BURUNDIAN LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

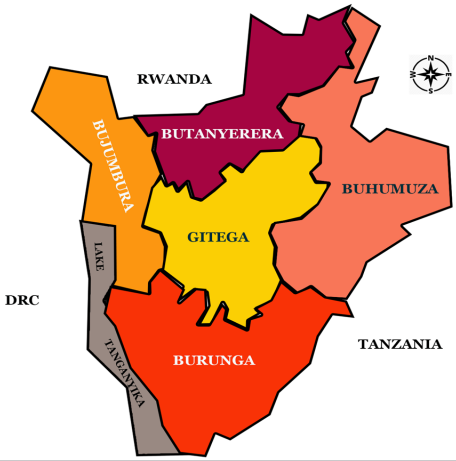
WEEKLY REPORT

"Iteka n' Ijambo"

Anyone should be respected

N°550 from 26 October to1 November 2026

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





In memory of Madame Marie Claudette KWIZERA, treasurer of the Iteka League, missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to November 1, 2026, at least 886 victims of forced disappearance have been documented by the Iteka League, at least 86 victims have reappeared, and 798 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

0. INTRODUCTION.....P2
I. CONTEXT.....P3
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.....P12
III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.....P15
IV. SPECIFIC RIGHTS.....P21
V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....P22

ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF BURUNDI

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE REDIVISION OF MARCH 16, 2023



TABLE OF CONTENT

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....1
0. INTRODUCTION 2
1. I. CONTEXT 3
2. I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT 3
I.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT 5
I.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT 7
I.4. SECURITY CONTEXT 8
I.5. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT 10
II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS 12
II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE 12
II.1.1. INTENTIONAL HOMICIDES 12
II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS OR BODIES WITHOUT LIVES.....12
II.1.1.2. KIDNAPPINGS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES.....12
III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS 15
III.1. RIGHT TO AGRICULTURE.....15
III.1.1. FOMI CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS: SHORTAGES, UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTIONS AND SUSPECTED MISAPPROPRIATION.....15
III.1.2. DISTRIBUTION OF FOMI FERTILIZERS: ANGRY RESIDENTS BLOCK A ROAD IN RUTANA COMMUNE, BURUNDI PROVINCE.....17
III.1.3. SHORTAGE OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS: RISK OF LOWER PRODUCTION.....18
III.1.4. REPAYMENTS: FARMERS STILL WAITING FOR THEIR MONE.....18
III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION 20
III.3. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE.....20
IV. CATEGORY-BASED RIGHTS.....21
IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: PROTECTION AGAINST ABUSE.....21
V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS 22
V.1. CONCLUSION 22
V.2. RECOMMENDATIONS.....23

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BCAB: Community and Agricultural Bank of Burundi

BIF: Burundian Francs

CECI: Independent Communal Electoral Commission

CENI: Independent National Electoral Commission

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

CNIDH: Independent National Commission on Human Rights

COOPEC: Savings and Credit Cooperative

CRS: Catholic Relief Services

DCE: Communal Director of Education

ECOFO: Fundamental School (Basic School)

ECOSOC: United Nations Economic and Social Council

FDN: National Defense Force

FDLR: Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda

FARDC: Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

FIDH: International Federation for Human Rights

FOMI: Organo-Mineral Fertilizer Industries

FRN: Front for National Refoundation

GEMIR: Mobile Intervention and Suppression Squadron Group

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

REGIDESO: Water and Electricity Production and Distribution Board

RN1: National Road Number 1

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

WAZALENDO: Volunteers for the Defense of the Homeland

0. INTRODUCTION

The Burundian League for Human Rights "ITEKA" presents its weekly bulletin, **"ITEKA N'IJAMBO"** No. 550, covering the period from October 26 to November 1, 2026. This issue highlights several concerns regarding the human rights situation in Burundi, including violations of the right to life and physical integrity, governance challenges, restricted access to essential services, and the vulnerabilities faced by certain segments of the population.

Politically, the period was marked by the partial registration of voters in preparation for the presidential election on May 3, 2027. In Rumonge, local sources reported that students some allegedly born in 2008 and 2009 were taken to registration centers, and that classes were suspended at certain schools to facilitate their enrollment. In Kayanza, the president of the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), Prosper Ntahorwamiye, accompanied by fellow commissioners, conducted a field visit on October 28, 2026, to investigate the low number of new voters registered across several local administrative units.

Regarding governance, difficulties related to the distribution of agricultural fertilizers continued to fuel discontent among farmers in several communes. In some localities, the quantities distributed were less than what had been paid for, while other farmers were still awaiting refunds for fertilizers that were never delivered. These tensions led, among other incidents, to the blocking of National Road No. 1 in Matongo for approximately two hours, as well as the blocking of the Rutana–Gihofi–Muzye road in Kabanga. Furthermore, merchants and households in Rumonge have been compelled to contribute to the funding of the CNDD-FDD party office. Some residents have even been denied access to public water taps for failing to pay this contribution, raising serious concerns regarding the voluntary nature of such contributions and the right to water.

In Karusi, a warehouse worker for the company FOMI and two administrative officials have been implicated in a case involving the alleged disappearance of 40 bags of fertilizer, each weighing 25 kg. In the same commune, a police operation led to the seizure of approximately 1,000 liters of gasoline at the home of a taxi driver. In Bubanza, five instances of theft were reported over the course of the week in the Kanabuba sub-hill area alone, affecting private homes and the belongings of residents.

Violations of the right to life and physical integrity also remain a major cause for concern. The report documents **five persons killed**: a hairdresser in Mwaro; a man shot and killed by a soldier in Bukinanyana; and the discovery of three lifeless bodies in Rutana and Gishubi. It also notes that a **man was seriously wounded by gunfire from a soldier** in Kaburantwa, and that a 10-year-old girl suffered burns to her hands inflicted by her maternal aunt and guardian in Nyabihanga. These incidents raise questions regarding the protection of life, the use of force by security personnel, and the prevention of violence against children within families. Additionally, **two individuals including a minor have gone missing** under unclear circumstances in the communes of Rutana and Musongati , Rutana Province, leaving their families deeply anxious about their safety. The situation of vulnerable individuals and populations affected by disasters remains concerning. In Butezi, within the Ruyigi commune, torrential rains accompanied by high winds destroyed approximately 33 houses and damaged several crop fields. At the Busuma refugee camp for Congolese nationals, severe weather affected 510 tents, leaving about 2,000 people homeless. The damage also extended to sanitation facilities, water supplies, food stocks, and infrastructure used for remedial education activities, with nearly 800 children potentially affected.

In the realm of economic, social, and cultural rights, difficulties in accessing essential services persist. In the communes of Muhanga and Kiremba, in Butanyerera Province, a shortage of

desks, teachers, and latrines is compromising the learning conditions for students. Furthermore, the communes of Muramvya and Kiganda experienced four consecutive days without electricity, which paralyzed certain commercial activities and disrupted hospital services most notably the operation of morgues and incubators.

Through this 550th issue of its weekly bulletin, the Iteka League aims to bring these matters to the attention of the competent authorities, national and international partners, and the general public. It underscores the necessity of preventing human rights violations, ensuring equitable access to essential services, and protecting vulnerable individuals.

Thorough documentation, the search for truth, and the fight against impunity remain essential for strengthening the rule of law and respecting human dignity in Burundi.

I. CONTEXT

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT

⇒ RUMONGE: SCHOOL UNDER ELECTORAL PRESSURE

As the presidential election scheduled for May 3, 2027 approaches, the partial voter registration operation, organized from October 26 to 28, 2026, gave rise to worrying practices in certain educational establishments in the commune of Rumonge, province of Burunga. While this operation aimed to allow Burundian citizens meeting the legal voting conditions, but absent from the previous electoral lists, to regularize their situation, information collected locally indicates pressure being exerted on students in order to take them to the registration centers.

According to local sources, students born in 2008 and 2009, some of whom did not have the required identity documents, were taken to enrollment offices set up inside or near their establishments. Officials of certain secondary schools, presented by these sources as being affiliated with the ruling party, the National Council for the Defense of Democracy Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD), collaborated with civil status services to facilitate their registration. In certain establishments, national identity card numbers were communicated to students without the corresponding cards actually being given to them. Others were directed to the nearest enlistment offices, while classes were suspended to encourage them to complete the registration process. According to the same sources, the identity cards concerned were to be distributed to them later.

Student mobilization was also accompanied by financial demands. Each student was invited to bring 1,000 Burundian francs to purchase a form, as well as a passport photo to apply for the national identity card. Beyond these contributions, the circumstances reported raise a fundamental question: that of the regularity of the registration of people whose identity, age and nationality must be established beforehand. They also question the role of school officials in an electoral process which should be based on the free choice of citizens and not on pressures exerted in places of learning.

Moreover, according to some enrollment agents contacted by sources from the Iteka League, **the operation also involved repatriated individuals.** These people were able to present various documents, including national identity cards, baptismal cards, birth certificate extracts, passports, or driving licenses. The variety of these documents calls for special attention regarding how their authenticity and validity are verified for voter registration. This issue is particularly sensitive in the Rumonge municipality, where many Congolese nationals live.

Some have resided there for a long time, while others arrived more recently following the deterioration of the security situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). However, the mere presence of these individuals on Burundian territory does not, in itself, determine their eligibility to vote; it remains necessary to verify whether those who have been registered actually meet the legal requirements for participating in Burundian elections.

In this same electoral context, the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) posted the lists of registered voters in 2024, allowing citizens to verify their information and report any data-entry errors before the final lists were established. This verification process stands in contrast to concerns raised in Rumonge, where the circumstances under which certain students and other individuals were registered warrant clarification. The credibility of the electoral process depends as much on the accuracy of the voter lists as it does on adherence to legal requirements and the freedom of every citizen to participate in the vote.

⇒ *KAYANZA: CENI CONFRONTS A LACK OF INTEREST AMONG NEW VOTERS*

The low registration rate among young people who have reached voting age is a source of concern for electoral officials. On October 28, 2026, at 6:45 a.m., the president of the CENI, Prosper Ntahorwamiye accompanied by several commissioners from the institution visited the office of the Independent Communal Electoral Commission (CECI) in Kayanza to inquire about the low participation of new voters in the registration process. This visit took place on the final day of the registration period for citizens who have reached the age of 18. According to the CECI (Independent Electoral Commission Committee) members contacted, **several administrative subdivisions in the Kayanza commune had not registered a single new voter by the time of this field visit.** The number of young people registered was considered far below the expectations of electoral officials, raising questions about the reasons for this low level of mobilization.

Faced with this situation, some officials suggested the possibility of a counter-campaign aimed at discouraging young people from participating in the electoral process. This hypothesis, reported by the sources contacted, was not, however, supported by any evidence to confirm its validity. Nevertheless, it reflects the concerns expressed within the electoral bodies regarding the lack of registrations on several hills. During the morning, CENI (Independent National Electoral Commission) commissioners visited several registration centers to observe the process firsthand and assess the situation on the ground. At the time the information was gathered by Ligue Iteka sources, the findings from these visits were not yet known. The low participation observed in Kayanza warrants particular attention, given that registration on electoral rolls is a crucial step in exercising the right to vote. It is important to determine the reasons for this lack of engagement, without automatically assuming that a failure to register stems from an intent to boycott or the influence of a campaign designed to discourage participation.

⇒ *RUYIGI AND CANKUZO: REGISTRATION UNDER COERCION*

In the communes of the former Ruyigi province and in the Cankuzo commune (Buhumuza province), the partial voter registration drive held from October 26 to 28, 2026, in preparation for the presidential election on May 3, 2027 was marked by low participation and pressure exerted on citizens. According to reports from Ligue Iteka observers deployed in these localities, several registration centers did not record a single citizen on the first day of the operation. This low turnout was followed by direct outreach to households. The same reports indicate that **young 'Imbonerakure' members went throughout the hills and visited homes to urge individuals who had not registered for one reason or another as well as those who**

I.1. POLITICAL CONTEXT (the following of page 4)

have since reached the legal voting age, to sign up in 2026, to appear at registration centers. While raising awareness among citizens can encourage their participation in the electoral process, the methods reported in these localities **when they take the form of threats or coercion give rise to serious concerns.**

Indeed, the messages directed at residents have gone beyond a simple call to register. According to accounts gathered, young members of the 'Imbonerakure' have announced that, once the registration period concludes, they will conduct further 'house-to-house' visits to verify that every family member of eligible age possesses a registration receipt. Individuals unable to produce this document have been threatened with being denied access to certain public services, specifically the issuance of civil status documents. They have also been labeled **"enemies of the country."**

Such threats constitute a particularly concerning form of pressure, as they link access to public services to the completion of an electoral procedure. They are likely to foster a climate of fear within households and undermine the free and voluntary nature of voter registration. The use of threats specifically the withholding of administrative documents to compel citizen participation also raises questions regarding the neutrality of public services within the electoral process. Educational institutions have not been spared from these practices. Observers from the Ligue Iteka report that, in some schools, administrators suspended teaching activities to force the affected students to go to registration centers. According to reports received by the Ligue Iteka, these interventions by the young Imbonerakure have been documented across all the communes covered by the observations in Ruyigi and Cankuzo.

I.2. JUDICIAL CONTEXT

⇒ KARUSI: WAREHOUSE KEEPER AND TWO LOCAL OFFICIALS DETAINED FOLLOWING DISCOVERY OF A 40-BAG SHORTAGE OF FERTILIZER

On Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at approximately 5:00 p.m. in Buhiga located in the Karusi commune of Buhumuza province a merchant who also served as the warehouse keeper for a depot of agricultural fertilizers produced by the company FOMI was arrested by the police. The individual, Kirumara Jean Baptiste (over 50 years old), is suspected of irregularities in the management and distribution of chemical fertilizers. According to information gathered from local sources, his arrest followed an inspection conducted by the Buhiga zone police commissioner, acting on instructions from his superiors. The inspection was intended to verify the quantities of fertilizer removed from the depot during a recent distribution, as well as the remaining stock.

The verification revealed a discrepancy of 40 bags of fertilizer each weighing 25 kilograms between the recorded quantities and the stock actually on hand. This shortage amounts to a total of 1,000 kilograms of fertilizer, the destination of which has yet to be determined. The same sources indicate that Kirumara Jean Baptiste was not the only official involved in managing the depot. Two other local authorities Niyongabo Emmanuel, the Buhiga zone chief, and Bindariye Berchmans, a development advisor are also implicated in the case. Each of the three individuals held a key to the warehouse, the entrance of which was secured by three separate padlocks.

According to the accounts gathered, the three men were present at the time of the alleged incidents. The vehicle belonging to the shopkeeper was also used to transport them to a location that sources did not specify. Following these events, Kirumara Jean Baptiste, Niyongabo Emmanuel, and Bindariye

Berchmans were all taken to a police holding cell, where, according to the information obtained, they were being detained.

⇒ ***MUSONGATI: A MOTHER DRIVEN FROM HER HOME***

Since September 3, 2026, Estella Nshimirimana a mother and grandmother living on Mutwana Hill, in the Musongati commune of Burunga province has been left without a home following a land dispute with her daughter, Annick Nzoyishemeza. According to local sources, she has since been living in precarious conditions, staying at times on the street and at other times with neighbors who have offered her temporary shelter.

Intrafamilial violence. Estella Nshimirimana's ordeal began in May 2026. Local sources report that she was beaten on several occasions by her daughter, Annick Nzoyishemeza. As a result of this violence, she required medical treatment at a public hospital. While she was hospitalized, her daughter took steps to rent out her mother's house. Upon her return from the hospital, Estella attempted to file a complaint with the police and the public prosecutor's office, seeking protection and redress. However, according to accounts gathered, her efforts yielded no response.

An illegal and irregular eviction. On September 3, 2026, the head of Mutwana Hill, Vincent Nemerimana, personally participated in the eviction of Estella from her home. This intervention raises questions, particularly because the land dispute was already before the Musongati High Court, and according to available information no final judicial decision had yet been reached. The eviction has also disrupted the lives of other family members; the wife of Estella's son (Annick's sister-in-law) and their two children continue to reside in a house built by the son on the same plot of land. Annick Nzoyishemeza threatened to demolish the dwelling, but it remained intact at the time this information was gathered.

A sales contract lies at the heart of the dispute. The disagreement concerns a plot of land that Estella Nshimirimana claims to have purchased from a previous owner. According to local sources, a sales agreement was drawn up in her name in the presence of witnesses. This document was subsequently taken and altered to favor her daughter, Annick Nzoyishemeza, with the complicity of the hill chief, Vincent Nemerimana. The former owner and the witnesses to the transaction have confirmed that Estella is indeed the purchaser of the plot. The authenticity of the original document, any modifications made to it, and the respective rights of both parties must be examined to establish the facts and determine any potential liability.

There has been a lack of action from the judicial police and, more significantly, the public prosecutor's office. Several local sources state that Vincent Nemerimana intervened with the police and the public prosecutor's office whenever Estella attempted to have her complaints heard. There are also reports that certain local CNDD-FDD officials made phone calls to the magistrate in charge of the case, urging him not to pursue the complaint. These allegations raise concerns regarding the independence of the judicial system and whether a citizen can obtain an impartial review of her complaint. According to the information gathered, the case is still pending before the High Court of Musongati. Estella Nshimirimana is currently waiting for the judicial system to examine the land dispute, establish the rights of the parties involved, and rule on the circumstances surrounding her eviction. This case raises a fundamental question: can a local authority participate in the eviction of a citizen when a dispute regarding the ownership of the land is already before a court?



I.3. GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS: REQUIREMENTS DISPUTED BY THE POPULATION

⇒ *MWARO: MANDATORY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROVINCIAL OFFICE*

Between October 26 and 28, 2026, administrative officials from the zones and the Mwaro commune located in Gitega province demanded financial contributions from the local population to fund the construction of the Gitega provincial office. According to information gathered on-site, every resident was required to pay 2,000 Burundian francs. Teachers were also targeted, with a mandatory contribution of 5,000 Burundian francs imposed in several schools. Receipts issued to those who made these payments bore the phrase "Guterera inyubakwa y'intara," which translates to "contribution toward the construction of the provincial office." These demands have sparked objections, notably from some civil servants who have resisted the request. This practice raises questions regarding the truly voluntary nature of these contributions, as well as the methods used to mobilize financial resources from the general public and state employees.

⇒ *RUMONGE: TRADERS AND HOUSEHOLDS UNDER PRESSURE*

In the Rumonge commune of Burunga province, traders and residents are speaking out against financial contributions they claim they are being forced to pay to complete the construction of a local office for the ruling party, the CNDD-FDD. According to local sources, the collection process began in September 2026 and applies to both traders and households, regardless of their political affiliation. Laurent Nkengurutse, the CNDD-FDD's communal secretary in Rumonge, has sent letters to certain traders requesting that they contribute financially to the completion of the construction work. In one of these communications, the estimated budget required to complete the remaining work is set at 940 million Burundian francs. The merchants who were approached were asked to submit their contributions no later than January 2027. The requested amounts range from 1 to 5 million Burundian francs for the wealthiest merchants, while smaller-scale traders are expected to contribute several hundred thousand Burundian francs. The funds are to be deposited into a CNDD-FDD account held at the BCAB.

Some merchants stated that they perceived these requests as threats. They noted, in particular, that the communications reminded them that those in charge were aware of their places of business and their professional activities, while also setting a deadline for payment. Those affected argue that the financing of infrastructure belonging to a political party should rely on voluntary contributions from its own members and supporters, rather than being imposed on merchants regardless of their political affiliation.

⇒ *RUMONGE: ACCESS TO WATER MADE CONDITIONAL UPON PAYMENT OF A CONTRIBUTION*

Between September and October 2026, households in the town of Rumonge were also asked to pay a contribution of 2,000 Burundian francs per household toward the construction of a local CNDD-FDD party office a request applied to all citizens, regardless of whether or not they were party members. According to accounts from local residents, *Imbonerakure* (youth wing members) and activists from the ruling party prevented individuals who had not paid the contribution from drawing water from public taps in certain neighborhoods. Consequently, some residents reported being forced to pay in order to gain access to these water sources.

They denounce a practice which, according to them, makes access to an essential service contingent upon the payment of a contribution intended to fund partisan infrastructure. They are calling on municipal authorities to put an end to these collections from citizens who are not members of the ruling party. Sources close to the administrative authorities in Rumonge indicate that local officials are aware of these collections but find it difficult to take action against those responsible within the ruling party the very party to which they themselves belong.

I.4. SECURITY CONTEXT

⇒ *KABURANTWA: SOLDIER SERIOUSLY WOUNDS MOTORCYCLIST BY GUNFIRE*

On October 29, 2026, at approximately 9:00 p.m., a man traveling by motorcycle was seriously wounded by gunfire from a soldier stationed at the Kaburantwa military post, located in the Buganda zone, Bukinanyana commune, Bujumbura province. This military post is tasked with controlling traffic and monitoring the border. According to local sources, the victim was carrying several jerrycans of fuel and was suspected of transporting fuel from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, allegedly obtained near the Rusizi border, in the vicinity of the 7th transversal road in Kaburantwa. The victim is from the Rugombo zone, in the Cibitoke commune. The same sources report that the soldier opened fire after the driver refused to comply with orders.

However, local witnesses indicate that the two men appeared to be engaged in a conversation before the shot was fired. They reported hearing a gunshot, followed by the sight of first responders transporting the victim to the Kaburantwa dispensary. This detail raises questions regarding the exact sequence of events and the circumstances under which the soldier used his weapon. Having sustained gunshot wounds to his legs, the victim received initial treatment at the Kaburantwa health center before being transferred to Prince Régent Charles Hospital in Bujumbura; his condition is considered critical due to the severity of his injuries.

This incident occurs against a backdrop of persistent fuel shortages and the cross-border movement of petroleum products in the Rusizi region. Local sources point to fuel trafficking originating from the Uvira territory in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, specifically mentioning the localities of Kiliba, Sange, Ruberizi, and Luvungi. They further allege that certain army and police officers are involved in this trade. According to these same sources, civilians participating in this trafficking pay military personnel 5,000 Burundian francs per jerrycan to facilitate the movement of the fuel. Residents also report that incidents involving fuel sellers and members of the security forces have occurred on the hills of Ndava and Nyamitanga, in the Ndava zone. In this context, some residents question the necessity of using a firearm against a driver who, in their view, could have been apprehended through other means such as by issuing a warning. The circumstances surrounding the use of the weapon and whether it was truly necessary should be clarified by the competent authorities.

⇒ *HAIRDRESSER DIES AFTER BEING BEATEN WITH CLUBS IN MWARO COMMUNE, GITEGA PROVINCE*

Ndikumasabo Jean Marie, a hairdresser who worked at a salon in the administrative center of Mwaro commune located on Gihinga Hill, in the Mwaro zone and commune, Gitega province passed away on Friday, October 23, 2026, at Kibumbu Hospital. He had been violently beaten by two individuals with whom he lived. According to information gathered from local sources, the incident took place around midnight on the night of Thursday, October 22, 2026, at a residence for single individuals belonging to the Kigutu Basic School, located on the same hill. The two men implicated identified as Prosper and Muhubuzi, both bicycle-taxi drivers in Mwaro struck the victim on the head several times with a club. The two alleged perpetrators were arrested by the police on Friday, October 23, 2026, and taken to the holding cells at the Mwaro police station. Witnesses state that, on the evening before the incident, the three men had shared an illicit alcoholic beverage known as "Umudiringi."

⇒ *SEARCH AND SEIZURE OPERATIONS IN KARUSI COMMUNE, GITEGA PROVINCE*

On Thursday, October 29, 2026, around 6:00 a.m., the police conducted search and seizure operations in two neighborhoods on Rwingoma Hill, in the Buhiga zone, Karusi commune, Gitega province. In the Nyabunigu neighborhood, police officers accompanied by the head of the Buhiga zone searched the home of Onésime, a taxi driver and member of the CNDD-FDD, who is over 30 years old. According to local witnesses, they discovered approximately fifty 20-liter jerrycans of gasoline, totaling about 1,000 liters of fuel. The jerrycans were seized, and their

owner was taken to the police detention facility in the Buhiga zone. In the Mission neighborhood, on the same hill, another search was carried out at the home of Paul Ndayikengurutse, a teacher and member of the CNDD-FDD, who is of Tutsi ethnicity and over 50 years old. There, the police discovered an entire room filled with crates of "HOZAGARA" beer a beverage recently banned for consumption in Burundi. **The products were seized and transported to the Buhiga zonal office, however, the teacher was not arrested.** Local sources indicate that these goods referred to here as "beverages" belong to a merchant whose name they prefer to withhold for fear of reprisals.

The disparity in how the two individuals were treated has raised questions among local residents. Some point out that people previously apprehended with significantly smaller quantities of fuel faced harsher penalties, including imprisonment and fines. They are questioning the criteria used by the relevant authorities to decide whether to arrest or release individuals involved in similar incidents. This situation has fueled concerns regarding equal treatment and impartiality in the enforcement of anti-fraud measures.

⇒ *BUBANZA: BURGLARIES ON THE RISE IN KANABUBA*

In the central neighborhood of Bubanza commune specifically in the Kanabuba sub-locality residents report an upsurge in thefts. Five incidents were recorded during the week of October 26, 2026. The perpetrators operate both at night and during the day; during the day, they take advantage of the fact that occupants are away attending to their daily activities. On the night of October 26, 2026, the home of Athanase Mashandari was burglarized. According to reports, the perpetrators breached a wall to gain entry, making off with food supplies, a television, and mobile phones. Given the volume of items stolen, the owner believes that several individuals were likely involved in the crime.

Three other households were also targeted by daytime thefts while the occupants were away many of whom were out working in their fields, as it is currently the agricultural season. Thieves took advantage of these absences to scale fences and make off with poultry, small livestock, household items, and even water meters belonging to the utility company, REGIDESO. The recurring burglaries have created an atmosphere of anxiety among residents, who are questioning the effectiveness of existing security measures. In theory, night patrols are supposed to be carried out by joint security committees. Furthermore, members of the *Imbonerakure* the youth wing of the CNDD-FDD party also move about during the night; according to some residents, they have even gone so far as to threaten people returning home late. Locals point out that about two months earlier, four bars selling Brarudi beverages in the same neighborhood were also burglarized. In those instances, much like in the recent cases, the perpetrators broke through the walls of the establishments to gain access to the property inside. Following those incidents, two individuals identified as *Imbonerakure* members were arrested, only to be released shortly thereafter.

The victims of these thefts lament what they perceive as an inadequate police response to the persistent criminal activity. They find it particularly concerning that these thefts continue, given that the commune reportedly hosts a GEMIR (Mobile Intervention and Reaction Group) unit consisting of approximately 500 police officers. According to residents, police night patrols focus primarily on the city's main thoroughfares, leaving many residential neighborhoods with insufficient security. They are calling on administrative and police authorities to step up patrols, identify the suspected perpetrators, and ensure the protection of both the public and their property.

I.4. SECURITY CONTEXT (the following of page 9)

⇒ *RUSIZI BORDER: CLASHES IN SOUTH KIVU CAUSE CONCERN AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS*

Since the last week of October 2026, residents of the Bukinanyana and Cibitoke communes in areas near the Rusizi River have expressed concern regarding clashes reported in the South Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. According to information gathered, the fighting involves the FRN on one side, and a coalition consisting of the FARDC, the Wazalendo, the FDLR, mercenaries, and the FDN on the other. Residents living near the Rusizi River and the Congolese localities of Kamanyola, Luvungi, Sange, and Ruberizi, residents report observing military movements along the border, which has heightened their concerns regarding a potential spillover of violence into Burundian territory.

They are particularly apprehensive about the consequences of a possible defeat for the coalition that includes the FDN; they fear this could lead to an spread of insecurity into Burundi's border localities. They also point to the possibility of an influx of Congolese refugees. Such a scenario could exacerbate humanitarian needs and place additional strain on the resources available within host communities. Some residents also anticipate a rise in local market prices should a large number of displaced people arrive. In light of these risks, the local population is urging Burundian administrative authorities to prioritize dialogue and take the necessary steps to safeguard the security of those living along the border. Above all, they hope that Burundi will avoid being drawn into a conflict they view as unrelated to the interests of its own people.

I.5. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

⇒ *RUYIGI: 33 HOUSES DESTROYED BY SEVERE WEATHER IN BUTEZI*

On the afternoon of Wednesday, October 28, 2026, heavy rains accompanied by violent winds struck the Butezi zone in Ruyigi Commune, Buhumuza Province, causing significant material damage. According to consistent reports gathered on-site, approximately 33 houses were destroyed and several crop fields were damaged. This severe weather has left many households without homes and disrupted their agricultural activities a vital source of subsistence for families in the area. The Ruyigi communal administrator, Ms. Diane Nibitanga, confirmed the extent of the damage and issued an appeal for solidarity with those affected. She has called on well-wishers to provide assistance to the impacted households, which are now grappling with the loss of their homes and the destruction of their crops.

⇒ *BUSUMA: 2,000 REFUGEES LEFT WITHOUT SHELTER FOLLOWING RAINS*

On October 17, 2026, between 3:00 PM and 10:00 PM, heavy rains and significant runoff struck the Busuma camp for Congolese refugees, located in Ruyigi Commune, Buhumuza Province. According to a memorandum issued on October 28, 2026, by the camp's steering committee, the severe weather caused extensive damage to shelters, sanitation infrastructure, the water supply network, educational facilities, and household belongings. The damage to shelters is particularly severe. In total, 425 tents were destroyed and another 85 were swept away by floodwaters meaning 510 tents were affected out of the 4,786 set up in the camp. As a result, approximately 2,000 people were left homeless. A shed used as temporary accommodation, housing 120 households, also collapsed completely.

Runoff water caused temporary flooding in several parts of the site, particularly in zones B and C, where drainage systems are inadequate. Large gullies have formed or worsened, posing an

additional danger for the residents, especially the children. The access road to the camp is still hard to pass, which makes getting around difficult and could hinder the delivery of humanitarian aid. The sanitary situation is also worrying. Two latrine blocks have completely filled up after the rains and are giving off foul smells Water from these facilities has flowed toward certain shelters, raising concerns about environmental contamination and an increased risk of waterborne diseases, such as cholera. Runoff has also scattered solid waste across various parts of the camp particularly in Zone C further worsening unsanitary conditions.

The supply of drinking water has also been disrupted. Rushing water unearthed pipes from the distribution network, leaving them vulnerable to damage. According to the memorandum, the Nyankanda spring, which serves the camp, has become polluted and is now yielding contaminated water. This decline in water quality, combined with damage to sanitation facilities, further exposes refugees to waterborne diseases. Educational infrastructure has not been spared either; in Zone A, classrooms used by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for remedial lessons sustained significant damage. The camp's steering committee fears that continued rainfall could lead to the suspension of these activities, potentially affecting nearly 800 children.

Household food supplies have also been impacted. Stocks of corn flour and other provisions kept in shelters for family consumption were ruined by the water. While some households attempted to salvage a portion of their supplies by drying them out, many families reportedly suffered substantial losses, exacerbating their food insecurity. Furthermore, items such as blankets, sleeping mats, clothing, mattresses, and other non-food household goods have been partially or completely destroyed. These losses further diminish the resources available to families to cope with the aftermath of the severe weather and maintain even a basic standard of living. Given the scale of the catastrophe, the camp's steering committee sent a memorandum on October 28, 2026, to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Red Cross, humanitarian organizations, development partners, and all people of good will. The document requests urgent assistance for the affected families. In it, the committee describes its appeal as a "cry of distress," a "cry of fear," and a "cry of despair," while calling for human solidarity.

.



II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

II.1. RIGHT TO LIFE

II1.1 VOLUNTARY HOMICIDES

II.1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR LIFeless BODIES

⇒ ***Discovery of a lifeless body in Nyarubimba, Rutana Commune, Burunga Province***

On October 25, 2026, the lifeless body of a man whose identity had not yet been established was discovered on Nyarubimba Hill, in the Kivoga zone of Rutana Commune, Burunga Province. According to information gathered, the Kivoga zone chief, in collaboration with Red Cross personnel from Rutana, arranged for the body to be transported to the morgue at Rutana Hospital. At the time this information was collected, the circumstances surrounding the death and the identity of the victim remained unknown.

⇒ **Man found hanged in his home in Gishubi Commune, Gitega Province**

On October 25, 2026, the lifeless body of 52-year-old Emmanuel Birahinduka was discovered on Mugaruro Hill, in Gishubi Commune, Gitega Province. The victim was found hanging from a rope attached to the roof structure of his home. Accounts from local residents suggest that the man may have been killed before his body was suspended, in an attempt to make the death appear as a suicide. Emmanuel Ntandikiye, the chief of Mugaruro Hill, maintained that the victim had died by suicide. This account is disputed by some residents, who suggest a possible link to land disputes; however, they have provided no evidence to establish a connection between these conflicts and the death of Emmanuel Birahinduka. According to a local source, the body was taken to the Mugaruro health center. The burial took place on October 26, 2026. The exact circumstances of the death therefore remain to be clarified.

⇒ ***Discovery of a young man's lifeless body in a banana plantation in Rutana Commune***

On October 28, 2026, around 8:00 a.m., the lifeless body of an unidentified young man, estimated to be at least 20 years old, was discovered in a banana plantation located on the Miterwe sub-hill, in the Kivoga zone of Rutana Commune, Burunga Province. According to witnesses at the scene, the body was in a state of decomposition and was lying near a ravine. Some believe the young man was killed elsewhere before his body was transported to this location. Informants also noted injuries to his toes and suspect that the victim was strangled and then dragged along the ground. His trousers were pulled halfway down, and the only items found in his pockets were a pair of mobile phone earphones. The head of the Kivoga zone, Scholastique Hamenyimana, ordered the body to be transferred to the Rutana Hospital morgue, pending identification of the victim and the determination of the circumstances surrounding his death.

II.1.1.2. KIDNAPPINGS AND/OR FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

⇒ ***Musongati: 8-year-old girl missing since February***

The disappearance of 8-year-old Sarah Shurweryimana, a second-grade student at the Mutwana Fundamental School, continues to cause concern among the residents of Mutwana Hill, in the Musongati commune of Burunga Province. According to information gathered, the child was last seen on February 11, 2026, as she was leaving school. She subsequently failed to return to the home of her maternal grandparents, Angèle Kabura and Salvator Birabona, who were responsible for her upbringing. Some residents reported seeing Vincent Nemerimana, the hill chief of Mutwana, taking the girl away on a motorcycle on the day she went missing. According to the same accounts, he was summoned to the Giharo police station on February 14,

2026, and released the same day.

However, these accounts alone are not sufficient to establish that Vincent Nemerimana is responsible for the child's disappearance. The exact circumstances of the event, the leads being pursued by investigators, and the findings of the investigation remain unknown at the time of writing. Several months after she went missing, Sarah's fate remains unknown, and her family has no information regarding her whereabouts. This situation necessitates a thorough investigation to locate the child, determine the circumstances of her disappearance, and, if applicable, identify those involved.

⇒ ***BURUNGA: SOSUMO ENGINEER GOES MISSING AMIDST WORKPLACE TENSIONS***

Since Friday, October 30, 2026, Ismaël Mugisha an engineer and deputy head of the agricultural equipment maintenance department at the Moso Sugar Company (SOSUMO) has been reported missing. His disappearance has caused deep concern among his family and colleagues, especially as it follows a period of professional disagreement regarding the management, maintenance, and replacement of the company's agricultural equipment. According to accounts from those close to him and several employees, the engineer had expressed reservations about certain management practices and reported facing pressure or threats prior to his disappearance. These claims raise questions about the circumstances surrounding his vanishing and whether it may be linked to these workplace disputes.

- ***The victim leaves home, followed by an unexplained disappearance***

Ismaël Mugisha resided in company housing provided by SOSUMO on Gihofi Hill, in the Gihofi zone of Rutana Commune, Burunga Province. He had been with the company for approximately four years, serving as deputy head of the agricultural equipment maintenance department (known as MEA). According to his family, he left his home around 7:00 a.m. on Friday, October 30, 2026, to head to work. He told his family that he needed to clock in using the biometric system before returning to retrieve his Android phone which had been malfunctioning for several days before heading back to his department.

Since he left, his wife and other family members state that they have heard nothing from him. However, accounts from employees regarding his final movements are inconsistent. Some claim to have seen him in his office that morning, where he opened and subsequently closed the premises. Others maintain that they did not see him at his workplace. Heavy rainfall also disrupted travel in the vicinity of the company, though it is impossible to establish whether this played any role in his disappearance. In the absence of evidence to reconstruct his movements precisely, it remains impossible to determine with certainty whether he actually reached his office or at what point he was last seen.

- ***Disagreements regarding the management and renewal of agricultural equipment***

The engineer's disappearance comes against a backdrop of professional disagreements within the department responsible for the maintenance of agricultural equipment. According to several accounts gathered from his colleagues and family members, Ismaël Mugisha had challenged certain decisions concerning the acquisition and replacement of machinery used on SOSUMO's plantations. Sources point, in particular, to expenditures incurred for the purchase of new equipment, even though some existing machines could according to them have been restored to working order by replacing faulty parts. The engineer consistently favored repairing existing equipment whenever technically feasible, rather than opting for systematic replacement.

This stance led to disagreements with certain superiors and contributed to a deterioration in his professional relationships. Some of his colleagues suspect that these disputes may be linked to poor management practices, or even to the misappropriation of company resources. However, at this stage, nothing in the accounts gathered provides sufficient evidence to assign responsibility to any specific individual. Consequently, the question of whether these conflicts are connected to the disappearance of Ismaël Mugisha remains entirely open.

- ***Individuals mentioned in testimonies no established involvement***

Among those named in the testimonies are Arnaud Nikuze, head of the agricultural equipment maintenance department to whom Ismaël Mugisha served as deputy and Jean Claude Ntwari, Director of Agriculture at SOSUMO. Colleagues report that the engineer had disagreements with these individuals regarding decisions made concerning the procurement, maintenance, and replacement of agricultural equipment. They state that he challenged certain choices, which he viewed as contrary to the rational management of the company's resources. Aimé Clovis Irakoze, head of the legal department and legal counsel for SOSUMO, is also mentioned in connection with a phone call he made to the engineer on Thursday, October 29 the day before his disappearance. It should be noted, however, that these individuals are mentioned solely on the basis of the testimonies collected.

- ***A phone call and alleged threats prior to the disappearance***

The concern felt by his family and colleagues is further fueled by statements suggesting that Ismaël Mugisha had spoken of a climate of pressure and threats within his professional environment. According to accounts gathered from those close to him, on Thursday, October 29, 2026, he received a phone call from Aimé Clovis Irakoze, the head of the legal department and legal advisor at SOSUMO. The content of this conversation remains unknown; the engineer did not share any details about the discussion with those around him. However, he later confided to friends and family members that he felt threatened by some of his colleagues.

- ***A missing person notice that fails to allay concerns***

On Sunday, November 1, 2026 two days after his disappearance SOSUMO issued an announcement in the churches of Gihofi, stating that the employee had been missing since Friday morning. According to the information gathered, this communication included details regarding the circumstances under which he left his home. However, it raised questions among some employees, who believe the company should have initiated search efforts more promptly and kept staff better informed about the steps being taken to locate him.

Colleagues have also raised questions about the format of the document. According to their accounts, the notice bore the name of the SOSUMO management team but did not clearly identify the individual who signed it; furthermore, it reportedly lacked the company's official stamp. These criticisms reflect the concerns of some staff members, who are calling for greater transparency from management regarding the search and the measures taken since their colleague's disappearance. Nevertheless, the information gathered does not provide a clear picture of all the actions the company may have taken prior to the issuance of this notice.

- ***A family left in suspense***

Originally from Gikurazo hill, in the former Mabanda commune now Nyanza commune, in Burunga province Ismaël Mugisha has been married for a year and four months and is a father to one child. His disappearance has left his wife, his child, and his loved ones in a state of profound uncertainty. Within SOSUMO, Several employees are also expressing their concern and are calling for full clarity on the circumstances of this disappearance. The key questions remain unanswered: where has Ismaël Mugisha been since October 30? Did he actually make it

to his office that morning? What happened after he left his home? Could the work-related disputes and threats he mentioned shed light on his disappearance? As of November 1, 2026, the information gathered does not allow us to answer these questions.

Ligue Iteka calls for diligent searches and independent, impartial, and transparent investigations to locate Ismaël Mugisha, establish the exact circumstances of his disappearance, and verify accounts pointing to tensions and potential irregularities in the management of agricultural equipment at SOSUMO. The priority remains finding him safe and sound and ensuring his family's right to know the truth.

III. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

III.1. RIGHT TO AGRICULTURE

III.1.1. FOMI CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS: SHORTAGES, UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION, AND SUSPICIONS OF DIVERSION

⇒ ***BUGENDANA: FARMERS DEPRIVED OF A PORTION OF THE FERTILIZER THEY PAID FOR***

On Monday, October 26, 2026, the distribution of chemical fertilizers in the Bugendana commune, Gitega province, sparked discontent among many farmers. Upon arriving to collect the fertilizer they had already paid for, several beneficiaries discovered that the quantities they received were less than the 16 kg per person that had been announced. In the commune's seven zones Bugendana, Bitare, Mugera, Mutoyi, Mutaho, Gitongo, and Rwisabi distribution points remained crowded as late as 7:30 p.m., with many farmers still waiting to receive their agricultural inputs. According to accounts gathered, the amounts distributed varied by zone: 12 kg in Bugendana, 15 kg in Mutaho, 14 kg in Gitongo, 14 kg in Rwisabi, 10 kg in Mutoyi, and 12 kg in Bitare. No figure was reported for the Mugera zone.

This reduction has raised questions among the farmers, who fear they will be unable to fertilize the land they had already prepared for cultivation. Administrative officials explained that the measure was intended to ensure an equitable distribution of available stocks among all beneficiaries, while promising that the remaining quantities would be distributed at a later date. This explanation, however, has failed to alleviate the concerns of the farmers, who had paid for a specific, predetermined amount.

⇒ ***MWARO: REDUCED QUANTITIES AND SUSPICIONS OF ILLEGAL RESALE***

On October 26, 2026, in the administrative center of Mwaro commune, Gitega province, the distribution of chemical fertilizers from the FOMI plant was marred by shortages and irregularities, as reported by local farmers. According to information gathered, beneficiaries had paid 20,000 Burundian francs to receive 16 kg of fertilizer; however, many did not receive the expected amount. The distribution process continued until around 7:30 p.m., carried out by the light of flashlights. Farmers who had not yet been served were asked to return on Wednesday, October 28. According to the same sources, those who returned on that date were given a 25 kg bag to be shared between two people amounting to approximately 12.5 kg per beneficiary. Other accounts indicate that some farmers received less than 10 kg. In addition to these shortfalls, there are suspicions that fertilizers intended for farmers are being resold illicitly. A local source alleges that a wholesale **trader named Bukuru Audrick, who operates in the administrative center of Mwaro commune, is involved in selling the fertilizer at a price of 12,000 Burundian francs per kilogram.** The same source implicates Irakoze Merina identified as a representative of the FOMI factory in the commune who

allegedly acted in complicity with the aforementioned merchant. Some farmers state that they feel compelled not to claim the missing quantities, fearing potential reprisals. This situation raises concerns regarding the transparency of the distribution process, inventory control, and the traceability of the fertilizers provided to the beneficiaries.

⇒ ***KARUSI: FARMERS DEPRIVED OF THEIR FULL ALLOCATION OF FERTILIZER***

On Tuesday, October 27, 2026, the distribution of FOMI chemical fertilizers in the Karusi commune (Gitega province) was marked by disparities between different zones. According to information gathered, farmers in the Bugenyuzi zone received only 10.5 kg each, despite having paid for 16 kg. In the Ntunda zone, the amount distributed was 12 kg. In contrast, the fourteen other zones received the full 16 kg as planned. The affected farmers are questioning how and when the missing quantities will be delivered. These discrepancies between zones have fueled discontent among the beneficiaries, who point out that the distribution did not match the quantities for which they had already made payments.

⇒ ***CANKUZO: DELAYS IN FERTILIZER DISTRIBUTION***

On October 26, 2026 the first day of the distribution of FOMI IMBURA chemical fertilizers in the Cankuzo commune, Buhumuza province, farmers from the Minyare zone arrived at the Mutukura warehouse, located on Nyakerera hill, to collect their agricultural inputs. According to the information gathered, each beneficiary received 16 kg. Payments were made between October 19 and 21, while the collection period was scheduled for October 26 to 28. In the Cankuzo zone, however, distribution did not begin on the first scheduled day. Farmers who arrived at the collection points left without receiving their fertilizers. According to information gathered, the zone chief, Jean Bucumi, did not release the distribution schedule until the evening of October 26. This delay in communication resulted in wasted trips and inconvenience for the affected beneficiaries.

⇒ ***KIRUNDO: SHORTAGES AND DOUBTS REGARDING FERTILIZER QUALITY***

In the Kirundo commune, Butanyerera province, persistent irregularities have been reported in the distribution of chemical fertilizers produced by the company FOMI. The issues concern both the quantities available and the quality of the product. Faced with insufficient stock, the governor of Butanyerera province, Victor Segasago, issued instructions for each applicant to receive 16 kg of "FOMI IMBURA." Nevertheless, in some areas of the Kirundo commune, farmers received less than this amount, while others received nothing at all. In the Cewe zone, a distributor removed four tonnes of fertilizer before the scheduled distribution time. In the Kiyonza zone, the distribution team disappeared before the withdrawn quantity could be returned to the stock. These incidents, reported by local sources, raise questions regarding the monitoring of stocks and the oversight of distribution operations.

Some farmers have noted a decline in the nutrient content of the product, to the extent that a few have chosen not to use it at all. Local sources attribute some of the shortages to debts that the Burundian state has accumulated toward the owner of the company FOMI. These debts are estimated at over 150 billion Burundian francs as of 2023. According to these same sources, this situation has encouraged the export of fertilizers abroad before the needs of the domestic market have been met.

⇒ ***MUHANGA: FARMERS IN RUGAMBA ONLY RECEIVE 9 Kg OF FERTILIZER***

On the Rugamba hill, in the Muhanga commune, Butanyerera province, the farmers concerned each received only 9 kilograms of fertilizer, even though they had paid for 16 kilograms. When contacted about this, Aristide Nsengiyumva, the communal executive secretary of Muhanga, explained that the problem occurred during the registration of farmers at the time of payment. According to him, 500 farmers had placed orders, but only 300 were recorded in the transmitted data. He indicated that the available quantity of fertilizer had been distributed equitably

among the 500 farmers, and that they would be reimbursed later for the missing amounts. Faced with these recurring difficulties, farmers in Matongo and Muhanga are calling for the fertilizer market to be handed over to private-sector economic partners. They believe that such a move would improve product availability and allow each farmer to purchase fertilizer according to their specific needs and the size of their land.

⇒ ***MATONGO: FARMERS BLOCK NATIONAL ROAD 1, RN1, TO DEMAND FERTILIZER QUANTITIES ALREADY PAID FOR***

On October 26, 2026, residents from the hills of Rwantsinda, Gashishima, Nyambo, Burarana, and Busangana located in the Busangana zone, Matongo commune, Butanyerera province blocked National Road 1, RN1 near Nyamirambo for approximately two hours. They were protesting the delivery of insufficient quantities of organo-mineral fertilizers, for which they had already paid for the 2026 "B" cropping season. According to local sources, the farmers had arrived at the distribution points expecting to collect the quantities they had ordered. However, they were informed by local agricultural officials that each 25-kilogram bag would have to be shared between two beneficiaries amounting to 12.5 kilograms per farmer even though each individual had paid to receive 16 kilograms.

The protesters' anger was further fueled by the fact that many of them had yet to be reimbursed for payments made for fertilizers that were never delivered during the 2026 "B" cropping season. Kanyana Janvière, the Matongo Commune Administrator, along with the Governor of Butanyerera Province, Victor Sagasago, and the regional police commissioner, narrived on the scene in an attempt to calm the protesters. The Administrator explained that the full quantity of ordered fertilizer was not yet available in the storage facility. She asked them to accept the 12.5 kilograms currently on hand and to wait for the delivery of the remaining 3.5 kilograms. The farmers categorically rejected this proposal. According to information gathered on-site, Governor Victor Sagasago informed his superiors of the situation. They subsequently placed an urgent order for fertilizer with the company FOMI. Upon seeing a truck arrive with the supplies, the protesters finally agreed to clear the road, allowing traffic to return to normal.

Sources report that on October 27, 2026, agents from the National Enquiry Service apprehended Egide Niyitunga, the Busangana Zone Chief, and took him to the service's headquarters in Bujumbura, where he was reportedly placed in detention for questioning. The reasons for his arrest and the outcome of his interrogation remain unknown as of the time this bulletin was written.

III.1.2. DISTRIBUTION OF FOMI FERTILIZERS: ANGRY RESIDENTS BLOCK A ROAD IN RUTANA COMMUNE, BURUNDI PROVINCE

On October 27, 2026, residents of Kabanga hill located in the Bukemba zone, Rutana commune, and Burunga province blocked the Rutana-Gihofi-Muzye road after discovering that their locality was not included on the list of recipients for chemical fertilizers they claimed to have already purchased.

According to reports, the residents detained the Kabanga hill chief and the Bukemba zone chief, demanding an explanation for their exclusion from the distribution list. As they did not receive a satisfactory response, they continued their protest. The Rutana communal administrator intervened to calm the situation, assuring the residents that they would receive their fertilizers. The two local officials were subsequently arrested and taken to the detention facility at the

Bukemba police station. This episode shows the tensions caused by the shortcomings and disputes around the distribution of farm inputs, especially when farmers feel like they've paid for products they ultimately can't get.

III.1.3. SHORTAGE OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS: RISK OF LOWER PRODUCTION

RUYIGI: FERTILIZERS BECOME UNAVAILABLE TO SMALL-SCALE FARMERS

As the "A" cropping season approaches, farmers in Ruyigi Commune, in the Buhumuza province, are facing an insufficient supply of chemical fertilizers. According to information gathered from local sources, many farmers had already prepared their land plowing areas of varying sizes depending on their financial and material means but the quantities of fertilizer made available to them were not enough to cover all the prepared fields.

Farmers report that each beneficiary could obtain only 16 kg of fertilizer specifically the type known as "Totahaza" an amount deemed inadequate for the size of the land being cultivated. Farmers fear that this shortage of inputs will negatively affect their crops and lead to a decline in production. According to information received by the Ligue Iteka on October 29, 2026, some farmers with the necessary financial means have turned to fertilizers imported from Tanzania. A 25 kg bag of this imported product sells for approximately 150,000 Burundian francs, compared to about 31,000 Burundian francs for a 25 kg bag produced by the FOMI factory. This price gap poses a major obstacle for small-scale farmers, who lack the resources to pursue this alternative. Consequently, despite the expenses already incurred in preparing their fields, many farmers risk entering the cropping season with insufficient fertilizer. This situation raises concerns about a potential drop in agricultural output and an exacerbation of the economic hardships faced by rural households.

III.1.4. REFUNDS: FARMERS STILL WAITING FOR THEIR MONEY

MURAMVYA: REIMBURSEMENTS PENDING SINCE 2022

In the commune and province of Muramvya, farmers continue to demand the reimbursement of funds paid for the purchase of chemical fertilizers. Although the government announced a reimbursement process for farmers who had paid their contributions for the B2026 cropping season, some beneficiaries state that they have yet to receive their money. The official announcement regarding this process does not clearly specify the reimbursement terms for earlier seasons specifically 2025 and preceding years. Some farmers report having waited for their money since 2022.

According to their accounts, the financial institutions involved including COOPEC, the postal service, and BCAB have been unable to fulfill all requests, citing a lack of available funds. Other issues have also been reported: some receipts presented by beneficiaries were rejected on the grounds that they were not authentic, while other farmers were required to pay an additional 3,000 Burundian francs, ostensibly to cover fertilizer transport costs. Faced with these challenges, some farmers say they have been forced to plant maize and beans without chemical fertilizers. This situation leaves them vulnerable to lower crop yields, all while they continue to wait for the return of the funds they previously paid.

⇒ *BURURI AND MATANA: FARMERS DEPRIVED OF REFUNDS*

In the Bururi and Matana communes, farmers complained about not being refunded for the money paid to buy organo-mineral fertilizers that were not delivered to them during the 2026 B growing season.

Several farmers state that they visited branches of La Poste and COOPEC between Monday, October 19, and Friday, October 23, 2026 the period designated by the ministry responsible for agriculture for the reimbursement of funds for fertilizers that were never delivered. However, some were unable to recover their money because they could not produce the required documentation, specifically the receipts issued during the beneficiary identification process or the vouchers confirming payment for the fertilizers. The affected farmers consider this requirement unfair, given that their names and national ID numbers were already recorded in the computer systems of the financial institutions tasked with processing the reimbursements. Other beneficiaries report that, as of Thursday, October 22, staff at these financial institutions explained that the accounts designated for the reimbursements lacked sufficient funds. Branch managers contacted regarding the matter confirmed the payment difficulties, noting that approximately 40% of the funds intended for the farmers had yet to be reimbursed. For instance, the manager of the La Poste branch in Bururi indicated that his branch had disbursed only 26,621,000 Burundian francs out of the 90,860,000 Burundian francs expected for the farmers' compensation. According to him, the Ministry of Finance has not yet made the necessary transfer to the account designated for these operations.

⇒ ***MATANA: FARMERS WHO MADE PAYMENTS THROUGH THE RED CROSS ARE STILL AWAITING REFUNDS***

The situation in the Matana commune is particularly concerning for farmers who paid for fertilizers through Red Cross agents operating in their local areas, as part of a partnership with the bank BCAB. According to the zone leaders for Condi, Kajondi, Mahwa, Kiryama, Songa, Matana, and Nyagasasa who were consulted on the matter none of the affected farmers have yet been reimbursed by BCAB. Farmers seeking a refund from Red Cross agents are being directed to the BCAB branch in Rutana; however, the distance to this branch creates an additional burden for many of the beneficiaries.

This situation has led to local tensions. Grégoire, the executive secretary of the Matana commune, confirmed that he had to intervene to calm the farmers, who had attempted to organize a sit-in in front of the local Red Cross office in Matana. He gave assurances, however, that the communal administration continues to advocate with the relevant authorities to ensure the farmers' rights are upheld. In the meantime, farmers in Bururi and Matana are demanding a full refund of the money they paid for fertilizers that were never delivered.



III.2. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

⇒ ***Shortage of Desks, Teachers, and Latrines in Certain Schools in Butanyerera Province***

Schools in the Muhanga commune, in Butanyerera province, are facing a shortage of desks. According to information provided by the communal education office, schools have received a total of 4,769 desks 1,499 supplied by UNICEF, with the remainder provided by the Government of Burundi. Despite these contributions, significant needs remain. Ernest Bacimanza, the communal education director (DCE) for Muhanga, confirmed that the commune still requires 1,521 desks to meet the needs of its schools. He also drew attention to the inadequacy of sanitation infrastructure, calling for intervention from the state and partners to support the construction of latrines, noting that in most schools, students lack access to proper restroom facilities.

In Kiremba commune, a lack of desks remains one of the primary challenges identified by school administrators. A shortage of teaching staff also hinders the effective operation of some schools. These issues were highlighted during visits to several institutions by Pascal Habiyakare, the communal administrator of Kiremba, accompanied by the communal education director. According to the school officials consulted, the need for school furniture and teachers remains a serious concern. Following these visits, Pascal Habiyakare stated that one of the key objectives was to raise awareness among educators and students regarding the importance of education for the development of both the country and individual families. He also encouraged them to put in the necessary effort to achieve good results in assessments and national examinations, so that the Kiremba commune might secure a leading position within the Butanyerera province and in Burundi as a whole. In his capacity as communal administrator and chair of the communal education commission, he urged educators, students, and parents to commit themselves more fully to the promotion of quality education.

III.3. DISRUPTION OF ECONOMIC LIFE

⇒ ***Electricity Shortage: Activities and Services Paralyzed in the Communes of Muramvya and Kiganda***

The communes of Muramvya and Kiganda, in Gitega Province, along with their various commercial centers, experienced four consecutive days without electricity during the period covered by this report. This prolonged outage caused significant disruptions in the health and economic sectors. In the healthcare facilities of both communes, several services were brought to a standstill. Notably, morgues were forced to close, necessitating the transfer of remains to Kibimba Hospital. The operation of incubators was also affected by the power cut. The situation was particularly concerning as the affected hospitals lacked sufficient fuel to run their backup generators during the power outage. The impact was also felt across commercial activities and small-scale trades. Hair salons, welding workshops, and public secretarial services, among others, were forced to suspend or scale back their operations due to the lack of electricity. When asked about the cause of the outage, local officials from the Water and Electricity Production and Distribution Board (REGIDESO) explained that a complex, difficult-to-repair fault had occurred on the main supply line coming from Gitega.

IV. CATEGORY-BASED RIGHTS

IV.1. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: PROTECTION AGAINST ABUSE

⇒ *KAYANZA: FOUR MINORS AMONG SIX YOUNG BURUNDIANS EXPELLED FROM RWANDA AND RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILIES*

On October 28, 2026, six young Burundians aged 15 to 22 including four minors were expelled from Rwanda for lacking the necessary documentation to reside there. Hailing from Kirundo Province, they had traveled to Rwanda in the hope of finding employment. According to reports, four of them had been gathering fodder for livestock, while the other two were engaged in agricultural work.

Upon their arrival at the headquarters of Kayanza Commune, the six youths were interviewed by the communal administrator, Godefroid Niyonizigiye. Around 10:30 a.m., a team from the National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH) arrived to oversee their care and facilitate their return to their respective families. It has been confirmed that all six youths have since returned to their homes in Kirundo Province.

The presence of four minors among those expelled necessitated special attention regarding the protection of their rights and their care upon return. Their reunification with their families, facilitated by the CNIDH, represents a positive outcome to the situation.

⇒ *NYABIHANGA: 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL'S HANDS BURNED BY HER GUARDIAN*

A 10-year-old girl, a fifth-grade student at the Gasave Basic School located on Kibungere Hill in Nyabihanga Commune, Gitega Province was subjected to severe physical abuse by her maternal aunt, who also serves as her legal guardian. The incident was brought to the attention of school officials on October 27, 2026, when the child's teacher noticed that the wounds on her hands were emitting a foul odor. According to local sources, her aunt had burned her hands using a knife heated over a fire. This act of violence occurred after the young girl found 2,000 Burundian francs at home and used some of it to purchase a pen costing 500 Burundian francs. Following these events, the guardian was arrested and placed in a detention cell in the Musama zone, within the Nyabihanga commune. At the time of writing this report, the girl is receiving medical care. This act of violence against a child who had been placed under the care of her guardian raises serious concerns regarding the protection of minors from violence within their own family environment.



V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

V.1. GENERAL CONCLUSION

The week of October 26 to November 1, 2026, was marked by persistent, significant concerns regarding human rights, governance, and the living conditions of the population in Burundi. On the political front, information gathered in Rumonge and Kayanza raises questions about the preparations for the presidential election scheduled for 2027 specifically concerning the registration of new voters, the documentation used to verify the identity of those registering, and the methods employed to inform and engage the public.

Regarding the judicial sphere, several reported incidents highlight concerns about the protection of individuals from violence, access to justice, and the independence of legal proceedings. Allegations of interference by local officials in the handling of certain complaints notably in the Musongati commune warrant particular attention from judicial authorities. The security situation also remains a cause for concern. Reports from Karusi, Bubanza, and Bukinanyana point to the seizure of illicit goods, recurring thefts, acts of violence involving members of the security forces, and anxieties linked to the evolving conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The case of a man who sustained a serious gunshot wound in Kaburantwa, in particular, raises questions about the protocols for the use of firearms at checkpoints and the protection of individuals' physical safety.

In the economic and social realm, difficulties in the distribution of fertilizers, combined with delays in reimbursing payments made by farmers, triggered protests and road blockades in Matongo. In Muhanga, some farmers received smaller quantities of fertilizer than what they had paid for. Meanwhile, in Bururi and Matana, several beneficiaries were still awaiting their reimbursements. These dysfunctions undermine agricultural activities, household incomes, and public confidence in state-run distribution and reimbursement mechanisms. Furthermore, difficulties in accessing electricity in the communes of Muramvya and Kiganda have disrupted the operation of healthcare facilities and economic activities. A shortage of desks, latrines, and teaching staff in certain communes also highlights the persistence of significant needs within the education sector. Finally, the expulsion of six young Burundians including four minors from Rwanda, and their subsequent care by the National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH), underscore the need to pay special attention to the protection of individuals moving across borders, particularly children. In light of these developments, the Burundian Human Rights League "ITEKA" maintains that the competent authorities must take urgent measures to prevent violations, ensure access to justice, protect vulnerable populations, and address the economic and social hardships affecting citizens. The credibility of institutions depends, in part, on their ability to address the concerns of the population with impartiality, transparency, and accountability.

IV.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the facts reported in this bulletin, the Burundian League for Human Rights "ITEKA" makes the following recommendations:

⇒ **To the President of the Republic of Burundi:** Ensure respect for human rights and the accountability of all state agents, including members of the defense and security forces. Issue firm directives to ensure that the distribution of fertilizers and the reimbursement of farmers are carried out in a transparent, equitable, and non-discriminatory manner. Guarantee that preparations for the 2027 elections are conducted in compliance with the law, with transparency, and with respect for the political rights of all citizens.

⇒ **To the Minister of Justice, Human Rights, and Gender:** Initiate independent investigations into the reported acts of violence, specifically the case of the young girl whose hands were burned in Nyabihanga and the incidents involving members of the security forces in Kaburantwa. Ensure the impartial handling of complaints filed by citizens, particularly regarding the land dispute reported in the Musongati commune. Ensure that detainees are afforded the judicial guarantees provided for by law and that criminal liability is established by the competent courts.

⇒ **To the Minister of the Interior, Community Development, and Public Security:** Enforce neutrality and legality in the actions of administrative authorities and local officials, especially regarding land conflicts and disputes between citizens. Prevent the thefts and acts of intimidation reported in Bubanza and ensure that security patrols effectively provide protection for the inhabitants. Strictly regulate the conduct of security forces at checkpoints and prevent any disproportionate use of force or firearms.

⇒ **To the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, and the Environment, and the Minister of Finance, Budget, and the Digital Economy:** Ensure the delivery of quantities of fertilizer corresponding to the amounts actually paid by farmers. Expedite full refunds to beneficiaries who did not receive the fertilizers they ordered, particularly in the communes of Bururi and Matana. Clarify the responsibilities of the financial institutions and stakeholders tasked with distribution and refunds, and establish mechanisms to assist farmers who have lost their proof-of-payment documentation.

⇒ **To the Chairperson of the National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH):** Monitor the situation of the six young people expelled from Rwanda paying particular attention to the four minors and ensure that their rights are upheld.

⇒ **To the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research:** Take measures to address the shortages of desks, latrines, and teaching staff reported in the communes of Muhanga and Kiremba.

⇒ **To the General Management of REGIDESO:** Take the necessary steps to restore a reliable, long-term electricity supply in Muramvya and Kiganda, and prevent the disruption of essential services, especially in healthcare facilities.