



ACTION BY CHRISTIANS FOR THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE (ACAT-Burundi)

MONTHLY REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

‘The right to life and impunity in Burundi: A failed system’

KEYWORDS:

Assassinations – Abductions – Torture – Impunity – Article 109 of the Code of Criminal Procedure

**ACAT-BURUNDI
MARCH 2026**

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I. INTRODUCTION

The political and security crisis that has gripped Burundi since April 2015 continues to result in serious human rights violations. Despite the aspirations of the Burundian people for the rule of law, the trend documented for over a decade remains alarming and virtually unchanged. The country remains plagued by summary executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and systematic acts of torture.

Profile of victims and alleged perpetrators

The targets of this repression are predominantly actual or perceived opponents of the government and the ruling party (**CNDD-FDD**). The following are particularly targeted:

- Members of opposition parties (Agathon Rwasa's **CNL**, **MSD**).
- Citizens suspected of joining armed groups whilst attempting to flee the country.
- Civil society actors and journalists.

The violations are mainly attributed to state agents, notably the police and the National Intelligence Service (**SNR**), often acting in concert with the **Imbonerakure**, the ruling party's youth league. The widespread impunity enjoyed by these actors has become a veritable mode of governance.

A stifled civic space

As highlighted by the UN Special Rapporteur, Burundi's apparent diplomatic openness does not reflect any concrete improvement on the ground. Civic space has shrunk considerably, characterised by political intolerance, media self-censorship and the continued exile of many opposition figures.

Report for March 2026

In keeping with its mission of advocacy and protection, **ACAT-Burundi** documented the following for the month of **March 2026** alone:

- **11 cases of murder** (bodies found across the country).
- **1 case of abduction.**

The recurring discovery of unidentified bodies in public spaces, without any serious investigation being carried out, is evidence of the failure of the judicial system and the persistence of covert state violence.

II. MURDERS AND VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

II.1. General context and legal framework

More than three years after the establishment of the new institutions, Burundi remains plagued by persistent killings and abductions. Despite Article 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi, which guarantees the sacred right to life, and Articles 210 to 220 of the Criminal Code, which impose severe penalties for homicide, insecurity remains a worrying reality.

In March 2026 alone, ACAT-Burundi documented the discovery of 11 bodies across the country. These cases are often characterised by signs of extreme violence and a systematic failure to conduct thorough investigations.

II.2. Overview of cases documented by ACAT-Burundi

Analysis of the cases recorded during this period highlights an alarming persistence of attacks on physical integrity. The documentation gathered by ACAT-Burundi reveals not only a variety of methods, ranging from the use of blunt objects to executions followed by staged scenes, but also a pattern of violence affecting several provinces across the country.

The summary table below outlines the details of the 11 major cases documented in March 2026, specifying the victims' identities, the suspicious circumstances surrounding their deaths, and the (often incomplete) status of the legal proceedings. Further details on these cases can be found in the appendices.

Summary table of murders and discoveries of bodies (March 2026)

Date	Victim	Age	Location	Circumstances / Condition of the body	Suspected motives	Legal proceedings & observations
01/03	Cyriaque Manirambona	44	Gitega (Mugutu)	Found dead not far from his home.	Unknown	None. Body buried on the day of discovery without an investigation.
01/03	Raphaël Ndaruzaniye	70	Gitega (Centre)	Security guard beaten to death (with clubs). Shop broken into and looted.	Theft (theft of goods)	Partial. Police report; body transferred to the mortuary at the regional hospital in Gitega.
04/03	Nsabimana (Kadogo) & 1 other	31	Mugina (Ngoma), front. Rwanda	Killed with sticks and clubs. Severe facial injuries.	Political / Settling of scores	None. Perpetrators unidentified. Victims were members of the <i>Imbonerakure</i> .
08/03	Marie Nahayo	80	Cibitoke (Kagazi)	Found hanged from a tree in her garden.	Murder disguised as suicide	Pending. The family disputes the suicide given her age and is calling for a thorough investigation.
08/03	Éric Ndayisenga	42	Mugina (Rutaba)	Found hanged from a tree. A letter of forgiveness left at the scene.	Social / Revenge (Neighbourhood disputes)	None. Suicide ruled as the cause of death. Victim known for aggressive behaviour.

09/03	Béatrice Mpawenimana	40	Bukinanyana (Kibati)	Found in her room with a rope around her neck.	Murder disguised as suicide	Ongoing. Body transferred to Ndora Hospital for post-mortem examination prior to burial.
09/03	Pascal Gahungu	66	Gitega (Gihehe)	Found floating in the Kaniga River. Severe head injuries.	Execution (Missing since 6 March)	Summary. Buried the same day following a simple report by a police investigator. No investigation.
10/03	Cédric Iteriteka	20	Bururi (Gitobo)	Found by schoolchildren in the Nyakigezi River. Head injuries.	Murder	None. No identification or investigation procedures reported.
12/03	Abraham Niyigarura	41	Bukinanyana (Bitare)	Body thrown into the Kaburantwa River. Head injuries.	Politician (Local CNDD-FDD official)	None. Victim killed elsewhere and transported to the river. No arrests.
14/03	Cédric Irankunda	14	Gitega (Kanyonga)	Found in the bush with injuries to his lower limbs .	Unknown (Missing since 12/03)	None. The circumstances of the death remain officially "unclear".
20/02*	Jeanine Nkunzimana	25	Gitega (Buhinda)	State of advanced state of decomposition in the Nyakijanda.	Criminal / Femicide	None. Missing since 15/02. No investigation into the perpetrators.

II. 3. Statistical analysis of documented cases (MARCH 2026)

An examination of the 11 detailed cases reveals the following trends:

Breakdown by gender and age:

- **Gender:** A marked predominance of men (81% men compared to 19% women).
- **Age groups:** Violence affects all generations, from adolescence (14 years old) to old age (80 years old), with a concentration among men of working age (20–45).

Geographical Location:

Gitega Province is the most affected, with **5 out of 11 cases** (approximately 45% of incidents), followed by **Bujumbura Province** (3 cases). **This indicates persistent insecurity in the country's political centre.**

Modus operandi:

- **Use of blunt objects:** 45% of victims were killed by blows from clubs or sticks.
- **Bodies thrown into the water:** 36% of the bodies were found in rivers (Kaniga, Nyakigezi, Kaburantwa, Nyakijanda), a method often used to cover up the traces of crime or torture.
- **Staged incidents (suspicious hangings):** 27% of cases show signs of simulated suicide.

Victim profiles:

Political affiliation (Imbonerakure or local CNDD-FDD officials) appears in at least 27% of cases, suggesting internal score-settling or acts of revenge.

II. 4. Findings and legal breaches

In this report covering the month of March 2026, **ACAT-Burundi** strongly condemns the recurring practice of burying bodies found in various localities without prior identification or the opening of investigations.

These actions constitute a flagrant violation of **Article 109 of Law No. 1/09 of 11 May 2018 on the Code of Criminal Procedure of Burundi**, which provides that:

“Where a body is discovered, whether or not the death was violent, but where the cause is unknown or suspicious, the Judicial Police Officer (OPJ) who is notified of this shall, if possible, inform the Public Prosecutor before going to the scene and making the initial observations. The report of these observations must be forwarded to the Public Prosecutor without delay.”

The law also stipulates that the **Public Prosecutor** must, if necessary, seek the assistance of experts or doctors to determine the actual causes of death. Above all, it requires **the systematic opening of a criminal investigation** whenever the circumstances of the death remain unknown.

The absence of these legal procedures fosters a climate of impunity and deprives the victims’ families of their right to truth and justice.

II. 5. Recommendations from ACAT-Burundi

In light of these serious shortcomings, ACAT-Burundi makes the following requests:

👉 To the administrative authorities (Governors, Commune Administrators and Village Chiefs):

- Refrain from authorising any hasty burial of unidentified bodies.
- Always notify the Criminal Investigation Department as soon as a body is discovered, so that a formal report can be drawn up and investigations can begin.

👉 To the Criminal Investigation Department and the Public Prosecutor’s Office:

- Fulfil their statutory duties in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- Ensure that no body is buried without a **credible, impartial and thorough investigation** being opened to identify the perpetrators of these crimes.
- Ensure the systematic presence of a Judicial Police officer or a magistrate at the scene of discovery to guarantee the rigour of the initial findings.

III. KIDNAPPINGS

Alongside the discovery of bodies, **ACAT-Burundi** expresses its deep concern at the persistence of abductions and enforced disappearances. These acts, often carried out in the dark or out of sight, plunge families into prolonged anguish and constitute serious violations of individual freedoms. One such case was documented this month.

The case of Gabriel Ndikumana (Buhumuza Province / Bujumbura)

ACAT-Burundi has been informed of the worrying disappearance of **Mr Gabriel Ndikumana**, a driver working for the NGO **World Vision** (Cankuzo office, Buhumuza Province).

Documented facts:

- **Date of disappearance:** On the evening of **23 February 2026**.
- **Last known location:** Nyakabiga district, Bujumbura (Town Hall).
- **Background:** The victim was on a work assignment in Bujumbura and was staying at **the Alexstel Hotel**. According to witness accounts, Mr Ndikumana left the hotel in the evening to go for dinner but never returned to his accommodation.

Alarming details:

- His company car was found parked outside the hotel, undamaged, confirming that his disappearance occurred outside the premises after he left the hotel.
- Since then, his mobile phones have remained switched off and no sign of life has been reported to his family or employer.

ACAT-Burundi expresses its deep concern over this disappearance, which bears all the hallmarks of a **kidnapping**. The organisation calls on the security services and the criminal investigation department to carry out urgent investigations to locate Mr Ndikumana and ensure his physical safety.

IV. ARBITRARY ARRESTS

Although no specific cases have been fully documented during this reporting period, **ACAT-Burundi** remains concerned about the persistence of arrest procedures that do not comply with legal standards.

It reiterates that any deprivation of liberty must strictly comply with the judicial safeguards provided for in the **Constitution** and the **Code of Criminal Procedure** of Burundi.

In general, the organisation's observations highlight the following shortcomings :

- **Lack of warrants:** Arrests carried out by officers of the National Police or the National Intelligence Service (SNR) without the presentation of legal warrants.
- **Exceeding the time limits for police custody:** Many people remain detained in police cells beyond the legal limit of 14 days without being brought before an investigating magistrate.
- **Detention in unofficial facilities:** The continued practice of detention in private or unrecognised transit facilities, leaving detainees vulnerable to ill-treatment.

ACAT-Burundi continues to document numerous cases of arrests carried out outside any legal framework. These deprivations of liberty, often carried out without a court warrant and exceeding the legal time limits for police custody, violate the provisions of the Burundian Constitution and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

V. VIOLATIONS OF PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

Beyond the killings and disappearances, March 2026 was marked by a resurgence of physical violence. ACAT-Burundi points to shared responsibility between state agents and members of the youth league affiliated with the ruling party (*Imbonerakure*).

V. 1. Torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment

The organisation notes with deep regret that agents of **the National Intelligence Service (SNR)** continue to subject detainees to acts of torture.

- **Cover-up of abuse:** There are consistent reports of prisoners being transferred at night. These transfers are intended to conceal the critical condition of prisoners who have been tortured before they are brought before other authorities or transferred to official detention centres.

- **Involvement of the Imbonerakure:** In several localities, these young men continue to exercise repressive control over the population, particularly towards members of the opposition, acting with complete impunity.

Legal framework and reporting:

ACAT-Burundi points out that torture is a crime defined and punishable under **Article 206 of Law No. 1/27 of 19 December 2017 amending the Criminal Code**. It is unacceptable that state officials, who are responsible for protecting citizens, should be guilty of such acts.

Demands:

- The immediate launch of independent investigations to ensure that the perpetrators of these abuses are brought to justice.
- Compensation and care for the victims, in accordance with **Article 349 of the Burundian Code of Criminal Procedure**.

V. 2. Assault and battery

Although no specific cases of assault and battery have been formally recorded this month, ACAT-Burundi remains on alert. The climate of repression perpetuated by the *Imbonerakure* against members of the opposition encourages frequent physical attacks which, although not individually documented this month, form part of a strategy of widespread terror.

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

VI.1. Conclusion

March 2026 marks the continuation of a cycle of serious and systematic human rights violations in Burundi. The evidence gathered confirms that the right to life, a fundamental pillar of any rule of law, is repeatedly violated in various forms: assassinations, enforced disappearances and torture.

The recurring phenomenon of bodies being found in public places (rivers, the bush) and hastily buried without identification or investigation points to a deliberate attempt at concealment. These practices, often carried out by local administrative officials in collaboration with state agents and members of the *Imbonerakure* youth league, reveal that the authorities have abandoned their duty to protect the population in favour of sectarian interests.

Impunity remains the driving force behind these crimes. **ACAT-Burundi** notes with bitterness that the judicial system, far from being a bulwark against arbitrariness, all too often serves as a cover for the perpetrators of violations.

Systemic corruption and interference by the executive branch are paralysing national institutions such as the **CNIDH** and **the Ombudsman**, rendering any hope of successful investigations illusory, particularly when the victims are political opponents or human rights defenders.

In light of this alarming situation, ACAT-Burundi reiterates that compliance with criminal procedures cannot be optional. The impunity that plagues the Burundian judicial system only fuels future violence.

VI.2. Recommendations

In light of the systematic violations documented in this report, **ACAT-Burundi** makes the following recommendations:

1. To the Government of Burundi:

- **Guarantee the physical safety of all citizens:** Fully assume its sovereign duty to protect the population throughout the entire territory.
- **Combat impunity for violent crimes:** Conduct systematic, independent and transparent investigations into every case where a body is found, in order to identify, prosecute and punish the perpetrators in accordance with the law.

- **Restore the monopoly of the security forces:** Ensure that security and patrol duties are carried out exclusively by the official defence and security forces.
- **Regulate youth affiliated with the ruling party:** Put an end to security abuses and acts of violence committed by the *Imbonerakure* during night patrols, and bring to justice those who illegally assume police powers.

2. With regard to the National Human Rights Institutions (CNIDH and Ombudsman):

- **Exercise their mandate with complete independence:** Use the full extent of the powers conferred upon them by law to document, denounce and bring cases before the courts in response to the resurgence of human rights violations.
- **Carry out on-the-ground monitoring:** Systematically visit the sites where bodies have been found and the SNR detention centres to prevent acts of torture and illegal burials.

3. To the international community:

- **Maintain heightened vigilance:** Closely monitor developments in the security situation in Burundi, taking into account risk factors (elections, regional tensions) that could exacerbate the human rights crisis.
- **Demand accountability:** Make any institutional support conditional on concrete progress in the fight against impunity and the Burundian authorities' compliance with criminal procedures.

APPENDICES

CASE STUDY No. 01: Murder of young members of the ruling party in the border region

1. Profile of the main victim

- Identity: Nsabimana, alias “Kadogo”.
- Age: 31.
- Affiliation: Member of the *Imbonerakure* Youth League (CNDD-FDD party).
- Location: Ngoma Hill, Rubona area, Mugina commune, Bujumbura province.

2. Timeline and facts

On 4 March 2026, the bodies of Nsabimana and another young man were discovered near the Ruhwa River, a sensitive area situated on the natural border between Burundi and Rwanda.

3. Method of operation and physical findings

Eyewitness accounts gathered on the ground by ACAT-Burundi describe extreme violence, characterised by:

- Use of blunt objects: The victims were beaten to death with sticks and clubs.
- Targeted injuries: The bodies showed deep wounds to the face, suggesting a deliberate attempt to inflict suffering or a punitive execution intended to disfigure the victims.

4. Contextual analysis and issues

This case is emblematic in several respects:

Vulnerability of local actors: Although members of the ruling party’s youth league, these individuals were not spared from indiscriminate violence or targeted reprisals.

- Lack of judicial response: Despite the brutality of the incident and the clear identification of one of the victims, no investigation has been launched to identify the attackers, reinforcing citizens’ sense of abandonment in the face of insecurity.

CASE STUDY No. 02: Suspected murder and staged suicide involving a vulnerable person

1. Profile of the victim

- Identity: Marie Nahayo.
- Age: 80.
- Location: Kagazi neighbourhood, Transversale 6, Cibitoke district and municipality.
- Date of the incident: 8 March 2026.

2. Facts and physical findings

Marie Nahayo’s body was found hanging from a tree in the courtyard of her own home. Although the scene was presented as a suicide by hanging, several factual elements contradict this theory:

- Physical incapacity: Given her advanced age (80 years) and frail physical condition, it is technically unlikely that the victim could have climbed a tree on her own to tie a rope and take her own life.
- Immediate surroundings: The body was left on display for all to see within the family compound, a modus operandi that appears more like a staged crime scene intended to bring the legal case to a swift conclusion.

3. Analysis and suspicions of ACAT-Burundi

This case is emblematic of a new criminal trend in Burundi:

- Criminal “staging”: Murder followed by a staged hanging is used to discourage in-depth investigations and steer the authorities towards the simplistic conclusion of a “desperate act”.
- Targeting of vulnerable people: The choice of an elderly woman highlights the extreme vulnerability of certain citizens to attackers who act with complete impunity right in the heart of residential neighbourhoods.

4. Response from the authorities and the community

- Local reaction: Neighbours and eyewitnesses unanimously reject the suicide theory and are demanding a thorough criminal investigation.
- Legal obstacle: Despite these legitimate doubts, there is a high risk that the case will be closed without further action, due to the police’s unwillingness to carry out rigorous forensic investigations.

CASE STUDY № 03: Targeted killing of a night watchman and theft of goods

1. Victim profile

- Identity: Raphaël Ndaruzaniye.
- Age: 70.
- Occupation: Night watchman.
- Location: Municipality and province of Gitega.
- Date: The night of 1 March 2026.

2. The facts and physical findings

Mr Ndaruzaniye was brutally killed with clubs by unidentified individuals whilst on duty guarding a shop.

- Findings: The body showed signs of severe head trauma. The criminals forced open the doors of the shop.
- Looting: 120 kg of rice, 150 kg of beans, a set of scales and other goods were taken.

3. Analysis by ACAT-Burundi

This case illustrates the rising level of violent crime in urban centres. The vulnerability of elderly people employed as security guards, who are defenceless, is glaringly obvious here. Although the body was transferred to the mortuary at Gitega Regional Hospital, the identification of the perpetrators remains at a standstill despite the large volume of stolen goods, which suggests that the transport logistics (vehicle) could have been traced.

CASE STUDY No. 04: Enforced disappearance followed by execution by head trauma

1. Victim's profile

- Identity: Pascal Gahungu.
- Age: 66.
- Location: Gihehe Hill, Gitega commune and province.
- Date of discovery: 9 March 2026 (reported missing since 6 March).

2. The facts and modus operandi

Pascal Gahungu's body was found floating in the River Kaniga.

- Condition of the body: Presence of deep wounds to the head.
- Manner of death: The victim is believed to have been murdered elsewhere before being thrown into the river to cover up the crime or make it look like a drowning.

3. Analysis by ACAT-Burundi

ACAT condemns the blatant failure of the criminal justice system. Despite the obvious head injuries noted by a Judicial Police Officer (OPJ), the body was buried the very same day.

This hasty burial, without an autopsy or a thorough investigation, violates the family's right to the truth and guarantees impunity for the killers.

CASE STUDY No. 05: Murder of a local politician

1. Profile of the victim

- **Identity:** Abraham Niyigarura.
- **Age:** 41.
- **Position:** Local representative of the ruling party (CNDD-FDD) in the Ndora area.
- **Location:** Kaburantwa River, Bitare Hill, Bukinanyana commune (Bujumbura).

2. The facts

The body was discovered on **12 March 2026** in the river, not far from his home.

- **Findings:** Head injuries were present. Witnesses favour the theory that the murder took place elsewhere, with the body having been transported and then dumped in the Kaburantwa River.

3. ACAT-Burundi's analysis

This murder of a **local political figure** demonstrates that insecurity spares no one, including the pillars of the current system. The repetition of the modus operandi (head injuries and body dumped in the river) suggests the existence of "death squads" or settling of internal accounts where the authorities are struggling or refusing to reveal who is responsible.

CASE STUDY No. 06: Murder of a young man by head trauma

1. Victim's profile

- **Identity:** Cédric Iteriteka.
- **Age:** 20.
- **Location:** Nyakigezi River, at the foot of Gitobo Hill, Muhweza area (Burunga Province).
- **Date of discovery:** 10 March 2026.

2. The facts and modus operandi

The body was discovered in a traumatic manner by **schoolchildren on their way to class**.

- **Physical findings:** The body showed severe head injuries, consistent with a violent assault using blunt objects.
- **Location:** The body had been abandoned in the bed of the Nyakigezi River, a common modus operandi used to attempt to erase traces of a struggle or transport.

3. Analysis by ACAT-Burundi

This case illustrates the insecurity facing Burundian youth. The fact that children made this gruesome discovery highlights the social and psychological impact of such crimes on the community. Despite

the clear criminal nature of the death (head injuries), no arrests have been reported, confirming the lack of diligence on the part of the police in this area.

CASE STUDY No. 07: Disappearance and murder of a 14-year-old minor

1. Profile of the victim

- **Identity:** Cédric Irankunda.
- **Age:** 14 years old.
- **Location:** Kanyonga Hill, Gitega commune and province.
- **Date of discovery:** 14 March 2026 (reported missing since 12 March).

2. Facts and physical findings

After **48 hours of being missing**, the young boy's body was found in the bush.

- **Condition of the body:** Presence of multiple injuries, particularly to the **lower limbs**, suggesting possible torture or an attempt restraint prior to death.
- **Circumstances:** The death remains officially classified as "unexplained" by the local authorities, despite the body being found in an isolated location.

3. Analysis by ACAT-Burundi

The case of Cédric Irankunda is particularly tragic given his age. ACAT-Burundi condemns the lack of alert and active search efforts following reports of missing minors. The abandonment of the body in the bush and the injuries observed on the lower limbs point to a premeditated criminal act. The absence of a serious investigation into the death of a

14-year-old constitutes a moral and legal failure on the part of child protection agencies.

CASE STUDY No. 08: Suspicious death and staged scene at the victim's home

1. Victim's profile

- **Identity:** Béatrice Mpawenimana.
- **Age:** 40.
- **Location:** Kibati Hill, Masango area, Bukinanyana municipality (Bujumbura Province).
- **Date of discovery:** 9 March 2026, at around 5.00 pm.

2. Facts and physical findings

The body was found in her bedroom, two days after her arrival from Kayanza, where she had been living with her husband, a trader.

- **Circumstances:** A rope was found around her neck.
- **Inconsistencies:** His neighbours and family reject the theory of suicide, suspecting that he was murdered before the rope was placed to make it look like a desperate act.
- **Procedure:** The body was transferred to Ndora Hospital for a post-mortem examination before being handed over to the family.

3. Analysis by ACAT-Burundi

This case highlights a worrying trend towards domestic “staging”. ACAT-Burundi welcomes the transfer for a post-mortem examination, a procedure that is all too rare, but remains vigilant regarding the impartiality of medical conclusions in a context of intense social or political pressure.

CASE STUDY No. 09: Discovery of a body in an advanced state of decomposition

1. Victim's profile

- **Identity:** Jeanine Nkunzimana.
- **Age:** 25.
- **Location:** Nyakijanda River, Buhinda Hill (Gitega District and Province).
- **Date of discovery:** 20 February 2026 (documented in March).

2. Facts and modus operandi

The body was found lying in the riverbed several days after she went missing (reported missing since 15 February).

- **Condition of the body:** Advanced decomposition, making initial visual observations difficult.
- **Suspicion:** According to local sources, the victim is believed to have been killed elsewhere before being dumped in the Nyakijanda River to facilitate the destruction of evidence through decomposition and exposure to water.

3. Analysis by ACAT-Burundi

ACAT condemns the delay between the reported disappearance and the discovery of the body. The failure to launch an active search immediately after the disappearance of a 25-year-old woman was reported constitutes gross negligence on the part of the security services, thereby facilitating impunity for the perpetrators of the crime.

CASE STUDY № 10: Suspicious death of a widower and hasty burial

1. Profile of the victim

- **Identity:** Cyriaque Manirambona.
- **Age:** 44 (widower and father of five children).
- **Location:** Mugutu Hill (Gitega District and Province).
- **Date of discovery:** 1 March 2026.

2. The facts

The body was discovered not far from his home.

- **Immediate burial:** According to local sources, the victim's body was buried on the day it was found.

3. Analysis by ACAT-Burundi

This is a textbook case of a breach of Article 109 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Burying a 44-year-old man, a father, on the very day his body was found, without a thorough investigation, prevents the truth from coming to light. This administrative practice, which is almost systematic in Gitega, protects criminals and deprives orphans of justice.

CASE STUDY № 11: Alleged suicide of a controversial local figure

1. Profile of the victim

- **Identity:** Éric Ndayisenga.
- **Age:** 42.
- **Affiliation:** Member of the *Imbonerakure* league.
- **Location:** Rutaba sub-hill, Nyamakarabo hill (Mugina municipality).
- **Date of discovery:** 8 March 2026.

2. The facts

Found hanging from a tree. A letter of forgiveness addressed to his neighbours was found at the scene.

- **Social context:** The victim was known for his highly confrontational relationships and repeated acts of aggression against local residents, claiming political "invulnerability".

3. ACAT-Burundi's analysis

Although the theory of suicide is supported here by a letter, this case illustrates the climate of extreme tension within the hills. ACAT-Burundi notes that the abuse of power and a sense of impunity (considering oneself "untouchable") can lead to such social isolation that the individual ends up turning violence against themselves or becoming the subject of unbearable pressure.