an indicator that deserves specific monitoring by the judicial authorities.

V.6.7. VIOLATIONS THAT REVEAL INTERDEPENDENT ISSUES

Quarterly data further indicate that the various violations should not be analyzed in complete isolation. Infringements of the right to life, violations of liberty and security, acts of torture, SGBV, and detention-related issues all point to shared challenges specifically regarding **violation prevention, perpetrator identification, access to justice, the effectiveness of investigations, and victim protection**.

Moreover, high levels of prison overcrowding and the rise in pre-trial detention raise questions about the judicial and penitentiary systems' capacity to ensure the diligent handling of cases and detention conditions that meet human dignity standards. Thus, a key takeaway from the quarter is that the response to violations cannot be limited to reacting after the fact; it must also incorporate prevention, early warning, intervention tracking, effective access to complaint mechanisms, investigation, the establishment of accountability, and victim follow-up.



Anyone should be respected

VI. GENERALE CONCLUSION

An analysis of the human rights situation in Burundi during the third quarter of 2026, based on data documented by the Burundian Human Rights League "ITEKA," highlights the persistence of serious violations affecting civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, and the rights of certain vulnerable groups. A total of **118 incidents resulting in 131 victims** were documented between **July 1 and September 30, 2026**, across the five provinces covered by the monitoring system. Killings comprising 67 incidents and 68 victims constitute by far the primary category of recorded violations. These are followed by **gender-based** violence (29 cases and 29 victims), and subsequently by arrests, abductions, and acts of torture.

The prevalence of violations of the right to life is the most concerning finding of the quarter. The documented cases are distributed across the five provinces, with a particularly high concentration in **Gitega**, which alone accounts for 30 of the 67 killing cases. The discovery of **58 lifeless bodies** among the documented cases underscores the gravity of the situation, although the discovery of a body alone does not make it possible to determine the exact circumstances of death or the identity of the perpetrators. Furthermore, geographical analysis reveals a significant concentration of documented violations in **Gitega and Bujumbura**, which together account for **61%** of the incidents recorded during the quarter. This concentration warrants heightened vigilance in these two provinces, while bearing in mind that the League's data reflect cases documented and verified through its monitoring mechanism and do not constitute an exhaustive record of all violations committed nationwide.

A breakdown of victims by gender reveals distinct profiles depending on the type of violation. Documented victims of arrest, abduction, and torture are exclusively male, whereas women account for **89.7% of victims of gender-based violence (GBV)**. This disparity highlights the need to tailor prevention, protection, and support mechanisms to the specific risks faced by different categories of people. Identifying perpetrators also remains a significant challenge; unidentified individuals account for **34.4% of the perpetrator categories recorded in the database**. This situation limits the ability to rapidly establish accountability and underscores the importance of effective, independent, and diligent investigations. At the same time, the documentation refers to categories linked to public institutions, security structures, and political or activist organizations. However, such mentions cannot automatically be equated with individual or institutional legal liability; this must be established through appropriate investigations.

The institutional response represents another key finding of the quarter. Action was documented in **69 of the 118 incidents (58.5%)**, while no action was recorded in 49 cases. Judicial investigations constitute the primary form of documented response. However, the level of response varies considerably depending on the nature of the violations. Mainly, abductions, arrests, and acts of torture show high proportions of cases where no action was documented. This situation calls for strengthened monitoring of complaints and investigations so that the initiation of proceedings can where evidence permits lead to the identification of those responsible, prosecution, and the establishment of accountability. The situation of persons deprived of their liberty also constitutes a structural concern. The prison population rose from **12,267 inmates in July to 12,521 in September**, against a total capacity of **4,294 places**. The overall occupancy rate thus reached approximately **292%** in September.

III. GENERAL CONCLUSION (the following of page 34)

Certain facilities exhibit particularly critical conditions, notably **Muramvya, Mpimba, Ngozi-Hommes, and Gitega**.

Trends in pre-trial detention warrant special attention. The number of pre-trial detainees rose from **5,782 to 6,259** during the quarter, while the number of convicted prisoners fell from **6,388 to 6,189**. By September, the number of pre-trial detainees slightly exceeded that of convicted prisoners. This trend underscores the need for regular review of pending cases, adherence to judicial timeframes, and the use of alternatives to detention where legal conditions are met. Beyond violations directly affecting security and freedoms, data from the quarter also highlight challenges regarding social rights specifically **access to water, healthcare**, and education in certain areas. When these difficulties persist or disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, they can exacerbate their precariousness and increase their exposure to other risks.

Overall, findings from the third quarter of 2026 indicate that the main challenges lie not only in the occurrence of violations but also in the capacity of institutional mechanisms to **prevent abuses, document them, identify those responsible, guarantee access to justice, protect victims, and ensure effective follow-up on proceedings**. Consequently, the Ligue ITEKA maintains that improving the human rights situation requires an approach combining prevention, accountability, and reparation. Combating impunity must go hand in hand with strengthening complaint and investigation mechanisms, protecting victims and witnesses, improving detention conditions, and ensuring more rigorous monitoring of persons deprived of their liberty.

Finally, the data collected during this quarter confirm the importance of continuing to document the human rights situation in a manner that is **independent, regular, rigorous, and disaggregated**. In a context where many perpetrators remain unidentified and certain institutional responses are insufficiently documented, ongoing monitoring and case follow-up serve as essential tools for gauging the actual evolution of the situation and assessing, over time, the effectiveness of measures taken by the authorities.



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