



Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture

(ACAT-BURUNDI)

**QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF PRISON
CONDITIONS IN BURUNDI**

Second Quarter of 2026 (April–June 2026)



Taken in 2018, this photo illustrates daily life inside Mpimba Central Prison, located in Bujumbura, Burundi's economic capital. It highlights the problem of prison overcrowding in the country.

July 2026

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
I. INTRODUCTION	7
I.1 Background and Overview of the Report.....	7
I.2 Methodological Approach	8
II. TRENDS IN THE PRISON POPULATION: BETWEEN RECORD OVERCROWDING AND RELEASE MEASURES	8
II.1 Statistical Analysis and Prison Overcrowding	9
II.1.1 Analysis of the Upward Trend in Prison Population	9
II.1.2 Localized Overcrowding at Inhumane Levels	11
II.1.3 Analytical Interpretation of Disparities in Overcrowding.....	12
II.2. Analysis of the Judicial Composition of the Prison Population	13
II.2.1. The Persistent Predominance of Pretrial Detention	13
II.2.2 Disaggregated Analysis of the Judicial Structure by Facility.....	14
II.2.3 Analytical interpretation of the judicial structure	15
II.3. Focus on Vulnerable Groups: Women and Minors	15
II.3.1. The Specific Situation of Female Inmates	16
II.3.2. The Detention of Minors: A Relative but Concerning Decline.....	16
II.3.3. Infants in detention are invisible victims of incarceration	17
II.4 Assessment of Release Mechanisms and Limitations of the Process	17
II.5 The Impact of Judicial Delays on the Number of Pretrial Detainees	19
III. RESPECT FOR PHYSICAL INTEGRITY AND HUMAN DIGNITY	20
III.1. Prison Environment and Internal Insecurity Linked to the Impact of Alcohol Trafficking Within the Prison System.....	20
III.2. Violations of Dignity Related to Prison Infrastructure and Overcrowding	20
III.3. Vulnerability of Specific Groups and Overall Deterioration of Living Conditions.....	21
III.4. Violations of physical integrity due to food shortages and lack of access to drinking water	22
IV. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL TREATMENT.....	26
IV.1. Collapse of health care coverage and systemic shortage of medications	26

IV.2. Administrative, logistical, and financial barriers to hospital transfers	26
IV.3. Fatal Violations of the Right to Life and Forced Interruptions of Treatment	27
V. ARBITRARY DETENTION AND JUDICIAL IRREGULARITIES	29
V.1. Systematic and Discriminatory Blocking of the Release of Political Prisoners	29
V.2. Paralysis of court proceedings and logistical obstacles related to the reform of municipal prosecutors' offices	30
V.3. Extortion, blackmail, and security harassment involving telephones	30
V.4. Major security breaches and impunity regarding selective prison escapes	31
V.5 Systemic Manifestations of a Two-Tiered Justice System (Quarter 2 – 2026)	31
VI. HYGIENE, SANITATION, AND LIVING CONDITIONS IN PRISONS	32
VI.1. Water restrictions hindering the maintenance and sanitation of facilities	32
VI.2. Widespread shortage of cleaning supplies and disinfectants	33
VI.3 Pest infestations and dilapidated sleeping quarters	33
VI.4 Impact of Physical Deterioration on Inmates' Lives (Quarter 2 – 2026)	34
VII. GENERAL CONCLUSION	34
VIII. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPEALS FROM ACAT-BURUNDI	36
VIII.1 Emergency Humanitarian and Health Measures	36
VIII.2 Structural Reforms: Reducing Overcrowding Through the Law	37
VIII.3 Compliance with International Commitments and Protection of Vulnerable Populations	37
APPENDICES: PRISON CONDITIONS FOR THE MONTHS OF APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2026	39
Appendix 1: Prison Conditions as of April 30, 2026	39
Appendix 2: Prison Population as of May 31, 2026	40
Appendix 3: Prison Population as of March 31, 2026	41

List of Tables

Table 1: Overview of Prison Population Trends by Facility (January–March 2026)	9
Table 2: National Statistics on Vulnerable Groups as of June 30, 2026	16
Table 3: Chronological Record of Release Mechanisms (Second Quarter of 2026)	18

Table 4 Summary of Violations of the Right to Dignity and Integrity (April–June 2026).....	24
Table 5: Overall Status of Medical Assistance (Quarter 2 – 2026).....	28
Table 6 Logistical Assessment of Sanitation and Hygiene during the Second Quarter of 2026	34

List of Figures

Figure 1 Quarterly trends in the prison population and facility occupancy rates	10
Figure 2 Quarterly Comparison of the Prison Population by Facility vs. Legal Capacity (April–June 2026).....	12
Figure 3 Average Judicial Breakdown of the Prison Population in Burundi (April–June 2026). 14	
Figure 4 Comparative Breakdown of Pretrial Detainees and Convicted Inmates by Correctional Facility as of June 30, 2026.....	14

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms (Report Glossary)

- **ACAT-Burundi:** Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture in Burundi
- **ICRC:** International Committee of the Red Cross
- **Co:** Convicted prisoners (*used in statistical tables*)
- **CRMCL:** Rehabilitation Center for Children in Conflict with the Law (*sometimes abbreviated as Rehabilitation Center for Minors in Conflict with the Law*)
- **F:** Women / Female (*used in statistical tables*)
- **H / M:** Men / Male gender (*used in statistical tables*)
- **NGO:** Non-Governmental Organization
- **Pr:** Defendants (*used in statistical tables*)
- **REGIDESO:** Water and Electricity Distribution Authority (*of Burundi*)
- **T:** Total / Theoretical Capacity (*used in the headers of statistical tables*)
- **Q2:** Quarter 2 / Second Quarter of the Year
- **TIG:** Community Service

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Burundi's prison system has reached the limits of what is tolerable. Water shortages, corruption, and the deliberate stalling of cases by the judiciary are endangering prisoners' lives. The Burundian government bears primary responsibility for this situation.

This monitoring report by ACAT-Burundi for the second quarter of 2026 reveals a sharp deterioration in living conditions in prisons. Due to the departure of humanitarian organizations and the slowness of the courts, prison cells have become extremely unsanitary and unjust places for detainees.

Key developments during the period:

- **Intolerable overcrowding:** The total number of prisoners climbed to 12,980 in May, nearing the mark of 13,000 captives, before dropping significantly in June to 12,216 inmates. The most untenable situation is observed in Muramvya, which holds the country's all-time record with an occupancy rate of 827.00% at the end of the quarter. This gridlock is perpetuated by the inactivity of the courts, as individuals awaiting trial account for 47.11% of the national prison population.
- **Water Crisis and Threats of Disease:** The dry season has caused severe shortages. Access to water has been reduced to four days a week in Muramvya, and the springs in Bururi have dried up. Despite the Ebola epidemic alert in the region, the administration has rationed soap distribution to a single bar per inmate for the entire month in Mpimba, and disinfectants have completely disappeared in Bururi.
- **Insect infestations and loss of privacy:** The departure of the NGO ICRC in June left the Bururi prison in a state of complete destitution, without new blankets and infested with bedbugs in the dormitory for mothers and their children. In Muramvya, the facilities are dilapidated, and the showers and toilets no longer have doors, depriving inmates of any privacy.
- **Sentence commutations marred by irregularities:** Although the work of the commissions and prosecutors' offices led to the release of more than 400 documented detainees over the course of the quarter (notably through mass releases in June at Muramvya and Bururi), these measures benefited only common-law prisoners. In Mpimba, this process of collective clemency was suspended by the Attorney General due to falsified lists containing individuals who had already been released, amid reports of corruption involving the trading of release spots.
- **Unlawful Detentions and Political Targeting:** The release process is paralyzed by the refusal to implement judges' decisions. In Muramvya, prisoners found not guilty—such as R.H. and F.N.—remain forcibly detained, while the case files of prisoners of conscience are being held in isolation at the court clerk's office in Mpimba to block their review.
- **Suffering of Vulnerable Individuals:** The presence of 71 infants detained with their mothers nationwide, compounded by overcrowding at the Rumonge Juvenile Detention

Center (CRMCL) —which is operating under critical conditions at 125.00% of its capacity—highlights the lack of protection for children.

KEY QUARTERLY FIGURES (AS OF JUNE 30, 2026)

- *12,216 detainees nationwide (after peaking at 12,980 in May)*
- *284.49% overall national occupancy rate*
- *827.00% occupancy rate at Muramvya Prison (national record)*
- *5,755 pretrial detainees awaiting trial (representing 47.11% of the prison population)*
- *71 infants incarcerated with their parents and living in cells*
- *More than 400 documented releases over the entire quarter*
- *5.89% decrease in the national prison population between May and June*

Changes in the situation over the quarter:

- **Delayed decline in prison population:** While mass incarceration accelerated between April and May (+45 individuals), June marked real and encouraging progress with an overall 5.89% reduction in the prison population, illustrated by the drop from 1,063 to 827 prisoners at Muramvya.
- **Persistent Stagnation in Pretrial Detention:** Despite the overall decline in the number of convicted prisoners in June, the number of pretrial detainees remains stuck at a critical level. At Mpimba Prison, individuals awaiting trial now account for 64.55% of the prison population. This problem is exacerbated by the logistical challenge posed by the decentralization of municipal prosecutors' offices, which keeps pretrial detainees from remote areas stuck in cells for two to three months due to a lack of transportation.
- **Shift of the Crisis Toward Unsanitary Conditions:** The beginning of the year was marked by food shortages. This quarter, the danger has shifted to poor hygiene. The lack of water and cleaning supplies is turning cells into hotspots for the spread of infections amid the Ebola alert.

Priority actions called for by ACAT-Burundi:

1. **Immediately release Roger Habonimana, Félix Niyonizigiye**, and all individuals who have an acquittal order signed by a judge but who remain illegally detained.
2. **Urgently restore the running water supply** to the sanitary facilities in Muramvya, install storage tanks in Bururi, and distribute soap to protect the prison population from the Ebola epidemic.

3. **Launch an independent administrative investigation** into the falsified lists and allegations of corruption surrounding the mass release at Mpimba Central Prison.
4. **Grant provisional release** and use judicial supervision for the **5,755 defendants** in order to rapidly relieve overcrowding at Mpimba, Gitega, and other major detention centers.

I. INTRODUCTION

I.1 Background and Overview of the Report

This follow-up report, which covers the period from April to June 2026, continues our ongoing mission to assess and document daily life within Burundian prisons. While government agencies have a legal duty to ensure the protection and respect of persons deprived of their liberty, the findings from these three months reveal an alarming deterioration of the situation, driven by three major factors.

First, political and judicial management has been characterized by discriminatory and corrupt screening of clemency measures. While June 2026 saw notable progress with large waves of administrative releases that reduced the national prison population to 12,216 inmates, these measures exclusively benefited those convicted under common law. The overall process was profoundly distorted in certain facilities by fraud, falsified lists, and financial extortion. At the same time, humanitarian releases for the sick and the elderly have been frozen, and prisoners of conscience remain forcibly detained in their cells despite their acquittal orders, proving that the judicial system continues to be used as a tool for political punishment.

Second, the facilities are bearing the full brunt of logistical neglect and a hygiene crisis. The onset of the dry season, combined with the unexpected withdrawal of certain major humanitarian aid providers such as the ICRC, has devastated conditions in the dormitories. The administration cites financial difficulties to justify the lack of cleaning supplies and bedding. This shortage has turned into a major public health emergency: the rationing of water for washing and the drying up of water sources prevent the cleaning of restrooms, creating a high risk of disease spread at a time when the region is facing an Ebola epidemic alert.

Finally, the system faces chronic overcrowding. Despite a decline in the prison population at the end of the quarter, extreme overcrowding remains a structural feature of incarceration in Burundi, with the national occupancy rate standing at 284.49% in June, and an intolerable peak of 827% in Muramvya. This overcrowding eliminates any personal living space, forces detainees to abandon all modesty in dilapidated showers, and fosters a massive infestation of parasites that seriously harms the health of women and infants.

Given the scale of these abuses, this report rigorously documents the violations observed on the ground. By combining the data collected with firsthand accounts, our organization aims to provide an indisputable assessment of the situation to national institutions and international observers. Our aim is to highlight the danger facing the prison population, so that the implementation of the “Nelson Mandela Rules” finally becomes an immediate and concrete obligation.

I.2 Methodological Approach

The information presented in this report comes from our network of anonymous local monitors deployed from April to June 2026 in various detention centers and juvenile detention facilities across the country. The data is collected through conversations with detainees or their relatives. To ensure the reliability of the information, ACAT-Burundi applies a policy of systematic cross-checking. Each report is subject to mandatory verification against at least two independent and reliable sources, such as official records, reports from families, or medical reports, in order to rule out any inaccuracies. When information cannot be sufficiently corroborated, it is not included or is presented with the necessary caveats.

Monitoring work is nevertheless carried out under particularly restrictive conditions. Conducting monitoring activities on the human rights situation in Burundi's prison system requires navigating strict rules governing access to closed facilities. Monitors face the natural reluctance of detainees to disclose information and the administrative procedures required to gain access to prison facilities.

II. TRENDS IN THE PRISON POPULATION: BETWEEN RECORD OVERCROWDING AND RELEASE MEASURES

Accurate knowledge of prison populations and analysis of occupancy rates are essential tools for assessing compliance with minimum humanitarian standards. Statistical monitoring conducted during the second quarter (April through June 2026) reveals extreme and ongoing overcrowding, characterized by occupancy rates exceeding the critical threshold of acceptability in virtually all of the country's facilities. The overall national occupancy rate thus fluctuated between 299.84% in April (12,875 inmates for 4,294 beds) and a peak of 302.28% in May (12,980 inmates), before settling at 284.49% at the end of June 2026 (Table 1).

While the first quarter (January–March 2026) ended on a hopeful note following administrative announcements of clemency, the period from April to May 2026 saw a resumption of the rise in the inmate population. The judicial system continued to put pressure on pretrial detainees, who numbered 6,853 in April and 6,235 in May, with waves of parole releases failing to offset new admissions. However, June 2026 was marked by a decline in the national prison population, bringing the total number of inmates to 12,216 by the end of June. This decrease of 764 prisoners in one month is attributable to significant waves of administrative releases targeting minor offenses or those who had completed their sentences, particularly at Muramvya and Mpimba prisons.

Despite this decline at the end of the quarter, data from the field indicate that severe overcrowding persists. As of the end of June 2026, overcrowding remains severe in the main facilities: Mpimba Prison (Bujumbura) holds 4,125 inmates despite a capacity of 800 beds (a 515.63% occupancy rate), Muramvya Prison has an occupancy rate of 827% (827 inmates for 100 beds), and Gitega Prison stands at 294.25% occupancy (1,177 inmates for 400 beds). At Ruyigi Prison, which recorded a peak of 780 inmates in May (260% occupancy), the population stabilized at 668 in June.

Table1 Summary of Prison Population Trends by Facility (April–June 2026)

T: Total; Pr: Pretrial detainees; Co: Convicted inmates; %: Occupancy rate; N/A: Not available

Detention Center	Apr-26					May-26				Jun-26				Quarterly Trend (Q / %)
	Capacity	T	Pr	Co	%	T	Pr	Co	%	T	Pr	Co	%	
BUBANZA	200	433	213	220	216.50%	434	214	220	217%	393	177	216	196.50%	↘ Decline (Back below 200%)
BURURI	250	301	166	135	120.40%	305	162	143	122%	261	122	139	104.40%	↘ Sharp quarterly decline
GITEGA	400	1,424	705	719	356%	1,456	690	766	364%	1,327	590	737	331.75%	↘ Decline (After the May peak)
MPIMBA	800	4,200	2,553	1,647	525%	4,230	2,657	1,573	528.75%	4,125	2,663	1,462	515.63%	↘ Slight overall pullback
MURAMVYA	100	1041	458	583	1041%	1,063	428	635	1063%	827	309	518	827.00%	↘ Sharp decline (but a record high of 827%)
MUYINGA	300	600	121	479	200%	606	118	488	202%	569	115	454	189.67%	↘ Decline below 200%
NGOZI (female)	250	196	73	123	78.40%	199	77	122	79.60%	206	84	122	82.40%	↗ Steady increase (Not saturated)
NGOZI Men's	400	1,812	716	1,096	451%	1,841	699	1,142	460.25%	1,807	697	1,110	451.75%	→ Stable at the high (Saturation at 451%)
RUMONGE	800	1,517	564	953	189.63%	1,471	525	946	183.88%	1,481	545	936	185.13%	↘ Slight overall decline
RUTANA	350	427	177	250	122%	448	160	288	128%	418	158	260	119.43%	↘ Slight quarterly decline
RUYIGI	300	761	314	447	253.67%	780	333	447	260%	668	265	403	222.67%	↘ Decline at the end of the quarter
CRMCL RUYIGI	72	57	11	46	79.17%	50	11	39	69.44%	44	9	35	61.11%	↘ Continued decline
CRMCL RUMONGE	72	106	18	88	147.22%	97	19	78	134.72%	90	21	69	125.00%	↘ Continued decline (But overcrowded)
Total	4,294	12,875	6,089	6,786	299.84%	12,980	6,093	6,887	302.28%	12,216	5,755	6,461	284.49%	↘ Overall quarterly decline

II.1. Statistical Mapping and Facility Overcrowding

Accurate knowledge of prison populations and analysis of occupancy rates are essential tools for assessing compliance with minimum humanitarian standards. Statistical monitoring conducted during the second quarter (April–June 2026) reveals extreme and ongoing overcrowding of facilities, characterized by occupancy rates exceeding the critical threshold of acceptability in virtually all of the country's prisons. The overall national occupancy rate thus fluctuated between 299.84% in April (12,875 inmates for 4,294 beds) and a peak of 302.28% in May (12,980 inmates), before settling at 284.49% at the end of June 2026.

II.1.1 Analysis of the Upward Trend in Inmate Numbers

The second quarter of 2026 confirmed an alarming underlying trend during its first two months, before showing a slight reversal toward the end of the period: despite the implementation of various measures to reduce overcrowding, the prison population curve continued to rise and remained at extreme levels in April (12,875 inmates) and May (12,980 inmates), representing a

302.28% occupancy rate). However, June 2026 marked an overall decline in the national prison population, bringing the total to 12,216 inmates as of June 30, 2026. In Burundi, the prison system suffers from a permanent structural imbalance between the flow of judicial admissions and that of administrative releases.

This persistent positive balance demonstrates that exceptional clemency measures and waves of conditional releases are systematically absorbed and then nullified by a criminal justice policy that continues to prioritize mass incarceration—even for minor offenses—and by the illegal detention of prisoners of conscience. Statistics from the end of the quarter highlight the impact of the waves of administrative releases for minor offenses carried out in June (notably at Muramvya Prison, where the population fell from 1,063 to 827 inmates, and at Bururi, which dropped from 305 to 261 inmates). Despite this overall decline, which brought the national occupancy rate down to 284.49% at the end of June, overcrowding in major facilities remains at a critical and persistent level (515.63% at Mpimba and 451.75% at Ngozi-Hommes). The resulting lack of space forces thousands of inmates to cram into overcrowded cells or sleep directly on the concrete floor—a situation that was particularly acute at Ruyigi Prison during its peak of overcrowding in May (780 inmates) before the population dropped back to 668 in June.

The figure below visually illustrates this quarterly trend, highlighting the critical peak in May as well as the decline recorded at the end of June 2026 relative to the maximum theoretical national capacity threshold:

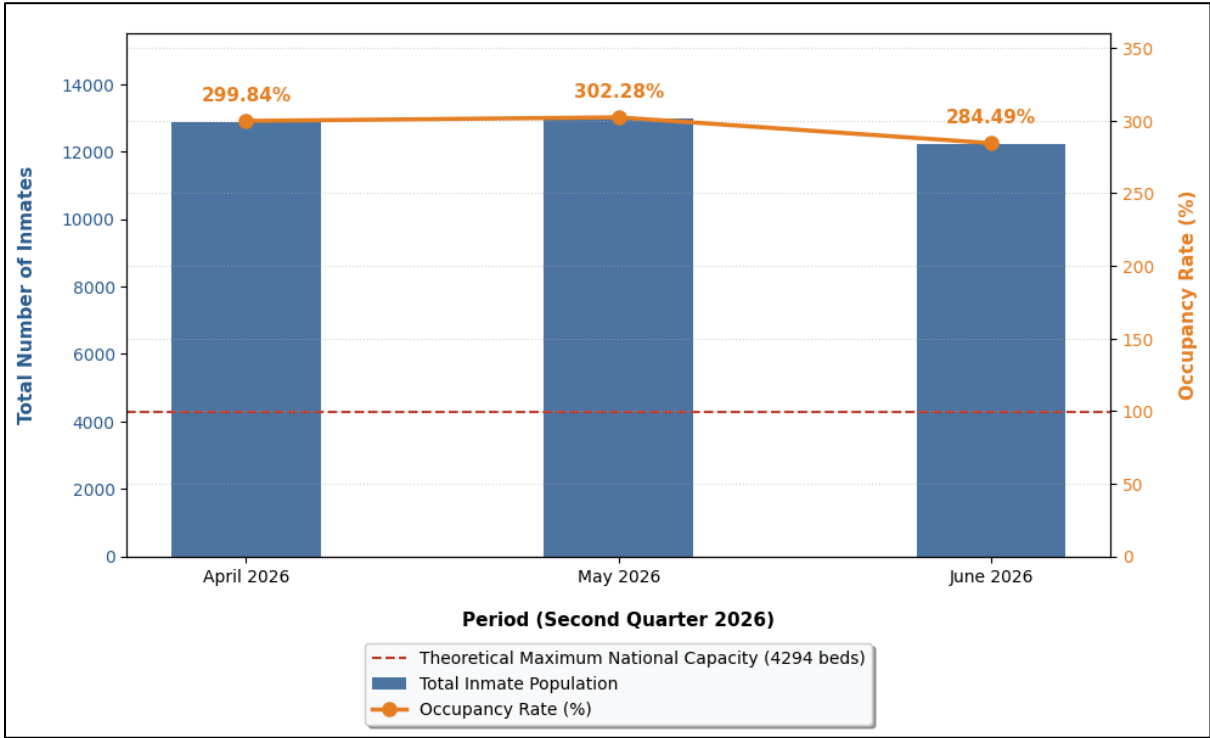


Figure1 Quarterly trend in the prison population and infrastructure saturation

II.1.2 Localized overcrowding at inhumane levels

An overall reading of the figures masks extreme regional disparities where prison density is no longer merely a matter of overcrowding but poses a threat to the lives of others. Overcrowding is particularly critical in urban centers and provincial prisons with limited capacity. A comparison with the previous period reveals the structural nature of the crisis: despite localized waves of releases at the end of the quarter, the system remains stuck at inhumane levels of overcrowding, confirming the inadequacy of decongestion policies:

- **The Muramvya Epicenter:** This facility represents the most severe case documented this quarter. With an occupancy rate reaching 1,041.00% in April and peaking at 1,063.00% in May, the prison housed more than ten times the number of people for which it was designed. Although June 2026 saw a significant drop in the prison population to 827 inmates following the release of 252 prisoners convicted of common crimes, the occupancy rate remains at an absurd and record-high level of 827.00%. Here, the very concept of “capacity” has completely disappeared, resulting in extreme overcrowding in a space originally intended for only 100 people.
- **Overcrowding in major facilities:** The prisons in Mpimba (Bujumbura) and Ngozi-Hommes operate under constant strain. At Mpimba, the occupancy rate rose from 525.00% in April to 528.75% in May (4,230 prisoners) before dropping slightly to 4,125 inmates in June, maintaining an unsustainable occupancy rate of 515.63% for an initial capacity of 800 beds. Meanwhile, the Ngozi-men prison saw its rise from 451.00% in April to 460.25% in May (1,841 prisoners) before stabilizing at its highest level in June with 1,807 inmates, representing a 451.75% occupancy rate for 400 beds. The administration finds it completely impossible to meet basic needs there.
- **The situation in provincial prisons:** Overcrowding is also taking hold in Gitega, where the overcrowding rate rose from 356.00% in April to 364.00% in May (1,456 inmates) before beginning to decline to 1,327 inmates in June (331.75% occupancy). At Ruyigi Prison, following a rise from 253.67% in April to 260.00% in May (780 inmates)—which forced many inmates to sleep directly on the concrete floor—releases in June brought the population down to 668 people (222.67% occupancy). Finally, Bururi Prison followed a similar trajectory, fluctuating between 120.40% in April and 122.00% in May, before easing to 104.40% at the end of June (261 inmates for 250 beds) as a result of waves of administrative releases.

In June 2026, administrative release measures helped reduce the prison population to 12,216 inmates, thereby halting the continuous increase recorded during April and May.

The figure below strikingly highlights the critical gap between legal housing standards and the reality on the ground, thanks to the horizontal line representing the theoretical capacity of each facility. This visual reference allows for an instant assessment of the extent of overcrowding and the demographic strain experienced daily by each of these facilities.

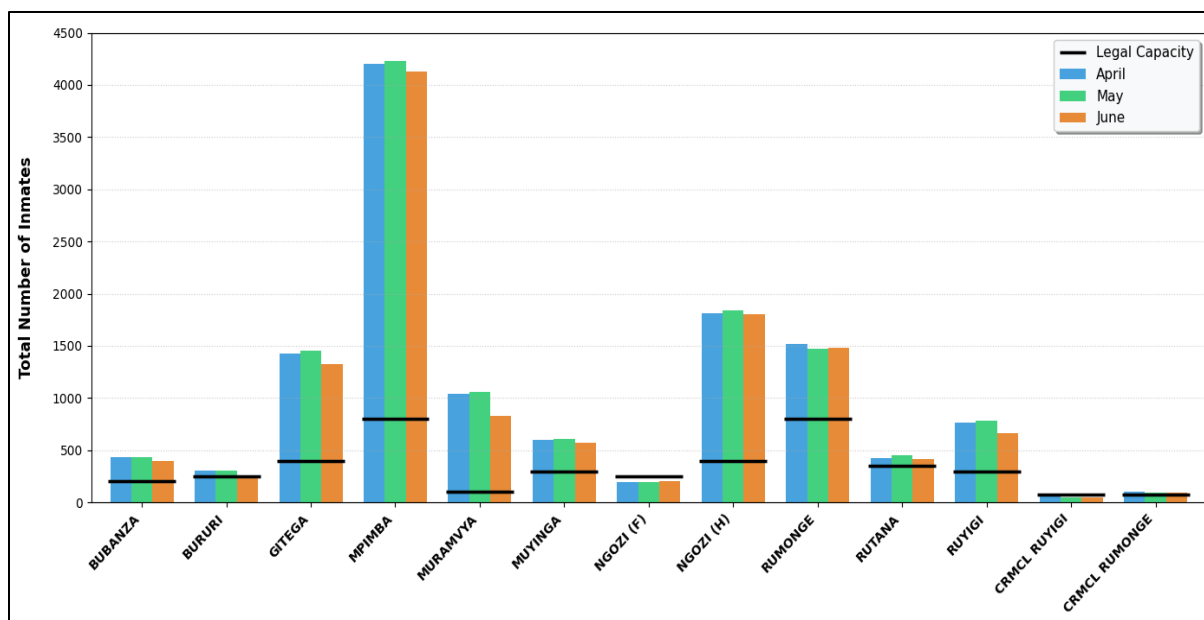


Figure2 : Quarterly Comparison of Prison Population by Facility vs. Legal Capacity (April–June 2026)

This overcrowding is the primary cause of the human rights violations documented in the following sections of this report. The excessive density of the prison population accelerates the deterioration of already dilapidated facilities, facilitates the spread of disease, and fuels ongoing tensions within the cells.

II.1.3 Analytical Interpretation of Overcrowding Disparities

Analysis of this infographic visually confirms the logistical failure of the housing system. The near-systematic exceeding of capacity limits illustrates a phenomenon of overall prison overcrowding that destroys minimum living conditions.

This map highlights three critical realities:

- **The Muramvya anomaly:** The Muramvya block graphically illustrates an extreme situation. The bars for April and May rise to a level disproportionate to the capacity line (100 beds). The appearance of the June bar, although down to 827 inmates, visually confirms that this facility remains trapped in a state of permanent overcrowding.
- **Overcrowded Large Prisons:** At Mpimba and Ngozi Men's, the height of the bars shows that the administration must manage unmanageable populations within fixed spaces. The persistence of these bars at their highest levels in June (4,125 inmates at Mpimba and 1,807 at Ngozi Men's) proves that the crisis there is completely entrenched, overwhelming access to showers, latrines, and basic food rations.
- **The minority within standards:** Only the Ngozi Women's Prison and the Ruyigi CRMCL remained below the legal capacity threshold throughout the quarter. This exception confirms that the crisis of mass incarceration primarily targets the male criminal population, including those convicted of common law offenses and political prisoners.

These data confirm that the Burundian prison system structurally deviates from minimum detention standards and fundamental human rights. Extreme overcrowding, far from being a one-time anomaly, has become the norm, while compliance with legal capacity limits is now the exception.

II. 2. Analysis of the Judicial Structure of the Prison Population

An examination of the legal categories within the prison population helps to understand the root causes of infrastructure saturation. Data from the quarter reveal that prison overcrowding is not linked to an increase in final convictions, but rather to a structural backlog of cases at the preliminary investigation and pretrial detention stages.

Rapidly reducing prison overcrowding requires simultaneous action on these two categories of detainees.

. On the one hand, presidential pardons benefit only those who have been convicted and have no effect on the thousands of defendants awaiting trial. This situation keeps people presumed innocent in detention due to the slow pace of the judicial process in handling their cases. Resolving this issue requires judges and prosecutors to make full use of the legal tools provided by law, particularly the granting of provisional release and the expediting of trial proceedings. Furthermore, the prison administration must release convicted prisoners who have already served a substantial portion of their sentences by properly applying the mechanisms for parole and release upon completion of the sentence. It is the joint application of these two measures that would effectively alleviate overcrowding in correctional facilities.

II. 2. 1. The Persistent Prevalence of Pretrial Detention

Statistical data for the quarter highlights the judicial system's direct responsibility for the ongoing overcrowding of pretrial detention centers. Nationwide, the prison population is divided almost equally into two groups. In June 2026, defendants awaiting trial accounted for 47.11% of the population (5,755 people), while those with final convictions accounted for 52.89% (6,461 people).

This large number of citizens awaiting trial thus accounts for nearly half of the country's prison population. The situation is particularly extreme at the Mpimba Central Prison. In this facility, pretrial detainees alone account for 64.55% of the total population (2,663 out of 4,125 inmates in June). This disproportionate number confirms the systematic use of pretrial detention orders by prosecutors, to the detriment of alternative measures provided for by law.

Figure 3 illustrates this disproportionate distribution, highlighting the imbalance between those serving final sentences and those whose legal fate remains pending.

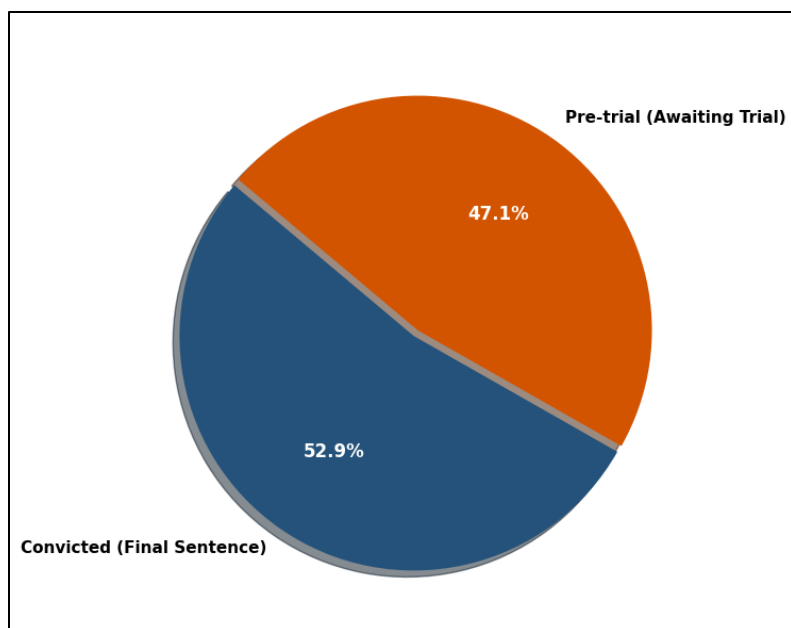


Figure3 : Average Judicial Breakdown of the Prison Population in Burundi (April–June 2026)

II.2.2 Disaggregated Analysis of the Judicial Structure by Facility

The stacked horizontal bar chart presented below illustrates the disparities in the judicial structure for each detention center. It highlights the respective shares of pretrial detainees (in orange) and convicted inmates (in blue) of the total population in each facility during this quarter.

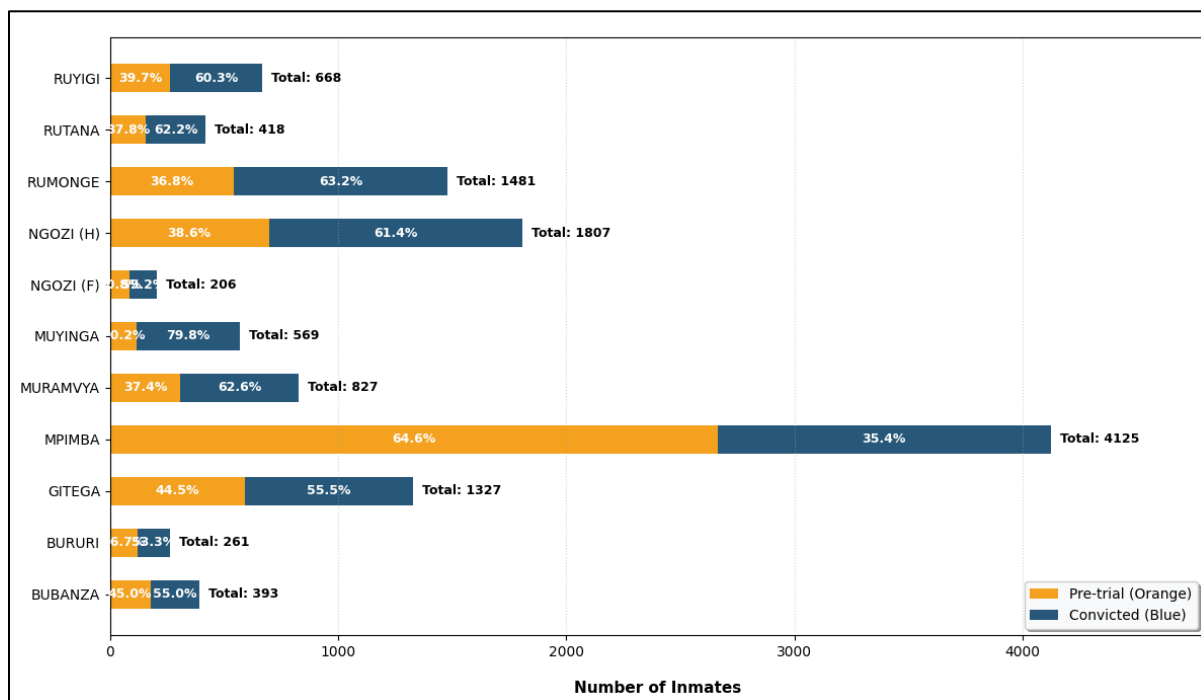


Figure4 Comparative Breakdown of Pretrial Detainees and Convicted Inmates by Correctional Facility as of June 30, 2026

II.2.3 Analytical Interpretation of the Judicial Structure

An examination of the national average (Figure 3) reveals a striking reality: at the end of this quarter, nearly half of the people incarcerated in Burundian prisons (47.11%) had still not been tried. This number of pretrial detainees, nearly equal to that of those with final convictions (52.89%), confirms a major and persistent dysfunction in the criminal justice system, where pretrial detention has become the rule rather than the exception.

However, a detailed examination of this data by facility (Figure 4) highlights critical local situations masked by this national average:

- **The structural anomaly at Mpimba:** The central prison reaffirms its status as a black spot in the judicial process. As of June 30, 2026, it is the only major facility in the country where the proportions are heavily reversed, with 64.55% of pretrial detainees and only 35.45% of convicted prisoners. Pretrial detention remains the sole driver of the extreme overcrowding of cells there.
- **The Situation in Gitega and the Relief in Bururi:** In Gitega, the breakdown is nearly balanced, with 44.46% of inmates awaiting trial (590 pretrial detainees out of 737 convicted inmates), keeping the facility under strain. At Bururi Prison, analysis of the end-of-quarter data shows a change from previous months: the proportion of pretrial detainees has fallen to 46.74% (122 people) compared to 53.26% of convicted inmates (139 people), illustrating the impact of recent administrative regularizations.
- **Detention centers with a majority of convicted inmates:** Conversely, facilities such as Musinga (**79.78% convicted inmates**) and Ngozi-Men (**61.43% convicted inmates**) have a population consisting overwhelmingly of pretrial detainees. This demonstrates that the dysfunctions in the criminal justice system do not affect the country uniformly.

In conclusion, a combined analysis of these two figures proves that a sustainable reduction in overcrowding in detention facilities requires targeted actions. Presidential pardons are insufficient because they overlook half of the prison population. Judges must take immediate action to address prisons congested by pretrial detention by releasing defendants who have been awaiting trial for too long.

II.3. Focus on Vulnerable Groups: Women and Minors

Prison overcrowding does not affect inmates in the same way. An examination of the figures shows that vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, bear the brunt of the lack of space in prisons, even though their overall numbers remain lower than those of men.

The table below presents the overall numerical situation and key indicators regarding the categories of inmates most affected by the prison crisis at the end of the quarter:

Table2 : National Statistical Overview of Vulnerable Groups as of June 30, 2026

Category	Pretrial Detainees	Convicted inmates	Total	Remarks
Women (Adults)	357	503	860	41.51% of women nationwide remained in detention without trial as of the end of June.
Minors (in CRMCL)	30	104	134	The Rumonge Regional Medical and Surgical Center remains at 125% capacity despite a decline in patient numbers.
Infants	—	—	71	Held in custody with their mothers, they are direct victims of poor hygiene and food rationing.

II.3.1. The Specific Situation of Female Inmates

Statistical monitoring highlights the situation at the Ngozi Women’s Prison, the only facility entirely dedicated to this category. The prison population there remained at a level of steady, slight increase throughout the quarter, rising from 196 women in April and 199 in May to 206 women by the end of June 2026.

In terms of capacity, with an occupancy rate reaching 82.40% in June for a theoretical capacity of 250 beds, this facility does not reach the saturation threshold seen in men’s prisons. However, this apparent decline compared to the peaks of the first quarter masks a difficult reality. As of June 30, 2026, the proportion of female detainees awaiting trial had risen to 40.77% at Ngozi Women’s Prison (i.e., 84 out of 206). This legal vulnerability extends to other prisons in the country with women’s wings, such as the Bururi prison, which held 24 women at the end of June.

II.3.2. Detention of Minors: A Relative but Concerning Decline

The situation of minors and young people in conflict with the law is reflected in data from the Ruyigi and Rumonge Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers (CRMCL):

- **The Ruyigi CRMCL:** The number of inmates has shown an encouraging and steady decline throughout the period, falling from 57 minors in April and 50 in May to 44 minors at the end of June 2026. The center is operating well below its maximum capacity (72 beds), with an occupancy rate of 61.11% in June.
- **The Rumonge CRMCL:** In contrast, this facility remains at full capacity. Although the number of juveniles continued to decline—from 106 in April and 97 in May to 90 by the end of June 2026—the center remains overcrowded relative to its theoretical capacity of 72 beds, with a high occupancy rate of 125.00%.

The continued detention of these minors who have not yet been tried—who account for 20.45% of the population in Ruyigi (9 defendants) and 23.33% in Rumonge (21 defendants) as of June 30, 2026—demonstrates that prison continues to be used as a convenient solution for young people.

This situation is serious, as Burundian law and international instruments require that the detention of children remain an exceptional measure of last resort. Placing minors in pretrial detention instead of entrusting them to their families or educational centers destroys their chances of reintegration and exacerbates the crisis in the system.

II.3.3. Infants held in detention are invisible victims of incarceration

Field monitoring confirms the continued presence of infants and very young children living in cells alongside their incarcerated mothers, totaling 71 children nationwide as of the end of June 2026 (compared to 78 in April and 81 in May), located primarily at the Ngozi Women's Prison as well as in Mpimba and Bururi.

Having committed no offense, these children have no legal status but nonetheless share the reality of detention. They bear the brunt of poor hygiene, a shortage of soap, and overcrowded dormitories, which expose them to serious risks of skin diseases or nutritional deficiencies.

II.4 Assessment of Release Mechanisms and Limitations of the Process

An analysis of release trends during this quarter confirms that release mechanisms have failed to sustainably reduce prison overcrowding, although the administrative measures implemented in June 2026 helped initiate an overall decline by reducing the national prison population to 12,216 inmates. The few measures implemented remained insufficient in the face of continuous waves of new incarcerations.

This lack of impact can be attributed to major limitations observed on the ground:

- **The blocking of release orders and acquittals:** Several prisoners declared completely innocent by the courts are being illegally held in cells for months. This is the case in Muramvya for citizens such as Roger Habonimana and Félix Niyonizigiye, whose final acquittal orders are not being carried out by the administration.
- **The systematic exclusion of political prisoners:** Prisoners of conscience and those detained for reasons of state security are deliberately excluded from parole hearings. At the Mpimba (Bujumbura) and Ruyigi prisons (where two such cases have been identified), case files related to these offenses (ASIE, PBA, etc.) are filed and archived separately from those of other prisoners. This deliberate isolation of their files in the court registry artificially keeps these individuals in detention, thereby nullifying the effect of standard clemency measures. During the quarter, only one case of release upon completion of sentence was recorded for this category: that of Tharcisse Niyongabo (Mukoni case) in June at Muramvya.
- **Dysfunction in the public prosecutor's offices and release lists:** Collective release processes were severely hampered by administrative failures. At Mpimba Prison, visits by the Attorney General aimed at releasing defendants and individuals who had served their full sentences were suspended due to massive irregularities in the lists compiled by the facility, which included numerous names of prisoners who had already been released. A similar situation involving major administrative irregularities in the compilation of the lists also led to the cancellation of releases at Ngozi Prison.

- **The Commercialization of Clemency Procedures:** The mass release processes have been marred by fraud. According to testimonies from some inmates at Mpimba Prison, irregularities in the selection of beneficiaries and the selling of certain spots by commission members are turning this legal measure into a financial privilege accessible through corruption.

Ultimately, the number of releases this quarter remains purely symbolic. As long as judges' acquittal decisions are not immediately enforced and release lists are subject to financial extortion, the number of releases will remain too low to empty the dormitories.

Table3 Chronological Record of Release Mechanisms (Second Quarter 2026)

Period	Facility	Workforce & Profiles	Legal Framework	Impact & Observations
April	Rumonge & Ruyigi	50 defendants acquitted	Visit by the Prosecutor and Releases	Release of 48 defendants charged with common crimes in Rumonge and 2 acquitted individuals in Ruyigi.
June	Muramvya	252 detainees released	Administrative releases	Mass releases for minor common-law offenses. All political detainees remained in strict isolation, with one exception (Tharcisse Niyongabo).
June	Bururi	57 detainees released (44 men, 7 women on June 4; 6 men on June 30)	Sentences completed and one-quarter of sentences served	Expected regularization of 51 individuals who were being held illegally despite their administrative release orders.
June	Mpimba	Approximately 50 detainees released (in groups of 30 and then 20)	Release committees	Process initially blocked by the Attorney General due to irregular lists, before partially resuming amid allegations of corruption.

Nationwide	Nationwide	More than 400 documented cases	Collective and individual measures	Real but localized impact at the end of the quarter (June) on those convicted under ordinary criminal law, with no effect on the national caseload of defendants.
------------	------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	---

Methodological note and caveat regarding numbers:

The statistics presented in this table were rigorously compiled solely on the basis of alerts, data, and field reports provided by our informants within the various facilities. Due to access restrictions and a lack of transparency on the part of the prison administration, ACAT-Burundi emphasizes that there may be other cases of prisoner releases that have not been brought to its attention. These figures therefore represent a minimum count of cases officially documented and verified by our network.

II.5 The Impact of Judicial Delays on the Number of Pretrial Detainees

The stagnation in the number of pretrial detainees—which remained above 5,755 individuals at the end of June 2026—can be attributed to two major logistical and political bottlenecks that prevent cases from being closed:

- **The counterproductive effect of the decentralization of prosecutors’ offices:** Initially presented by the authorities as a modern solution to bring justice closer to citizens and speed up proceedings, the reorganization of prosecutors’ offices into municipalities has turned into a veritable logistical trap on the ground. By decentralizing courts to municipalities that are sometimes very remote (such as Matana, Mugamba, and Songa for the Bururi prison), the reform faces a complete lack of transportation, fuel- , and escort personnel. Consequently, the prison administration is physically unable to transfer inmates to their municipalities of origin. Hearings are systematically postponed, forcing defendants to wait in their cells for an additional two to three months without even being heard. This technical freeze on proceedings fuels a constant backlog of defendants and overwhelms the infrastructure.
- **The targeted blocking of political cases:** The deliberate isolation of cases related to state security by court clerks prevents any review of release. Hundreds of people thus remain artificially stuck in the status of defendants or detainees without any rights, which undermines efforts to reduce overcrowding.

III. RESPECT FOR PHYSICAL INTEGRITY AND HUMAN DIGNITY

The preservation of human dignity and physical integrity is a fundamental and absolute obligation within the prison system. During the quarter from April to June 2026, monitoring of Burundian prisons revealed that the daily living conditions imposed on persons deprived of their liberty seriously jeopardize these essential principles. The introduction of prohibited substances, the extreme overcrowding of cells, and the chronic instability of the food supply profoundly undermine the well-being of prisoners.

III.1. Prison Environment and Internal Insecurity Linked to the Impact of Alcohol Trafficking Within Prisons

Maintaining order, discipline, and security is essential to ensuring a protective environment for incarcerated individuals. However, inaction or management failures observed following recent changes in leadership have fostered the emergence of a climate of internal disorder that is detrimental to collective security.

At Muramvya Prison, the month of May was particularly marked by persistent disorder caused by the arrival of the new warden. Throughout the quarter—and especially in June—this situation resulted in heavy consumption of homemade and commercially produced alcoholic beverages within the facility itself. Inmates regularly obtain and consume alcohol sold in plastic bags, as well as a beverage commonly known as “Kick” or “Ubusarabwayi.”

This de facto tolerance of prohibited psychoactive substances creates constant instability on the premises. It directly and negatively affects the health of inmates and creates chronic insecurity characterized by a rise in thefts inside prison cells. By failing to curb this illicit trade, the prison administration is failing in its obligation to protect inmates from internal crime.

III.2. Violations of dignity related to prison infrastructure and overcrowding

The right to decent living space and an individual bed is a key element of human dignity. Widespread overcrowding forces prison administrations to make extreme logistical compromises that deprive inmates of the most basic conditions for rest.

- **Lack of Beds and Sleeping on the Floor at Ruyigi:** At Ruyigi Prison, the massive increase in the inmate population—which surpassed the critical threshold of 780 inmates in May (260% occupancy)—overwhelmed the prison’s infrastructure. Although releases at the end of June 2026 reduced the population to 668, this extreme overcrowding prevented a humane allocation of sleeping spaces for much of the quarter. Due to a lack of sufficient space and appropriate furniture, many inmates were forced to sleep directly on the concrete floor.
- **Overcrowding Due to Forced Relocation in Bururi:** At the Bururi prison, renovation work on certain cells was planned in May and carried out in June. While the intention to renovate the buildings is commendable, the management of space during the construction work triggered an internal crisis. To clear the areas under construction, the administration forced inmates to relocate and cram into the remaining spaces, even

though the facility housed 326 people in May and 261 at the end of June. This sudden reduction in available space exacerbated internal overcrowding and immediately worsened the living conditions of the affected inmates.

While ACAT-Burundi had already expressed alarm during the previous quarter, from January to March 2026, regarding violations of dignity linked to insufficient prison space, the situation has now reached a new level of severity. The difficulties caused by overcrowding no longer stem solely from a slow, gradual increase in the prison population but are now exacerbated by problematic administrative decisions. Unplanned construction projects within the prisons or an inability to manage the sudden surge in the number of inmates—as observed in Ruyigi—are now condemning prisoners to inhumane sleeping conditions on bare concrete floors.

III.3. Vulnerability of Specific Groups and Overall Deterioration of Living Conditions

The Burundian state's duty to protect requires tailored and enhanced attention toward prisoners whose survival and mental health remain dependent on specialized care. Unfortunately, data collected between April and June 2026 confirm that prison authorities continue to treat the most vulnerable inmates in the same manner as the general prison population.

Instead of receiving essential support measures, newborns and individuals with psychiatric disorders are bearing the brunt of the suspension of humanitarian funding and the deterioration of basic services. By citing financial constraints or ongoing administrative reforms, the prison system is doubling the impact of incarceration for these vulnerable groups. This failure on the part of administrative structures to adapt amounts to a de facto abandonment of vulnerable inmates, whose natural vulnerabilities become factors leading to isolation and decline deep within their cells.

It is against this backdrop of structural failure that the following concerning and recent cases arise:

- **The critical impact on infants in prison:** It is imperative to highlight the situation of infants currently living behind bars in Burundi, whose census showed a national total of 78 babies in April, 74 babies in May (47 girls and 27 boys), and stood at 71 infants as of June 30, 2026. These children, who have done nothing wrong, are bearing the full brunt of the consequences of their mothers' detention:
 - **Nutritional deficiencies and supply shortages:** Massive and repeated shortages of beans (notably the 19-day complete shortage recorded in Ngozi in May) and flour directly affect the quality of breast milk and weaning foods, exposing these children to early nutritional vulnerability.
 - **Toxic and unsanitary environment:** Extreme overcrowding due to general prison overcrowding and rationing of drinking water (as at Muramvya Prison, where water was available only four days a week during June 2026) expose newborns to severe health risks.
 - **Logistical Shortages and Pest Infestations:** The case documented at Bururi Prison in June is particularly alarming in this regard. Following the suspension of operations and support from major humanitarian organizations such as the ICRC, the cells found themselves completely lacking blankets in the face of the region's cold climate. Widespread wear and tear or the complete absence of mattresses, combined with the total cessation of pest control campaigns, has led to a massive

bedbug infestation in the dormitories housing mothers and their children, turning sleeping areas into hotbeds of infection.

- **Psychiatric Distress and Systemic Failure of Medical Care:** The Burundian prison administration still fails to guarantee the right to specialized care for inmates suffering from mental health conditions, keeping them in a standard detention system that is completely unsuitable:
 - **The Dead-End Case at Muramvya Prison:** The May monitoring report highlighted the situation of an inmate suffering from severe mental disorders. Despite his clearly impaired mental faculties and urgent need for external psychiatric care, prison officials refrained from transferring him to a specialized facility, leaving him without adequate care within the prison throughout the month of June 2026.
 - **Christian Butoyi (Mpimba Prison):** A stark symbol of tragic institutional neglect, this inmate has remained behind bars at Mpimba Central Prison since September 8, 2014. Despite a well-documented psychiatric condition recognized by observers, Christian Butoyi is now entering his twelfth year of continuous detention without a clear legal case or appropriate medical care. His prolonged detention during this quarter in a prison environment suffering from extreme overcrowding (with the inmate population having risen to 4,564 at the beginning of June 2026, compared to a theoretical capacity of 800) transforms his sentence into a veritable psychiatric confinement, in defiance of his manifest lack of criminal responsibility.

III.4. Violations of Physical Integrity Due to Lack of Food and Access to Drinking Water

The guarantee of a healthy diet and regular access to drinking water constitutes a basic biological necessity essential to preserving the lives and health of detainees. During the period from April to June 2026, the management of food and water supplies within the Burundian prison system underwent a phase of acute destabilization, affecting the physical well-being of thousands of people deprived of their liberty.

This quarter's field monitoring highlights the following concrete realities:

- **Systemic shortages and instability in basic food supplies:** Beans and cornmeal were in short supply—either for prolonged periods or intermittently—across the country. At Ngozi Prison, May saw a complete shortage of beans for 19 consecutive days, forcing prisoners to survive on plain cornmeal alone, without any source of plant-based protein. This shortage recurred for 4 days in June. At Mpimba Central Prison (Bujumbura), food supplies experienced extremely severe shortages during the quarter, with the facility recording 12 full days without any distribution of beans and 5 days of a total shortage of cornmeal. At Bururi Prison, food supplies in June were marked by alternating shortages of flour and beans, following a prolonged flour shortage lasting one month and ten days in April. At Gitega Prison, the total absence of beans for three days at the end of April led to an immediate increase in hunger-related hardships among an overcrowded population of 1,424 inmates. Finally, at Ruyigi Prison, the administration managed its meager reserves through extreme irregularity in May and June, distributing beans one day only to withhold them from inmates the next.
- **The crisis in access to drinking water and the impact of the dry season:** Water supply difficulties severely impacted the daily lives of inmates, with conditions varying by facility.

At Muramvya Prison, access to water remained irregular in April, being available only at certain times, before deteriorating severely in June, when water was available only four days a week. At Bururi Prison, June was marked by major water problems caused by the drying up of water sources due to the dry season, a crisis exacerbated by the complete lack of containers for storing water within the facility. In contrast, monitoring at Ngozi Prison in April indicated that there had been no major difficulties regarding access to water at the beginning of the quarter.

- **Deterioration in food quality and the distribution of spoiled food:** During the month of April, Muramvya Prison distributed stocks of rotten or infested beans to inmates—food that had been formally deemed unfit for human consumption. This substandard distribution exposed the prison population to serious risks of gastrointestinal illnesses, before the bean reserves were completely depleted during the last two days of the month. In June, the same facility switched to severe rationing, with beans—which were absent from regular supplies—being cooked only once or twice a week, reducing the standard diet to plain cornmeal.
- **The impact of this dual deprivation on dignity and the regulatory framework:** When reserves run out, facilities find themselves materially unable to meet legal subsistence standards. This results not only in the inability to provide the theoretically mandated nutritional ration—such as the 350 g of flour and 350 g of beans stipulated in Bururi—but also in the inability to guarantee minimum access to drinking water. By failing to ensure these two fundamental and inseparable rights, the State subjects detainees to a daily struggle for survival. This situation of deprivation reduces human beings to a constant struggle to meet their basic biological needs, destroying all dignity and constituting a form of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

Prolonged deprivation of food and drinking water constitutes a serious violation of the right to life and can be equated with a form of torture by omission.

Table4 Summary of Violations of the Right to Dignity and Integrity (April–June 2026)

Category of Violation	Key Events & Location	Impact on Detainees
Prison Environment & Insecurity	Disturbances caused by the new warden in May and heavy consumption of homemade alcohol such as “Kick” or “Ubusarabwayi” inside the prison (Muramvya, May–June).	Creation of a climate of insecurity inside the prison, an increase in thefts, and a negative impact on inmates’ health.
Infrastructure & Violations of Privacy	Severely worn-out beds; sleeping areas equipped with makeshift mosquito nets (April); showers and toilets without doors (Muramvya, April–June).	Daily violations of modesty and deterioration of minimum sleeping conditions.
Space Management & Sleeping Arrangements	- Some inmates sleep on the floor due to overcrowding (Ruyigi, May). - Forced to relocate and crowd together because certain parts of the prison are under renovation (Bururi, June).	Loss of basic human dignity related to sleeping conditions and increased overcrowding during construction work.
Food Shortages	- Three-day shortage of flour (Ngozi, April). - Shortage of beans during the last three days of April (Gitega). - Beans were served intermittently (one day on, one day off) in May (Ruyigi). - Bean shortage lasting 19 days in May and 4 days in June (Ngozi). Beans not distributed for 12 days and flour shortage for 5 days (Mpimba, May). - A shortage of cornmeal lasting one month and ten days in April, followed by alternating shortages of cornmeal and beans on certain days (Bururi, April–June).	Increased hunger-related difficulties, insufficient and irregular daily rations, and having to make do with plain maize porridge.
Food Quality	Distribution of rotten or infested beans unfit for consumption in April. In June, a complete lack of beans throughout the month (available only 1–2 times per week) (Muramvya).	Deterioration of food conditions and exposure of detainees to spoiled food.

Drinking Water Shortage	• Irregular water supply available only at certain times in April, then available only 4 times a week in June (Muramvya). • Water problems and drying up of water sources during the dry season, combined with a lack of containers to store water (Bururi, June).	Shortage of drinking water and difficulties with supply and storage for the prison population.
Deprivation of Specific Groups	• Presence of infants held in detention: 78 babies in April, 74 in May, and 71 by the end of June 2026 nationwide. • The NGO ICRC is no longer operational and no longer provides support: lack of blankets to protect against the cold, worn-out or missing mattresses, and beds infested with bedbugs following the complete cessation of pest control efforts (Bururi, June).	Deteriorating living conditions for women and children, prolonged exposure to the cold, and a proliferation of pests in the cells.

IV. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL TREATMENT

The right to health and adequate medical care is a fundamental obligation of the prison administration. Monitoring conducted during the April–June 2026 quarter highlights major shortcomings in access to care, characterized by an acute shortage of medications, administrative or logistical restrictions during transfers to hospitals, and tragic consequences for the lives of detainees.

While the previous quarter, spanning January through March 2026, had already highlighted chronic health care shortages within prison clinics, the current period marks a critical turning point. We are witnessing a shift from logistical fragility to a comprehensive structural collapse, exacerbated by the cessation of activities by international support organizations and the emergence of arbitrary financial barriers imposed by new prison administrations. This decline in medical coverage effectively exacerbates the vulnerability of patients, turning incarceration into a life-threatening risk for the most severely affected prisoners.

IV.1. Collapse of Healthcare Coverage and Systemic Shortage of Medications

The health situation within prisons has become severely precarious, due to the combined effects of the cessation of humanitarian aid and the administration's inability to maintain supplies to the on-site clinics:

- **Ngozi:** The lack of medications has been the main problem since April, limiting access to care for sick prisoners. This shortage became complete at the clinic in May and continued throughout June, forcing inmates to pay for their own treatments, even in cases of emergency hospital admission.
- **Bururi:** Access to care became difficult in May, as the medications distributed during consultations were not appropriate. The administration simply attributed this shortage to debts owed by the Directorate of Prison Affairs to the Ministry of Health. In June, the situation worsened because the NGO ICRC, which had historically supported the facility, is no longer operational and is no longer providing assistance.
- **Muramvya and Ruyigi:** While medications were available in Muramvya in April to ensure adequate care, June saw the emergence of a shortage of pharmaceuticals there as well. In Ruyigi in May, medical care was nonexistent since no doctors were visiting the prison, even though the facility housed many people suffering from chronic illnesses.
- The difficulties in accessing care observed during the quarter show that healthcare shortcomings are no longer merely isolated logistical problems. They now reflect a structural inability to guarantee the right to health for people deprived of their liberty.

IV.2. Administrative, Logistical, and Financial Barriers to Hospital Transfers

Even when inmates' health requires transfer to specialized external facilities, significant obstacles prevent their transport:

- **Institutionalized financial extortion at Ngozi:** In May, according to testimony from some detainees, the prison director made authorization for release to the provincial hospital contingent on the payment of a bribe of 150,000 Fbu to his administration, in addition to 50,000 Fbu intended for the police to provide an escort. The authorities systematically refused to allow sick inmates who could not pay these sums to leave. In June, these access restrictions imposed by the administration persisted, particularly targeting transfers to specialized facilities, notably for dental and ophthalmological care and to the general hospital.
- **Logistical Gridlock at Mpimba Prison:** During the month of May, transfers to outside facilities for serious cases were extremely difficult due to a lack of fuel needed to operate ambulances. These delays meant that, often, by the time a detainee finally arrived at the hospital, the doctors had already left.
- **Managerial gridlock at Muramvya:** In May, access to care became problematic for inmates who needed to be transferred to the provincial hospital, a situation marked by turmoil resulting from a change in leadership. Additionally, an inmate with mental health issues, whose name was not disclosed, could not be transferred to receive care appropriate to his condition. At Bururi Prison, June was marked by major restrictive decisions made by the new warden, who barred inmates from accessing specialized hospitals (including for eye care, dental care, and the general hospital), thereby exacerbating the suffering of patients.

IV.3. Fatal Violations of the Right to Life and Forced Interruptions of Treatment

Widespread failures in care and a lack of medical diligence have led to irreversible violations of detainees' rights:

- **Documented deaths at Ngozi Prison:** On May 18, 2026, sources on the ground reported the death within the facility of inmate **Miburo Moussa**, a native of Kirundo. He received no adequate medical care or transfer to a hospital despite the continuous deterioration of his health; the administration provided him only with acetaminophen before his death. A second inmate death was recorded at the Ngozi Provincial Hospital during the same month, due to widespread difficulties in transporting patients.
- **Forced Interruption of Treatment at Mpimba:** During the month of May, monitoring efforts brought to light the case of inmate Aloys Ntakarutimana, nicknamed **Wakenya**. He was forcibly removed from the off-site hospital where he was receiving treatment before he had fully recovered, solely on the grounds that the prison administration believed he posed a risk of escape.

This conditional management of access to care reveals the financial exploitation of the prison system, within which inmates' survival depends directly on their economic resources.

Table5 : General Status of Medical Care (Quarter 2 – 2026)

Performance Indicator	Quarterly Assessment (April–June 2026)	Severity Level & Trend
Availability of Medications	• Complete depletion of safety stock in most health clinics (Ngozi, Bururi, Muramvya in June). • Distribution of inappropriate treatments due to government debt (Bururi).	CRITICAL A marked deterioration compared to the previous quarter.
Continuation of emergency transfers	• Systematic financial extortion in Ngozi (passes charged at 150,000 FBu). • Logistical gridlock in Mpimba due to a lack of fuel for transport vehicles.	RED ALERT Emergence of life-threatening financial and administrative barriers.
Availability of qualified personnel	• Complete absence of medical follow-up and doctor visits observed in Ruyigi in May. • Management dysfunction and disarray during leadership transitions (Muramvya).	PRECARIOUS Disruption of the right to regular access to a doctor or specialist.
Protection of the right to life	• Two deaths documented in Ngozi in May, including that of inmate Miburo Moussa, due to a lack of medical care and rationing of acetaminophen.	CATASTROPHIC Direct consequences of inaction and denial of care.
Stability of external support	• Cessation of activities and permanent withdrawal of medical, logistical, and health support by the ICRC in Bururi in June.	CRITICAL Collapse of the last humanitarian safety net within the prison system.
Compliance with medical protocols	• Forced removal by police of prisoners hospitalized outside the prison (the case of inmate Aloys Ntakarutimana Wakenya in Mpimba) before their full recovery.	SERIOUS Arbitrary security considerations take precedence over medical necessities.

V. ARBITRARY DETENTION AND JUDICIAL IRREGULARITIES

The guarantee of fair justice and respect for release orders are fundamental pillars of the rule of law. Monitoring conducted during the second quarter, spanning April through June 2026, highlights serious structural dysfunctions within the judicial system, acts of administrative corruption, and discriminatory and targeted treatment of prisoners of conscience.

While the previous quarter, from January to March 2026, had already highlighted selective leniency during the waves of releases at the beginning of the year, the current period shows a tightening of practices involving illegal detention. We observe a troubling shift from a slow justice system toward an institutionalized system of administrative segregation, in which the files of political detainees are deliberately isolated to block the execution of acquittal orders or orders marking the end of a sentence. This rollback of the rule of law, combined with poorly managed logistical reforms and major security flaws, exacerbates arbitrary detention and undermines the credibility of institutions.

V.1. Systematic and Discriminatory Blocking of the Release of Political Prisoners

The most serious irregularity this quarter lies in the authorities' deliberate refusal to release detainees who have been prosecuted or convicted in cases classified as "political" and related to state security (ASIE and PBA files or the events of 2015), even when they have fully served their sentences or have been definitively acquitted.

- **At Muramvya Prison:** The illegal continued detention of individuals who had been officially acquitted but not released was documented as early as May. During the wave of releases in early June, when 252 detainees incarcerated for minor offenses were able to regain their freedom, the administration maintained a systematic block on political cases. Among all those who had served their sentences or been acquitted by all courts, only one exception was recorded: the release of Tharcisse Niyongabo (Mukoni case¹) after his sentence expired. Follow-up monitoring of this facility reveals a dramatic continuation of the situation observed in the first quarter of 2026. Three emblematic cases of acquittals that have not been enforced—already denounced by ACAT-Burundi—confirm the entrenched nature of this arbitrary obstruction:
 - **H.R.:** Still being held in detention despite having been officially acquitted on January 25, 2026.
 - **N.F.:** Remains unlawfully deprived of his liberty in defiance of an acquittal ruling in his favor.
 - **M.M.:** A prime example of the failure to enforce court rulings, this detainee is entering his sixth year of arbitrary detention in the cells of Muramvya, even though he was found innocent of all charges by a final acquittal handed down on November 8, 2020.
- **At Ruyigi Prison:** In May, the situation on the ground remained unchanged. Political prisoners who have completed their sentences have still not been released. The

¹ [Statement by ACAT-Burundi on Procedural Irregularities in the Legal Proceedings Concerning the Attack on the Mukoni Camp in January 2017](#), May 2017

monitoring report formally notes that two individuals, whose names were not disclosed, are being unlawfully held in this specific situation within the facility—a situation that persisted without any change throughout the month of June 2026.

- **At Mpimba Prison:** Monitoring in May revealed that no one prosecuted in cases considered political has been released, even after acquittal or completion of their sentence. To institutionalize this segregation, the administration has implemented a measure to keep case files related to these political offenses separate from others, thereby blocking any possibility of review during standard release procedures—a blockage that remained absolute throughout the month of June.

V.2. Stagnation of Hearings and Logistical Obstacles Related to the Reform of Municipal Prosecutors' Offices

As already analyzed in detail in section II.5 of this report, the territorial reorganization of prosecutors' offices at the municipal level caused a critical backlog of pretrial detention cases this quarter. The complete lack of transportation and fuel to transfer prisoners (particularly in Bururi for detainees from Matana, Mugamba, and Songa, as well as in Muramvya) is paralyzing the organization of court hearings. This technical freeze on proceedings artificially prolongs the pretrial detention of thousands of citizens and transforms an administrative reform into a de facto tool for arbitrary detention.

V.3. Extortion, blackmail, and harassment by security forces involving cell

The quarter was marked by the entrenchment of financial extortion networks operated by security agents and prison directors, using the confiscation of cell phones as a pretext.

- **Financial Extortion at Muramvya:** In April, monitoring efforts documented a practice in which inmates were required to make a secret payment of **80,000 FBu** to keep or retrieve a cell phone, under threat of immediate confiscation by security officers.
- **Discrimination at Ngozi Prison:** In April, the amount demanded in extortion rose, with prison officials demanding sums exceeding **150,000 FBu** to return confiscated phones. Political prisoners there face targeted discrimination: their devices are never returned to them, even if they offer to pay the amount.
- **Harassment by the Documentation Department at Ngozi (May 2026):** Harassment of prisoners of conscience took the form of intimidating pressure exerted by the Director. The Director engaged in direct persecution, accusing a prisoner of being involved in the events of 2015 to justify the confiscation of his phone. Security guards, acting on his orders at 11:00 p.m., took this prisoner out of the prison and summoned him to his office the next day to set a trap for him involving the Documentation Unit. The Director led the prisoner outside the prison, onto the road, where the Documentation Unit was waiting in a vehicle with tinted windows. Officer Salvator (who was involved in his initial arrest in 2016) extorted the access code for his WhatsApp app from him under the explicit threat of forced transfer or disappearance ("if you had refused, you wouldn't have made it back"). The detainee was released from the vehicle, but his phone was never returned to him.

These practices constitute a direct violation of Burundi's international obligations and could be the subject of communications to United Nations treaty bodies

V.4. Major Security Failures and Impunity in the Face of Selective Escapes

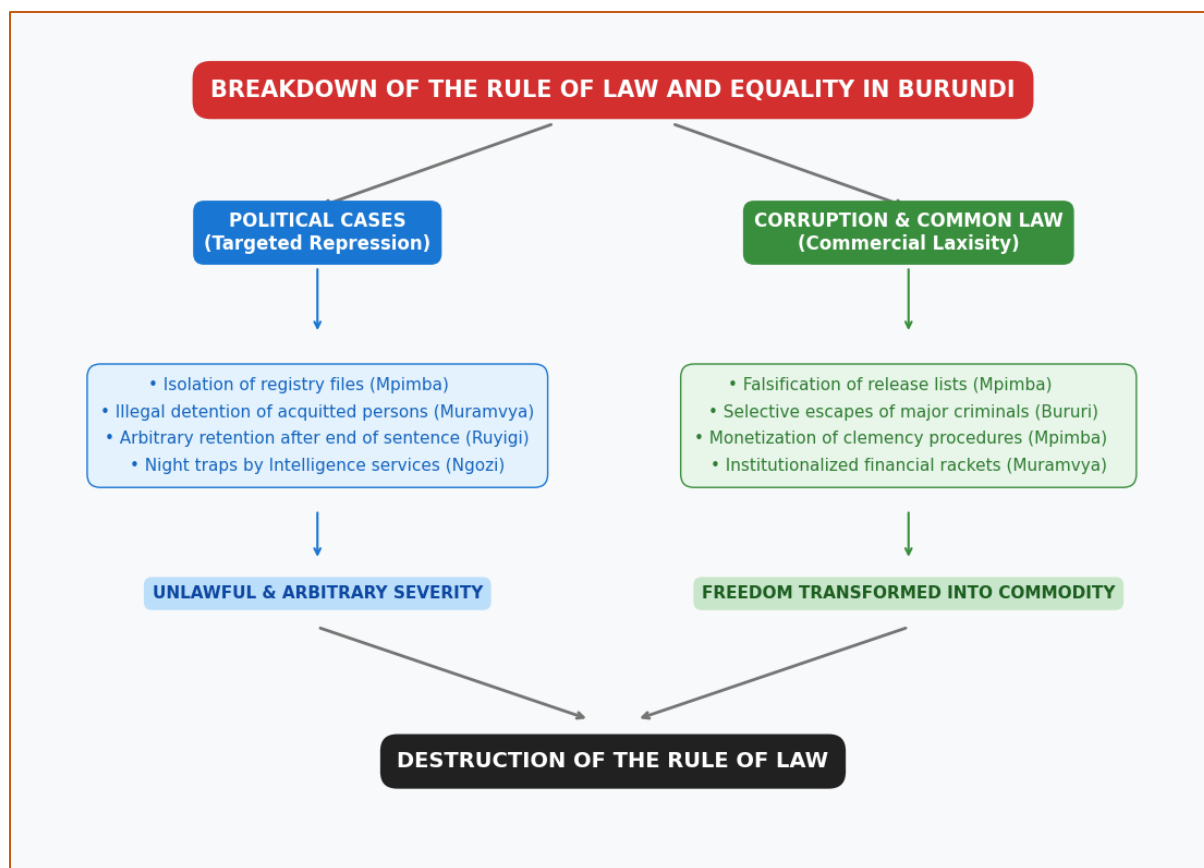
In contrast to the close surveillance imposed on political detainees, serious negligence has allowed detainees convicted of major crimes to escape.

- **The escape of Tony Uwizeye (alias “Dume”) from Mpimba:** In June, this detainee's escape caused serious tensions. An internal investigation revealed that he had been receiving exceptional preferential treatment, moving about freely and leaving and returning to the facility as he pleased—a practice tolerated under the former administration (Director Abdoul) and continued by the new management. The matter was not discovered until his accomplice attempted to sell his belongings left behind at the prison.
- **Appolinaire Nduwayezu's Impunity in Bururi:** In June, this inmate's escape was reported. Convicted of a serious murder case involving two people (a mother and her child in the commune of Mugamba), he is reportedly currently in Matana without being the subject of any active search by the administration or security services.

V.5 Systemic Representation of a Two-Tiered Justice System (Quarter 2 – 2026)

Monitoring of field data reveals a glaring and troubling duality in the functioning of Burundi's prison and judicial systems during this quarter. This reality manifests as the coexistence of two completely opposing dynamics: on the one hand, unlawful administrative and security measures arbitrarily targeting political prisoners; on the other, commercial laxity and impunity for a price that benefits corruption networks and certain common-law prisoners.

The infographic below summarizes this institutional double standard, which violates the fundamental principle of equality of citizens before the law and ultimately leads to the gradual destruction of the rule of law:



VI. HYGIENE, SANITATION, AND LIVING CONDITIONS IN PRISONS

Maintaining a sanitary prison environment and ensuring access to essential hygiene products are indispensable safeguards for the preservation of human dignity. Monitoring conducted during the second quarter, spanning April through June 2026, highlights major structural failures, characterized by severe water restrictions affecting the cleaning of facilities, a lack of basic hygiene products, and a proliferation of pests in the dormitories.

While the first quarter of the year was marked by relative stability in environmental sanitation, the current period shows a concerning decline. The abrupt halt to humanitarian interventions and the failure to anticipate the challenges of the dry season have turned housing facilities into hotbeds of unsanitary conditions. The prison system has proven incapable of ensuring minimum hygiene standards, exposing the prison population to intolerable physical and sanitary overcrowding.

VI.1. Water Restrictions Hindering the Maintenance and Sanitation of Facilities

Beyond basic consumption needs, **water supply cuts** and the drying up of water sources have paralyzed daily cleaning and sanitation operations:

- **Intermittent unsanitary conditions at Muramvya Prison:** While access to water infrastructure showed signs of irregularity in April, the strict rationing implemented in June —when water was available only four days a week—made it impossible to maintain

routine cleanliness in the prison blocks, leading to the accumulation of waste in common areas.

- **The breakdown of sanitation services at Bururi Prison:** During the month of June, the drying up of nearby water sources due to the dry season, combined with a total lack of containers to store water for cleaning, deprived the facility of the water needed to maintain the restrooms. This chronic shortage of water for flushing latrines has severely deteriorated sanitary conditions within the prison.

VI.2. Widespread shortage of cleaning supplies and disinfectants

The logistics departments and on-site infirmaries were unable to provide the supplies needed to maintain collective and personal hygiene:

- **The lack of soap at Mpimba Prison:** During the month of May, although hygiene conditions within the prison blocks and inner courtyards were deemed satisfactory following regional alerts related to the Ebola epidemic, the facility faced a shortage of cleaning supplies. The administration rationed soap distribution to a single bar per inmate for the entire month, an amount deemed insufficient to ensure the necessary preventive measures.
- **The Withdrawal of Cleaning Supplies at Bururi:** In June, stocks of disinfectants and latrine cleaning supplies fell to zero. The administration did not provide any supplies for the disinfection of shared sanitary facilities.

VI.3 Pest Infestations and Dilapidated Bedding

The withdrawal of technical and logistical support directly contributed to the deterioration of the dormitories, affecting the material dignity of the detainees:

- **Bedbug infestation in Bururi:** In June, housing conditions deteriorated sharply following the departure of the NGO ICRC. After the organization ceased operations, the prison was left without new blankets, and with worn-out or missing mattresses. The simultaneous halt to administrative pest control campaigns led to a massive proliferation of **bed bugs** in the beds and mats, directly affecting the rest of women and infants.
- **Violation of privacy at Muramvya:** In April, living conditions at Muramvya Prison were still characterized by dilapidated beds made from simple pieces of wood and makeshift mosquito nets. Furthermore, the facility's showers and toilets remain **without doors**, depriving detainees of any privacy when using the sanitary facilities.

Unsanitary conditions and material deprivation do not merely degrade the infrastructure; they directly compromise the physical and psychological well-being of the detainees. The lack of water for personal hygiene and the absence of privacy exhaust the detainees and undermine their morale. This violation of dignity fuels

interpersonal tensions and encourages alcohol use, contributing to insecurity within the cells.

It is this lack of dignity that causes disputes among inmates and drives some to drink hard liquor, thereby creating a sense of insecurity in the cells.

VI.4 Impact of Material Deprivation on Inmates' Lives (Quarter 2 – 2026)

Monitoring of infrastructure and logistical services reveals a critical breakdown in sanitation and hygiene management during this quarter. This situation of widespread deprivation represents not only material discomfort but also constitutes a direct cause of collective unsanitary conditions.

The summary table below outlines the main logistical failures observed in the field, as well as their immediate consequences for the environmental health and daily dignity of the prison population:

Table6 Logistical Assessment of Sanitation and Hygiene During Quarter 2 –2026

Indicator	Current Status (April–June 2026)	Major Impact on Inmates
Sanitation	• Distribution limited to 4 days per week (Muramvya, June). • Springs dry up during the dry season, and there are no storage tanks (Bururi, June).	Chronic shortage preventing the cleaning of toilet blocks and blocking the emptying of latrines.
Cleaning Supplies	• Complete depletion of stocks of disinfectants and cleaning supplies for communal restrooms (Bururi, June).	Accumulation of dirt in communal areas and creation of sources of unsanitary conditions.
Personal hygiene	• Rationing limited to 1 bar of soap per month per inmate (Mpimba, May).	Inadequate personal hygiene during the period of heightened health vigilance in response to the Ebola epidemic alert.

VII. GENERAL CONCLUSION

The Burundian prison system has strayed from its mission of penal regulation to become a system of mass incarceration, within which the physical integrity and basic rights of persons deprived of their liberty are violated on a daily basis. The monitoring work carried out throughout the second quarter of 2026 highlights a situation of material distress and a major institutional impasse. A cross-analysis of the various sections of this document reveals overwhelmed prison infrastructure, where the rehabilitative function has been overshadowed by precarious management of shortages and the perpetuation of abusive incarcerations.

The system has perpetuated its state of overcrowding by remaining at the critical level of 12,980 prisoners in May, coming close to the 13,000-person mark for those in custody. However, June 2026 marked notable and encouraging progress, with a significant decline in the national prison population, bringing the total to 12,216 inmates by the end of the quarter. This represents a 5.89% decrease in the overall prison population between May and June. This decline is particularly evident in certain severely overcrowded facilities: at Muramvya Prison, for example, release efforts reduced the population from 1,063 inmates in May to 827 in June (a sharp 22.20% drop in one month). Despite this real progress, which brings the overall national occupancy rate down to 284.49%, infrastructure overcrowding remains structurally at a very high level; Muramvya, for example, still has an occupancy rate of 827% relative to its original capacity. This chronic lack of space stems directly from the dysfunction of the judicial system, where the widespread use of pretrial detention warrants has kept the number of defendants at an unsustainable level of 5,755 individuals in June (representing 47.11% of the country's total prison population), trapping half of the prison population while they await trial.

From a health and logistical standpoint, the situation during this period is alarming. The quarter was marked by a collapse in environmental hygiene linked to the dry season and the cessation of major humanitarian aid (such as the ICRC's withdrawal from Bururi), leading to severe water restrictions and a massive proliferation of pests in the dormitories. While the region was on high alert for an Ebola outbreak, the administration was unable to ensure routine preventive measures, rationing soap to a single bar per month in Mpimba and running completely out of disinfectants in Bururi. The plight of vulnerable groups—illustrated by the 71 infants exposed to unsanitary conditions nationwide in June (whose mothers suffered severe bean shortages in Ngozi and Mpimba) and the 125.00% overcrowding at the Rumonge juvenile detention center—confirms the lack of protection for the most vulnerable individuals.

Finally, an examination of release patterns reveals significant administrative irregularities. While the actions of commissions and prosecutors' offices led to the release of more than 400 documented detainees over the course of the quarter, releases were heavily concentrated during the waves of administrative releases in June, making the long-term impact of these measures fragile. The collective clemency processes in Mpimba were marred by financial corruption and falsified lists, while serious security lapses allowed individuals convicted of violent crimes to escape, such as Tony Uwizeye (alias "Dume") in Mpimba and Appolinaire Nduwayezu in Bururi. Even more seriously, the authority of judicial decisions is being flouted by the illegal continued detention of citizens who have been acquitted by the courts—such as R.H. and F.N. in Muramvya—or of individuals who have completed their sentences in Ruyigi, while the cases of prisoners of conscience remain stalled in the court registry.

Ultimately, ACAT-Burundi reaffirms that deprivation of liberty must under no circumstances result in physical deterioration or arbitrary detention. Without an immediate political push to reform the logistical decentralization of prosecutors' offices, regulate pretrial detention, ensure strict compliance with final release orders, and guarantee minimal access to water and sanitation, the Burundian prison system will sink into a major humanitarian crisis, in defiance of the State's international commitments regarding human dignity.

VIII. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND CALLS FOR ACTION BY ACAT-BURUNDI

In light of the systemic failures detailed in this monitoring report, ACAT-Burundi submits a series of recommendations structured around three strategic pillars. These measures prioritize addressing the health and humanitarian emergency—exacerbated by water rationing and the extreme overcrowding of facilities—while initiating the fundamental reforms essential to eradicating judicial abuses and ensuring that detainees are treated in accordance with international principles of human dignity.

VIII.1 Humanitarian and Health Emergency Measures

- **Immediate enforcement of acquittal decisions:** Release without delay those citizens found innocent by the courts, emphasizing the enforcement of the release orders for **R.H.** and **F.N.** at Muramvya Prison.
 - *Realistic deadline:* Within 30 days (the time required for the physical transfer of case files from the court clerk's office to prison administration).
 - *Monitoring indicator:* Number of payment orders actually approved and executed by facility directors.
- **Restoration of water and sanitation services:** Negotiate with REGIDESO or municipal authorities to stabilize water distribution in Muramvya and begin installing storage tanks in Bururi **to address the water shortages associated with the dry season observed in June 2026.**
 - *Realistic timeline:* Within the next quarter (90 days, taking into account lead times for ordering and installing the equipment).
 - *Monitoring indicator:* Number of hours per week that running water is available in the sanitation facilities.
- **Preventive Measures in Response to the Ebola Outbreak Alert:** Increase soap allocations in Mpimba to exceed the current ratio of one bar per month and restock the Bururi prison with basic disinfectants.
 - *Realistic deadline:* Within 30 days (the time required for the Prison Administration to release supplies from central stockpiles).
 - *Monitoring indicator:* Regularity of monthly soap distributions and availability of cleaning supplies in Bururi.
- **Install partitions in sanitation facilities:** Install doors or partition curtains in the showers and latrines at Muramvya Prison to preserve inmates' modesty and privacy.
 - *Realistic deadline:* Within 60 days (allowing for the purchase of local materials or the use of in-prison carpentry shops).
 - *Monitoring indicator:* Percentage of prison sanitation facilities equipped with partitions ensuring privacy.

VIII.2 Structural Reforms: Reducing Overcrowding Through the Legal System

- **Regulation of the caseload of pretrial detainees by municipal prosecutors' offices:** Facilitate the transport or consolidate the case files of detainees from outlying municipalities (such as Matana, Mugamba, or Songa for Bururi) and enable judges to rule on cases that have been pending for several months.
 - *Realistic deadline:* Within the next quarter (90 days, to reorganize the prosecutors' offices' schedules).
 - *Monitoring indicator:* Number of defendants from remote municipalities who have been heard or had their cases resolved.
- **Strict oversight of mass release procedures:** Request that the General Inspectorate of the Ministry of Justice investigate reports of falsified lists, widespread irregularities observed during visits by the Attorney General, and corruption during clemency campaigns at Mpimba Central Prison.
 - *Realistic deadline:* End of the next quarter (90 days, required for travel and analysis by the Inspector General's Office).
 - *Monitoring indicator:* Conduct of an official inspection mission at Mpimba Prison.
- **Unconditional inclusion of prisoners of conscience's files:** Ensure that the admission records of political prisoners and those detained for reasons of state security are not isolated in separate registries and can be reviewed by the selection committees at Mpimba, Ngozi, Muramvya, and Gitega.
 - *Realistic deadline:* Within 60 days (before the next session of the committees).
 - *Monitoring indicator:* Number of political cases presented to or reviewed by parole boards.
- **Structural Decongestion of the Muramvya Hub:** Continue to organize regular transfers of inmates convicted of minor offenses to less overcrowded provincial facilities in order to reduce the occupancy rate, which remains at a record high of 827.00% as of June 30, 2026.
 - *Realistic timeline:* Spread over 90 days (to budget for the administration's fuel and transportation costs).
 - *Monitoring indicator:* Gradual decrease in the total population and occupancy rate at Muramvya Prison.

VIII.3 Compliance with International Commitments and Protection of Vulnerable Populations

This pillar reiterates the Burundian government's obligations under the international covenants it has ratified. National authorities must collaborate, when necessary, with humanitarian actors to ensure minimum standards of detention.

- **Combating pest infestations (Nelson Mandela Rules):** Urgently plan pest control operations in the cells at Bururi to eliminate the bed bugs that appeared after the ICRC suspended its activities, by seeking technical or material support from local or international health partners.
 - *Realistic deadline:* Within 45 days (time needed to formalize a request for support or mobilize supplies).
 - *Monitoring indicator:* Number of dormitories disinfected in Bururi and distribution of clean blankets in light of the cold weather.
- **Assistance for infants held in detention (Convention on the Rights of the Child):** Authorize and facilitate access for local medical associations and charitable organizations to the Ngozi Women's Prison, Mpimba Prison, and Bururi Prison to provide basic health care and distribute pediatric hygiene products to the 71 infants identified as of June 30, 2026.
 - *Realistic deadline:* Within 30 days (the time required for the General Directorate to grant access permits).
 - *Monitoring indicator:* Number of authorized visits by external medical teams and volume of pediatric aid delivered.
- **Protection of minors in conflict with the law:** Resume coordination meetings between the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Human Rights, and child protection agencies to expedite decisions on provisional release or family mediation, in order to relieve overcrowding at the Rumonge Juvenile Rehabilitation Center (CRMCL), which remained chronically overcrowded at 125.00% of capacity at the end of the quarter.
 - *Realistic deadline:* Within 60 days (the time required to convene stakeholders in the juvenile justice system).
 - *Monitoring indicator:* Reduction in the overcrowding rate at the Rumonge CRMCL.

APPENDICES: PRISON POPULATION STATUS FOR APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2026

Meaning of Abbreviations in Table Column Headings

CA: Capacity; NTP: Total number of prisoners; TPr: Total pretrial detainees; PrM: Male pretrial detainees; PrF: Female pretrial detainees; TCo: Total convicted prisoners; CoF: Female sentenced inmates; JPr: Total juvenile pretrial detainees; PrM: Male juvenile pretrial detainees; PrF: Female juvenile pretrial detainees; JCo: Total juvenile sentenced inmates; CoM: Male juvenile sentenced inmates; CoF: Female juvenile sentenced inmates; TI: Total infants; MI: Male infants; FI: Female infants; %: Occupancy rate

Appendix 1: Prison Population as of April 30, 2026

APRIL 2026																		
Detention Center	CA	NTP	TPr	PrM	PrF	TCo	CoM	CoF	JPr	PrM	PrF	Jco	CoM	CoF	TI	MI	FI	%
BUBANZA	200	433	213	195	18	220	200	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	3	216.50%
BURURI	250	301	166	156	10	135	123	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	120.40%
GITEGA	400	1,424	705	609	96	719	627	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	4	5	356%
MPIMBA	800	4,200	2,553	2,363	190	1,647	1,573	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	9	7	525%
MURAMVYA	100	1,041	458	426	32	583	531	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	3	1041%
MUYINGA	300	600	121	110	11	479	427	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4	4	200%
NGOZI (female)	250	196	70	0	70	103	0	103	3	0	3	20	0	20	15	11	4	78.40%
NGOZI Men's	400	1,812	716	716	0	1,096	1096	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	451%
RUMONGE	800	1,517	564	533	31	953	899	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	1	189.63%
RUTANA	350	427	177	163	14	250	241	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	122%
RUYIGI	300	761	314	276	38	447	399	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	8	253.67%
CRMCL RUYIGI	72	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	0	46	46	0	0	0	0	79.17%
CRMCL RUMONGE	72	106	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	18	0	88	88	0	0	0	0	147.22%
Total	4,294	12,875	6,057	5,547	510	6,632	6,116	516	32	29	3	154	134	20	78	42	36	299.84%

The prison population in April was 12,875 inmates + 78 infants = 12,953

The total number of pretrial detainees is 6,057 adults + 32 minors = 6,089

The total number of convicted inmates is 5,547 adults + 154 minors = 5,547

Appendix 2: Prison Population as of May 31, 2026

MAY 2026																		
Detention Center	CA	NTP	TPr	PrM	PrF	TCo	CoM	CoF	JPr	PrM	PrF	Jco	CoM	CoF	TI	MI	FI	%
BUBANZA	200	434	214	195	19	220	200	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	3	217%
BURURI	250	305	162	154	8	143	129	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	122%
GITEGA	400	1,456	690	588	102	766	670	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	5	6	364%
MPIMBA	800	4,230	2,657	2,458	199	1,573	1,506	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	10	7	528.75%
MURAMVYA	100	1,063	428	400	28	635	581	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	3	1063%
MUYINGA	300	606	118	109	9	488	434	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4	4	202%
NGOZI (female)	250	199	75	0	75	105	0	105	2	0	2	17	0	17	16	12	4	79.60%
NGOZI Men's	400	1,841	699	699	0	1,142	1,142	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	460.25%
RUMONGE	800	1,471	525	494	31	946	892	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	1	183.88%
RUTANA	350	448	160	147	13	288	274	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	128%
RUYIGI	300	780	333	297	36	447	400	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	3	8	260%
CRMCL RUYIGI	72	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	0	39	39	0	0	0	0	69.44%
CRMCL RUMONGE	72	97	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	19	0	78	78	0	0	0	0	134.72%
Total	4,294	12,980	6,061	5,541	520	6,753	6,228	525	32	30	2	134	117	17	83	47	36	302.28%

The prison population in May 2026 was 12,980 inmates + 83 infants = 13,063

The total number of pretrial detainees is 6,061 adults + 32 minors = 6,093

The total number of inmates is 5,541 adults + 117 minors = 6,658

Appendix 3 : Prison Population as of June 30, 2026

JUNE 2026																		
Detention Center	CA	NTP	TPr	PrM	PrF	TCo	CoM	CoF	JPr	PrM	PrF	Jco	CoM	CoF	TI	MI	FI	%
BUBANZA	200	393	177	159	18	216	197	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	3	196.50%
BURURI	250	261	122	117	5	139	127	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	104.40%
GITEGA	400	1,327	590	498	92	737	642	95	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	3	331.75%
MPIMBA	800	4,125	2,663	2,463	200	1,462	1,399	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	4	10	515.63%
MURAMVYA	100	827	309	289	20	518	473	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	1	827.00%
MUYINGA	300	569	115	110	5	454	401	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	2	189.67%
NGOZI (female)	250	206	82	0	82	105	0	105	2	0	2	17	0	17	15	11	4	82.40%
NGOZI Men's	400	1,807	697	697	0	1,110	1110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	451.75%
RUMONGE	800	1,481	545	513	32	936	882	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	1	185.13%
RUTANA	350	418	158	145	13	260	245	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	119.43%
RUYIGI	300	668	265	231	34	403	361	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	3	8	222.67%
CRMCL RUYIGI	72	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	0	35	35	0	0	0	0	61.11%
CRMCL RUMONGE	72	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	21	0	69	69	0	0	0	0	125.00%
Total	4,294	12,216	5,723	5,222	501	6,340	5,837	503	32	30	2	121	104	17	71	39	32	284.49%

The prison population is 12,216 inmates + 71 infants = 12,287

The total number of pretrial detainees is 5,723 adults + 32 minors = 5,755

The total number of convicted inmates is 5,222 adults + 121 minors = 5,343