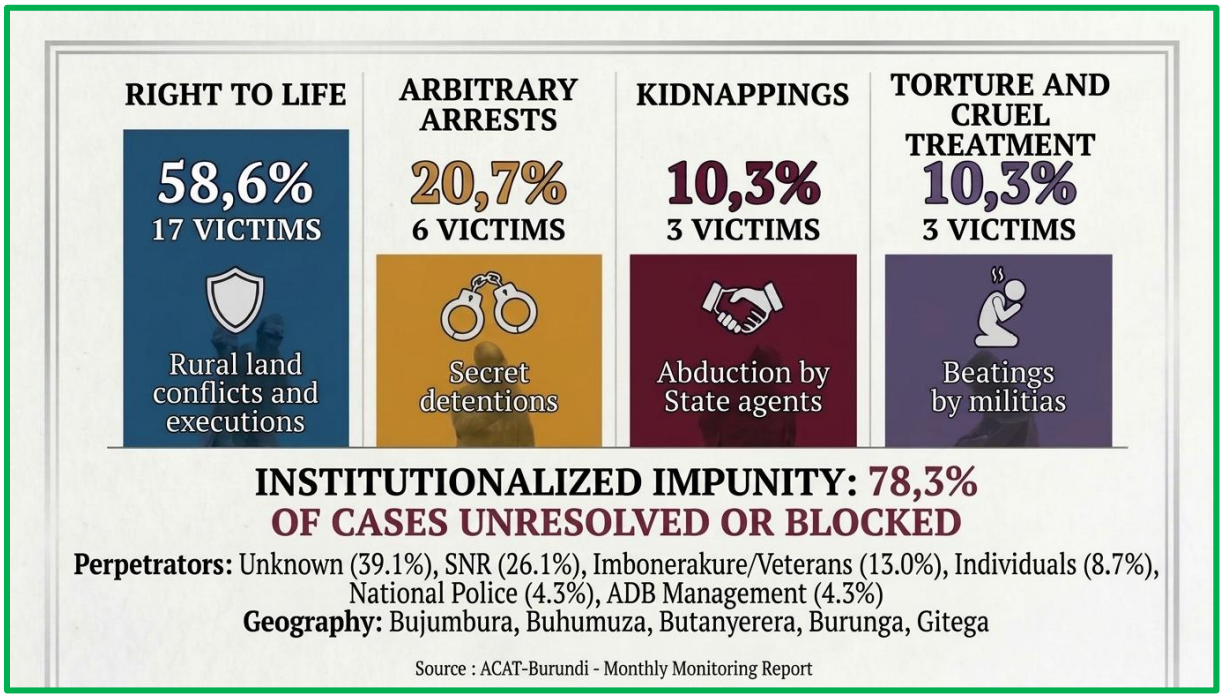
Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT-Burundi)

MONTHLY REPORT ON MONITORING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

"Violations of the right to life, torture practices and inertia of the judiciary in the face of persistent impunity." »



OCTOBER 2026

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List of abbreviations

- **ACAT-Burundi**: Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture in Burundi
- **ADB** : Burundi Development Agency
- **ACHPR**: African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- **CAT**: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UN)
- **CGM** : General Commission for Migration
- **CNDD-FDD**: National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy (ruling party)
- **National identity** card
- **CNIDH**: National Independent Human Rights Commission
- **CNL** : National Congress for Freedom
- **CP:** Penal Code
- **CPP**: Code of Criminal Procedure

- **FIACAT**: International Federation of Actions by Christians for the Abolition of Torture
- **HCH**: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- **Imbonerakure** : CNDD-FDD youth league
- **Ligue Iteka**: Burundian League for Human Rights
- **UN** : United Nations
- **OPJ:** Judicial Police Officer
- **ICCPR**: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- **PNB** : Burundi National Police
- **PSR** : Road Safety Police
- **RN17**: National Road 17
- **SNR** : National Intelligence Service (Burundian Secret Service)
- **X**: Symbol designating an unidentified person (Burial under X)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From 1 to 31 October 2026, ACAT-Burundi's network of observers documented and verified **23 cases of serious human rights violations affecting 33 people** in each of the country's five provinces. Three trends emerge: the predominance of violations of the right to life, the persistent use of incommunicado detention by the National Intelligence Service (SNR), and the almost total absence of prosecution when state agents are implicated.

KEY FIGURES – OCTOBER 2026	
23	Documented and verified cases of serious violations in the 5 provinces
29	Direct victims (23 male, 6 female), including at least 3 children, and 4 indirect victims
16	Persons killed or died under suspicious circumstances; 1 child seriously injured
9 / 14	Death files closed with a quick burial, without an autopsy or forensic identification (64.3%)
9	Missing or incommunicado persons following an intervention by the SNR
78,3 %	Cases (18 out of 23) without any judicial action as of October 31, 2026
0	Prosecution of accused in 8 cases involving public officials

Key findings

- **The right to life, the first documented violation.** Violations of the right to life account for 14 cases and 17 direct victims, or 58.6% of the total. Land conflicts are the alleged motive for at least four homicides. Six bodies were discovered in or on the banks of a lake, river or watering hole, three of them tied up.
- **The SNR at the heart of arbitrary deprivation of liberty.** Six cases (26.1%) implicate the SNR and concern 9 people: kidnappings, incommunicado detentions and arrests of two senior officers in disregard of their privilege of jurisdiction. As of 31 October, three victims of enforced disappearance had still not been located.
- **Burials without autopsies that erase the evidence.** In 9 of the 14 death cases, the body was buried quickly, often on the same day, without a forensic examination, including on the order of a prosecutor citing a "lack of logistics".
- **A two-tier justice system.** 18 out of 23 cases (78.3%) remained unprosecuted. The 5 cases that gave rise to action (21.7%) targeted individuals, local officials or unidentified perpetrators; none of the 8 cases involving State agents (SNR, Police, ADB directorate) resulted in prosecutions.

- **Bujumbura, the epicentre of the violations.** Bujumbura province had 13 direct victims (44.8%), ahead of Buhumuza (5; 17.2%), Butanyerera (4; 13.8%), Burunga (4; 13.8%) and Gitega (3; 10.4%). Members of the ruling party (Imbonerakure and CNDD-FDD Veterans' League) were implicated in 3 cases, including a summary execution during a night patrol.

Emblematic case: Bruce Sebanza

A former executive of the Burundi Development Agency (ADB), Bruce Sebanza died on the night of 12 to 13 October 2026 as a result of alleged torture inflicted at the institution's headquarters, on the presumed order of its Director General. The suspects were released after a simple hearing and the body was buried on 21 October without an autopsy. This case brings together the three failures observed this month: violence by public officials, destruction of evidence and lack of prosecution.

Advocacy

ACAT-Burundi welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Burundi and issued a public alert on the food crisis in prisons: in Rumonge, detainees have not received beans since October. The follow-up of the case of journalist Alexis Ndayisenga (September 2026) shows that no investigation has been opened despite the announcement of prosecution by the police.

Key recommendations

1. **To the Attorney General of the Republic:** order, within 30 days, the exhumation and autopsy of Bruce Sebanza's body and to review the release of the suspects.
2. **To the Ministry of Justice:** prohibit by circular any burial of an unidentified body or a person who died in suspicious circumstances without a forensic examination, and provide the public prosecutor's office with the necessary resources.
3. **To the National Intelligence Service:** Immediately bring to a magistrate, or release, A. D. Musore, J. B. Kinyange, D. Manirambona, and A. P. Ndikumana, and inform their families of their place of detention.
4. **To the Government:** put an end to the night patrols of the Imbonerakure and prosecute the perpetrators of the violence committed during these patrols.
5. **To the prison administration:** restore the food supply to all prisoners without delay, in accordance with Rule 22 of the Nelson Mandela Rules.
6. **To the international community:** support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and relay to the Burundian authorities the cases of enforced disappearance documented in this report.

I. INTRODUCTION

This document is the monthly report for the period from 1 to 31 October 2026. It is part of the ongoing activities to rigorously document human rights violations, denounce cruel treatment or torture, and fight impunity in Burundi.

The right to life, the absolute prohibition of torture, and the right to personal liberty are protected by Articles 24 and 25 of Burundi's Constitution and by international treaties ratified by the state, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), [1]the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT),[2] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).[3] Under its commitments made by ratifying these instruments, the government has an obligation to protect its citizens, investigate every crime, and punish perpetrators.

Despite these obligations, the period covered is marked by the persistence of serious violations of physical integrity and individual freedom. The monitoring on the ground highlights major dysfunctions and a flagrant imbalance in the response provided by the security and judicial apparatus to the abuses committed across the provinces. The objective of this work is to provide a rigorous quantitative and qualitative analysis of the violations documented during the month, and to report on the advocacy efforts carried out at the international level.

Methodological approach

Investigating human rights violations in Burundi requires overcoming significant challenges such as the isolation of the hills, the difficult access to the sites of the crimes and the fear of witnesses in the face of the real risks of reprisals. To ensure the credibility of this report in the face of these obstacles, our network of anonymous local observers applies a strict protocol where each incident requires the cross-checking of at least two independent and reliable sources to be validated. The alerts and accounts collected are then consolidated in order to eliminate duplication.

[1] This right is guaranteed by the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR),** ratified by Burundi on **9 May 1990**;

[2] The absolute prohibition of torture is directly based on **the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT),** ratified by Burundi on **18 February 1993.**

[3] **African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR),** ratified by Burundi on **28 July**

II. PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTED CASES DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2026

II. 1. Detailed chronological record of incidents and violations

During the month of October 2026, ACAT-Burundi documented a total of 23 cases of serious human rights violations, testifying to an alarming persistence of insecurity and a systemic disregard for fundamental legal guarantees. **These abuses affect the entire national territory, with a particularly heavy density of incidents this month in the provinces of Buhumuza and Bujumbura**

The rigorous analysis of the data collected highlights a doubly worrying reality: on the one hand, the resurgence of irreversible violations of the right to life (targeted assassinations against the backdrop of land disputes, summary executions and suspicious deaths); on the other hand, an intensification of kidnappings and arbitrary incommunicado detentions orchestrated by the National Intelligence Service (SNR) and affiliated activists of the *Imbonerakure youth league*.

The register also highlights a recurring practice: the prompt burial of bodies by local authorities, without prior identification or autopsy, in 9 of the 14 death cases. This practice removes critical evidence and, combined with the inaction of the judiciary, perpetuates impunity for perpetrators.

The synoptic table below presents the chronological and detailed record of these 23 incidents, including the new administrative division of the country.

Table 1: Synoptic table of violations documented as of October 2026

No.	Name & Profile of the victim	Date and place of the facts	Primary Violation	Related Violence & Modus operandi	Accused Persons & State Responsibility	Judicial status as of 31 October 2026
1	**Man (70 years old) & his wife (45 years old)** *(F&M)*	Night of October 1, 2026 (around 00:30) Hill Kobero, commune Butihinda, **Prov. Buhumuza**	Violation of the right to life / Double murder	• Home Invasion • War grenade attack • Targeted toddler (survived)	Unidentified assailants. Suspected motive: Land conflict and accusations of witchcraft.	**Initial action without follow-up.** Four residents of the hill were arrested by the police; no information on the continuation of the procedure.
2	**Alexis David Musore** *(Pastor and agent Lumicash, 45 years old, M)*	October 2, 2026 (around 12:30 p.m.) Camp Bwagiriza, commune Ruyigi, **Prov. Buhumuza**	Abduction and Enforced Disappearance	• Violent arrest at home without a warrant • Illegal seizure of personal phones • Kidnapping in front of his wife	Agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR). Direct responsibility of the State engaged.	**No legal action known.** Victim not located as of October 31, 2026; absent from official places of detention.
3	**Jean Bosco Kinyange** *(Shopkeeper, CNL opponent, 50 years old, M)*	October 4, 2026 (around 8:30 am) Buyenzi, Bujumbura	Abduction and Enforced Disappearance	• Kidnapping in the middle of a morning workout • Physical violence against her minor son who tried to intervene	. A police officer and three alleged SNR agents, aboard a white Toyota Hilux double cab with tinted windows.	**No legal action is known.** Victim, presented as close to Agathon Rwasa, not located on October 31, 2026 despite his family's searches in the dungeons of Bujumbura.
4	**Saumwe Zakari** *(Farmer, CNDD-FDD member, 31 years old, M)*	October 5, 2026 (In the evening) Hill Rubuga, commune Bugabira, **Butanyerera Province**	Torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment	• Savage baton assault while on patrol • Severe internal injuries (kidneys) resulting in hospitalization	Gashema Pierre (52 years old, local leader of the CNDD-FDD Veterans' League and pastor). (Alleged perpetrator).	**Suspect arrested.** Complaint filed by the family on 7 October; warrant issued and alleged perpetrator arrested.

5	**Claver Mpamirubusa** *(58 years old, M)*	October 6, 2026 Hill Nyangungu, commune Bugendana, **Prov. Gitega**	Violation of the right to life / Suspicious death	• Remains found at the bottom of a ravine • Suspicious lesions rejecting the official version	Unknown. Administrative version of an accidental death linked to drunkenness strongly disputed by relatives and neighbours.	**No legal action is known.** No police investigation or forensic examination to establish the cause of death.
6	**Paoline Mbikiye** *(62 years old, F,)*	October 6, 2026 (Midday) Nyagitika Hill, Gisuru Commune, **Prov. Buhumuza**	Violation of the right to life / Suspicious death	• Suspicious drowning in a community water point • Potential concealment of crime	Unknown. Official thesis of an epileptic seizure disputed by the inhabitants fearing a land murder or related to witchcraft.	**No legal action is known.** The body was quickly buried by the family and the administration after an alert from the head of the zone, without a forensic examination.
7	**Pascasie Ntirampeba** *(Widow, 52 years old, F)*	October 7, 2026 (around 6am) Masango Hill, commune Bugendana, **Prov. Gitega**	Violation of the right to life / Targeted murder	• Ambush on the way back from the goat market (Oct 6) • Act of cruelty: body tied up and abandoned in a field	Members of the entourage against the backdrop of a permanent land dispute linked to her late husband's family.	. **Suspects arrested.** The chief of the hill and alleged accomplices are detained in Muteho; investigation is ongoing.
8	**Unidentified female** *(76 years old)*	October 7, 2026 (Morning) Area Minago, commune Rumonge, **Prov. Burunga**	Violation of the right to life / Suspicious death	• Suspicious disappearance reported the day before (6 Oct) • Body found floating in the waters of Lake Tanganyika	Unknown. Death that occurred in a context of unsolved local crime.	**No legal action is known.** Body deposited in the morgue by the local administration for identification; no criminal investigation opened.
9	**Léonie Ntiruhurwa** *(F)*	Night of October 7, 2026 (around 8 p.m.) Kavumu Hill, Cankuzo Commune, **Prov. Buhumuza**	Violation of the right to life / Cold-blooded murder	• Extreme barbarism: decapitation and amputation of both arms with a machete • Failure to assist neighbours in the face of shouting	Unidentified assailants. Main motive established: Recurrent land conflict.	**Suspect arrested.** A neighbor, Cyriaque Niyoyitungira, was placed in pre-trial detention at the Cankuzo police station.

10	**Jean Bosco Nzisabira** *(Teacher, M)*	October 8, 2026 (around 6 p.m.) RN17, Kucoganyana, commune Makamba, **Prov. Burunga**	Torture and serious police violence	• Extremely brutal traffic stops • Baton blow to the neck resulting in a fall from the motorcycle • Failure to assist a person in danger	Officers of the Burundi National Police (PNB). The patrol abandoned the unconscious victim on the ground.	**Initial action without follow-up.** Police spokesman Léopold Ndayishimiye admitted the facts ("isolated act") and announced sanctions; no proceedings known as of October 31.
11	**Unidentified man**	October 10, 2026 (around 9 am) Area Gatara, commune Matongo, **Butanyerera Province**	Violation of the right to life / Suspicious death	• Abandoned body on the banks of the Sagahorwe River	Unknown.	. **No legal action is known.** Body transferred to the Kayanza morgue and then quickly buried by the administration, without an autopsy.
12	**Dancile Manirambona** *(Single mother of 6 children)*	Since October 12, 2026 Hill Murengeza, commune Mpanda, **Prov. Bujumbura**	Abduction and Enforced Disappearance	• Arrest by militia on private orders • Kidnapping of his police cell at night • Harassment and threats of extortion on his elderly mother	Imbonerakure acting for Alexis Congera (military, land conflict), then agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR).	. **No known legal action.** Victim transferred by SNR vehicle to an unknown destination; his family is the subject of death threats from Imbonerakure.
13	**Unidentified man** *(Age: 37 to 40 years)*	October 12, 2026 Area Ruziba, commune Kabezi, **Prov. Bujumbura**	Violation of the right to life / Suspicious death (Execution)	• Act of barbarism: body found completely bound hands and feet • Throwing of corpses into Lake Tanganyika	Unknown. Modus operandi of a political assassination or a targeted settling of scores.	**No legal action is known.** Body buried under X in the Karava cemetery on the instructions of the municipal administrator, Adélaïde Hatangayo, without autopsy.
14	**"Peace be with you, Daddy.** *(aka "Papy*	October 12, 2026 (around 5 p.m.) Assembly Precinct Kigobe, Bujumbura	Arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention	• Immediate forcible arrest without warrant • Allegations of torture and Massive beatings ordered internally	Agents of the SNR acting, according to several concordant sources, on the orders of the President of the National Assembly, Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe,	**No legal action is known.** Victim held incommunicado in the premises of the SNR in Rohero for an alleged

	Jamaica", prestataire, M)				following a commercial dispute.	"contempt", without known access to a lawyer.
15	**Bruce Sebanza** *(Former ADB executive, M)*	Night of 12 to 13 October 2026 ADB Headquarters, Bujumbura	Violation of the right to life / Suspicious death as a result of torture	• Arbitrary arrest at night by private security guards • Extreme torture and criminal beatings • Traces of major injuries	Security agents of the company "Ulinzi Kazi", on the alleged order of the Director General of the ADB, Révérien Nizigiyimana, who allegedly participated in the violence; alleged involvement of an SNR agent. Litigation dating back to 2025.	. **Initial action without follow-up.** Suspects released after hearing at Gihosha police station; body transported by an official vehicle and buried on October 21 without autopsy.
16	**Félix Nsabimana** *(Former demobilized soldier, 43 years old, M)*	October 15, 2026 Hill Rweza, commune Gishubi, **Prov. Gitega**	Violation of the right to life / Suspicious death	• Detonation of a war device (grenade) at his residence • Seizure of a 2nd grenade and military effects	Unclear circumstances. Demobilized former soldier (father of 6 children).	**Investigation opened.** Police investigation into the causes of death and the origin of the grenades; body buried the same day on the orders of the authorities, without a forensic examination.
17	**Genius. Romuald Ndababishije** *(Brigadier General, Deputy General Commissioner of the CGM, M) + his 3 agents*	October 17, 2026 Bujumbura (CMM Headquarters)	Arbitrary arrest, abuse of process and unlawful detention	• Arrest by the SNR in defiance of the rules of judicial procedure • Simultaneous incommunicado detention of 3 direct collaborators (including his driver)	Agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR). Arrest occurring against a backdrop of suspicions of financial embezzlement (passports).	**No legal action known.** Held incommunicado without official notification of the charges, outside the procedure related to the privilege of jurisdiction of general officers.
18	**Unidentified males**	October 18, 2026 (Afternoon) Makombe Hill, Bugarama	Violation of the right to life / Suspicious	• Fully bound body • Advanced degradation	Unknown. Victims thrown on the shores of Lake Tanganyika.	**No legal action is known.** Immediate burial ordered by the administration and the local

	(2 decomposing bodies)	commune, **Prov. Burunga**	death (Double murder)	prohibiting identification by residents		police of Rumonge, without investigation.
19	**Ruranika Adrien** *(a.k.a. "Sabitodo", M)*	October 19, 2026 (around 11am) Hill Ruhehe, Kirundo commune, **Butanyerera Province**	Violation of the right to life / Summary execution by militia	• Illegal arrest and nighttime stalking • Torture: savage beating with a stick • Forced confinement of neighbors by terror	Members of the ruling party's youth league (the Imbonerakure) acting on illegal night patrol.	**No legal action is known.** Report drawn up by an OPJ; the Public Prosecutor ordered the immediate burial citing "a lack of logistics"
20	**Newborn** *(Male)*	October 23, 2026 (around 6am) Hill Migege, commune Kayanza, **Butanyerera Province**	Violation of the right to life / Infanticide or neglect	• Hiding under a pile of grass in a plot of corn • Completely naked and decomposing body	Authors not formally identified within the community.	**Investigation announced. Immediate** burial ordered by the Kabuye zone chief; police investigations promised.
21	**Col. Etienne Citegetse** *(Police Colonel, Commander of the PSR, M)*	October 23, 2026 Bujumbura (In front of the headquarters ofEcobank)	Arbitrary arrest, abuse of process and unlawful detention	• Apprehended in the middle of the public highway by the security services • Joint questioning of several of his PSR deputies	Agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR). Arrest linked to an alleged corruption network (driving licence).	**No judicial control known of the arrest.** After interrogation at the SNR, without respect for the privilege of jurisdiction, the victim was transferred and imprisoned in prison at the end of the month.
22	**Audacity** *(M)*	Night of October 24, 2026 (around 10 p.m.) Hill Gakungwe, commune Kabezi, **Prov. Bujumbura**	Torture and serious physical violence	• Illegal and abusive identity checks on public roads • Beatings and abandonment of an inanimate body	The Imbonerakure Ildephonse, alias "Putin", illegally arrogating to himself the prerogatives of night policing.	**No legal action is known.** Victim rescued by passers-by and treated at the Ruziba health centre; no prosecution of the alleged perpetrator.
23	**13-year-old** *(Congolese refugee from Luvungi, deceased, M)* *2. Child (Seriously injured, M)*	Saturday, October 24, 2026 Transit Center Cishemere, **Prov. Bujumbura**	Violation of the right to life by failure to protect the State	• Detonation of an explosive remnant of war under a corn campfire • Injury of a second refugee child	Indirect negligence of the state: maintenance of a civilian camp adjacent to an active military arm/Imbonerakure firing range.	**No legal action known.** No investigation into the presence of explosive devices in the perimeter; wounded evacuated to a health centre and teenager buried directly.

II. 2. Overview and overview of violations

Table 2 summarizes, by category, the violations and incidents documented in October 2026, with the number of cases, direct victims and indirect victims.

The analysis of these statistical indicators highlights the alarming prevalence of irreversible violations of the right to life, which alone account for **14 of the cases recorded** and **affect 17 direct victims (16 people dead and 1 injured).** This monthly report also demonstrates a systematization of repressive methods and abuses of power combining enforced disappearances, targeted acts of torture and arbitrary incommunicado detention.

Table 2: Quantitative assessment of violations and incidents recorded, October 2026

Documented Violations and Incidents	Number of cases	Direct victims	Indirect victims	Clarifications and qualification of the facts	Affected Provinces
Violations of the right to life and physical integrity	14	**17** *(12 M, 5 F)*	**1** *(orphan)*	**16 people died and 1 child was injured:** 2 double murders/suspicious deaths (Kobero and Makombe), 1 targeted land murder (Pascasie), 1 barbaric murder (Léonie), 1 death by torture in an institution (Bruce), 1 death by ammunition and 1 serious wound of a child (Cishemere), 1 death by weapon of war (Felix), and 7 other suspicious deaths or drowning (Claver, Paoline, wife of Rumonge, newborn, man of Sagahorwe, Ruranika).	Buhumuza, Gitega, Butanyerera, Bujumbura, Burunga
Abductions and enforced disappearances	3	**3** *(2 M, 1 F)*	**3** *(1 old lady, 2 children)*	2 kidnappings by state agents (SNR/Police) targeting a Banyamulenge refugee and a CNL opponent. 1 arrest by militia (Imbonerakure) followed by a transfer to the SNR against the backdrop of a land dispute.	Buhumuza, Bujumbura
Torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment	3	**3** *(3 M)*	0	1 beating by a local patrol committee (Sayumwe), 1 violent police assault on a road (Jean Bosco Nzisabira), and 1 assault committed by a political militia for non-possession of CNI (Audace).	Butanyerera, Burunga, Bujumbura
Arbitrary arrests and detentions	3	**6** *(6 M)*	0	1 illegal incommunicado detention at the SNR on political orders (Amani Papy), 1 arrest of a senior Migration official (General Romuald) with his 3 PSR agents, and 1 arrest of a senior official (Colonel Etienne); by the SNR against the backdrop of corruption investigations.	Bujumbura

GRAND TOTAL	**23**	**29** *(23 M, 6 F)*	**4**	**In total: 33 people directly or indirectly impacted this month at the national level.**	**5 provinces affected**

(Note: M = Male / F = Female)

II. 3. Analysis and interpretation of the results

II.3.1. Analysis of the types of violations committed

Violations of the right to life and physical integrity were the main human rights violations during the month of October 2026: they affected 58.6% of direct victims (17 out of 29 people). They are divided between deaths (55.2%, or 16 people) and serious physical harm to a child injured by ammunition (3.4%, or 1 victim). Among the deaths, the report distinguishes between suspicious deaths or drowning (24.1%, or 7 victims), targeted land killings (6.9%, or 2 victims), murder (6.9%, or 2 victims), execution by the Imbonerakure militia (3.4%, or 1 victim), death under torture in an institution (3.4%, or 1 victim), infanticide by neglect (3.4%, or 1 newborn) and death by remnants of war (3.4%, or 1 teenager). The remaining 41.4 per cent (12 direct victims) were arbitrary arrests (20.7 per cent, or 6 persons), kidnappings (10.3 per cent, or 3 persons) and cases of torture (10.3 per cent, or 3 persons).

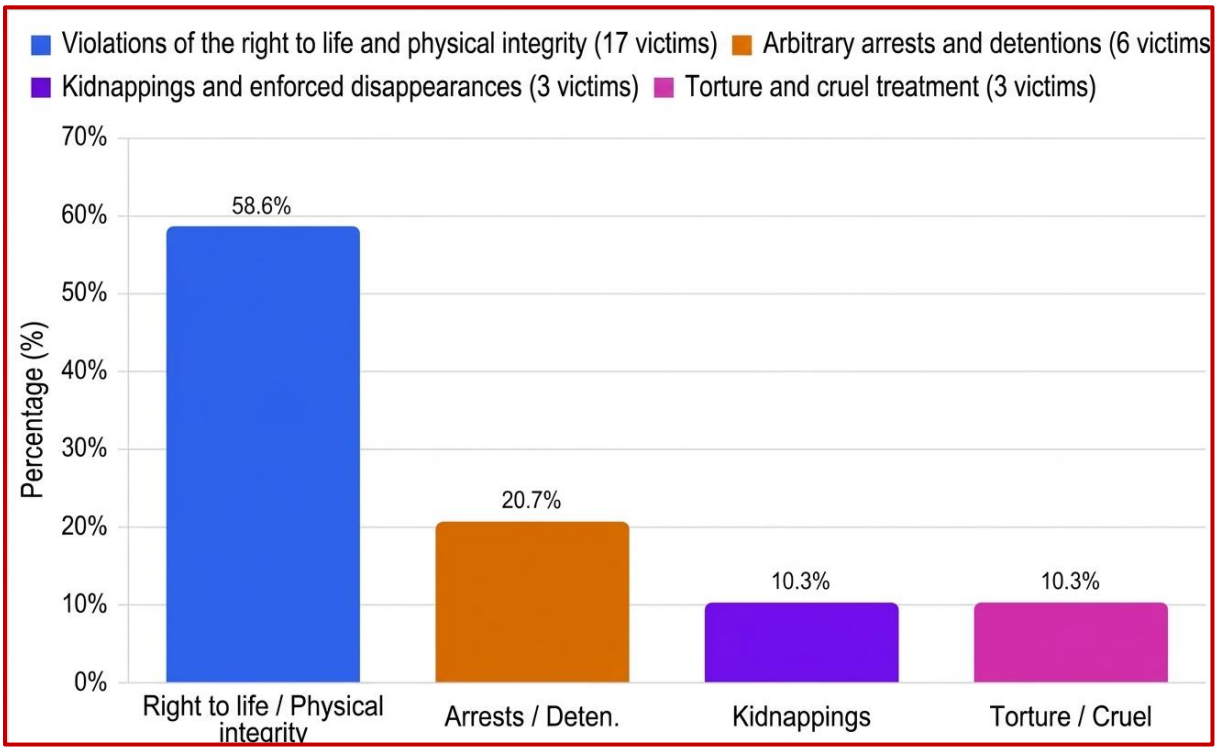


Figure 1: Distribution of direct victims by category of violation (October 2026)

Violations of the right to life therefore account for more than half of the direct victims. This situation, fuelled by unresolved land conflicts and the repeated discovery of lifeless bodies, reflects a deterioration in human security. The remaining 41.4 per cent (arbitrary arrests, abductions and torture) highlight the role of the security apparatus and local partisan groups in maintaining a climate of coercion and impunity.

II.3.2. Geographical distribution of the violations

The diagram of regional dynamics presented below illustrates the territorial distribution of the 29 direct victims identified through the 23 cases documented this month, highlighting five specific geographical realities. The analysis of this mapping reveals that the province of **Bujumbura** is the epicenter of institutional repression with **44.8%** of direct victims (**13 victims**). It is closely followed by the provinces of **Buhumuza** (**17.2% / 5 victims**) and **Butanyerera** (**13.8% / 4 victims**), both of which are marked by rural insecurity, land disputes and abuses committed during patrols by local militias. Finally, the provinces of **Burunga** (**13.8% / 4 victims**) and **Gitega** (**10.4% / 3 victims**) complete this national panorama, illustrating the dynamics of coastal crime and judicial inertia characterized by hasty burials ordered by the administration.

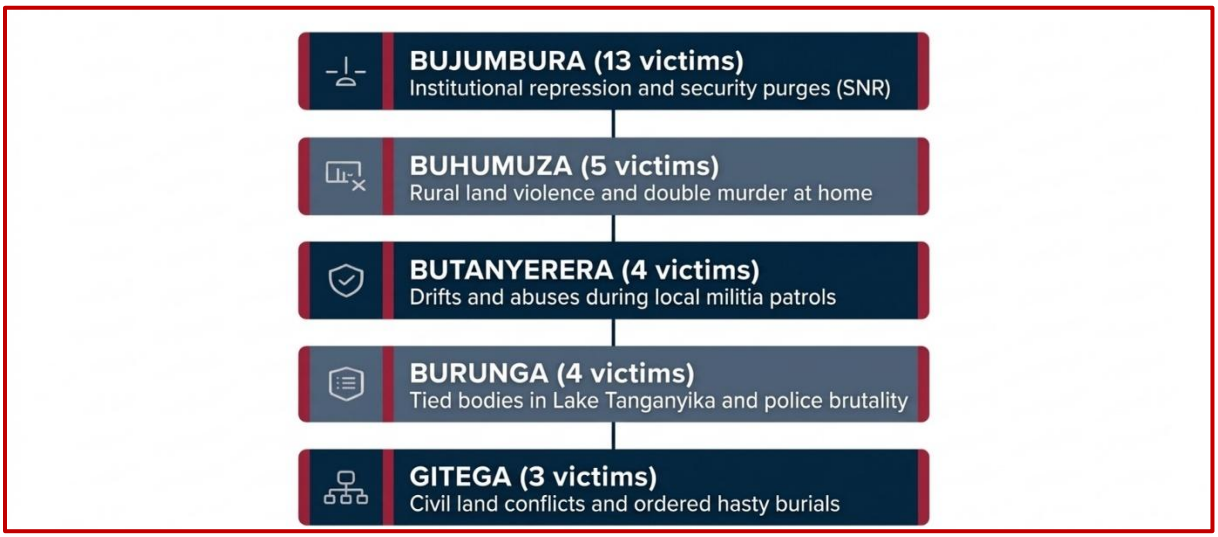


Figure 2: Diagram of regional dynamics of violations (October 2026)

II.3.3. Analysis of the accused and the structures involved

The analysis of the alleged perpetrators distinguishes between two levels of responsibility. On the one hand, the alleged direct perpetrators: of the 23 cases, the SNR is implicated in 6 cases (26.1%), which relate to kidnappings, incommunicado detentions and arrests of senior officials; members of the ruling party (Imbonerakure and CNDD-FDD Veterans' League) are involved in 3 cases (13.0%), mainly during night patrols; the National Police (1 case; 4.3%), the management of a public institution, the ADB (1 case; 4.3%), and individuals (2 cases; 8.7%) complete this picture. In 9 cases (39.1%), the perpetrators are not identified, and 1 case (4.3%) relates to a lack of State protection (Cishemere). On the other hand, the failings of the authorities after the fact: in 9 of the 14 death cases, the administration, the police or the prosecutor's office ordered or authorized a rapid burial without an autopsy, compromising the manifestation of the truth.

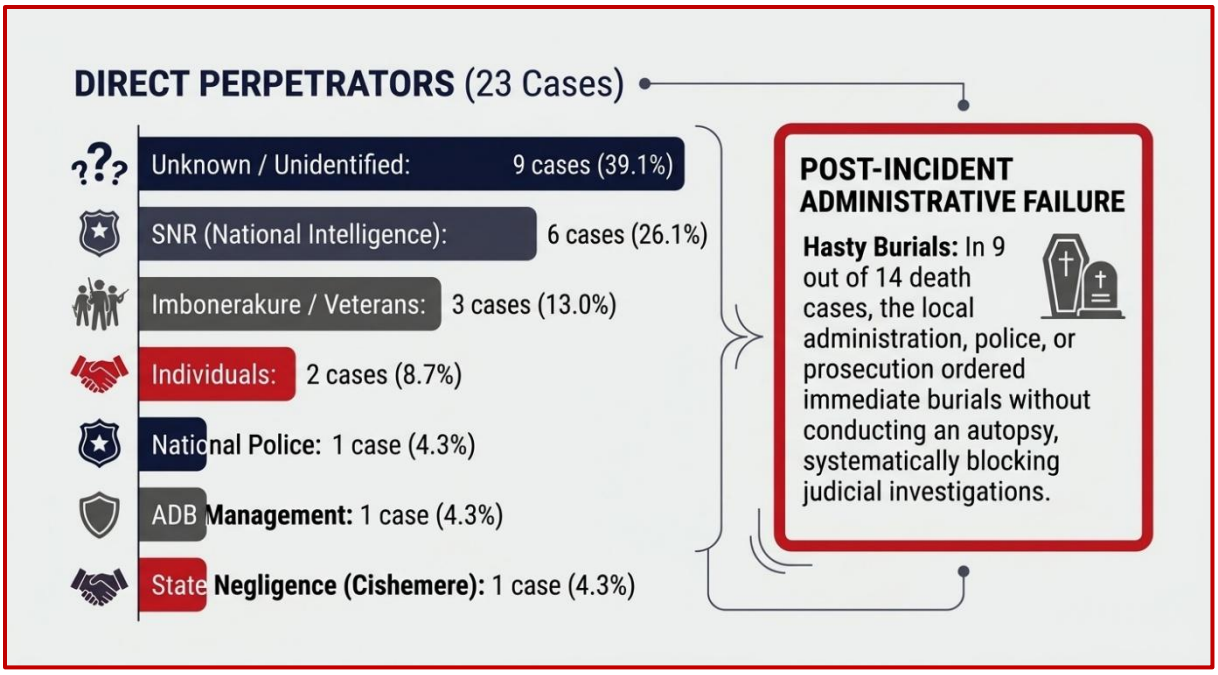


Figure 3: Distribution of documented cases by structure and accused (October 2026)

These data reveal a worrying institutional drift: several public officials are said to have seriously failed in their duty of protection and ethical obligations, by resorting to violence during checks, by ordering incommunicado detentions or by imposing burials without autopsies. The security, administrative and judicial apparatus, which is supposed to protect the population, is thus becoming a source of danger and impunity. This failure of the local administration is prolonged in the almost total paralysis of criminal proceedings.

II.3.4. Follow-up of judicial proceedings and processing of files

The analysis of the 23 cases in October 2026, as of 31 October, confirms the finding of point II.3.3: the shortcomings of the local authorities weigh heavily on the action of the justice system. 18 out of 23 cases (78.3%) remained without judicial action: 15 did not give rise to any known action (65.2%) and 3 saw an initial action that remained unfollowed (13.0%). Only 5 cases (21.7%) are the subject of an ongoing investigation or prosecution.

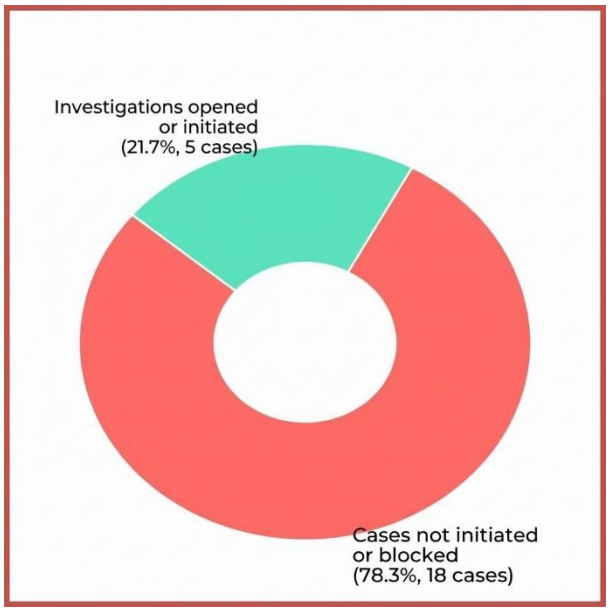


Figure 4: Distribution of the 23 documented cases according to the status of their judicial processing (October 2026)

Cases remained unfollowed (78.3% / 18 cases). Of the 23 cases recorded, 18 did not give rise to any formal legal proceedings:

- **Obstacles to State Agents:** None of the 8 cases involving public agents have been prosecuted. The cases involving the SNR (abductions of A.D. Musore, J.B. Kinyange and D. Manirambona; detentions of A.P. Ndikumana, R. Ndababishije and E. Citegetse) are not the subject of any visible investigation. In the case of J.B. Nzisabira, the sanctions announced by the police had not resulted in any known proceedings as of 31 October.
- **Inertia in the face of local party structures:** the violence and execution attributed to the Imbonerakure (A. Ruranika, Audace, D. Manirambona) are not the subject of any investigation.

The lack of forensic medical checks. Public prosecutors and local authorities are compromising the truth through practices that prevent the establishment of the facts:

- **Bruce Sebanza (ADB) case:** after a death following alleged torture, the suspects were released after a simple interview and the body was buried without an autopsy, which deprives the justice system of essential medical elements.
- **Rushed burials:** In 9 of the 14 death cases (cases 6, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20 and 23), the body was buried without a forensic examination, sometimes on the same day, including on the order of a prosecutor citing "a lack of logistics" (case 19).

Limited and selective judicial responsiveness (21.7% / 5 cases). Only 5 out of 23 cases are investigated or prosecuted, in specific contexts:

- **Neighborhood or land disputes:** justice is activated when the defendants are individuals or first-level local officials (arrest of the chief of the hill and alleged accomplices in Mutaho, case 7; detention of C. Niyoyitungira, case 9; warrant against P. Gashema, case 4).
- **Tragedies related to public security:** the investigations opened after the explosion of a grenade (F. Nsabimana, case 16) or announced after the discovery of a dead newborn (case 20) respond to a public security imperative; however, no investigation has been opened into the failures of protection at the Cishemere centre (case 23).

These 5 cases, which are still ongoing, show that the judicial system has the technical capacity to investigate. ACAT-Burundi therefore invites the authorities to apply the same rigour to all documented cases, regardless of the status of the persons involved.

II.3.5. Impact of the status of the defendants on public prosecution

The rigorous monitoring of cases carried out by ACAT-Burundi confirms a systemic trend: investigations are regularly blocked, abandoned or simply not initiated when law enforcement officials or state structures are implicated.

This reality is particularly illustrated by the case of Alexis Ndayisenga, a journalist with Radio-Télévision Isanganiro, who was tortured by police officers last September. Although the spokesman for the national police has publicly announced the opening of proceedings against the officer responsible, our investigations and our constant monitoring of the case establish that no concrete investigation has finally been carried out on the ground.

This flagrant discrepancy shows that the official statements of the police hierarchy are often similar to mere announcements. At the judicial level, these promises do not lead to any concrete sanctions, thus enshrining the systematic impunity of the perpetrators of violations. This extrajudicial protection extends well beyond the security forces, also benefiting **agents of the National Intelligence Service (SNR), local administration executives and members affiliated with the youth movements of the ruling party (Imbonerakure**), against whom the judicial system remains structurally ineffective.

III. ADVOCACY ACTIONS

III.1. Legal clarification on the case of Mr Bruce Sebanza

This report focuses on the case of Bruce Sebanza, a former executive of the Burundi Development Agency (ADB), who died on the night of 12 to 13 October 2026 as a result of torture allegedly inflicted on him at the headquarters of this institution by security agents, on the orders of the Director General according to several testimonies. In the face of the release of the suspects by the Gihosha police and the burial of the victim without an autopsy, it is important to recall the rules of law at stake.

Four major legal findings show that this crime must not go unpunished:

III.1.1. The status of Director-General is not a licence to torture

The first observation would directly concern the Director General, Révérien Nizigiyimana, in respect of his alleged quality as a contractor and his alleged participation in acts of torture. The fact of abusing a hierarchical authority to orchestrate and commit acts of torture would, if the facts are proven, constitute an extremely serious offence.

Such acts **would violate** article 25 of the Constitution of Burundi, which guarantees the physical and psychological integrity of every individual and formally prohibits torture. These potentially **serious** acts would also fall within the scope of article 206 of the Burundian Penal Code (punishable by articles 207 to 209) as well as article 1 of the International Convention against Torture, which explicitly defines torture as any acute suffering inflicted intentionally by or at the instigation of a public official.

III.1.2. Blind obedience to a criminal order is prohibited by law

The second observation concerns the executors, the security agents of the "Ulinzi Kazi" company. The law is clear: a manifestly illegal order must never be executed.

Article 210, paragraph 2, of the Burundian Penal Code and article 2, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention against Torture expressly provide that an order from a superior cannot justify torture. If the facts are established, the officers who beat the victim would be the full perpetrators and could not hide behind the argument of obedience to orders.

III.1.3. Pre-trial detention of suspects of blood crimes: between procedural imperatives and violation of the constitutional principle of equality before the law

In law, pre-trial detention is governed by the principle that "liberty is the rule, detention the exception". However, in the case of blood crimes (homicide, murder, torture resulting in death), when there are serious indications of guilt, national law and international standards provide for strict criteria that justify detention in order to preserve evidence, prevent pressure on witnesses, ensure that the suspect remains at the disposal of justice or preserve public order (article 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

The release of the suspects allowed one of them to flee and increased the risk of witness tampering. The preferential treatment of the Director General, who is still at large, and the de facto immunity allegedly enjoyed by the National Intelligence Service (SNR) agent involved contravene Article 22 of Burundi's Constitution, which enshrines the equality of all citizens before the law.

III.1.4. The Erasure of the Principal Material Evidence: The Legal Destruction of the Body

The burial of Bruce Sebanza on October 21, 2026, without a forensic autopsy having been ordered or publicly announced, constitutes the most irreversible breach of this procedure, resulting in the erasure of the main material evidence: the body of the victim. In matters of blood crimes and acts of torture, the body of the deceased is the first witness to the crime. The forensic examination is the essential scientific tool to materialize the violence suffered into irrefutable evidence in court and to establish precisely the causes of death, in accordance with the provisions of Article 109 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the international standards of the Minnesota Protocol (UN, 2016).

In order to ensure the reliability of investigations, article 12 of the Convention against Torture imposes an obligation on every State party to carry out **an immediate and** impartial **investigation by the competent authorities**, if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that an act of torture has been committed in a territory under its jurisdiction.

Recommendations to the State of Burundi

- **Ensure the full independence of the investigation**: Ensure that the Ntahangwa prosecutor's office and the investigating magistrates can conduct the investigation without any political, administrative, or police interference.
- **Lift all de facto protection related to functions**: Apply the law to publicly recall that the status of senior state official, in particular that of Director General of a public agency such as the ADB, does not confer any immunity or privilege of jurisdiction in the face of blood crimes or acts of torture.
- **Respect ratified international treaties**: Strictly comply with Article 2 of the UN Convention against Torture, which states that no order from a superior or exceptional circumstance can justify torture.

List of referenced articles and their labels.

1. Article 25 of the Constitution: "Every human being has the right to liberty of person, in particular to physical and psychological integrity and freedom of movement. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

2. Article 22 of the Constitution"All citizens are equal before the law, which ensures equal protection".

3. Article 210, paragraph 2, of the Burundian Penal Code: "The order of a superior or a public authority may not be invoked to justify torture".

4.Article 2 **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.**

1. Each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures to prevent acts of torture from being committed in any territory under its jurisdiction.

2. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or threat of war, internal political instability or any other state of emergency, may be invoked to justify torture.

3. **The order of a superior or a public authority may not be invoked to justify torture.**

5. **Article 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure: "**Since liberty is the rule and detention is the exception, the accused may be placed in pre-trial detention only if there is sufficient evidence of guilt against him and the acts of which he is accused appear to constitute an offence punishable by law with a sentence of at least one year's penal servitude. In addition, pre-trial detention may be ordered or maintained only if it is the only means of satisfying at least one of the following conditions:

1° to preserve evidence and material clues or to prevent either pressure on witnesses or victims, or fraudulent collusion between accused, co-perpetrators or accomplices;

2° To preserve public order from the current disturbance caused by the offence;

3° To put an end to the offence or prevent its recurrence;

(4) to guarantee that the accused person is kept at the disposal of the courts. The decision to keep the accused in custody must be duly reasoned.

6. Article 12 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Each State Party shall ensure that the competent authorities carry out an immediate and impartial investigation whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that an act of torture has been committed in any territory under its jurisdiction.

III.2. ACAT-Burundi's advocacy on the persistence of human rights violations and the rights of detainees

This section compiles the various public alerts and official speeches of the organization, disseminated through its digital communication channels, in particular its X account (formerly Twitter), as well as during interventions on the airwaves of partner radio stations.

A. Reaction to the renewal of the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur

On behalf of ACAT-Burundi, its President, Mr. Armel Niyongere, spoke publicly to welcome the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi. He stressed in his radio and digital statements that this mechanism remains the only

independent international mechanism responsible for specifically monitoring the evolution of the human rights situation in the country. For ACAT-Burundi (https://x.com/Acatbdi/status/2107496811443229117?a=92sUO8NirNxBrqOWWoE&s=08), this renewal testifies to the fact that the international community remains attentive to the situation in Burundi, which remains worrying.

B. Media alert on the food crisis in prisons

Relaying the urgent calls for help received from the prison environment, ACAT-Burundi has issued a public alert on its X account (https://x.com/Acatbdi/status/2114258249864118532?a=iwlMsP1bu0kCFVUJWgE&s=08) and to the media. In it, the organization directly calls on the authorities to guarantee sufficient food to people deprived of their liberty, while detainees report serious food supply disruptions.

This alert campaign was based on several specific observations transmitted by correspondents in the field:

- **The case of Rumonge prison**: The alert focused in particular on Rumonge prison, where, since October, inmates have not received beans. Some now have to get beans themselves to supplement their meals.
- **The impact on isolated prisoners**: This situation particularly penalizes prisoners from remote areas, who do not benefit from the support of relatives living nearby.
- **A global crisis**: While the alert particularly concerned Rumonge prison, the food supply difficulties reported in other prisons show that the problem goes beyond this single establishment.

C. Formal Requests to the Department of Justice

At the conclusion of its interventions on social networks and on the radio, and referring to the United Nations Nelson Mandela Rules (in particular Rule 22 on food), ACAT-Burundi officially asked the Ministry of Justice:

1. To restore the food supply without delay for the benefit of all prisoners.
2. To open an in-depth investigation into the management of Rumonge prison.

IV. OVERALL CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

IV.1. Overall conclusion

The documentation work carried out by ACAT-Burundi during the **month of October 2026** highlights a deep and persistent crisis of human security throughout Burundi. The report counts an overall toll of **23 serious cases impacting a total of 33 people**. Among them are **29 direct victims** (23 men and 6 women) suffering the full force of institutional or rural violence, as well as **4 indirect**

victims (an old lady, an orphan and two children) who have been severely affected by the repercussions of these tragedies. This month confirms a systemic trend in which violations of the right to life overwhelmingly predominate, accounting for more than half of the abuses recorded (**58.6%, or 17 direct victims,** including 16 deaths and 1 injured). This violence, exacerbated by unresolved rural land conflicts and targeted repressive actions, is coupled with a systematization of abuses of authority combining kidnappings (**10.3% / 3 people**), incommunicado detention (**20.7% / 6 people**) and torture (**10.3% / 3 people**).

An analysis of the geographical distribution of these abuses reveals that the province of Bujumbura is the epicentre of this crisis, with **44.8%** of the direct victims (**13 people**). It is followed by the province of Buhumuza (**17.2% / 5 victims**), then by the provinces of Butanyerera (**13.8% / 4 victims**) and Burunga (**13.8% / 4 victims**). Finally, the province of Gitega (10.4% / 3 victims) completes this national panorama, illustrating the dynamics of rural insecurity and major security incidents spread across the territory.

The analysis of responsibilities highlights the central role of state and parastatal structures in maintaining this dynamic, in parallel with worrying unsolved crime. On the one hand, violence not claimed by **unknown or unidentified perpetrators is the largest category, accounting for 39.1% of cases (9 out of 23 cases), illustrating widespread insecurity linked to land conflicts, settling of scores or popular lynchings**. On the other hand, the direct responsibility of the state apparatus remains strongly engaged through the actions of the National Intelligence Service (SNR), involved at the top of the state (**26.1% / 6 cases**), the abuses of the Imbonerakure youth militia and veterans (**13.0% / 3 cases**), as well as the abuses of the National Police (**4.3% / 1 case**). Finally, this overall criminality is aggravated by the resignation of the local administration and justice in **64.3% of death cases (9 cases out of 14),** which cover these abuses on the ground by hasty burials without autopsy.

The most alarming dimension of this report, however, lies in the structural paralysis of the judicial system, illustrated by the fact that **78.3% of cases (i.e. 18 out of 23 cases)** remained unfollowed or blocked in the face of public officials. In this respect, the case of Mr. Bruce Sebanza is emblematic of institutionalized impunity: the release of suspects without thorough investigation, the preferential treatment given to those giving orders and the deliberate erasure of the main material evidence through hasty burials and without autopsies constitute a legal destruction of the facts. Conversely, the responsiveness of the judicial machine is purely selective (**21.7% / 5 cases**), only active in the face of civilians. This passive or active complicity of the local administrative and judicial authorities deprives the victims of any recourse and enshrines a permanent denial of justice.

IV.2. Recommendations

In view of the documented serious violations and judicial paralysis, ACAT-Burundi makes the following urgent recommendations:

1. To the attention of the Government of the Republic of Burundi:

- **Stop medico-legal obstructions:** Prohibit precipitated burials under X and impose a systematic autopsy for any lifeless bodies discovered.
- **Ensure an end to impunity for public officials:** Lift any de facto immunity or protection related to functions for state executives (such as at the ADB) and SNR agents implicated in abuses.
- **Restore security legality:** Dissolve the illegal night patrols of the *Imbonerakure* militia and sanction the usurpation of police prerogatives.
- **Respect international treaties:** Strictly apply Article 2 of the UN Convention against Torture, excluding the order of a superior to justify abuse.
- **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance** (signed by Burundi in 2007 – to be verified), in view of the recurrence of documented abductions.
- **Protect the refugees in the Cishemere centre:** proceed, in conjunction with the UNHCR, to decontaminate the perimeter and relocate the transit centre away from any active firing range.

2. To the attention of the Ministry of Justice:

- **Conduct impartial investigations into all outstanding cases:** Carry out independent investigations into the case of Bruce Sebanza as well as into the cases of past months, including that of journalist Alexis Ndayisenga, who was tortured in September and for whom official promises have not been fulfilled.
- **Break judicial selectivity:** Apply the same rigour of investigation to all violations, putting an end to the systematic impunity of state agents (78.3% of cases not followed up).
- **Ensure prisoners' rights and audit prison management:** Restore food supplies to all prisons without delay in accordance with the Nelson Mandela Rules, and open a transparent investigation into the financial management of Rumonge prison.
- **Provide the public prosecutor's office with forensic means:** prohibit by circular any burial of an unidentified body or a person who died in suspicious circumstances without a forensic examination, and provide a budget for transport and autopsy, so that the "lack of logistics" can no longer be invoked.

- **Order the exhumation and autopsy of Bruce Sebanza's body** and review the release of suspects.

2 bis. To the National Intelligence Service and the National Police of Burundi:

- **Promptly bring to justice, or release,** any detained person (including A.D. Musore, J.B. Kinyange, D. Manirambona, A.P. Ndikumana), inform families of their place of detention, and ensure access to a lawyer.
- **Publish the outcome of the disciplinary procedure** announced by the PNB in the case of Jean Bosco Nzisabira (case 10).

2 ter. To the National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH):

- **Investigate cases of enforced disappearance documented** in this report on their own and carry out unannounced visits to places of detention, including those of the SNR.

3. To the attention of the international community:

- **Maintain increased vigilance:** Continue to actively support the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi, which remains the only independent international bulwark for the continuous monitoring of all violations and the fight against impunity.
- **Refer to regional mechanisms:** encourage the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to send urgent appeals to the Government on cases of enforced disappearance and death under torture.