



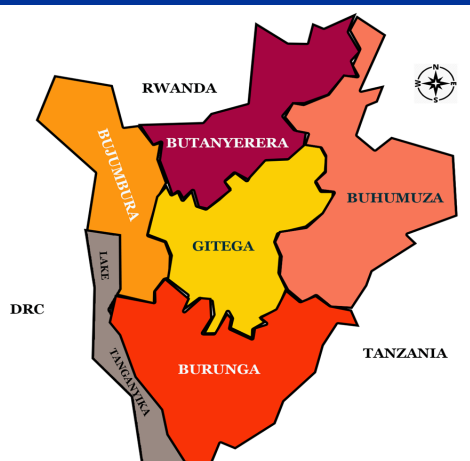
BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

Anyone should be respected **N°548 from 12 to 18 October 2026**

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



In memory of Madame Marie Claudette KWIZERA, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to October 18, 2026, at least 888 victims of forced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 88 victims have reappeared, and 800 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:

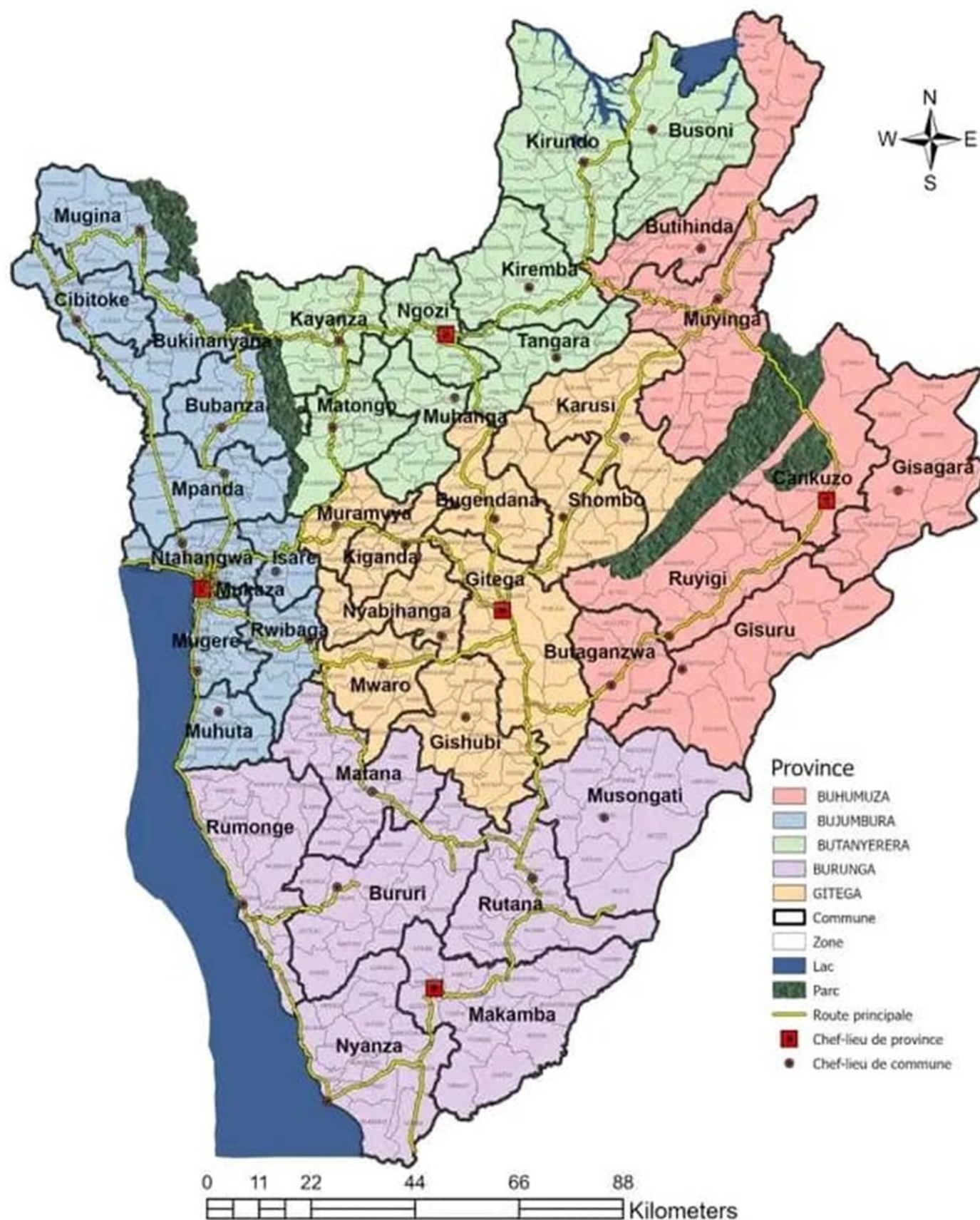
- ♦ 'It is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH),
- ♦ has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236, and is a member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

ADB: Burundi Development Agency

CECI: Independent Communal Electoral Commission

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

Ecofo: Fundamental School

ECOSOC: United Nations Economic and Social Council

FIDH: International Federation for Human Rights

FOMI: Organomineral Fertilizer Industries

GTDFI: United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

HCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

ONPRA: National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons

OPJ: Judicial Police Officer

RDC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

RED-Tabara: Resistance for a Rule-of-Law State in Burundi

UIDH: Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights

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0. INTRODUCTION

The weekly bulletin **ITEKA N'IJAMBO** (No. 548), published by the Burundian Human Rights League "ITEKA," covers the period from October 12 to 18, 2026. It documents several human rights abuses and socioeconomic hardships affecting the Burundian population.

Regarding threats to life, 13 deaths or discoveries of bodies are reported, occurring under various circumstances including alleged violence, suicide, a mining accident, attacks by aquatic animals, and severe weather. This tally includes the death of Bruce Sebanza following violence attributed to security personnel; the discovery of a man found bound on the shores of Lake Tanganyika; six individuals killed by hippopotamuses or crocodiles; and three deaths attributed to heavy rains and strong winds in the province of Butanyerera. These incidents are of different natures and do not all, in themselves, constitute human rights violations.

The bulletin also notes three cases of disappearance: two identified individuals; a Congolese refugee from the Banyamulenge community whose current place of detention remains unknown to his family; and two young girls who went missing after being held in the communal detention center of Gisuru. Furthermore, the bulletin highlights three concerning arrests that took place during search operations in neighborhoods near the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), specifically in Rumonge. Regarding sexual violence, five incidents involving girls, adolescents, and women are reported including cases involving minors, a three-months-pregnant young girl, and a young woman who faced both threats and barriers to accessing medical care. These figures reflect the specific incidents detailed in the bulletin and do not represent an exhaustive account of all violations that occurred during the week.

Economic and social rights also remain under pressure. In the commune of Kirundo, 135 households have reportedly left the country, and more than 315 men have allegedly abandoned their families to seek work abroad. Furthermore, thousands of farmers are reported to have paid between 28,000 and 33,000 Burundian francs for FOMI fertilizer vouchers without receiving the expected inputs. Compounding these difficulties are a shortage of drinking water in Kiremba, a lack of school equipment, and concerning sanitary conditions at the Kinga Basic School, where 847 students 441 girls and 406 boys share eight latrines.

Meanwhile, severe weather in the province of Butanyerera has resulted in the destruction of 2,052 homes (800 of which were completely demolished) and 28 schools, as well as the loss of 2,034.4 hectares of land. Finally, allegations of irregularities in the preparations for the 2027 elections, along with concerns regarding certain administrative and economic practices, warrant particular vigilance.

Through these findings, Bulletin No. 548 highlights the interdependence of civil, political, economic, and social rights, and underscores the need to ensure the follow-up of reported violations, the protection of victims, and effective access to justice.



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I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

⇒ ***The 2027 presidential election is already on the agenda: partisan mobilization and a target of 100% of the vote.***

Meetings of the CNDD-FDD party were reported in several communes within the Buhumuza province specifically in Butaganzwa and Gisagara on October 16, 2026, and subsequently in Cankuzo, Gisuru, and Ruyigi on October 17, 2026. According to information gathered, these meetings were part of a mobilization campaign centered on a message attributed to the ruling party's national secretariat. Participants were urged to maintain their trust in CNDD-FDD leadership, to disregard rhetoric from opposition parties which were characterized as hostile to the CNDD-FDD and to continue preparations for the presidential election with the goal of securing 100% of the vote for the CNDD-FDD candidate.

The message also called on party members to monitor the movements of opposition figures in their local areas and to intensify the teaching of party ideology to the youth, utilizing the specific roles assigned to various categories of party membership. This political mobilization is taking place against a backdrop of agricultural hardship, notably a shortage of the inputs required for sowing during the "A" cropping season. Our observers have questioned the prioritization of partisan activities at a time when households face urgent economic and agricultural needs.

⇒ ***Opposition under pressure: the surveillance of political adversaries raises concerns.***

According to reports, CNDD-FDD officials instructed party members to remain vigilant regarding the movements of opposition members. This directive has fueled anxiety among some in the opposition, who fear that these mobilization meetings could be followed by acts of intimidation or retaliation against them. According to the information available to us, the general public including individuals who are not members of the ruling party was invited to attend these meetings. Some invitations presented the gatherings as meetings with a delegation from the Office of the President, when in fact they were organized by the CNDD-FDD. Such practices raise concerns regarding the transparency of political mobilization and the respect for citizens' freedom of choice. Participation in a partisan meeting should be based on clear information and should not be secured through confusion about the nature of the event, nor through pressure exerted by those in authority.

⇒ ***Contested election preparations: lists of registration agents denounced in Cankuzo.***

The political landscape this week was also marked by allegations of irregularities in the selection of registration agents and staff responsible for posting election notices within the Independent Communal Electoral Commissions (CECI). In Cankuzo, the review and selection process for applicants revealed the existence of lists pre-established by ruling party officials at the zonal level. According to internal sources, individuals on these lists were put forward to the CECI, while applicants not included on them were automatically excluded. The same sources indicate that this practice has been reported in nearly every commune in the province of Buhumuza. Human rights defenders view this as a potential maneuver aimed at laying the groundwork for irregularities during the presidential elections in May 2027.

I.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

⇒ ***In Mpanda, a teacher has been taken into custody in connection with a case involving the falsification of academic results.***

On October 16, 2026, the arrest of a teacher from the Musenyi 2 Basic School (Ecofo) located in the Mpanda commune, Bubanza province was confirmed as part of an investigation into alleged irregularities regarding the awarding of academic grades and the issuance of school attendance certificates. According to information provided by the head of the communal education department in Mpanda, the teacher was arrested approximately two weeks earlier, following inquiries conducted by the communal education inspectorate. Three teachers are reportedly implicated in this case.

They are suspected of having assigned grades to some students that they did not actually earn, and of issuing school attendance certificates that allowed these students to continue their education at other institutions. Approximately 25 students are affected by these irregularities and have since been placed in various schools. The institutions mentioned in the case include the Nyunzwe, Musenyi 2, Nyendago, and Kibambwe 3 Basic Schools, all of which are located in the Mpanda commune. The communal education official stated that, of the three teachers involved, only one is currently in custody, while the other two remain at large. Investigations were ongoing at the time of this statement.

This case needs the clarification of individual responsibilities and an examination of the facts by the competent authorities, in accordance with legal procedures and the presumption of innocence. It also raises questions regarding the administrative and judicial consequences of these irregularities for the academic paths of the students involved. It is important that investigations establish the facts, that any potential responsibilities be determined in accordance with the law, and that the rights of students notably their right to the continuity of their education be upheld.

I.3. SECURITY CONTEXT

⇒ ***In Karusi, a manager of a FOMI fertilizer depot has been taken into custody after an attempted theft.***

On the night of October 14, 2026, Jean Karibwami the manager of the FOMI fertilizer depot in Muhweza zone of Karusi commune, and, according to our source, a representative for local traders was discovered inside the warehouse after having entered through the roof. Alerted to the situation, police officers fired warning shots to force him to come out. The police surrounded the warehouse until morning. On October 15, 2026, Jean Karibwami was brought back to the site to assist in an inventory of the fertilizer stock which included 14 tons of "FOMI Imbura" and 8 tons of "FOMI Bagara" before being returned to custody.

⇒ ***Amidst rumors of armed infiltration and a series of arrests, a climate of unease is spreading across several localities.***

According to reports, in the early hours of Tuesday, September 29, 2026 around 2:00 a.m. unidentified individuals tore down two CNDD-FDD party flags on the hills of Gakonko and Kireka in Gisuru commune, before heading toward Tanzania.

Multiple consistent sources also report that three Banyamulenge men **have been arrested since** September 2026; while they were subsequently released following the payment of large sums of money, another man remains missing after being taken into custody by individuals believed to be intelligence agents. The situation is particularly concerning given that the Bwagiriza camp currently hosts over 8,000 Congolese refugees, many of whom are Banyamulenge. At the time the information was gathered, no official response from the UNHCR or the ONPRA regarding the case of the missing person had been reported. Yet, the lack of information about his fate continues to fuel concern among his loved ones and the

1.3. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 7)

refugee community.

⇒ Attempted suicide in Karusi Commune, Gitega Province

On October 14, 2026, at approximately 8:00 p.m., on Magamba Hill, in the Buhiga zone of Karusi Commune, Gitega Province, 29-year-old Ndayisenga a farmer and member of the CNDD-FDD attempted to commit suicide by hanging himself in his bedroom while his wife was away. According to local witnesses, his children had seen him enter the room carrying a rope. Shortly thereafter, upon hearing unusual noises coming from the room, the children began to cry out loudly. A neighbor intervened in time, removing the rope from Ndayisenga's neck, and then alerted the local *Imbonerakure* (youth wing members). They subsequently took him to the Buhiga police station.

The following day, during questioning by a judicial police officer, Ndayisenga stated that he had intended to take his own life due to suspicions that his wife was being unfaithful; he accused her of having an affair with Ntirabampa, the former leader of the *Imbonerakure* on that hill, who has since been removed from his position.

⇒ Precarity, food insecurity, and migration abroad: families facing survival-driven choices.

On October 12, 2026, during a weekly security meeting, the administrator of Kirundo Commune, in Butanyerera Province, drew attention to the departure of local residents for neighboring countries most notably Tanzania in search of work. According to reports submitted by zone leaders, 135 households have left the country, and more than 315 men have abandoned their families. The Kigina zone is particularly affected, with 21 departures reported.

This migration is taking place against a backdrop of economic and food-related hardships. The harvests for the "A" cropping season were poor, largely due to a lack of chemical fertilizers and unfavorable weather conditions. The unavailability of improved seeds specifically PANR53 maize and beans has further heightened farmers' concerns regarding the upcoming harvest. According to reports, the distribution of FOMI fertilizers remains problematic; farmers are limited to receiving only 16 kg of "FOMI Imbura," regardless of the size of the land they intend to cultivate. The meager harvests have already led to famine-like conditions in several areas of the commune. Compounding these issues are unemployment, rising prices for essential goods, and a lack of viable economic prospects.

The situation is also affecting the education sector. During a meeting held on Friday, October 16, 2026, to assess the start of the 2026–2027 school year, the head of the Kirundo Communal Directorate of Education reported that **27 teachers had failed to return to work following the summer break**. While the available information does not specify the individual reasons for these absences, the trend emerges at a time when both households and local services are under severe economic strain. These departures reflect a level of vulnerability that extends beyond a simple search for employment: when harvests fail, agricultural inputs are in short supply, and prices become unsustainable, families may be forced to seek their livelihood abroad risking the separation of their households.



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I.4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

⇒ ***In Butanyerera Province, torrential rains and violent winds are compromising the safety of the population.***

Heavy rains accompanied by violent winds that struck Butanyerera Province have resulted in loss of life and significant material damage, affecting homes, school infrastructure, and agricultural land. During a meeting held on October 12, 2026, the provincial governor, Victor Segasago, presented an assessment of the damage recorded across 199 hills, spanning 40 zones. According to the figures provided, the severe weather caused **3 deaths and 51 injuries, destroyed 2,052 homes 800 of which were completely demolished damaged or destroyed 28 schools, and swept away 2,034.4 hectares of land.**

This damage poses a major concern for human security. The destruction of homes leaves many families in a precarious situation and exposed to further risks, while the damage to school infrastructure threatens the continuity of education. The loss of arable land also risks exacerbating food insecurity and undermining the livelihoods of the affected households.

During the meeting on October 12, 2026, strategies for responding to natural disasters were discussed. However, the available information does not specify the concrete assistance measures actually provided to the affected families. The situation highlights the need to strengthen early warning systems and disaster preparedness, enhance the protection of vulnerable individuals, and ensure support for victims and households that have lost their homes or livelihoods.

⇒ ***In Mabayi, a gold miner died in a landslide at a gold-mining site.***

On October 15, 2026, around 1:00 p.m., Félicien a man in his fifties who worked in gold mining died in a landslide in Jojwa, on Mukoma Hill, in Mabayi Commune.

This tragedy highlights the risks faced by workers at gold mining sites, particularly landslides, which can lead to loss of life. Available information does not specify the technical circumstances of the accident, nor does it indicate what safety measures were in place at the site.

This incident raises concerns regarding the prevention of occupational hazards in gold extraction activities. It is essential that the circumstances of the death be determined and that measures for prevention, site monitoring, and worker protection be strengthened to reduce the risk of similar accidents.

I.5. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

In Muyinga, more than a ton of dry coffee seized: trade regulation under watch. On Friday, October 16, 2026, a search and raid operation was carried out by law enforcement on Murama hill, in the Rugari area, in the urban center of the Muyinga commune, Buhumuza province. Three kiosks owned by traders were targeted. According to information gathered on site, 915 kg of dry coffee was seized from a trader named Vincent, 410 kg from Lucie, and 174 kg from Lazard, totaling 1,499 kg of dry coffee. Two of the three traders were arrested and taken to the Murama police station, while the third managed to escape. The seized coffee and weighing equipment were deposited at the headquarters of the Muyinga commune.

This operation follows a statement made by the minister responsible for the interior during a visit on October 6, 2026, in which he noted that approximately 34 tonnes of coffee had been seized by the authorities and the police over a three-month period. The minister advised coffee owners to seek state authorization before exporting their produce to Tanzania. The regulation

1.5. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 9)

of coffee marketing thus raises questions regarding transparency in the application of rules, adherence to established procedures, and the protection of the livelihoods of both producers and traders. However, the available information does not specify what legal action has been taken against those arrested, nor does it clarify the decisions made regarding the seized goods.

⇒ ***Mwaro: A project to pave avenues in the Kagoma neighborhood raises concerns about the distribution of costs between the state and local residents.***

In the Mwaro zone located at the headquarters of the Mwaro commune in Gitega province a project to pave avenues in the Kagoma neighborhood has sparked concern among residents, particularly regarding the financial contribution they are expected to make. As part of an outreach effort for this project, the head of the Mwaro zone, Viola NTAKARUTIMANA, held a meeting with residents of the Third Avenue on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the zonal office. According to a local source, she informed them that this avenue, which leads directly to the zonal office, would serve as a pilot route for the project, with construction scheduled to begin in November 2026. Property owners with plots on either side of the avenue are expected to share the cost of the paving, which is estimated at between 3 and 4 million Burundian francs for the entire stretch of the road.

This prospect has caused confusion among residents, who point out that the neighborhood lacks basic infrastructure not even having drainage gutters and that the southern section, in particular, remains entirely undeveloped. According to reports, owners of plots in this southern area paid development fees to the urban planning authorities over a decade ago, yet the expected work has never been carried out. This situation raises questions regarding the tracking of funds already collected, the planning of infrastructure, and the transparency of development project management. Furthermore, it unfolds against a backdrop of economic hardship, characterized by soaring prices and the scarcity of essential goods.

Many residents argue that the funding for road paving should be the responsibility of the State; they had expected, at most, to contribute to the development of the space between their property boundaries and the edge of the road. Beyond the disagreement over financing, this situation highlights the need for meaningful consultation with the local population, a clear prior definition of property owners' financial obligations, and full accountability regarding the development fees already paid. This would ensure that development projects address collective needs without imposing poorly explained financial burdens on households.

⇒ ***Salary Reform of October 15, 2026: The Promised Equity Put to the Test of Transparency and Accountability***

The Burundian League for Human Rights "ITEKA" has reviewed Decree No. 100/154 of October 15, 2026, signed in Gitega by the President of the Republic, Évariste Ndayishimiye; the Prime Minister, Nestor Ntahontuye; and the Minister of Labor, Public Service, and Social Security, Lieutenant General Gabriel Nizigama. This legal instrument establishes the procedures for aligning institutions with special status with the policy of equitable remuneration.

The reform sets out a pay structure with four components: the base salary, the job-related pay, the performance bonus, and family allowances. It also applies to civilian staff in the National Police and the National Defense Force. While this harmonization could help reduce pay gaps between public employees, putting it into practice raises governance issues, especially regarding transparency in how performance bonuses are awarded, equal treatment, and monitoring the

1.5. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT (the following of page 10)

implementation of the announced adjustments.

The lack of publication of performance criteria, based on the available information, risks causing misunderstandings and disputes if employees don't have clear rules, verification procedures, and accessible appeal mechanisms. The credibility of the reform will therefore depend on communicating how calculations are made, applying the provisions consistently, and allowing employees to have their pay checked.

In a context marked by rising living costs and households' economic difficulties, implementing this reform requires careful monitoring to ensure that the promised fairness actually reflects in the salaries paid. Transparency of the criteria, regularity of payments, and accountability of the institutions responsible for enforcing the decree are essential conditions for boosting public employees' trust in the pay policy.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

III.1 INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

III.1.1. LIFELESS BODIES FOUND

⇒ ***Man found dead with hands and feet bound in Ruziba.***

On October 12, 2026, the lifeless body of an unidentified man, estimated to be between 37 and 40 years old, was discovered on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in the Ruziba zone, Mugere commune, Bujumbura province. According to information gathered, the victim's hands and feet were bound. Witnesses believe he was killed before his body was thrown into the lake. By order of the communal administrator, Adélaïde Hatangayo, the body was buried at the Karava cemetery on Kabezi hill.

⇒ ***Young man found hanged in his room in Karusi.***

On October 13, 2026, on Nzibariba hill, in the Buhiga zone of Karusi commune, a 25-year-old man named Nimbona known as "Kabeba" and identified as a member of the CNDD-FDD party reportedly hanged himself with a rope in his room. His body was discovered on the morning of October 14 by his mother. Local sources state that the young man suffered from mental health issues and had previously received treatment at the Kamenge psychiatric center, commonly known as "Chez le Gentil." The same sources report that he had attempted suicide the previous year by ingesting rat poison, but had received medical care at that time.

Reports also indicate that a large snake was found under the bed when the body was being removed, which frightened the neighbors. The police intervened and killed the animal. The body was buried on-site, by order of the local administration. Given the reported background, this situation raises questions regarding mental health and access to appropriate support. However, the circumstances surrounding the death must be established with caution, avoiding any hasty conclusions as to the cause of death.



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II.1.2. ABDUCTIONS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

Gold prospector abducted in Cibitoke Commune, Bujumbura Province
In Cibitoke, Alexis Nihoreho also known as "Marandura" has been missing since October 10, 2026. A man in his forties, he is a member of the Adventist Church and a gold prospector with the Jabukiro gold cooperative, based in Buhindo, Cibitoke Commune. He resided on Bwiza Hill, in the Cibitoke zone. According to a witness, he went to church on October 10 and never returned home. Since then, his family has had no news of him and remains unaware of the circumstances surrounding his disappearance. The motive for his disappearance is unknown. Sources consulted describe him as politically neutral. The lack of information regarding his fate or current whereabouts has caused deep concern among his loved ones, underscoring the need for an investigation to establish the circumstances of his disappearance.

⇒ ***Congolese refugee from the Banyamulenge community reported missing following his arrest at the Bwagiriza camp.***

At the Bwagiriza camp, the fate of a Congolese refugee from the Banyamulenge community remains uncertain. **Alexis David Musore** a Congolese refugee of Banyamulenge origin who, according to available information, has lived in Burundi for over fifteen years was taken into custody by individuals identified as agents of the Burundian intelligence services. A person close to him, who requested anonymity, stated that these individuals arrived without presenting a warrant or explaining the reasons for the arrest. They reportedly took Alexis David Musore away in a white, unplated vehicle, heading toward the administrative center of Ruyigi Commune. His two phones were also seized. Since this alleged arrest, those close to him state that they do not know his place of detention or the specific allegations against him. At this stage, no information provided to the League makes it possible to officially establish his whereabouts.

⇒ ***In Gisuru, two young women have been reported missing following their arrest at the Muhindo Hotel.***

According to information gathered, two young women suspected of having links to a rebellion were arrested at the Muhindo Hotel, located in the former commune of Gisuru. Reports indicate that they spoke Kinyarwanda and were in possession of a map showing access routes to the administrative center of Gisuru, as well as paths leading toward Tanzania. While these details raised suspicions regarding their intentions, they are not, in themselves, sufficient to establish their involvement in rebel activity. Following their arrest, the two women were taken to the communal detention facility; however, according to available information, they were no longer there the following day. Their full identities, current place of detention, and the circumstances of any potential transfer remain unknown at this time.

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

II.2.1. TORTURE, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

⇒ ***Bruce Sebanza died following alleged violence at the ADB site in Gihosha.***

On October 13, 2026, Bruce Sebanza passed away following blows inflicted on him by agents of the private security company Ulinzi, responsible for the security of the Burundi Development Agency (ADB) site in Gihosha, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura province. According to witnesses, the victim previously led the ADB and had disputes with his successor, Révérien Nizigiyimana. Some sources claim that Nizigiyimana ordered the security agents to beat Bruce Sebanza and personally took part in the violence.

II.2.1. TORTURE, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT (the following of page 12)

After the incident, Bruce Sebanza was taken to several hospitals in Bujumbura. According to available information, the hospitals he was taken to did not admit him, noting his death. The victim's family is asking the judicial authorities to open an investigation in order to determine the exact circumstances of the death and any possible responsibilities.

II.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

⇒ ***In Kiganda, a 12-year-old girl was raped by two young men.***

On October 7, 2026, at approximately 4:00 p.m., a 12-year-old girl a boarding student at ETS Kiganda was the victim of a rape involving two young men. According to information gathered, the girl, who is from the Mutakura neighborhood in the Ntahangwa commune (Bujumbura province), had requested permission to go out to get a haircut. Unfamiliar with the area, she asked an 18-year-old man for help finding a hair salon. After the haircut, the man offered her some juice that he had spiked with narcotics. The girl lost consciousness. The suspect then called a 22-year-old motorcycle taxi driver to transport her to a secluded location. The two men subsequently took her to a house under construction, where they raped her.

Passersby discovered the two suspects, who were then subdued and taken to the police. The victim was brought to the Kiganda hospital, where a medical examination confirmed the rape. At the time of this report, both suspects were being held in police custody in Kiganda. This case highlights the particular vulnerability of children to sexual violence and manipulative tactics. Protecting the victim, ensuring the confidentiality of her identity, and providing access to appropriate medical, psychological, and legal support must be guaranteed throughout the entire process.

⇒ ***In Mugere, a 16-year-old domestic worker was sexually assaulted by a shopkeeper.***

On October 3, 2026, a 16-year-old girl, identified by the initials D. N., was the victim of a sexual assault in Mugere, in the province of Bujumbura. According to the information gathered, the minor was employed as a domestic worker. She was on her way to a shopkeeper's place to buy sugar when she was raped. The suspect fled after the incident came to light. This case highlights the risks that adolescent girls may face during their daily activities, particularly when they are in a situation of economic or professional dependency. It is essential that the competent authorities locate the suspect, establish the circumstances of the incident, and ensure that the victim receives care that respects her dignity.

⇒ ***Rumonge: A woman was raped while on her way to fetch water.***

On October 11, 2026, a 38-year-old woman a mother of four, identified by the initials D. N. **was the victim** of sexual violence while traveling to the Murembwe River to fetch water. According to available information, she was subjected to violent mistreatment and held against her will, sustaining several bodily injuries. The specific details of the assault and the identity of the alleged perpetrator are not sufficiently clarified in the information reviewed.

This incident raises a particular concern: access to an essential resource such as water should not expose women to violence or risks to their safety. An investigation is necessary to establish the facts, identify those responsible, and ensure that the victim has access to appropriate care and protection mechanisms.

II.3. RIGHT TO PERSONAL FREEDOM AND SECURITY

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

⇒ ***Burunga: 3 people arrested during security operations that spark concern***

In Burunga, arrests and searches are ongoing amid suspicions of armed infiltration. Since September 28, 2026, arrests and searches have been reported in the communes of Rumonge and Matana, in Burunga province. According to information gathered, these operations are being carried out by police officers, with the support of young **Imbonerakure** members. Among those affected is Elvis Niyondavyi, a motorcycle taxi driver, who was arrested on October 12. Two retirees from Kivumu hill, Boniface Ntaguzwa and Joseph Ngendakumana, were also arrested and held for several days before being released. The specific reasons for their detention and whether any formal legal cases exist against them remain unclear based on the information currently available.

The authorities have justified these operations by citing fears that fighters from the RED-Tabara group might infiltrate from the Democratic Republic of Congo, specifically via the Muhuta and Rumonge routes. However, according to the sources consulted, some of the searches failed to uncover any incriminating items. The exact number of individuals detained also remains difficult to determine. Local residents have expressed concern that the operations may be targeting people not affiliated with the CNDD-FDD notably retirees, as well as members or supporters of opposition parties. Security imperatives do not exempt the authorities from the obligation to follow legal procedures, provide notification of the reasons for arrests, and allow for judicial oversight of any deprivation of liberty.

According to the information gathered, the searches conducted did not lead to the discovery of any incriminating items. Within the general population particularly among members of the Tutsi community these operations have reportedly fueled fears of political pressure and suspicion, targeting retirees or individuals perceived as reluctant to join the CNDD-FDD. However, the fight against armed groups cannot justify arbitrary arrests or operations conducted without legal safeguards. The need to prevent infiltrations must go hand in hand with respect for the rights of those detained, including the provision of information regarding the reasons for their arrest and transparency concerning their legal status.



Anyone should be respected

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. RIGHT TO PROPERTY

According to information collected by the Iteka League, Nkurunziza Isabelle, over 60 years old, was a victim of having the roof, windows, and doors of her house removed, on the orders of local officials involved in a land dispute. The police also took part in this operation. The victim claims to have already benefited from a favorable court ruling in this case. However, the exact circumstances of the intervention, the legal basis for the operation, and the follow-up to the cited decision need to be clarified and verified. Being deprived of essential parts of a home can affect the peaceful enjoyment of property and expose its occupants to precarious living conditions. The Iteka League emphasizes the need to clarify responsibilities, ensure court decisions are respected, and make sure any land dispute is resolved through legal channels, without destruction or arbitrary eviction.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

⇒ ***In Kiremba, a shortage of drinking water is disrupting school life and exposing students to health risks.***

Information received by the ITEKA League on October 16, 2026, indicates that a shortage of drinking water has been affecting the Kiremba center located in the Bururi commune, Burunga province for about a month. Students at the Kiremba South secondary schools, as well as 78 children at the local orphanage, have been directly affected. An extended dry season has significantly reduced the flow from water sources. Due to the lack of an adequate supply of drinking water, people are forced to draw water from the Kavika, Rumira, and Kirambi marshes, as well as from the Mutandu River. This situation complicates daily hygiene and meal preparation, and has already led to the outbreak of illnesses. It also disrupts study hours for boarding students, whose academic activities are hindered by the difficulty of accessing water.

Relying on potentially unsafe water sources places children at particular risk of health issues and undermines the conditions necessary for consistent learning. This situation serves as a reminder that the effective enjoyment of the right to education also depends on access to essential services within schools and childcare facilities. According to information gathered, local authorities are seeking a long-term solution. Léonard, the communal official responsible for water management, announced that his department intends to reach out to the organization "Amazi Water" to follow through on its initial commitment to drill wells, with the primary goal of supplying water to schools and the orphanage.

⇒ ***Burunga: The influx of repatriated children and the continued presence of families in reception centers are placing increased pressure on school infrastructure.***

In the province of Burunga specifically in Giharo (Musongati commune) and in Nyanza and Nyakazu (Makamba commune) several basic schools are facing a significant shortage of desks and benches. According to reports, the number of children returning from Tanzania has exceeded the initial projections made by school authorities. Consequently, many students are forced to attend classes while sitting directly on the floor in an environment ill-suited for effective learning. This situation persists as some repatriated families hesitate to return to their home hills, or refuse to resettle there altogether, preferring instead to remain in transit centers or rent housing in other communes. Available information suggests that this reluctance stems from various factors, including fears of intimidation or threats from certain local administrative officials, unresolved land and social disputes, and concerns regarding potential legal prosecution or political targeting.

III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION (the following of page 15)

The continued presence of families in reception centers, combined with new arrivals, has intensified the need for school placement and enrollment. This situation places additional strain on school infrastructure and available furniture, as educational institutions must cater to the needs of both existing students and new arrivals. It also highlights that the return of refugees does not automatically equate to a sustainable resettlement; security challenges, land disputes, and social concerns can all hinder a return to a stable life. Faced with a shortage of furniture, school administrators are considering requesting additional desks and benches from the Ministry of Education potentially drawing from the 18 billion Burundian franc budget recently announced for their production. However, available information does not specify a distribution timeline for this equipment, nor does it indicate which schools will receive it.

It is essential that the relevant authorities adjust school capacity to match shifting enrollment numbers, while simultaneously addressing the obstacles that prevent some families from achieving a sustainable resettlement in their home communities. Access to security, the resolution of land and social conflicts, and the availability of essential services are all critical to fostering sustainable resettlement and ensuring that all children whether returnees or long-term residents can effectively exercise their right to education.

At Kinga Primary School, eight toilets for 847 students. At Kinga Primary School, in the Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province, 847 students, including 441 girls and 406 boys, have only eight toilets. The school principal, Thacien Niyibizi, believes that at least eleven toilets are needed to meet the students' needs. Parents are worried that the lack of proper sanitation could spread diseases and are calling for a new toilet block to be built. This situation also raises concerns about school hygiene and the dignity of the students, especially the girls, who need enough suitable sanitary facilities.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

⇒ ***A young woman, a victim of rape, facing the impossibility of paying for her medication.***

In the Butanyerera province, an 18-year-old young woman, orphaned of both parents, is reportedly experiencing health complications following an alleged rape. According to the information gathered, she is having trouble buying the medications prescribed to her due to a lack of financial means. This situation jeopardizes the continuity of her care and highlights the obstacles that victims of sexual violence can face in accessing treatment. Beyond medical care, appropriate support should also consider her sexual and reproductive health needs, as well as possible psychosocial support.

III.4. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

⇒ ***Power outages are paralyzing activities in Cankuzo.***

In the Cankuzo commune, located in the Buhumuza province, electricity outages are disrupting the operations of offices, businesses, and small income-generating activities. These interruptions complicate the daily work of individuals who rely on electrical power to carry out their activities, further weakening already limited livelihoods. The situation highlights the importance of ensuring a continuous electricity supply, particularly for small-scale economic operators whose income depends directly on the reliable functioning of services and equipment.

III.5. RIGHT TO AGRICULTURE

⇒ ***Sowing without fertilizer in Ngozi: farmers forced to choose between waiting and losing the season***

In October 2026, in the commune of Ngozi, province of Butanyerera, farmers began sowing corn and beans without using chemical fertilizers. According to the information collected, they fear compromising the growing season by waiting for inputs whose availability remains uncertain, while the rains could stop at any time.

The creation of lists of beneficiaries and the distribution of fertilizers remain particularly worrying. The quantities available would be lower than demand. In this context, some people would fraudulently obtain chemical fertilizers at prices varying between 10,000 and 12,000 Burundian francs per kilogram.

This situation compromises harvest prospects and further weakens households that depend on agriculture for their livelihood. It also raises concerns regarding the transparency of the distribution of agricultural inputs and equity of access to the resources necessary for production.

⇒ ***Undelivered FOMI fertilizer: reimbursement announced, but conditions that risk excluding the most vulnerable farmers***

On October 16, 2026, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Calinie Mbarushimana, announced, in press release No. 710/06.05/2026, the reimbursement to farmers who paid for FOMI fertilizers for the 2026B growing season which were not used. According to information recorded in the bulletin, thousands of farmers had paid between 28,000 and 33,000 Burundian francs per coupon for FOMI Imbura, Urée, FOMI Bagara and Dolome fertilizers. The non-delivery of these inputs compromised production for the season concerned. The cash reimbursement was announced for the period from October 19 to 23, 2026, through nine financial institutions: POSTE, COOPEC, BCAB, MUTEK, CECM, IHELA, DIFO, TWITEZIMBERE and RECECA INKINGI. The conditions announced require in particular the presentation of the original 2025 coupon, a copy of the identity card and a certificate from the hill chief.

These requirements raise concerns for farmers who have lost their voucher or do not have the requested documents. Widowed women, poor rural households and people without a bank account are particularly likely to encounter difficulties in accessing reimbursement. The press release, as reported in available information, does not provide a solution for tickets from previous seasons of 2025 and 2026A. Beyond reimbursement, the question remains that of the ability of farmers to obtain fertilizer at the current market price. The announced measure therefore does not guarantee, in itself, compensation for the losses suffered nor the availability of inputs for the coming seasons. This situation increases the risks of food insecurity for families who directly depend on their harvests.



IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

IV.1. GENERAL CONCLUSION

The period from October 12 to 18, 2026, remained marked by concerns regarding the protection of life and physical integrity, alleged disappearances, arrests, access to justice, and the enjoyment of economic and social rights.

Reported incidents include, among other things, deaths occurring under various circumstances, allegations of sexual violence, arrests for which the subsequent legal status remains unclear, and an alleged disappearance following an arrest. They also highlight persistent difficulties in accessing clean drinking water, inadequate sanitation in schools, hazardous working conditions in gold mining, and barriers to accessing healthcare.

Furthermore, shortages of fertilizers and seeds, poor harvests, and rising prices are undermining the livelihoods of many households. In schools, a lack of furniture and the reported absence of certain teachers threaten to disrupt the continuity of learning.

These findings necessitate concrete measures for prevention, the protection of victims, the establishment of accountability, and the improvement of access to essential services. The reported allegations must be subject to appropriate verification so that any potential responsibility can be determined in accordance with legal safeguards.

IV.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Burundian League for Human Rights "ITEKA" recommends:

- ⇒ **To the President of the Republic of Burundi:** ensure that all public authorities respect human rights, guarantee the protection of persons deprived of their liberty, and promote concrete measures to enhance the safety of the population, access to essential services, and disaster prevention.
- ⇒ **To the Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals, as well as the relevant judicial authorities:** conduct impartial investigations into suspicious deaths, sexual violence, contested arrests, and alleged disappearances; establish accountability where applicable; and keep families informed of the progress of proceedings, in accordance with the law.
- ⇒ **To the Minister of Public Health:** strengthen access to medical and psychosocial care for victims of sexual violence and for individuals suffering from health consequences linked to a lack of potable water specifically students and children at the Kiremba orphanage.
- ⇒ **To the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research:** take urgent action to address the shortage of desks in schools located in border areas that host repatriated children, improve sanitary conditions within educational institutions, and ensure the continuity of schooling for all affected children.
- ⇒ **To the Minister of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock:** improve the availability of fertilizers and selected seeds, ensure transparent monitoring of reimbursements owed to the affected farmers, and in collaboration with the relevant departments strengthen risk prevention at gold-mining sites.