

Approved by Ministerial Order n ° 530/0273 of 10 November 1994 revising Order No. 550 /029 of 6 February 1991



"Is a member of the Inter-African Union of Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), has observer status to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and has special consultative status to the ECOSOC"

Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°77 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 18-24 September 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 24 September 2017, Iteka has documented at least 447 cases of enforced disappearances.

CONTENTS	PAGES
<i>0. INTRODUCTION</i>	4
<i>I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS</i>	4
<i>I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RIGHT TO LIFE</i>	4
<i>I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE AND POLICEMEN</i>	4
<i>I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE</i>	5
<i>I.1.3. BODIES FOUND IN BUSH AND/OR STREET</i>	6
<i>I.1.4. PERSONS KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLING OF SCORES</i>	7
<i>I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING</i>	7
<i>I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE</i>	7
<i>I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS</i>	8
<i>II. OTHER REPORTED FACTS</i>	9
<i>III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	10

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AMOTABU: Burundi Motorcyclists Association

CDS: Health Center

CNDD-FDD: National Council for the Defense of Democracy

ECOFO: Fundamental School/Ecole Fondamentale

FDN: National Defense Force

LC: Communal Lycee

MSD: Movement for Solidity and Democracy

RDC: Democratic Republic of Congo

SNR: National Intelligence Service

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 16 persons killed including 4 corpses, 1 tortured, 12 arbitrarily arrested, 2 and reported missing.

The phenomenon of corpses is still recorded in several parts of the country and no investigation is carried out, which is very worrying.

The Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD ruling party's youth, SNR agents as well as policemen are blamed as the perpetrators of most of human rights violations.

This bulletin reports cases of killings, torture, arbitrary arrests and abduction of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3rd term opponents.

The bulletin rejects impunity of crimes that is granted to pro CNDD-FDD party. Members of this party involved in different crimes enjoy impunity from public complicity.

This bulletin recommends the government to change the precarious human rights situation in the country.

I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RIGHT TO LIFE

I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE AND POLICEMEN

One person killed in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On 19 September 2017, in the place commonly called Kukarago, near Safari's bar, on Gaharawe hill, Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Élysée Nihezagire, 8th form student at Gatumba LC was killed by Imbonerakure headed by Dieudonné. According to our sources, these Imbonerakure were torturing a woman named Jacqueline Ndikumana. Élysée Nihezagira rushed for rescue and these Imbonerakure killed him with knives and clubs fearing he would denounce the facts.

One person killed in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

On September 22, 2017, on Rwibikara hill, Busoni commune Kirundo province, Innocent Sabushimike nicknamed Mujama, 26-year-old, was stabbed to death in the chest and died immediately. According to sources on site, Innocent Sabushimike was gambling 'Akamari' with a Twagirayezu alias FUSO, 36-year-old member of Imbonerakure youth league. The same source indicates that Innocent Sabushimike had won the gambling which caused misunderstanding between the two individuals. Since he had just lost the game, Twagirayezu named Twagira stabbed Innocent Sabushimike to death. The same sources state that the crime was committed in a

bar located in Bishisha center of the Rwibikara hill, a bar belonging to a lady named Lydia. Four people were arrested for investigation reasons.

One person killed in Gitega commune and province

On 23 September 2017, at around 2:00 am, Mossi Ndayarinze was killed by police officers in Musinzira quarter of Gitega town in Gitega province. According to Gitega urban zone head Butoyi Hussein, Mossi Ndayarinze was part of a group of two bandits who tried to steal from a merchant called "shopping", this merchant's residence is close to Gitega Olympia nightclub. He was killed by police officers guarding the trader's residence.

One person killed and another wounded in Matana commune, Bururi province

On the night of 24 October 2017, around 9:00 pm, a trader named Jean Marie Ngendakuriyo alias Bugemeri who had just left Mpimba central prison was shot dead by a police officer in Matana urban center, Bururi province. According to sources on site, Jean Marie Ngendakuriyo died on the spot while a lady named Nadine Nsabimbona was wounded and then taken to Matana hospital. The police officer was arrested but the reason of this crime remains unknown.

1.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

One person killed and two others wounded in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

On the night of 20-21 September 2017, on the Kabere hill, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, Bernard Bitorwa, a farmer and member of the CNDD-FDD party, was killed by machete by unidentified men. According to our sources, his wife and son were also shot wounded by these perpetrators. On-site sources indicate that the wife was rushed to Mabayi commune hospital for treatment.

Two people killed in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On 24 September 2017, around 5:00 am, in Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province near the military position located at Gatumba-DRC border in Rugarika area, a group of unidentified armed men ambushed FDN soldiers of this position. According to our sources, two soldiers were killed and two Kalashnikov-type rifles were seized by these armed men.

One person killed in Ryansoro commune, Gitega province

On September 18, 2017, on Murama hill, Ryansoro commune, Gitega province, Anastasie Ntungwanayo was stabbed to death by unidentified persons. The reasons of this murder are not

yet known but some administrative sources think of land conflicts. Two suspects were arrested and jailed in Ryansoro commune cell for investigation reasons.

Two people killed in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On the night of 17-18 September 2017, around midnight, a group of unidentified gunmen attacked Gikungere hill in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province. There were gunfire between the police and the gunmen. According to sources on site, two among the gunmen were killed. They could not be identified because they were disfigured.

1.1.3. BODIES FOUND IN BUSH AND/OR STREET

A body found in Kinama zone, Bujumbura City

As of September 18, 2017 a body of Felicien Mvukabanka from Mukike hill, Bujumbura rural province was discovered in Carama quarter, Kinama urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura City. Sources on site indicate that he was strangled before his body was thrown into a manhole.

A corpse found in Matana commune, Bururi province

On September 18, 2017 in the morning a corpse of David Darudaru of Matana zone and commune, a farmer aged 50 years, without political affiliation, was found near his home. According to sources on site, he was killed by Imbonerakure on night patrol.

A corpse found in Rumonge commune and province

As of 22 September 2017, an unidentified body was found on Kavyiru sub-hill, Mugara hill, Gatete zone, Rumonge commune and province. According to sources on site, this body was not identified and was attached to a mango tree.

A body discovery in Ngagara urban zone , Bujumbura City

On 22 September 2017, an unidentified corpse was found at the place called Kumase, Ngagara urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura City.

1.1.4. PERSONS KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLING OF SCORES

A person killed in Butezi commune, Ruyigi province

Information dated 18 September 2017 indicates that on the night of September 17, 2017, a person called Mujojo was killed on Munyinya hill, Butezi commune, Ruyigi province. He had come to rob to Serges Sabukwigura and was killed by the latter by self-defense, according to sources on site. He was buried about 12:00 am after police record. The same sources add that the victim is from Karusi province and had just left the prison.

A person killed Butezi commune, in Ruyigi province

Information received by Iteka League on 18 September 2017 indicates that on the night of 14 September 2017, Samuel Ntirampeba from Muyange hill, Butezi commune, Ruyigi province, succumbed to his injuries at Ruyigi hospital. According to sources, Samuel Ntirampeba was wounded with a machete in an ambush that claimed the life of his son Célestin Itangakubuntu and his daughter-in-law Josepha Iradukunda on September 7, 2017, over a land conflict. Information received by Iteka League on 23 September 2017 indicates that the judgment in Samuel Ntirampeba's favor was subsequently overturned.

1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING

Two people reported missing in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province

As of September 10, 2017, Richard Nahimana and his classmate were abducted by people who would be from SNR at the place called Kumuka, on the border between Burundi and Tanzania on Bumba hill, Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province. On-site sources indicate that Richard Nahimana and his comrade were students of Ndava "Pleine Evangile" High School, 2nd scientific form in Cankuzo urban center. The same sources add that they came from Tanzania where they had just spent holidays in search of work. The same sources indicate that Donatien Kanywangiri, a teacher at ECOFO Kabuga, living on Gatungurwe hill in Cankuzo commune, and legal guardian of Richard Nahimana, turned to Nicaise Mugande, head of SNR in Cankuzo province, to help him find these students on the morning of September 18, 2017. This SNR agent phoned in the cells of Cendajuru and Mishiha communes but these pupils were not found.

1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A man tortured by Imbonerakure in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province

As of September 21, 2017, Ismail Bashingwa was beaten up by a group of young Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD party of Kigoganya hill, Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province. On-site sources

indicate that the victim from Cankuzo to visit his family members. According to the same sources, he was beaten following the refusal to comply with the orders of the Imbonerakure who asked him to sit on the ground without any reason. He was treated at CDS Kiremba.

I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS

Nine persons arrested in Rutana province

On 20 September 2017 on Gihofi hill, Bukemba commune, Rutana Province, police officers of Gihofi police station arrested and jailed 9 adults from Karusi, Gitega, Kayanza and Ngozi provinces. According sources on site, those persons arrested were accused of intending to join rebel movements as they wanted to cross the Burundi-Tanzanian border to look for work. Among them were 8 minors and Bukemba administration decided to return them home on 22 September 2017, while 9 adults were imprisoned.

A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karusi province

On 18 September 2017, on Kigoma hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karusi province, Innocent alias Mandigisi was arrested by police and taken to Karusi police station cell. According to sources on site, he was accused by an Imbonerakure named Jean Marie of insulting CNDD-FDD members comparing them to giant rats "Amasiha".

One person arrested in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province

Information dated 18 September 2017 indicates that Steve Bishaza, AMOTABU representative in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province, was arrested and taken to police station on the order of Kabondo hill head Mrs. Jacqueline Ndamuhawenayo accusing him of having insulted him. He was released on 24 September 2017.

A driver arrested in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

On September 23, 2017, the head of Nyanza-Lac commune police station, named Berchimans, has arrested a driver named Abdoul, accusing him of not participating in the community work. He was released in the evening around 7:00 pm after payment of a ransom of 50,000 Bif

II. OTHER REPORTED FACTS

A person ambushed by Imbonerakure youth in Buhiga commune, Karusi province

On September 20, 2017, around 7:00 pm, on the hill, zone and Buhiga commune, Karusi province, a trading woman named Nzeyimana was ambushed by 3 young Imbonerakure Kiki, Jean and Ncuti when she returned from the market. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure took her money equivalent to 3 million Bif. One of these Imbonerakure was recognized, prompting the police to arrest them the next day before being taken to Buhiga police cell

Four persons wounded in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province

As of September 22, 2017, on the hill, zone and commune Rusaka, in the commune city, a grenade was thrown by an unidentified person in front of Bigirimana Alexis' shop alias Oussama and 4 people including Serges Sindayihebura, Jean Claude Habonimana, David Ntahonkuriye all CNDD-FDD party members and a policeman named Ferdinand Bakundumuhari, , were injured. According to sources on site, Bakundumuhari cooperates a lot with Imbonerakure. The military and police searched on the morning of September 23, 2017, but no weapon was found.

Persecution of a MSD party family member jailed in Mpimba Central Prison

On September 19, 2017, Dieudonné Ndikumasabo, living in Kinindo urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city, who was in charge of the Gym and swimming at King's conference center, was abducted by police officers while he was at Mpimba central prison to visit his relatives, according to sources on site. Dieudonné Ndikumasabo had 400.000 Bif and was accused of supplying prisoners who had been prosecuted for breaching internal security of the State and participating in uprising movements. The same sources add that the amount that Dieudonné Ndikumasaba had was meant for the preparation of his wedding planned as of November 4, 2017. Dieudonné Ndikumasabo is the brother-in-law of Nathal Ndayongeje, MSD influential member (Movement for Solidarity and Democracy) jailed since 8 March 2014 and the brother of Nathal Ndayongenje's wife, Niyonzima Godeberthe, also arrested as her husband. This is persecution against detainees and their families. He was released on 21 September 2017 but his money was not returned.

A person injured in Gitanga commune, Rutana province

As of 18 September 2017, around 6:00 pm on Kinzanza hill, Kinzanza zone, Gitanga commune, Rutana province, Noel Ndayihereje was beaten and wounded by a knife by Nindorera when he was in a bar of this area, according to sources on site. Noel was quickly rushed to the CDS while

the alleged perpetrator was taken to Gitanga commune police station cell. The cause would be land disputes, according to the same sources.

Aid diversion in Kirundo province

As of 20 September 2017, an aid of rice and hoes distributed by the Oumbousman in Rusarasi, Busoni commune, Kirundi province for the new returnees and vulnerable was given to Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, each family should get 25 kg of beans but had only 10 kg. The distribution of this food was made by the technical adviser of Busoni commune administrator named Jean Kabaka and the commune administrator.

III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Human rights violations and allegations of violations following the deteriorating political context since the start of President Pierre Nkurunziza's third term challenge continue to be recorded in various parts of the country.

Killings, abduction, torture, arbitrary and illegal arrests, targeted to alleged opponents to CNDD-FDD regime are also reported.

The phenomenon of corpses is also reported in this bulletin.

Armed attacks by unidentified gunmen are reported in this bulletin and are source of insecurity.

Intimidation by Imbonerakure youth are a source of threats to any person nonmember of the ruling party.

Considering the continuously serious situation of human rights situation in Burundi, Iteka League recommends the government of Burundi the following:

- To dismantle and disarm the Imbonerakure militia which spread terror in the country and which has replaced the administration and security corps;
- To enforce the CCP for cases of arrests currently being committed dealt with by persons who are not competent to do so;
- To punish policemen, soldiers, Imbonerakure League youth and administrative agents involved in human rights violations and intimidation of the population.