



BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

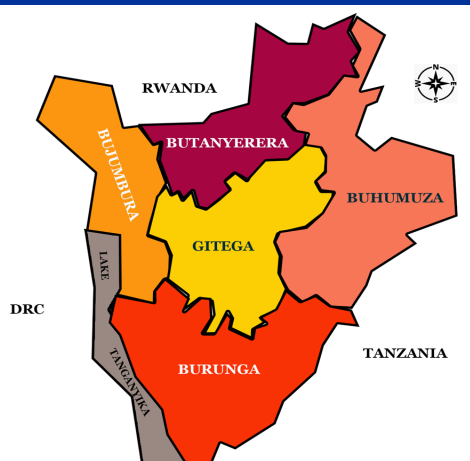
WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

Anyone should be respected

N°549 from 19 to 25 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 25, 2026, at least 852 victims of enforced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 86 victims have reappeared, and 768 victims are still missing. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has already communicated at least 269 victims to the Government of Burundi.

The ITEKA League:

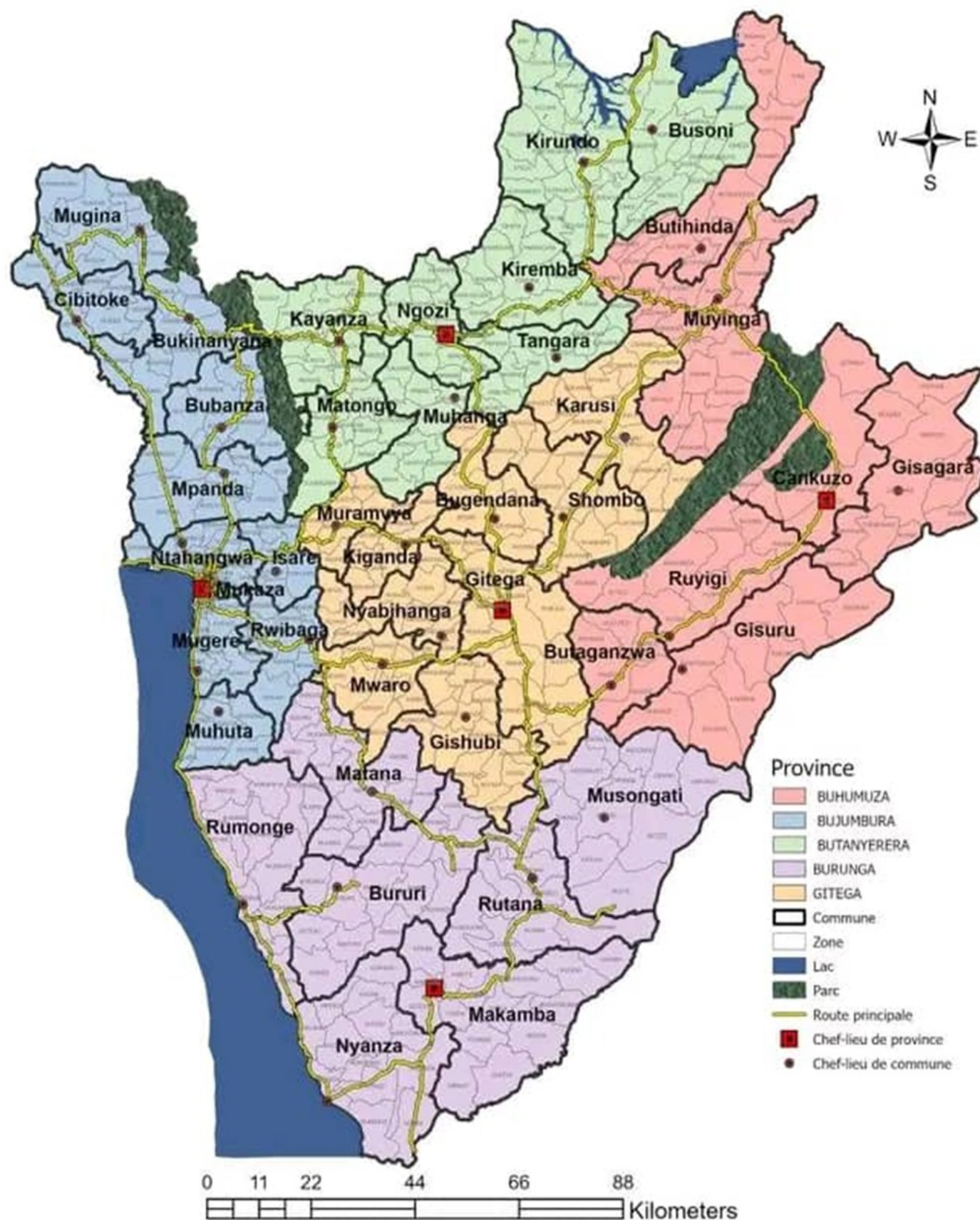
- ♦ 'It is a member of the Inter-African Union for Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliated member of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH),
- ♦ has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under reference number OBS.236, and is a member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

ARB: Burundi Road Agency

BIF: Burundi International Francs

CECI: Independent Communal Electoral Commission

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

ECOSOC: United Nations Economic and Social Council

FIDH: International Federation for Human Rights Leagues

FOMI: Organo-Mineral and Industrial Fertilizers

GTDFI: United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

RN13: National Road No. 13

RN19: National Road No. 19

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

VBG: Gender-Based Violence

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0. INTRODUCTION

The week of October 19–25, 2026, highlights persistent concerns regarding the protection of human rights in Burundi. The events reported during this period touch upon several essential dimensions of human dignity, including the right to life, personal security, child protection, and the socio-economic conditions necessary for a dignified existence.

Information gathered by the Ligue Iteka includes the discovery of **two bodies, the theft of 12 million Burundian francs**, instances of physical violence, and a case of sexual violence against a **15-year-old** minor. Approximately **182 Burundian nationals, sent back from Rwanda**, have arrived in the Mparamirundi area, where **they face precarious conditions and difficulties in reuniting with their families**. Within the police force in Burunga, records from the last three months indicate that **10 officers have deserted, 14 are in detention, and 6 have been suspended**. Regarding the judicial and penal system, **21 of the 22 military personnel held at the Murembwe Central Prison** have been transferred to the Kayanza military camp.

Beyond individual incidents, these situations raise questions about the capacity of the relevant institutions to prevent violations, protect those at risk, and provide effective redress for victims. The reported violence, concerns regarding liberty and judicial guarantees, and the hardships faced by vulnerable populations demand special attention and concrete measures commensurate with the rights at stake.

In the socio-economic sphere, difficulties related to the repayment of funds paid for the purchase of FOMI fertilizers illustrate the impact that mismanagement of agricultural inputs can have on farmers' livelihoods and their preparations for the agricultural season. Concerns regarding infrastructure and public health also serve as a reminder that the protection of human rights is not limited to the absence of violence; it also requires living conditions consistent with the dignity, safety, and well-being of the population.

The week of October 19 to 25, 2026, highlights persistent concerns regarding the protection of human rights in Burundi. The events reported during this period touch upon several essential dimensions of human dignity. Through this weekly bulletin, the Burundian League for Human Rights "Iteka" presents incidents that have been documented or brought to its attention during the period under review, placing each situation within its proper context and underscoring the concerns it raises. The information provided is intended to inform the public and urge the relevant authorities to prevent violations, conduct impartial investigations when serious incidents are reported, and ensure that victims have access to justice and effective remedies.

The Iteka League thus reaffirms the importance of constant vigilance against any infringement of fundamental rights and calls for responses rooted in respect for human dignity, institutional accountability, and the effective protection of every individual, without discrimination.



I. CONTEXT

I.1. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

⇒ *Cankuzo: Households required to contribute 61,783 BIF per square meter for street paving*

On October 19, 2026, the administrator of Cankuzo Commune located in the province of Buhumuza Marie Rose Nahimana, convened a meeting for residents of the urban hills of Cankuzo, Muterero, and Muyaga at the Buhumuza stadium. The meeting, led by Philippe Nduwayo, an advisor on economic affairs, and attended by heads of municipal departments, focused on a project to pave streets in urban neighborhoods, in line with a presidential directive aimed at improving the development of urban centers. According to reports, each household is required to contribute **61,783 BIF per square meter** for the street running alongside their property. For a property bordered by two 30-meter-long streets, the total cost could exceed 14 million BIF, according to calculations provided by local sources. Such a contribution places an exceptionally heavy burden on households with modest incomes, especially given the already difficult economic climate.

The measure has raised further questions, as paving work initiated by the ARB in the Cankuzo urban center has remained incomplete for several years. Residents are questioning how they can be expected to fund new projects when existing ones remain unfinished. There is also significant concern among residents living along the RN13 and RN19 national roads. According to reports, some have already been fined 350,000 BIF for delays in laying pavement. They have been instructed to proceed with the work immediately, under threat of further penalties. At the national level, the commission in charge of the project is led by Prime Minister Nestor Ntahontuye. Governors oversee implementation in the provinces, while communal administrators do so at the municipal level. Furthermore, every neighborhood has been instructed to establish a commission by October 26, 2026, tasked with managing the funds collected street by street.

While improving urban infrastructure may address a collective need, the amounts announced and the prospect of sanctions raise concerns regarding households' ability to contribute, the transparency of fund management, and the need for accountability concerning the use of contributions already collected. The relevant authorities should clarify the calculation methods, the financial responsibilities of the various stakeholders, and the oversight mechanisms, to ensure that the project does not impose a disproportionate burden on the population.

⇒ *Desertions, detentions, and suspensions within the police force: Burunga provincial police station faces internal challenges*

Over the past three months, the Burunga provincial police station has recorded several departures and disciplinary actions, raising questions about the department's operations and the working conditions of its officers. According to information received by Ligue Iteka on October 25, 2026, Provincial Police Commissioner Aloys Nduwayo presented this report to the Minister of Interior, Community Development, and Public Security during the latter's assessment tour across the country's provinces. The figures provided indicate that 10 police officers have deserted, 14 have been detained for various offenses, and six have been suspended as a disciplinary measure. Among the reported cases is that of an officer currently held in the Nyanza public prosecutor's detention facility after shooting and wounding a colleague. The victim was admitted to the intensive care unit at the National Police Hospital in Bujumbura. Regarding the desertions, information gathered suggests that the officers in question abandoned their posts while leaving their service weapons behind.

I.1. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT(the following of page 6)

However, the authorities have not disclosed the official reasons for these departures, nor have they indicated whether any legal proceedings are being contemplated against the individuals involved.

Several police officers interviewed attribute these departures to living and working conditions they describe as particularly precarious. They point, in particular, to the lack of official housing and a shortage of equipment in communal kitchens, which forces them to provide for their own food and daily necessities. These accounts suggest that the challenges faced extend beyond disciplinary matters; they also relate to the material conditions under which the officers are expected to perform their duties. The situation described warrants close attention from the relevant authorities both to determine individual accountability for any reported infractions and to examine the logistical challenges and service conditions that may be hindering the operations of the Burunga provincial police station.

⇒ Collective resignation of local administrative officials in Mirombero amid allegations of interference by the CNDD-FDD

Since September 2026, Mirombero hill, located in the Murwi zone, Cibitoke commune has been left without local administrative leadership following the collective resignation of the local head and his four advisors. This development follows reported disagreements between these local officials and a representative of the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD. According to information received by Ligue Iteka on October 24, 2026, Nathan Nduwimana, the head of Mirombero, along with his advisors Eric Nimfasha, Eric Bimenyimana, Emmanuel Nsengiyumva, and Darius Niyonzima submitted a collective letter of resignation on September 22, 2026, to Rose Ndihomeye, the head of the Murwi zone.

In their correspondence, those who resigned point to Célestin Nibigira nicknamed "Mushombo," the CNDD-FDD's zonal executive secretary in Murwi as the source of the problem. Specifically, they accuse him of showing contempt toward them, fostering impunity, protecting individuals they identify as drug dealers, and inciting disobedience against law enforcement. The local hill-level officials state that they could no longer perform their duties effectively, as their decisions were being publicly challenged by this party official. They also allege that he intervened to forcibly secure the release of individuals who were in custody. Believing that this situation undermined their ability to carry out their administrative responsibilities, they collectively decided to step down from their positions.

Copies of the resignation letter were sent to Éloge Najeneza, the administrator of Cibitoke commune; Wilson Ndayirukiye, the CNDD-FDD's communal executive secretary in Cibitoke; and Alexandre Ngoragoze, the party's provincial executive secretary in Bujumbura. According to information gathered by the Ligue Iteka, the party leadership has taken no action in response to this development. Residents of Mirombero have expressed concern over the prolonged absence of administrative officials and the deteriorating security and social climate. Local sources report abuses attributed to members of the Imbonerakure, occurring in a context where local police forces are overwhelmed by the situation.

This administrative vacuum raises concerns regarding the effective exercise of public authority at the local level. When elected or appointed officials resign from their positions, citing alleged pressure and interference and when their warnings go unheeded the functioning of local administration and the protection of residents may be compromised. It is therefore essential that the competent authorities examine the accusations, establish the facts impartially, and take the necessary measures to restore the normal functioning of local administration and ensure the safety of the population.

I.2. SECURITY CONTEXT

⇒ ***Karusi: 12 million BIF stolen during a nighttime attack***

On the night of October 19, 2026, around midnight, a household located on Cuba hill, in the Bugenyuzi area, Karusi commune, Gitega province, was targeted in an attack during which a sum of **12 million Burundian francs (BIF)** was taken. The victim, Théophile, a member of the CNDD-FDD party, over 58 years old, had just sold his eucalyptus plantation earlier in the day. According to a local source, one of the individuals involved in the attack was caught on the spot after trying to take the money out through a window in a bag that he handed to an accomplice. The intercepted suspect, named Athanase, over 45 years old and also a CNDD-FDD member, is also the buyer of the plantation sold by Théophile. Originally from the same hill, he works in the charcoal trade: he buys plantations, turns the wood into charcoal, and then transports it to Bujumbura.

The alleged accomplice, identified as Nduwayo, over 36 years old, a member of the Imbonerakure and from Muyange hill, in the Bugenyuzi area, fled with the money while Athanase was being held by family members and neighbors. According to the information gathered, Nduwayo had not yet been found at the time of writing the bulletin. After his arrest, Athanase was violently beaten by those present. He suffered serious injuries to several parts of his body and his condition was considered critical during his evacuation to the Cinquantenaire Hospital in Karusi. According to the source, the intervention of his sister, married in Théophile's family, saved him from being killed on the spot.

The same information indicates that, given the seriousness of his condition, the doctors considered transferring him to another healthcare facility. However, the source reports that the victim's family opposed this while waiting to be reimbursed for the stolen amount. The exact circumstances of this decision and the follow-up on the case still need to be clarified.

I.3. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

⇒ ***Twenty-one soldiers leave Murembwe central prison and are transferred to Kayanza military camp***

On Thursday, October 22, 2026, twenty-one Burundian soldiers out of the twenty-two who were held at Murembwe central prison, in the Rumonge commune, Burunga province, left the prison before being transferred to the Kayanza military camp, according to prison sources. According to the information gathered, these soldiers had been held for about two months and were being prosecuted for abandoning their posts and desertion. Some were arrested upon returning from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Before their transfer, they had appeared before the military court and were waiting for a judicial decision regarding their continued detention or possible provisional release.

The official reason for their transfer hasn't been clearly communicated by the authorities, so the available information doesn't allow us to know for sure what their judicial status is after leaving prison. However, prison sources say they were taken to the Kayanza military camp. The circumstances of this move and what it means for the rest of the process still need to be clarified. One soldier from the same group, on the other hand, remained in detention at Murembwe central prison. A source from that facility said he's being prosecuted for the qualified theft of a mattress.

This situation calls for clarification of the legal basis for the transfer of the twenty-one soldiers, as well as clear information on what will happen with their cases. It highlights the importance of ensuring transparency in decisions related to detention and making sure that any measures concerning prosecuted individuals comply with applicable judicial procedures. According to the information gathered, the central prison of Murembwe houses more than 1,000 inmates, including over 270 soldiers sentenced to various penalties.

II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1.1 LIFELESS BODIES FOUND

⇒ ***Kirundo: Lifeless body of a man found on the roadside***

On Monday, October 19, 2026, around 11:00 a.m., the lifeless body of Adrien Ruranika known by the nickname "Sabitodo" was discovered on the side of the road leading to the center of Kirundo, in the Bugorora sub-hill area, Ruhehe hill, Bugabira zone, Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province. The deceased was a resident of Shenga hill, in the Kigoma zone of the same commune. According to a witness cited by local sources, residents heard the cries of an adult being beaten during the night; fearing potential reprisals, they remained in their homes and did not intervene.

Information gathered at the scene suggests that a group of individuals suspected of theft had managed to evade a patrol of *Imbonerakure* members of the ruling party's youth wing. Adrien Ruranika was apprehended while attempting to flee. The same source states that he died as a result of being struck with sticks. Several local sources indicate that he had been accused of theft, though these allegations had not been substantiated by any judicial ruling. In the afternoon, administrative officials from the Bugabira zone, along with a judicial police officer (OPJ) named Innocent, arrived at the site to file an official report. Around 6:00 p.m., in the presence of the heads of the Kigoma and Bugabira zones and members of the deceased's family, the public prosecutor for the Kirundo commune ordered the immediate burial of the body, citing a lack of necessary resources and the absence of a morgue.

According to information provided to the Iteka League, no arrests had been made at the time of the report, allowing for further in-depth investigation. The body showed signs of swelling and injuries details that underscore the need to establish the exact circumstances of the death through a proper investigation. This death raises serious concerns regarding respect for the right to life and the prohibition of punitive violence. Accusations of theft against an individual cannot justify acts of violence that may result in death. The fear of reprisals expressed by witnesses also highlights the challenges residents may face when they are afraid to report violence or assist someone in danger.

⇒ ***Kayanza: Lifeless body of a newborn discovered in a field in Migege***

On October 23, 2026, at approximately 6:00 a.m., the lifeless body of a newborn male was discovered in a field located on the Rubanga sub-hill, in Migege hill, Kabuye zone, Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province. According to information gathered, the remains had been concealed under a pile of grass. The owner of the plot made the discovery while arriving at his field to plant maize. The infant was completely naked, and the body was already in an advanced state of decomposition. Local administrative officials and nearby residents were alerted and arrived at the scene. At that stage, no suspects had been identified. On the instructions of the Kabuye zone chief, the newborn's body was buried, while an investigation was announced to determine the circumstances of the death and to identify the person or persons responsible for abandoning the child.



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

II.2.1. TORTURE AND OTHER MISTREATMENT

⇒ ***Mugere: Resident seriously injured in an assault by a member of the Imbonerakure***

On October 24, 2026, at approximately 10:00 p.m., a resident named Audace was violently assaulted on Gakungwe Hill, in the Mugere commune of Bujumbura province. The perpetrator is a member of the Imbonerakure identified as Ildephonse nicknamed "Putin" who, according to local residents, is frequently involved in the mistreatment of the population. An eyewitness reported that the incident occurred while Audace was returning from Ruziba. Along the way, he encountered Ildephonse, who was traveling by motorcycle. Ildephonse demanded to see his national identity card. When the victim explained that he did not have it with him, the alleged assailant reportedly attacked him violently, beating him severely before leaving him at the scene with serious injuries.

The victim, left lying on the ground, was eventually assisted by passersby, who transported him to the Ruziba Health Center for medical treatment. At the time of this report, Audace was still undergoing treatment, while the alleged perpetrator remained at liberty, having faced no action from the authorities, according to available information.

II.2.2. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

II.2.2.1. SEXUAL VIOLENCE

⇒ ***Kayanza: 14-year-old student falls victim to rape***

According to information received by the Iteka League on October 25, 2026, a 14-year-old minor identified by the initials N. I. was raped on October 14, 2026, on Murago Hill, in the Kayanza commune of Butanyerera province. The man implicated is identified in the gathered information as Bernard Bindaba. An eighth-grade student at the Murago Fundamental School (ECOFO), the girl was returning home from school around 3:00 p.m. when she encountered the suspect at a tavern located approximately 500 meters from her school. According to the account provided, the man approached her, claiming she looked hungry, and then bought her some fritters and a soft drink. The minor, who frequently saw him in the area and considered him an acquaintance from the neighborhood, accepted the offer.

After consuming part of the drink, she lost consciousness and fell asleep on a bench in the tavern. The suspect then carried her into a small room on the premises, where he committed the rape. Around 5:00 p.m., the girl regained consciousness, feeling extremely weak and unable to move. The man left the scene without informing the person in charge of the tavern. Upon learning of the incident, the manager stated that he recognized the individual as a regular at his establishment, though he claimed not to know where the man was from. The victim's parents intervened and took her to the Kayanza hospital to receive medical care. At the time the information was reported to the Iteka League, the suspect remained at large. This case raises serious concerns about children's safety, particularly on their way to school and in places frequented by minors. It also underscores the importance of appropriate medical and psychosocial support, as well as measures to protect the victim from stigmatization and any invasion of her privacy.

⇒ ***Mugere: A 15-year-old student was kidnapped and raped***

On October 23, 2026, a 15-year-old student, identified by the initials K. G. and enrolled in ninth grade at ECOFO Nyamugari, was kidnapped and sexually assaulted in the commune of Mugere, Bujumbura province. According to the information gathered, while she was coming

II.2.2.1. SEXUAL VIOLENCE (the following of page 10)

back from school in the late afternoon, the young girl had stopped at the place called Kigwati to greet an acquaintance, F.B., a motorcycle taxi driver living on Ramba hill, Ramba area, Mugere commune. He forcibly kept her at his home all night. Worried when their daughter didn't come back, her parents started looking for her around the area but couldn't find her. It was only the next day, around 2 p.m., that the minor returned home. At first, she was reluctant to talk about what happened, but she finally told her parents about the circumstances of her captivity and the sexual assault she suffered. The victim was immediately taken to the Kabezi District Hospital for emergency medical care and prophylactic treatment. As for the suspected perpetrator, F.B., he was arrested and placed in the Kabezi jail as part of the investigation.

II.2.2.2. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Muramvya: A teacher was beaten by her husband after objecting to the sale of their cow. On October 17, 2026, around 6:00 p.m., on Mugerera Hill, in the Mbuya zone of Muramvya Commune (Gitega Province), Odette Nizigiyimana a teacher at the ECOFO Mugerera school was subjected to physical violence by her husband, Claude Manirambona, a trader. According to reports, Odette discovered that her husband had sold their cow without informing her beforehand. By the time she attempted to object to the sale, the animal had already been transported to Bujumbura. She asked her husband for an explanation regarding his decision and how the proceeds from the sale were being used. In response, he struck her with his fists and a stick. The couple's children, alerted by the violence, called for help, drawing the attention of neighbors who intervened. The following day, Odette filed a complaint with the police. Her husband, however, left the area for Bubanza, where he is reportedly involved in an extramarital affair. Following the complaint, the police issued a warrant for his arrest. This case of domestic violence raises concerns regarding the protection of victims within the home and the need for a prompt judicial response.

II.3. RIGHT TO PERSONAL FREEDOM AND SECURITY

II.3.1. ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND/OR DETENTION

⇒ Bururi: Minor remains in detention despite presentation of birth certificate

According to information received by Ligue Iteka on October 25, 2026, the parents of Clovis Ingabire who has been in custody since September 1, 2026 (initially in a Bururi police holding cell, then transferred to Bururi Prison on September 2, 2026) presented a copy of his birth certificate to the Bururi High Court on October 14, 2026, to establish that he is a minor. Despite the submission of this official document, Clovis Ingabire had not been released, nor had he been transferred to a rehabilitation facility suitable for minors, as of the time this information was reported to Ligue Iteka.

The young man is facing charges following a complaint filed by his employer, Diane Kanyamuneza, who accuses him of placing poison in food intended for her family members with the intent to cause their deaths. Clovis Ingabire denies these allegations, asserting that no member of the family fell ill as a result of the alleged incident. Given these circumstances, his parents are seeking the intervention of human rights defenders to ensure that the competent authorities review his case and take appropriate action, taking into account his age and the legal provisions applicable to minors.

III.1. RIGHT TO AGRICULTURE

⇒ ***FOMI FERTILIZERS: IRREGULARITIES IN REIMBURSEMENTS, SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES, AND RISKS TO FOOD SECURITY***

During the week of October 19–25, 2026, several locations in Burundi experienced challenges regarding the reimbursement of payments made for undelivered FOMI fertilizers, the opening of new orders for the 2026–2027 "A" cropping season, and a shortage of available agricultural inputs. Although authorities had announced that farmers affected by unfulfilled orders from the 2026 "B" season would be reimbursed, many producers report encountering administrative, banking, and financial obstacles that have prevented them from recovering their money. Reported issues include a lack of liquidity at certain financial institutions, the significant distance to reimbursement centers, requirements for documentation that beneficiaries no longer possess, the loss or non-issuance of specific vouchers, and delays in the delivery of new orders. Compounding these problems are concerns regarding the cap on "FOMI Imbura" fertilizer limited to 16 kg per household or farmer despite the fact that actual requirements vary based on the size of the land being cultivated. In some areas, farmers have also raised complaints about additional fees and practices they perceive as lacking transparency.

⇒ ***1. Cankuzo: Uncertainties regarding reimbursements and concerns over the availability of agricultural inputs***

On October 16, 2026, during World Food Day celebrations at ITAB Kigamba located on Rusagara Hill, in the Kigamba zone, Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province President Évariste Ndayishimiye urged the population to increase agricultural production by prioritizing local, organic manure rather than relying on fertilizers produced by the company FOMI. This statement followed the release of two consecutive press releases

by the ministry responsible for Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock. The first encouraged farmers to pay for "FOMI Imbura" fertilizer and dolomite commonly known as *Ishwagara* for the 2027 "A" cropping season. The second instructed farmers who had paid for fertilizers for the 2026 "B" season but never received them to visit financial institutions, such as COOPEC, the postal service, or BCAB, to recover their funds starting October 19, 2026.

This sequence of messages has prompted questions among some observers regarding the coordination of decisions concerning the use of FOMI fertilizers versus the promotion of local organic inputs. According to reports from the ground, some farmers arrived at these financial institutions hoping to be reimbursed, only to be told that the process was not underway or that they would need to return at a later date. Some individuals claimed they had received neither proof of payment nor a refund.

In the communes of Cankuzo, Ruyigi, and Butaganzwa, farmers who paid for their fertilizers through the COOPEC or the postal service also report long queues. Those who made their payments via the BCAB face an additional challenge: the bank has no branches in these three communes. Farmers in Cankuzo would have to travel to Muyinga to retrieve their money, while those in Ruyigi and Butaganzwa would have to go all the way to Gitega.

The beneficiaries feel it's unfair to have to bear new transportation costs to collect money owed to them, sometimes after buying several bags of fertilizer. They also report that the reimbursements announced for previous payments would only cover amounts for the B crop

III.1. RIGHT TO AGRICULTURE (the following of page 12)

season, leaving amounts paid for other seasons unresolved. They are asking for full reimbursement of the advances and for BCAB agents to be deployed in the relevant localities to bring services closer to the beneficiaries.

⇒ 2. Muyinga: documentation requirements and suspicions of irregularities in reimbursements

In the town of Muyinga, in the Buhumuza province, farmers showed up at the counters of financial institutions on Monday, October 19, 2026, as announced by the ministry in charge of agriculture. According to gathered information, some were asked to come back on Tuesday, October 20, with documents to prove their payments.

The required documentation included, among other items, a "hill-level" voucher issued during the 2025 census specifying the type and quantity of fertilizers ordered a payment receipt or slip, and a national identity card. The physical presence of the beneficiary named on the receipt was also mandatory; no proxies were permitted, not even a spouse.

These requirements created difficulties for farmers whose documents had been lost, never issued, or were missing from the lists held by financial institutions. Several beneficiaries reported leaving without a refund, despite their efforts to secure one. Local sources have raised suspicions of corruption, alleging that some farmers failed to obtain the necessary receipts because they did not make informal (unofficial) payments.

⇒ 3. Gitega, Mutaho, Bugendana, Mutoyi, and Mugera: Incomplete refunds and fertilizer rationing

In Gitega commune, Gitega province, farmers encountered outside BCAB and MUTEK branches indicated that the ongoing refunds cover only certain amounts owed from previous seasons specifically, the 2025 "Season B." They continue to demand payment for arrears from other agricultural seasons and state that they intend to persist in their efforts until the full amounts they paid are returned.

Since Monday, October 19, 2026, farmers have also been visiting the counters of COOPEC Mutaho as well as its branches in Bugendana, Mutoyi, and Mugera to recover funds spent on fertilizers that were never delivered. Many left without receiving a refund; some were told there was a lack of liquidity, while others encountered issues with computer system connectivity.

In the commune of Bugendana, administrative officials have explained that available stocks will not be sufficient to meet all requests for the desired quantities. Some farmers who cultivate large areas of land have been authorized to apply for permits to import chemical fertilizers from abroad. However, small-scale producers fear that this option will primarily benefit those with significant financial resources individuals capable of importing large quantities and reselling them at high prices. They are also concerned about having to pay for their orders without consistently receiving receipts or other proof of payment. Furthermore, farmers have criticized the decision to cap new orders of "FOMI Imbura" fertilizer at 16 kg per person, even though some maize farmers estimate that they require more than 40 kg. This limitation, combined with difficulties in obtaining refunds for previous orders, has heightened their uncertainty regarding preparations for the upcoming growing season.

III.1. RIGHT TO AGRICULTURE (the following of page 13)

⇒ 4. Mwaro: refusal to refund certain vouchers and an unexplained suspension of payments

In the Mwaro commune, Gitega province, reimbursement operations began on Monday, October 19, 2026, through the postal service and the COOPEC credit union. According to reports, farmers holding vouchers that specified the type and quantity of fertilizers not delivered for the 2026 "B" cropping season were, in some instances, able to receive a refund. For one undelivered bag of "FOMI Imbura" fertilizer, the reported reimbursement amount was 31,000 BIF. However, some beneficiaries were denied refunds because the vouchers were not issued in their own names. This included wives whose vouchers were in the names of their husbands who were working elsewhere as well as individuals who regularly tend to fields belonging to family members living in other locations. Furthermore, some farmers are questioning the status of outstanding vouchers from 2024 and 2025 that were never regularized, despite earlier instructions directing them to submit these documents to local hill-level authorities.

On Friday, October 23, 2026, around 8:30 a.m., several farmers lined up again in front of the counters at COOPEC Mwaro. They found out that the operation had been stopped, without any detailed explanation or indication of a new deadline. According to the staff, the decision came from higher management. The farmers left bewildered, not knowing when they would be able to get their money. This situation also raises the question of what will happen to beneficiaries who lost their original tickets, but whose documents were authenticated by the hill chief's signature.

Farmers are requesting that their cases be reviewed based on available evidence and that outstanding, unreimbursed advances from previous seasons be settled.

⇒ 5. Karusi: Unfulfilled reimbursement promises and a lack of guarantees for new orders

In the Karusi commune, Gitega province, farmers report being left in a state of uncertainty following government announcements regarding the reimbursement of funds paid for undelivered FOMI fertilizers. Although an official statement indicated that reimbursements would begin on October 19, 2026, many beneficiaries state that this promise has not been kept. At the same time, farmers were asked to re-register, starting October 19, 2026, to purchase fertilizers for the 2027A growing season specifically FOMI Imbura and dolomite. The authorized quantity of FOMI Imbura was capped at 16 kg per person. This new procedure has further discouraged farmers who had yet to recover the money they paid during previous seasons.

According to local sources, some beneficiaries managed to secure their reimbursements from the BCAB only with great difficulty, while the National Postal Service and local credit unions COOPEC reportedly claimed to lack liquidity. Some farmers spent long hours or even several days waiting outside financial institutions, with no guarantee that they would be served. Due to the distance, travel costs, and a lack of resources, many were unable to return home and come back later. There have been reports of hunger and exhaustion among those waiting for their reimbursements.

Farmers are calling for the promised reimbursements to be fully processed before they are asked to make new advance payments. They also urge financial institutions to provide clear, accurate information regarding available funds and payment timelines.

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⇒ 6. Kayanza, Matongo, Kigereka, and Mwendo: Irregularities reported in the reimbursement and distribution of fertilizers

In the communes of Kayanza and Matongo, in Butanyerera Province, the process of reimbursing costs incurred for fertilizers during the 2026 "B" cropping season has sparked widespread dissatisfaction. Farmers have raised concerns regarding administrative hurdles, operational issues within financial institutions, and persistent uncertainty surrounding advance payments made in previous seasons. Reimbursement activities in Kayanza from October 21 to 23, 2026, were characterized by long queues at the BCAB, various COOPEC credit union branches, and the postal service. According to reports, only a few farmers received reimbursements on the first day. By the following day, some financial institutions stated that they no longer had sufficient liquidity to continue making payments.

The situation eventually led to the intervention of police officers, who used force to disperse the gathered beneficiaries. There has been no clear explanation provided for the interruption of payments, nor has a new, specific date been communicated to the farmers. Some beneficiaries also report that vouchers dating back more than two years are no longer being accepted, effectively preventing them from recovering funds spent during earlier seasons. In the Mwendo hill/locality of Kayanza commune, farmers claim that the local chief demanded a payment of 10,000 FBu without issuing a receipt to register beneficiaries before they could travel to a bank or microfinance institution. The announced reimbursement period, which ran from October 19 to 23, 2026, concluded without all beneficiaries having their claims settled.

On Kigereka Hill, in the Matongo commune, farmers met on Friday, October 23, 2026, at the BCAB agency in Kayanza said they had been waiting in vain for the order tokens that were promised to them for July. They claim to have deposit slips issued by the bank but have not been reimbursed. They blame the actions of a bank officer named Philippe, who went to their hill to collect the funds. Asked about this, the branch manager, Miburo Sylvestre, said that the files are returned after the operation is closed and that the beneficiaries are regularized, without giving a specific schedule. Similar issues have been reported to COOPEC and the Post Office. Farmers are wondering how to get back the money paid for the 2026 orders and for orders from previous years. Some also denounce the requirement to purchase a "household record book" for 2,500 FBu in order to be included on the list of beneficiaries this, despite the fact that many of them had already paid for fertilizers the previous year without ever receiving delivery.

The new registration campaign, which ran from October 19 to 24, 2026, set a maximum limit of 16 kg of "FOMI Imbura" fertilizer. Farmers report having paid this advance once again, yet they have received no guarantee regarding a delivery date. Due to a lack of available inputs, many have had to settle for using compost, while fearing a decline in crop yields. Owners of large farms also argue that the authorized quantities are insufficient to fertilize their fields. According to information gathered, meetings held on October 17 and 18, 2026, in the administrative centers of the Butanyerera province zones, instructed local hill-level officials to clarify that any reimbursements would apply only to orders from the 2026 "Season B," with no provision for settling accounts from previous seasons. Furthermore, instructions were given not to discuss these earlier seasons. Such directives help explain the concerns of farmers who are still awaiting the return of their advance payments.

According to consistent sources, only about 35% of farmers were able to register and pay for the new order of FOMI Imbura. Others hesitated to put up more money, fearing they might suffer further losses. Farmers are calling for clear publication of reimbursement criteria, a review of

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past cases, and the provision of supporting documentation for any payments made.

⇒ 7. Kirundo: Persistent fertilizer shortages and concerns regarding the status of previous orders

In the Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province, difficulties in obtaining FOMI fertilizers have been reported over several seasons specifically in 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026. Farmers claim to have paid for their orders without ever receiving the expected products. Following a ministerial statement in mid-October 2026 announcing a reimbursement process for undelivered orders, farmers hoped to recover their advance payments in full. However, during meetings held on October 17 and 18, 2026, in the administrative centers of the zones within Butanyerera province, zone leaders instructed local (hill-level) officials to communicate that only receipts pertaining to the 2026 "B" cropping season would be eligible for reimbursement, while previous seasons would not be taken into account.

The officials in question were also instructed to decline answering questions regarding earlier seasons and to proceed with registering new orders for the 2027 "A" cropping season capped at 16 kg of "FOMI Imbura" per beneficiary, with no limit set for dolomite. These reported instructions should be verified with the relevant authorities. Documentation issues have further complicated the situation: some farmers holding payment vouchers discovered that their names did not appear on the lists held by the banks, while others no longer possessed their original receipts or coupons. Consequently, they left without receiving a refund. Given this context, many producers are hesitant to make new advance payments, fearing that they might lose their money once again without ever receiving the fertilizers they ordered.

⇒ 8. Bubanza: fertilizer shortage and skyrocketing prices on the black market

In the Bubanza commune, Bujumbura province, farmers are reporting a significant shortage of chemical fertilizers at the start of the 2026-2027 agricultural season. Despite payments made for new orders, the amounts available at distribution points are insufficient, and delivery dates remain uncertain. The authorized purchase quantity would not exceed 16 kg per household. Producers who ordered fertilizers during the previous season claim they have received neither the products they paid for nor refunds of their advances, despite their efforts and complaints. This situation diminishes their capacity to prepare for new crops and deepens their distrust of the distribution system.

The shortage also fuels speculation on the parallel market. According to accounts gathered, a kilogram of urea officially priced at around 1,300 FBu is being sold for over 10,000 FBu on the black market. Such a price gap puts the input out of reach for many small-scale producers and threatens to widen inequalities between farmers who can afford high prices and those with limited resources. Farmers are calling for a reorganization of the supply chain, an adequate supply of fertilizers, and an overhaul of the distribution system so that inputs can be obtained in quantities tailored to the needs of their farms. They fear that a prolonged shortage occurring just as fieldwork is already underway could lead to a significant drop in yields and undermine household food security.

⇒ 9. Bururi and Matana: Distance to reimbursement branches and high travel costs

In the communes of Bururi and Matana Bururi Province, farmers who paid for FOMI fertilizers that were never delivered for the 2026 "Season B" cropping cycle are reporting difficulties in recovering their advance payments from the BCAB. As the bank has no branches in these two

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communes, beneficiaries must travel to Rumonge to handle the necessary procedures. Farmers in Bururi report having to travel over 30 kilometers, while those in Matana must travel more than 60 kilometers. Those with limited financial means state that they cannot afford these travel costs, and consequently, they risk failing to recover the funds owed to them before the announced deadlines expire.

In Matana, farmers also visited the COOPEC credit union and the National Postal Service (Régie nationale des postes) but were unable to retrieve their money. According to information from the COOPEC, the high volume of beneficiaries contributed to delays, justifying an extension of the deadline to ensure everyone can be served. Farmers point out that the BCAB had previously deployed agents to the field to collect their payments when they ordered the fertilizers. They are therefore requesting that similar arrangements be made for the reimbursement process, to prevent transport costs from consuming a significant portion of the funds they are owed.

⇒ 10. Rumonge and the Mudende zone: costly reimbursements and the risk of abandonment

In the commune of Rumonge, Burunga Province, farmers visited the BCAB and the COOPEC between October 19 and 25, 2026, to recover payments made for FOMI fertilizers that were not delivered during the 2026 "B" cropping season. Beneficiaries have criticized the short timeframes and the reimbursement procedures, which fail to adequately account for the distance to the payment locations. In the Mudende zone, some farmers report having to travel over 30 kilometers to reach the communal headquarters. In some instances, this journey is made to collect the value of only a single bag of fertilizer, which significantly diminishes the value of the reimbursement. Some producers state that they might simply give up on recovering their money if transport costs exceed the amount they are due to receive. They are calling on financial institutions to deploy agents to the zone headquarters and are urging the government to extend the reimbursement period. Furthermore, they are demanding the settlement of outstanding advances paid for previous seasons, which they claim remain unpaid.

⇒ 11. Rutana: Long waits at financial institutions and difficulties funding travel

In the Rutana commune, Burunga province, the reimbursement of costs related to undelivered FOMI fertilizers led to long queues outside banks and other financial institutions, beginning Monday, October 19, 2026. Farmers arriving from various localities within the former Rutana province reported spending up to three consecutive days day and night waiting for their refunds. A lack of transport options and difficulties in obtaining fuel made it impossible for some to return home and come back the following day. Travel and meal expenses placed an additional financial burden on households already waiting for the return of their capital. According to accounts gathered, some farmers did receive their money, but had to spend a portion of it on food and travel costs incurred while waiting. Others are still awaiting payment perhaps in a potential second installment while some have given up on the process and returned home, concluding that their money is lost. Meanwhile, new orders for fertilizers for the 2027 "A" season were registered with hill leaders. The maximum quantity of FOMI Imbura fertilizer was set at 16 kg per farmer, regardless of the size of the land under cultivation; dolomite was also made available. Beneficiaries report that payments collected were not consistently accompanied by a receipt, raising concerns regarding the traceability of these transactions.

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⇒ 12. Collection of payments without receipts and uncertainties regarding the traceability of funds

In several localities, new orders for fertilizers for the 2026-2027 'A' cropping season were registered at the hill level between October 19 and October 24, 2026, with an extension announced until Saturday, October 24. According to information gathered, three-person teams including a representative from each were tasked with collecting money from farmers wishing to purchase FOMI fertilizers. Farmers state that the collectors did not provide them with any receipt or documentation to prove payment. The same sources indicate that the funds collected were subsequently deposited into PNSEB accounts held at COOPEC savings and credit cooperatives or the national postal service. These collection procedures raise questions about how beneficiaries can prove their payments in the event of a dispute, data loss, or non-delivery of the fertilizers. Farmers are also concerned that this new payment campaign is taking place while reimbursements for previous orders remain incomplete. Many feel they are being asked to commit further funds without any sufficient guarantee that they will receive the inputs they previously ordered or recover their earlier advances.

⇒ 13. Bujumbura Province: Irregularities reported in the reimbursement and distribution of FOMI fertilizers

During the process of reimbursing farmers who had paid for FOMI fertilizers for the 2026B cropping season but never received them as well as during the registration of new orders several alleged irregularities were reported in Bujumbura Province. The information gathered highlights four major concerns.

♦ 13.1. Alleged demand for bribes to expedite reimbursements

Agents from various microfinance institutions and police officers are implicated in alleged corruption practices. According to reports, some farmers who wanted to get their money quickly were forced to pay amounts between 10,000 and 50,000 Burundian francs to speed up their payment, fearing that cash at the counters would run out. If confirmed, these practices would represent a misuse of the very purpose of the repayment operation, which is supposed to allow farmers to recover the amounts paid without incurring additional charges.

♦ 13.2. Collecting the names of farmers who didn't pay for new orders

At the different payment locations, delegates from the CNDD-FDD party collected the names of farmers registered for new orders but who had decided not to pay.

According to information gathered, these lists could be used to obtain fertilizers, which the party might then resell at prices set at its own discretion. These allegations raise questions regarding the potential partisan use of beneficiary lists and the risk that an essential agricultural input could be co-opted for political purposes.

⇒ 13.3. Distribution announced for October 26, 2026, in Bukinanyana and Cibitoke

The date of October 26, 2026, announced for the distribution of fertilizers, was observed in the communes of Bukinanyana and Cibitoke. This contrasts with the situation reported in the commune of Mugina, where farmers were still awaiting clarification regarding the actual distribution date. This disparity in how operations are being carried out fuels uncertainty among beneficiaries, who lack clear information on when the inputs will be made available.

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⇒ 13.4. Announcement of an additional fee of 2,000 Burundian francs in Mugina

In Mugina, sources within the CNDD-FDD and local (colline-level) monitors indicated that any farmer who placed an order would be able to receive their fertilizers upon payment of an additional **2,000 Burundian francs** a charge reportedly intended to cover transport, unloading, and delivery to the various distribution sites. At the time this information was reported, the official terms regarding these fees and whether they were mandatory remained unclear. Some farmers have reportedly threatened to protest if these additional sums are imposed upon them.

⇒ 14. Consequences for crops and concerns regarding food security

Beyond the challenges specific to each locality, the information gathered highlights several common concerns. The 16 kg-per-beneficiary limit on "FOMI Imbura" fertilizer is considered insufficient by farmers who cultivate large areas of land and typically use multiple bags of fertilizer. In some localities, the delivery of new orders remains uncertain, while delays in reimbursements deprive households of the resources needed to purchase other agricultural inputs. Compounding these challenges is a reported delay in the delivery of improved seeds sourced from abroad. Some farmers have been forced to resort to local seed varieties, which they perceive as less productive. Others are turning to compost or organic manure due to the lack of available chemical fertilizers. Meanwhile, public statements questioning the effectiveness of certain FOMI products have fueled concerns among farmers regarding the quality of the inputs they are using.

Farmers thus face a twofold problem: on one hand, they do not always receive the fertilizers for which they have already paid; on the other, they are compelled to incur further expenses to prepare for the upcoming season, with no guarantee that the products will actually be delivered. In several areas, there are fears of declining yields, reduced incomes, and worsening food insecurity. In Burunga, high prices for beans and maize have been reported approximately 5,500 FBu/kg and over 2,000 FBu/kg, respectively. The situation calls for a coordinated response from the authorities and financial institutions. It is essential to clarify reimbursement criteria, resolve outstanding cases from previous seasons, facilitate payments for farmers located far from service branches, ensure that receipts are systematically issued for all new orders, and publish reliable information regarding stock levels, prices, available quantities, and delivery dates. Allegations of informal payments, favoritism, and the use of force during the dispersal of beneficiaries must be subject to impartial verification.

Access to fertilizers and the reimbursement of owed sums aren't just a matter of administrative or financial procedures: they affect farmers' ability to get their fields ready, maintain their livelihoods, and support their families' food security. Corrective measures therefore need to happen in time with the farming calendar, so that any delays don't lead to a long-term drop in production.



III.2. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

Kayanza: Approximately 182 Burundians expelled from Rwanda face precarious conditions and struggle to return to their families

Since March 2026, the Mparamirundi zone in the Kayanza commune, Butanyerera province has been hosting Burundians expelled from Rwanda. These individuals find themselves in a highly vulnerable state, lacking the means to support themselves or travel back to their families. According to Pierre Claver Nzeyimana, the advisor for political and legal affairs in the zone, about 182 people have been received there since March 2026. This situation places an additional burden on the local administration, which is already struggling to provide for their basic needs and facilitate their return home. The lack of resources to cover their immediate requirements only compounds the hardships resulting from their expulsion. Although reuniting these individuals with their families should be a priority, the local administration is constrained by limited resources. Pierre Claver Nzeyimana has appealed to well-wishers to contribute toward their care. He also warned young people against individuals who encourage them to cross the border clandestinely by dangling the prospect of employment.

The case of six young Burundians, expelled on October 13 and 16, 2026, serves as a concrete example of these challenges. According to information received by the Ligue Iteka on October 23, 2026, these youths aged 15 to 20 were passing through Mparamirundi while waiting for an opportunity to rejoin their families. However, having no financial resources, they lacked the means necessary to complete their journey home. According to their accounts, they had crossed the Akanyaru River clandestinely to enter Rwanda, having been encouraged by intermediaries whose identities were unknown to them. These intermediaries reportedly promised them work gathering grass to be used as livestock feed. Some of these young people, originally from the Kayanza and Ngozi communes, stated that they had dropped out of school before leaving and had lived in Rwanda for nearly five years, where they claimed to have earned between 5,000 and 10,000 Rwandan francs per month.

The young people also claimed that their personal belongings had been taken by others detained alongside them in Rwanda prior to their forced return. Upon arriving back in Burundi, they found themselves without the funds needed to travel home, leaving them dependent on potential assistance from local authorities or well-meaning individuals. Their experience highlights the vulnerability of those who leave in search of a livelihood abroad, only to face further economic hardship upon being sent back. Pierre Claver Nzeyimana indicated that local authorities were exploring ways to help these young people reach their families. However, he noted that there is no budget line available to cover the unforeseen costs associated with receiving and facilitating the return of individuals who have been sent back. This lack of resources further complicates the task of assisting people who, beyond simply returning to Burundian territory, require tangible support to reunite with their loved ones.

The Ligue Iteka observes that socio-economic instability can drive Burundians to seek employment opportunities across the border a pursuit that sometimes exposes them to unreliable intermediaries and the dangers inherent in clandestine crossings. The case of the six young people cannot, on its own, explain the circumstances surrounding the departure of all 182 or so individuals who were hosted in Mparamirundi. Nevertheless, it illustrates the challenges faced by those who have been turned back or when they lack the means to sustain themselves or return to their families. The Ligue Iteka calls on the relevant authorities to strengthen assistance for such individuals, facilitate their return to their families, and provide appropriate arrangements for their temporary accommodation. It also recommends raising awareness among young people regarding the risks associated with unverified job offers and the clandestine crossing of borders, ensuring that their pursuit of better living conditions does not leave them even more vulnerable.

III.3. RIGHT TO HEALTH

Burunga: Cross-border trafficking of prohibited alcoholic beverages exposes the population to health risks

Information received by Ligue Iteka on October 25, 2026, indicates the continued trafficking and consumption of prohibited alcoholic beverages primarily **kanyanga** in Burunga province. According to reports, these drinks are brought in from Tanzania, crossing near the Maragarazi River, in the vicinity of the SOSUMO plantations. Over the past three months, police operations in the communes of Nyanza and Makamba have resulted in the closure of seven clandestine production sites and the destruction of more than 42,500 liters of beverages in the process of being manufactured. These interventions also led to the seizure or destruction of over 800 liters of **kanyanga** ready for consumption, 1,000 liters of fermenting liquid, 160 liters of **karagasoke**, and 255 liters of **umudiringi**.

However, efforts to combat this trade are hindered by discrepancies between the laws of the two countries. According to reports, Tanzanian police state that the production of these beverages is not prohibited under their national legislation, which complicates joint operations against cross-border production and supply networks. Furthermore, medical sources in Burunga province have reported deaths and hospitalizations resulting from poisoning linked to the consumption of these drinks. These findings raise significant public health concerns, particularly given the risks associated with consuming products manufactured under uncontrolled conditions. Ligue Iteka believes that this situation necessitates strengthened prevention, health monitoring, and cooperation between Burundian and Tanzanian authorities. She also highlights the need to raise public awareness about the risks associated with consuming unregulated beverages and to ensure that those who suffer from poisoning receive appropriate care.



IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

IV.1. GENERAL CONCLUSION

Events reported during the week of October 19–25, 2026, highlight persistent concerns regarding the protection of life and physical integrity, the safety of children, access to justice, and the socio-economic conditions of the population. The reported acts of violence, along with the difficulties some individuals face in accessing protection and legal recourse, underscore the need for institutional responses that are prompt, impartial, and commensurate with the gravity of the situations.

Issues surrounding the reimbursement of payments made for FOMI fertilizers, mandatory contributions levied for street development in Cankuzo, and health risks linked to the consumption of prohibited beverages also warrant special attention. These situations demand greater transparency in resource management, improved protection for vulnerable populations, and concrete measures to prevent human, social, and economic harm.

In light of these concerns, the Burundian Human Rights League "Iteka" calls upon the competent authorities to take the necessary steps to prevent violations, ensure access to justice, and strengthen the effective protection of fundamental rights.

IV.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Burundian League for Human Rights "ITEKA" recommends:

- ⇒ **To the President of the Republic of Burundi:** to ensure the effective coordination of public institutions so that policies regarding security, agriculture, and development respect fundamental rights; and to ensure that concerns specifically those related to FOMI fertilizers, the transparency of community contributions, and the protection of vulnerable populations are followed up on.
- ⇒ **To the Prime Minister:** to coordinate the monitoring of administrative and financial measures concerning reimbursements for undelivered fertilizers; to clarify the responsibilities of the relevant departments; and to ensure transparency regarding the contributions requested from the residents of Cankuzo for street paving specifically concerning how these amounts are calculated, collected, and utilized.
- ⇒ **To the Ministers in charge of Justice and Public Security:** to conduct impartial investigations into reported deaths and assaults, particularly in Kirundo, Karusi, and Mugere; to guarantee the protection of victims, adherence to legal procedures, and the determination of accountability; and to strengthen the prevention of violence committed outside of any legal framework.
- ⇒ **To the Minister in charge of Agriculture and Livestock, the officials of the national fertilizer program, and the relevant financial institutions notably the BCAB, COOPEC, and the National Postal Service:** to make public the criteria and schedule for reimbursements; to settle outstanding amounts owed for the relevant seasons; to facilitate access to payment services for farmers in remote areas; and to systematically issue proof of payment for any new order. They should also provide clear communication regarding available stock, allocated quantities, and scheduled delivery dates.
- ⇒ **Authorities responsible for child protection and public health, local administrations, and relevant humanitarian services should:** ensure that victims of violence especially children receive appropriate medical and psychosocial care; safeguard their identity and dignity; improve assistance for individuals who have been turned away or deported; and strengthen both the prevention of poisonings caused by dangerous beverages and the necessary cross-border cooperation.