



BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

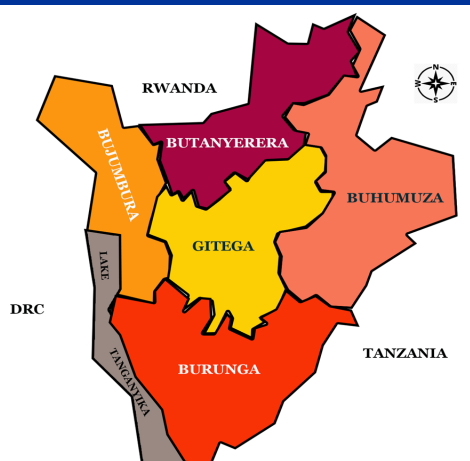
WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

Anyone should be respected

N°547 from 05 to 11 October 2026

Approved by Ministerial Ordinance No. 530/0273 of November 10, 1994,
revising Ordinance No. 550/029 of February 6, 1991



In memory of Madame Marie Claudette KWIZERA, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to October 11, 2026, at least 884 victims of forced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 88 victims have reappeared, and 796 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has already communicated at least 252 victims to the Government of Burundi.

The ITEKA League:

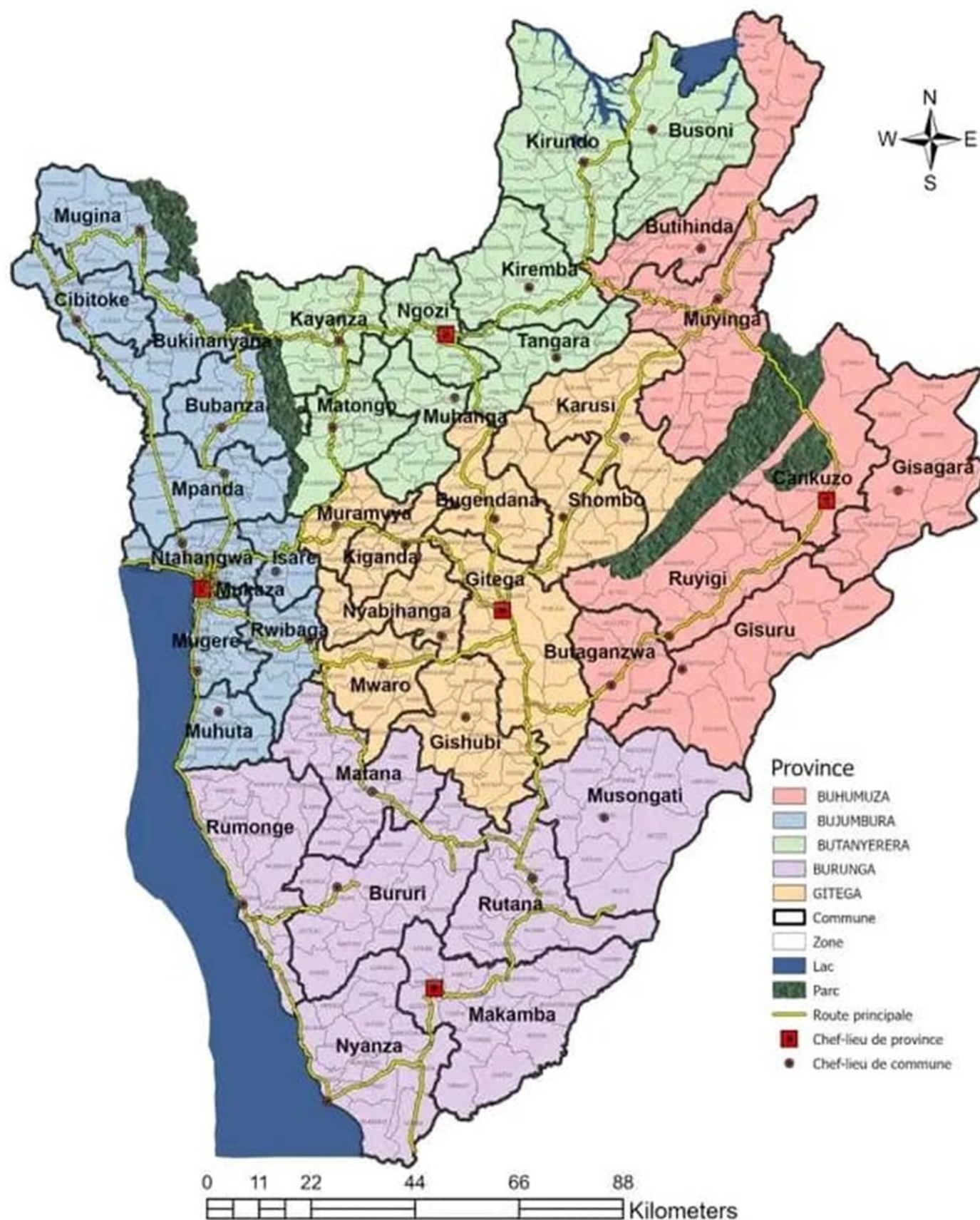
- ♦ 'It is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH),
- ♦ has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236, and is a member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

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ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BIF: Burundi International Francs

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

CNIDH: National Independent Human Rights Commission

CNL: National Congress for Liberty

FOMI: Organo-Mineral Fertilizer Industries

M23: March 23 Movement

OBR: Burundian Revenue Office

OCIBU: Office of Industrial Crops of Burundi

OPJ: Judicial Police Officer

PSI: Internal Security Police

RN17: National Road No. 17

SNR: National Enquiry Service

TGI: High Court

VBG: Gender-Based Violence

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0. INTRODUCTION

As the 2027 presidential election approaches, the human rights situation in Burundi remains marked by concerning incidents affecting citizens' lives, physical and mental integrity, liberty, security, and livelihoods. Information gathered on the ground between **October 5 and October 11, 2026**, reveals a range of violations of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights from the discovery of lifeless bodies and abductions to physical violence, sexual violence against children, controversial arrests, and financial levies denounced by business operators. These incidents, reported in various parts of the country, underscore the urgent need to ensure the protection of individuals, respect for fundamental freedoms, and the effective enforcement of the law.

In its weekly bulletin "**Iteka n'Ijambo**" (No. 547), the Burundian Human Rights League "ITEKA" continues its mission of documenting, flagging, and denouncing human rights violations. The organization aims to inform the national and international public about these reported incidents, the known circumstances surrounding them, the individuals involved, and any subsequent actions taken by the competent authorities without prejudice to the investigations necessary to establish accountability.

The right to life is among the primary concerns for the week. Six lifeless bodies were discovered in the communes of Bugendana (Gitega Province) and Matongo (Butanyerera Province). The circumstances of these deaths remain to be established. Determining the causes of death, examining potential signs of violence, and identifying those responsible are essential steps toward shedding light on these events.

Personal liberty and security have also been severely compromised. On October 4, 2026, Jean Bosco Kinyange, a member of the National Congress for Freedom (CNL), was abducted; at the time this information was gathered, his family still did not know his whereabouts. On October 6, Ingabire Divine, a choir member at the Friends Church in Bujumbura, was also abducted; she was found the following day in a forest near Mpanda, in a deeply distressing state. In addition to these incidents, waves of arrests of young people have been reported in Matana and Mugamba, under circumstances that require clarification. Any deprivation of liberty must be governed by law; diligent efforts must be made to locate individuals who have been abducted or reported missing, and their safety must be ensured.

Physical and sexual violence are another major cause for concern. In Makamba and Kirundo, two individuals were beaten so severely that they required hospitalization. In Musongati, in Burunga province, a "hill chief" (local administrative official) and an agricultural extension worker were also subjected to violent assaults. Furthermore, two alleged cases of rape involving 12-year-old girls have been reported in Musigati (Bubanza province) and Rumonge. The gravity of these events necessitates a special focus on protecting victims particularly children by providing medical and psychosocial care, upholding their dignity and privacy, and ensuring access to justice. Thorough investigations must be conducted to establish the circumstances surrounding these acts of violence and to identify the perpetrators.

Regarding individual liberty and judicial guarantees, on October 9, 2026, fourteen individuals the majority from the Banyamulenge community were presented to the press on suspicion of espionage, forgery, and the use of forged documents. The accusations were publicly disclosed by the spokesperson for the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development, and Public Security. The nature of these allegations and the situation of the individuals involved necessitate adherence to legal procedures, the presumption of innocence, the rights of the defense, and the principle that criminal liability must be assessed on an individual basis. Accusations brought against individuals cannot, in themselves, serve as proof of guilt.

0. INTRODUCTION (the following of page 5)

Concerns regarding economic and social rights have also emerged in relation to property, commercial activities, and access to resources. In Karusi, merchants, transporters, and other economic operators have reported being required to make financial contributions of varying amounts payments presented as mandatory, yet contested due to the manner in which they are collected. In Kayanza, local residents have reported nighttime truck movements at the FOMI fertilizer depot and in the Kabuye area. The exact nature of these operations, their destination, and the quantities if any being transported remain unknown.

Other incidents concern women's rights and access to family property. In Kiganda, a 48-year-old widow is involved in a dispute regarding access to family assets following the death of her husband. Finally, on October 8, 2026, a political mobilization event took place in Mugina, in Bujumbura Province, as part of preparations for the 2027 presidential election. According to information gathered, this event led to the disruption of other activities.

Taken together, the events reported during this period highlight ongoing concerns regarding the protection of life, personal security, physical integrity, judicial guarantees, and the conduct of economic activities. This bulletin documents events that occurred between October 5 and October 11, 2026, specifying where possible the dates, locations, identities, and roles of the individuals involved, the known circumstances, and any subsequent developments.

Through this bulletin, the Ligue ITEKA reaffirms its commitment to the rigorous documentation of human rights violations, the protection of victims, and the promotion of respect for fundamental freedoms in Burundi.



Anyone should be respected

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

⇒ ***Mugina: A CNDD-FDD protest march, held in the lead-up to the 2027 presidential election, disrupts daily activities***

On October 8, 2026, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy–Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) party organized a mobilization march in the Mugina commune, Bujumbura province, as part of preparations for the presidential election scheduled for 2027. According to information gathered by Ligue Iteka, this political activity caused an interruption to the normal functioning of various services and activities in the affected areas. Municipal offices remained closed, while school activities along with other public and private operations were halted for more than five hours in the Rugajo zone.

The march continued toward the Ruhwa border crossing between Burundi and Rwanda. Members of the Imbonerakure (the CNDD-FDD's youth wing) from Bujumbura province took part, wearing military-style uniforms. Their presence near the border raised concerns among some local residents regarding the security implications of such a mobilization in a border zone. During the event, officials sought to reassure the population that peace is being maintained, despite the economic hardships and shortages the people are facing. They mainly stated: **"Beyond all these problems, there is the peace that the CNDD-FDD has brought."**

This event occurs against the backdrop of ongoing preparations for the 2027 presidential election. It highlights concerns regarding the impact of political mobilizations on the daily lives of the population, as well as the unease caused by the presence of Imbonerakure members in military-style attire near a border crossing.

⇒ ***Working visit by senators to Cankuzo Commune, Buhumuza Province***

On Monday, October 5, 2026, the Administrator of Cankuzo Commune, the Honorable Rose Nahimana, received a delegation of three Burundian senators at her office, located at the headquarters of the Cankuzo zone and commune. The senators are all members of the committee responsible for political affairs, defense, and international relations a remit that includes matters concerning the East African Community. According to our source, the delegation was led by the Honorable Sabine Ntakirutimana, a former Minister of Health. Speaking on behalf of the group, she explained that the purpose of the visit was to consult with local administrative authorities to jointly identify and assess the obstacles delaying the opening of the newly constructed and inaugurated Kigamba Hospital.

At the end of the discussions, the senators visited the hospital site to evaluate its current status and operational readiness. According to our source, they observed that the facility is equipped with modern, appropriate medical equipment, though some parts of the infrastructure still require finishing work before it can become fully operational. During the visit, local residents expressed their gratitude to the delegation for the interest shown in this healthcare facility. They also advocated for the provision of a clean water supply to the hospital from the Gatunguru spring a measure deemed essential for the proper functioning of the institution and the quality of care provided to patients.

In response to these concerns, the senators indicated that they would forward the grievances collected to the two relevant ministries, namely the one responsible for Health and the one in charge of the Interior, Communal Development, and Decentralization, so that appropriate solutions could be considered. In her closing speech, the communal administrator thanked the senators for their commitment to representing the interests of the population and for the efforts made in finding solutions to local concerns. She emphasized that the opening of the Kigamba hospital would be a significant contribution to healthcare services and would help meet the

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

needs of a considerable number of patients in the Buhumuza province.

⇒ ***Meetings to raise awareness and mobilize human and financial resources for the 2027 presidential elections in the Butaganzwa commune.***

On October 7, 2026, in Butaganzwa, Buhumuza Province, Mr. Gérard BARUTWAYO, the provincial secretary, held a meeting at the communal headquarters. The meeting was attended by party officials at the communal, zonal, and hill or local levels, as well as heads of public services and school administrators. The objectives of this gathering were as follows:

-To encourage the residents of Butaganzwa to register specifically those who had not reached the required age in 2025, those who had lost their registration cards, and those who had failed to register in 2025 for various reasons.

-To urge CNDD-FDD members to continue growing their ranks, with the goal of reaching a 100% participation/support rate for the elections scheduled for 2027.

-To determine strategies for raising the funds necessary for the 2027 presidential elections, with a particular focus on the election campaign. Local officials were asked to consider methods for gathering the resources required to carry out these activities.

On October 10, 2026, Mr. HAJAYANDI J. Claude, the CNDD-FDD communal secretary for Butaganzwa, organized a similar meeting for grassroots party leaders and civil servants. The purpose of this meeting was to relay the points discussed during the provincial secretary's meeting held on October 7, 2026. The discussions focused on the following:

- Analyzing strategies for raising funds to support election campaign activities for the upcoming elections.
- Recruiting new members.
- Mobilizing the public for the voter registration process, which is set to take place soon.

The participants debated these topics, with a particular emphasis on the first point. Discussions took place regarding methods to improve fundraising and the role that local officials could play in implementing the strategies discussed. Among the conclusions reached, it was decided to collect the following amounts:

- 10,000 FBU from school principals and inspectors
- 15,000 FBU from merchants
- 30,000 FBU from high-ranking communal officials
- 1,000 FBU from the average citizen

Participants expressed concerns about the difficulty of collecting these funds, given that the population is facing unprecedented levels of poverty.

⇒ ***Irregularities in the submission of applications in the Butaganzwa Commune.***

From October 4 to 11, 2026, applications were submitted for census and public-notice posting agents at the Independent Communal Electoral Commissions (CECI).

According to our observers, this process was marred by numerous irregularities. Some applications were submitted at CNDD-FDD party offices, and it was the party's permanent secretaries at the communal level who were tasked with delivering them to the CECI office. This suggests that the ruling party intends for these roles to be filled by its own members. It

1.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 8)

should be noted that these same individuals will not only be responsible for voter registration and the posting of official notices, but will also serve as polling station staff on election day. Some people are beginning to worry that the authorities are orchestrating electoral fraud to remain in power.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

⇒ Mugina: Grenade explosion, linked to suspected rivalries in the fuel trade, leaves one person injured

On October 5, 2026, at approximately 10:00 p.m., a grenade exploded near two men Innocent and Nzohabonimana, both around 40 years old in the administrative center of Mugina commune, in Bujumbura province. There were no fatalities, but Nzohabonimana sustained minor injuries. According to local sources, both men are known in the Kabere area of Mabayi commune for their alleged involvement in the fuel trade. The explosion occurred against a backdrop of disputes between competing networks that have been active in this sector for about a month.

The same sources suggest the incident may have been an act of retaliation following the seizure of 14,000 liters of fuel, reportedly belonging to a leader of a rival network identified as Fidèle. Fidèle has accused the two men of facilitating this seizure by the Burundi Revenue Authority (OBR). However, these allegations have not been independently verified, and it remains to be determined who was responsible for the explosion. Furthermore, local sources claim that the networks in question may enjoy protection from certain police and administrative officials.

This incident takes place amid recurring fuel shortages, which are disrupting economic activity and fueling tensions surrounding the supply and sale of fuel. Local residents are calling for better regulation of the fuel trade, as well as measures to prevent violence and enhance security in the affected areas.

⇒ Buhiga: Imbonerakure implicated in alleged acts of extortion and theft

On October 11, 2026, the Burundian human rights league "ITEKA" received reports of financial levies being imposed on merchants and transporters in the Buhiga zone, Karusi commune, Gitega province. According to local sources, these incidents involve members of the Imbonerakure youth wing, with several local officials also implicated notably Emmanuel Niyongabo (zonal head), Elysée (communal head of the Imbonerakure), Alexis Bandyatuyaga (zonal secretary for the CNDD-FDD), and an individual named Innocent.

On October 6, 2026, a merchant named Tuyisenge over 30 years old and identified as a member of the CNDD-FDD was forced to pay 700,000 BIF after unloading five 25 kg bags of chemical fertilizer. The following day, around 6:00 p.m., a man named Abel, from Ntunda, was intercepted while transporting twenty crates of Brarudi beer, which he had purchased from Marie Yvette Mbonyimpano, who runs a local bar. He was compelled to pay a 300,000 BIF fine, while the bar owner was ordered to pay 600,000 BIF under the threat of legal action. Following negotiations, the amount demanded from the bar owner was reportedly reduced to 150,000 BIF.

According to the same sources, the funds collected in this manner were divided up at an establishment called "BENACO BAR" an allegation that remains to be verified. Other accounts also point to the theft of goods from individuals returning from neighboring countries, particularly in the late afternoon and after 6:00 p.m. Some victims have reportedly been threatened to deter them from reporting these incidents.

1.2. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 9)

If these allegations are confirmed, they would indicate threats to the safety of persons and property, as well as interference with commercial activities. The ITEKA League calls upon the competent authorities to verify these claims, investigate the reported seizures and thefts, and determine any liability in accordance with the law.

1.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

⇒ Kayanza: Nighttime truck movements at the FOMI fertilizer depot raise questions regarding the management of agricultural inputs

On October 8, 2026, the Iteka League received reports of truck movements and fertilizer loading operations at the FOMI depot in Kayanza Province, specifically in the Kabuye area. According to accounts gathered, these operations allegedly took place at night during the preceding week notably around 2:00 a.m. Local residents reported hearing trucks moving about around midnight and observing loading activities from their windows. According to the same sources, military and police personnel instructed security guards to leave the premises and ordered residents to remain indoors. A police officer was also stationed in front of certain doorways, and individuals who attempted to approach the site were threatened.

These testimonies have raised suspicions among residents regarding a potential large-scale relocation of fertilizer stocks. However, the information currently available does not confirm the quantities involved, the destination of the trucks, the identity of those who ordered these operations, or the official justification for them. Given that fertilizers are an essential input for agricultural production, these reported circumstances raise concerns regarding the transparency of the management and distribution of these products. The Iteka League asserts that the competent authorities must provide clarification regarding these nighttime movements and ensure transparent management of the stocks, in the best interest of agricultural producers and the general population.

⇒ Karusi: Financial contributions imposed on traders and transporters under the guise of building a house for a former combatant.

On October 7, 2026, at approximately 5:00 p.m., a meeting was held at the local office of the CNDD-FDD party on Karunyinya Hill, in the Buhiga zone, Karusi commune, Gitega province. According to information gathered, the meeting was led by, among others, the zone chief, Emmanuel Niyongabo; the CNDD-FDD zonal secretary, Alexis Bandyatuyaga; and a local leader of the Imbonerakure named Innocent. During this meeting, financial contributions were imposed on various categories of traders and transporters to fund the construction of a house for a former combatant. The reported amounts varied based on the type of business: 100,000 Burundian francs (BIF) for establishments selling Brarudi beer as well as imported wines and spirits; 50,000 BIF for bistros selling only Brarudi products; and 15,000 BIF for outlets selling local beer.

Transporters were also subject to these levies: 5,000 BIF for bicycle taxis, 10,000 BIF for motorcycle taxis, and 20,000 BIF for automobile taxis. Shop owners were required to pay 30,000 BIF, while owners of larger stores were asked to pay 50,000 BIF. The amount demanded from owners of rice mills was not specified. According to the information gathered, the stated cost of the house was 35 million BIF, with a deadline set for October 10, 2026. A similar meeting was held that morning for drivers.

The sources consulted state that these contributions were not presented as voluntary. If these facts are confirmed, they would raise concerns regarding levies imposed on economic operators without a clearly established legal basis.

I.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 10)

⇒ ***Karusi: Property owners face exorbitant financial contributions for street paving project***

Since Saturday, October 3, 2026, local authorities have held information meetings across various urban centers in the Karusi commune to announce a project to pave neighborhood streets. According to local sources, residents were informed that every property owner would be required to contribute 69,000 BIF per square meter, regardless of the size of their property. This amount has raised concerns among residents, who consider it exorbitant given their financial means.

The same sources report that when individuals questioned the required amount and sought clarification, administrative authorities responded by suggesting that **those unable to pay should simply leave the neighborhood**. Such remarks have intensified residents' concerns regarding the mandatory nature of this contribution and its potential impact on low-income households. While improving road infrastructure is a matter of public interest, the financing arrangements should be clearly explained, proportionate to the population's ability to pay, and established with due respect for the rights of property owners. The relevant authorities are therefore urged to clarify the legal basis for this contribution and to prioritize dialogue with the residents.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

III.1 VOLUNTARY HOMICIDE

III.1.1. LIFELESS BODIES FOUND

⇒ ***Bugendana: 58-year-old man found dead in a ditch; suspicious injuries reported on his body***

On October 6, 2026, around 11:00 a.m., the lifeless body of 58-year-old **Claver Mpamirubusa** was discovered in a ditch approximately eight meters deep, located near his home on Nyangungu Hill, in the Mutaho zone, Bugendana commune, Gitega province. According to information gathered, **judicial police officer Corneille Hakizimana** attributed the death to a fall that occurred while the victim was intoxicated. However, local sources report that the body bore injuries to the face, legs, and neck wounds described as appearing to have been caused by a sharp object.

The same sources indicate that a burial was ordered quickly, without a thorough investigation to establish the exact circumstances of the death. The cause of death therefore remains to be determined. The Iteka League is calling for an impartial investigation to establish the circumstances surrounding this death and to determine whether the reported injuries are consistent with a fall or if they resulted from other causes.

⇒ ***Bugendana: 52-year-old widow found dead in a valley amid a family land dispute***

On October 5, 2026, around 6:00 a.m., the lifeless body of 52-year-old widow **Pascasie Ntirampeba** was discovered in a valley between Mutaho and Masango hills, in the Bugendana commune, Gitega province. According to information gathered, the victim had gone to the Mutaho market on October 4, 2026, to sell some goats. Local sources report that she was involved in an ongoing land dispute with her late husband's family.

III.1.1. LIFELESS BODIES FOUND (the following of page 11)

Following this discovery, the hill chief, Abel Nsabimana, along with a member of the Imbonerakure, Innocent Ahishakiye, were arrested by the police on suspicion of complicity in the matter. Their potential culpability has not been established and will need to be determined by the competent judicial authorities. Ligue Iteka calls for the circumstances surrounding this death to be clarified particularly in light of previously reported conflicts and for those responsible to be brought to justice based on legally established evidence.

⇒ ***Matongo: Lifeless body of an unidentified man discovered on the banks of the Sagahorwe River***

On October 10, 2026, at approximately 9:00 a.m., the lifeless body of an unidentified man was discovered on the banks of the Sagahorwe River, in the Gatara zone, Matongo commune, Butanyerera province. Following the discovery, the body was transferred to the morgue at Kayanza Hospital.

The information gathered does not specify the circumstances of the death, nor whether there were any visible injuries on the body. Ligue Iteka urges the competent authorities to identify the victim, determine the cause of death, and conduct the necessary investigations to establish the circumstances surrounding this fatality.

⇒ ***A woman has been killed in Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province.***

On the night of October 7, on Kavumu hill (in the Kayenzi sub-hill area), Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province, Léonie Ntiruhurwa was killed by unknown perpetrators. The crime took place around 8:00 p.m. as the victim was returning from the Busoro center, where she had gone to purchase salt. The victim cried out for help, but no one intervened. A few hours later, neighbors finally stepped in, but the perpetrator had already fled, and the victim's body was lying on the road. The victim was killed with blows from a machete. Land disputes are believed to be the motive behind this crime. The victim had been decapitated and had his arms severed. According to our sources, a neighbor named Cyriaque Niyoyitungira is currently being held in the detention cell at the Cankuzo provincial police station as part of the investigation.

⇒ ***Two lifeless bodies were discovered in the Gisagara commune.***

On the night of September 28, 2026, in the Muka hill area of Gisagara commune, Buhumuza Province, two people were killed.

The victims were 26-year-old Fortuné Irankunda and 24-year-old Espérance Nibogora, who were neighbors. Their bodies were found about 500 meters from their homes in a brushy area near a path; Espérance's body was unclothed and lying on her back, while Fortuné's body was found about 20 meters away, lying face down.

The two victims were killed while returning from the Muka center, where they had spent the evening; they were killed with knives.

A knife was found next to Espérance's body, and local residents were able to identify its owner. The suspected perpetrator remains at large, but three individuals have been arrested as part of the investigation.

Both victims had recently returned from the Nduta refugee camp in Tanzania. Land disputes are suspected to be the motive for this crime.

It is reported that the Muka center is heavily populated by returnees from various parts of the country notably the northern and central provinces and that this center is located approximately 5 kilometers from the Burundian-Tanzanian border.

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II.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

⇒ ***Bujumbura: Jean Bosco Kinyange, a member of the CNL, abducted by men in police uniforms and now missing***

On October 4, 2026, Jean Bosco Kinyange identified as a member of the National Congress for Freedom (CNL), affiliated with the Agathon Rwasa faction was abducted near the OCIBU premises in the Mukaza commune of Bujumbura. According to information gathered the following day, he was out for his morning exercise with his child when individuals in police uniforms forcibly took him away in a double-cab vehicle with tinted windows. Local sources attribute the abduction to the National Intelligence Service (SNR), though this has not been officially confirmed.

As of the time of writing, Jean Bosco Kinyange's whereabouts remain unknown. The circumstances of his abduction and the lack of information regarding his status raise serious concerns for his safety and physical well-being. The Ligue Iteka calls upon the relevant authorities to locate the victim, disclose his fate and place of detention if he is being held and ensure his protection and the respect of his fundamental rights.

⇒ ***Bujumbura-Mpanda: Ingabire Divine found in distress the day after her abduction***

On October 6, 2026, at approximately 7:30 p.m., Ingabire Divine a member of a choir at the Friends Church was abducted while traveling home in a shared taxi, locally known as a *cangacanga*. According to reports, she managed to send messages to her family pleading for help while in distress. The following morning, she was discovered in a forest near Mpanda, in Bujumbura Province. Sources report that she was crying and unable to speak when spoken to.

The precise circumstances of the abduction and any violence she may have endured remain to be established. However, the condition in which the victim was found necessitates prompt care that respects her dignity and privacy. The Iteka League calls for the facts to be clarified, for any perpetrators to be identified and prosecuted in accordance with the law, and for the victim to receive appropriate medical and psychosocial support.

II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY

II.2.1. TORTURE, VIOLENCE, AND CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

⇒ ***Makamba: Teacher loses consciousness after being struck in the neck by a police officer during a traffic stop on the RN17***

On October 8, 2026, at approximately 6:00 p.m., Jean Bosco Nzisabira, a teacher, was seriously injured during a police stop on the RN17 national road which connects Makamba to Bururi near Kucoganyana, in the Gitaba zone of Makamba Commune, Burunga Province. According to reports, a police officer struck him in the neck with a baton, causing him to fall from his motorcycle and lose consciousness.

The same sources state that the officers present left the scene without providing any assistance to the teacher while he lay unconscious. He was eventually helped by another passing motorcyclist, who stopped to assist him and alerted an ambulance from the Makamba General Hospital. Jean Bosco Nzisabira regained consciousness around 11:00 p.m. several hours after the incident before being taken to the hospital for medical treatment.

According to his admission, a doctor ordered radiological examinations to assess the severity of his injuries. According to information gathered, a CT scan in Bujumbura was being considered.

II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 13)

At the time this information was collected, the teacher remained hospitalized at the Makamba General Hospital. His health status and the results of his medical examinations were not yet known.

♦ *A case of suspected mistaken identity that cannot justify the disproportionate use of force*

According to some local sources, the police officers mistook the teacher for a motorcyclist involved in the transport or trafficking of fuel. Other accounts suggest the intervention may have been motivated by an attempt to seize his belongings. However, these hypotheses have not been independently confirmed, and it is not possible, at this stage, to establish the actual motives of the officers involved.

For its part, the police stated that they had not been informed of the incident. This assertion highlights the need to verify whether those in the chain of command were made aware of the events and whether any reporting or investigative procedures were initiated. It is particularly important to identify the police officers present, the precise circumstances of the interception, and the conditions under which the victim was left at the scene.

Beyond this specific case, citizens in Burunga province have denounced arrest methods they deem brutal and dangerous for road users. Motorcycle riders have previously reported acts of violence attributed to certain police officers, particularly during traffic stops. There are also accounts of shots being fired at motorcyclists. However, the frequency of these incidents, the circumstances under which they occurred, and how any subsequent complaints were handled require further documentation.

In early 2026, a police officer accused of shooting and wounding a motorcyclist was transferred to a different post. Some citizens interpreted this transfer as a measure to protect the officer rather than as a disciplinary sanction. In the absence of sufficient information regarding the circumstances of the case and the administrative decisions taken, these allegations remain to be verified. Nevertheless, they highlight concerns raised by the public regarding the mechanisms for oversight, discipline, and accountability of law enforcement officers.

♦ *The need for an impartial investigation and appropriate care for the victim*

The case of Jean Bosco Nzisabira raises concerns regarding respect for the right to life, physical integrity, and personal security, as well as the obligations of security personnel during interventions. Any enforcement operation must be conducted in compliance with the law, and the use of force must meet the requirements of necessity and proportionality. When an individual is seriously injured or loses consciousness during an intervention, the need to provide assistance must be addressed without delay.

The Burundian Human Rights League "ITEKA" calls for the circumstances surrounding the interception of Jean Bosco Nzisabira to be established through an impartial, independent, and diligent investigation. It urges the competent authorities to identify the officers involved, determine any potential liability, and provide information on the legal or disciplinary follow-up to this case. It further emphasizes the necessity of ensuring that the victim has access to medical examinations, appropriate care, and, where applicable, the legal remedies provided for by law.

Finally, the ITEKA League reiterates that the fight against offenses including those related to fuel smuggling cannot justify acts of arbitrary violence or the abandonment of an injured person. Respect for human rights, assistance to victims, and holding public officials accountable are essential requirements for strengthening public trust in the institutions tasked with protecting the population.

⇒ ***Kirundo: CNDD-FDD member severely beaten by a leader of the veterans' league during a night patrol***

II.2. RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND/OR MENTAL INTEGRITY (the following of page 14)

On the evening of October 5, 2026, 31-year-old farmer and CNDD-FDD member Sayumwe Zacharie was severely beaten on Rubuga Hill, in Kiyonza Commune, Kirundo Province, while participating in a night patrol. According to information gathered, the victim had briefly left the patrol to return home and check on his wife, who was showing signs of going into labor. Upon his return, he was accused of altering the patrol's route by another group led by 52-year-old Gashema Pierre a CNDD-FDD member, local head of the veterans' league, and pastor of a revivalist church.

Sources report that Sayumwe Zacharie was beaten severely, sustaining injuries notably to his kidneys that required his hospitalization. His family filed a complaint on October 7, 2026. An arrest warrant was subsequently issued for Gashema Pierre, who was ultimately handcuffed and taken to the judicial police department. The Iteka League calls for the judicial investigation to take its course, for the facts to be established, and for anyone found responsible to be held accountable for their actions in accordance with the law.

⇒ ***Musongati: A hill chief and an agricultural extension officer violently assaulted during a dispute over the Mukazyé River***

On October 7, 2026, around 11:00 a.m., on Mugombwa Hill, in the Gakungu zone of Musongati Commune, Burunga Province, a hill chief and an agricultural extension officer named Jean Nyandwi were subjected to physical violence during a dispute concerning the management of the Mukazyé River. According to information gathered from local sources, a drop in water levels had prompted some fishermen to construct makeshift dams using branches and wood to retain water and make it easier to catch fish. These structures raised concerns among local farmers, who feared that they would disrupt the river's flow and damage their fields once water levels rose again.

Against this backdrop, the hill chief went to the site to ask the fishermen to stop the practice. His intervention escalated into an altercation, during which he was violently beaten. Alerted to the situation, Jean Nyandwi whose responsibilities include monitoring crops stepped in to assist, but he too was assaulted and sustained a broken leg. Following the incident, both victims required emergency medical care. Jean Nyandwi was initially taken to Giharo Hospital, and, given his condition, a transfer to Kibuye Hospital in Gitega Province was subsequently considered.

According to testimonies gathered, his evacuation was delayed by difficulties related to the availability of fuel and the payment of the ambulance driver. Due to a lack of sufficient resources, he was ultimately transported by motorcycle. Following the assault, four individuals identified as Kabura, Niko, Nizigiyimana, and Emmanuel, and described by local sources as members of the CNDD-FDD were arrested and taken to the Kibimba police station, in the Butezi zone, before being released a few hours later.

Witnesses attribute this release to the intervention of the Kibimba hill chief and a local CNDD-FDD official, but the exact circumstances of this decision remain unclear. Other sources say that some people suspected of taking part in these violences may have fled to Tanzania. Additionally, some locals mention previous land tensions in this swampy area, saying that farmers were pressured and lost access to their land in favor of others.

II.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

II.2.2.1. RAPES

⇒ *Musigati: 12-year-old schoolgirl allegedly raped; suspect transferred to the public prosecutor's office*

On October 5, 2026, at approximately 8:00 p.m., a 12-year-old schoolgirl was the victim of rape in the Ngara sub-locality, Buhurika locality, Musigati zone, Musigati commune, Bubanza province. According to information gathered by Ligue Iteka, the suspect a man married to two women took the child into a thicket near a water tower. He was caught in the act by passersby. The victim was taken to the Mpungamo health center that same evening. The suspect was held at the Musigati police station before being transferred to the public prosecutor's office in Bubanza on October 8, 2026.

Local sources have also reported alleged attempts to bribe police officers, though these claims have not been officially confirmed. The fact that the victim's family lives close to the suspect raises concerns regarding the child's safety and the risk that she or her loved ones might be subjected to pressure. Ligue Iteka calls for the judicial process to be conducted diligently, for the child's privacy to be protected, and for her to receive appropriate medical, psychological, and social support.

⇒ *Rumonge: 12-year-old girl reportedly three months pregnant following alleged sexual violence*

On October 4, 2026, a case involving alleged sexual violence against a 12-year-old girl who has lost her mother was reported in the Mutambara locality, Gatete zone, Rumonge commune and province. According to information gathered, the child is reportedly already three months pregnant. She identified a 46-year-old man as the person who sexually abused her and threatened to kill her if she disclosed what had happened.

Women in the neighborhood, who had grown suspicious about the child's situation, alerted local authorities and the police. The suspect was arrested on October 4, 2026, and is being held at the municipal police station in Rumonge. The child has since been returned to her parents. Given her age and the reported pregnancy, the child's situation requires urgent intervention one that respects her dignity, health, and best interests. The Iteka League calls for the facts to be established through a proper investigation, for the child to receive medical care and specialized psychosocial support, and for her protection against any threats, intimidation, or stigmatization to be guaranteed.

II.2.2.2. OTHER GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

⇒ *Kiganda: 48-year-old widow driven from family property by her brothers-in-law*

Since February 2026, 48-year-old Alice Ndayishimiye a childless widow from Gashingwa Hill, in the Rutegama zone of Kiganda Commune, Gitega Province has been embroiled in a land dispute with the family of her late husband, who passed away in 2024. According to information gathered by Ligue Iteka, her late husband's brothers evicted her from the family property, arguing that she no longer had a place in the family since she had neither a husband nor children. They subsequently took possession of the land in question.

The dispute was brought before a local mediation body, the *Abahuza*, which recommended that a small plot of land be allocated to the widow. This decision was later upheld by the local court of first instance. The case has since been appealed to the High Court – TGI of Kiganda, though the outcome of these proceedings remains unknown. This situation raises concerns regarding the protection of widows' property rights and the risks of discrimination based on their marital and family status. Ligue Iteka calls for the legal appeals process to be respected and for the widow's rights to be examined by the competent judicial authorities, in accordance with applicable law.

II.3. RIGHT TO PERSONAL FREEDOM AND SECURITY

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

⇒ *Matana: Ongoing series of arrests amid suspicions of armed infiltration*

During the period covered by this bulletin, a series of arrests of young people has been reported in the Mugamba and Mwumba areas of Matana commune, in Burunga province. These operations, which began on September 27, 2026, are reportedly linked to suspicions of armed infiltration in the region. The total number of individuals taken into custody remains unknown. According to local sources, several officials from the Burundi National Police (PNB) including Brigadier General of Police Emmanuel Ndayiziga, Deputy Inspector General, and Police Colonel Arthémon Nzitabakuze, who is in charge of enquiry have overseen the operations. Notably, Charles Bondo, the provincial commissioner of the Internal Security Police (PSI) for Burunga, is said to have interrogated detainees on September 30, 2026.

Beyond the security concerns cited, local accounts suggest that some of the arrested youths may have participated in the 2015 protests against the third term of the late President Pierre Nkurunziza. However, there is no public evidence to determine whether their political history influenced these arrests or if the actions are based exclusively on security considerations.

The lack of an official report and precise information on the individual reasons for the arrests, and details on the locations of detention have fueled anxiety among families. While preventing a potential armed threat falls within the responsibilities of the authorities, this cannot justify arrests that lack a legal basis, nor can it infringe upon the judicial guarantees of those taken into custody.

The Burundian League for Human Rights "ITEKA" calls upon police and judicial authorities to clarify the circumstances surrounding these arrests, to provide an account of the number and status of those detained, and to ensure that their rights are respected in accordance with applicable law.

⇒ *Bujumbura: 14 individuals, mostly Banyamulenge, presented to the press on espionage charges*

On October 9, 2026, fourteen individuals the majority of whom were identified as belonging to the Banyamulenge community were presented to the press at the headquarters of the National Intelligence Service (SNR). Pierre Nkurikiye, spokesperson for the Ministry of the Interior, Public Security, and Community Development, accused them of offenses including espionage and the use of forged or fraudulent documents. According to statements attributed to the authorities, the arrests took place between September 8 and October 5, 2026, in the Ngagara, Cibitoke, Mutakura, and Kigobe neighborhoods of Bujumbura. The individuals in question are accused of gathering intelligence for the benefit of Rwanda, the M23, Twirwaneho, and RED-Tabara, as well as using forged documents and places of worship as a cover. These allegations have not been established by a final judicial decision.

The individuals presented to the press were identified as follows: Nkunda Kirayi Jaros, Nyiramasoso Jacqueline, Nzayiteho Gédéon, Ntiburumunsi Everyne, Murama Étienne, Nkurunziza Rugenza Marc, Katakure Abdalah, Birenzi Dieu Merci, Nkurunziza Samuel, Hakizimana Joël Samson Kennedy, Miburo Charles, Nahayo Marie Rose, Warubambo Samuel, and Nininahazwe David. According to this spokesperson, documents and materials intended for the production of forged papers were seized, including 215 official stamps, diplomas, driver's licenses, and banking documents. The authorities also pointed to travel between Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, as well as alleged activities involving the provision of assistance to members of armed groups. The spokesperson cited several provisions of the Penal Code, specifically articles 266, 294, 360, 402, 433, 497, 595, and 611.

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS (the following of page 17)

The same official warned **Burundians who rent houses or plots of land to foreigners, specifically targeting the Banyamulenge, that they could be seen as 'enemies of the country.'** Such statements could fuel the collective stigmatization of a community if they lead to people being associated with criminal activities because of their supposed affiliation or relationships. The Iteka League reminds that **accusations against arrested individuals must be examined individually by the competent courts, respecting the presumption of innocence, the right to defense, and the prohibition of any discrimination.** It also calls on authorities to refrain from making statements that could harm the dignity or safety of an entire community.

III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

III.1. GENERAL CONCLUSION

The week of October 5 to 11, 2026, in Burundi was marked by several concerning developments regarding the protection of civil and political rights, as well as alleged practices that infringe upon human rights and the economic activities of the population. Regarding the right to life, the discovery of three lifeless bodies in Bugendana and Matongo has raised questions about the circumstances of these deaths. The injuries reported on the body of Claver Mpamirubusa, and the land dispute mentioned in the case of Pascasie Ntirampeba, necessitate investigations to establish the facts and, where applicable, determine accountability.

The right to physical and mental integrity was also challenged by acts of violence reported in Kirundo, Makamba, and Musongati. These incidents resulted in, among other things, a hospitalization, a loss of consciousness, and a broken leg. Furthermore, the alleged abductions of Jean Bosco Kinyange and Divine Ingabire highlight the risks to which individuals may be exposed, as well as the urgent need to clarify the fate of those reported missing.

Arrests reported in Matana, along with the presentation to the press of fourteen individuals accused of espionage, raise concerns regarding adherence to judicial safeguards, access to information about the reasons for the arrests, and the presumption of innocence. Every accusation must be examined on an individual basis by the competent judicial authorities, with full respect for the rights of the defense. Alleged cases of sexual violence reported in Musigati and Rumonge involve 12-year-old children, necessitating specialized protection, medical care, and psychosocial support. In Kiganda, the situation of Alice Ndayishimiye sheds light on the challenges a widow may face in exercising her property rights.

Finally, information gathered in Karusi regarding financial contributions imposed on merchants and transporters, sums demanded in connection with certain commercial activities, and levies linked to a street-paving project raises concerns about the protection of property and the freedom to engage in economic activities. Reports of nighttime truck movements at the FOMI fertilizer depot in Kayanza also require clarification.

In light of these situations, the ITEKA League underscores the importance of preventing human rights violations, ensuring impartial investigations, protecting victims and witnesses, and guaranteeing effective remedies. The information presented in this bulletin must be followed up on appropriately so that the facts can be established and necessary measures taken in accordance with the law.

III.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Burundian League for Human Rights "ITEKA" recommends:

1. **To the President of the Republic of Burundi**, in his capacity as guarantor of respect for the Constitution and the proper functioning of institutions, to ensure that public authorities act in compliance with fundamental rights and to prevent any form of impunity in cases where violations are established.
2. **To the Ministry of Justice**, to ensure that independent and impartial investigations are opened into suspicious deaths, physical violence, alleged abductions, and reported forced financial levies, and to prosecute individuals against whom sufficient evidence has been gathered, in accordance with the law.
3. **To the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development, and Public Security**, to remind administrative authorities and security services of the obligation to uphold legal safeguards during arrests and detentions, to prevent acts of intimidation, and to ensure that any financial contribution imposed on the population has a clearly established legal basis.
4. **To the ministry responsible for child protection**, in collaboration with the relevant health and judicial services, to ensure that children who are alleged victims of sexual violence receive appropriate medical, psychosocial, and judicial support, with strict regard for their dignity and the confidentiality of their identities.
5. **To the National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH)**, to strengthen the monitoring of reported violations, document cases falling within its mandate, and contribute to the protection of victims and witnesses against reprisals, in collaboration with the relevant institutions.

