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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°79 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 2-8 October 2017**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 8 October 2017, Iteka has documented at least 447 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**CDS:** *Health Center*

**CNDD-FDD:** *National Council for the Defense of Democracy*

**CNI:** *National Identity Card*

**ECOFO:** *Fundamental School/Ecole Fondamentale*

**FAB:** *Burundi armed forces*

**FNL:** *National Liberation Front*

**HCR:** *High Commissioner for Refugees*

**OPJ:** *Judicial Police Officer*

**SNR:** *National Intelligence Service*

**TGI:** *High Court*

**UPRONA:** *Union for National Progress*

**VBG:** *Gender Based Violence*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 7 persons killed including 2 corpses, 1 tortured, 43 arbitrarily arrested, and 1 GBV case.

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, policemen, soldiers as well as administration officials are blamed as the perpetrators of most of human rights violations.

This bulletin reports cases of killings, torture and arbitrary arrests of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## ***1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS***

### ***1.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RIGHT TO LIFE***

#### ***1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **One person killed in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On October 2, 2017, on Mayuyu hill and zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province, a 53-year-old Niyongabo was killed stabbed by unidentified men. According to our sources, the victim was a watchman at a shop next to Kavovo market. The same sources add that a group of men armed with machetes and knives entered this market and tried to enter a store guarded by Lazare Niyongabo. These sources add that this guard would have tried to prevent them from stealing but as they were numerous, they stabbed him at the chest before running away. He succumbed to his injuries.

#### ***1.1.2. CORPSES FOUND IN BUSH AND/OR INN RIVERS***

##### **A body found in Ngozi commune and province**

As of October 02, 2017, a body of a 30-year-old Felix Mbarushimana was found in his house in Muremera quarter of Ngozi city. According to sources on site, he lived alone in a house. The same source indicates that the victim did not have any injuries on his body and died in unclear circumstances.

### **A corpse found in Gahombo commune, Kayanza province**

On October 7, 2017, a corpse of Deo Bunwa from Rukago hill, Gahombo commune, Kayanza province was found on the banks of Kukinyangona River. He had gone by bike to sell bananas. His corpse was found next to his bike.

### ***1.1.3. PERSONS KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLING OF SCORES***

#### **One person killed in Gitaramuka commune, Karusi province**

On October 5, 2017, at around 10:00 pm, a man known as Joseph Minyaruko was killed by Felicien and Serges Shemezimana on Kibenga hill, Gitaramuka zone and commune, Karusi province. According to sources on site, the perpetrators are Sophie's brothers, owner of a cornfield in which the victim was caught robbing.

#### **One person killed in Gitaramuka commune, Karusi province**

As of 2 October 2017, at about 2:00 am, Barinakandi killed his wife Claudine Nimbona with a machete on Gasekanya hill, Ntunda zone, Gitaramuka commune, Karusi province. According to sources on site, Barinakandi accused his wife of adultery and after killing her, he burned the body. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to Gitaramuka commune police cell.

#### **One person killed in Gahombo commune, Kayanza province**

As of October 4, 2017, Pascal Nduwimana of the Twa social component was killed by the population on Gishunzi hill, Gahombo zone and commune, Kayanza province. According to sources on site, Pascal Nduwimana was caught robbing in the fields of this area and was killed. This act was committed in the presence of Gahombo zone head Anther Ntibashirinzi. The Batwa community in this area is wondering what jurisdiction to take the case when one of theirs is murdered in front of the zone head. It demands justice and that the perpetrators be brought before the competent authority.

### ***1.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE***

#### **One person tortured in Gahombo commune, Kayanza province**

As of October 6, 2017, Nyandwi from Butezi hill, Gahombo commune, Kayanza province was beaten in Butezi by the head of Imbonerakure of this hill, Onesphore Nizigiyimana along with other Imbonerakure Emmanuel Nizigiyimana and Leonidas Bimazubute. They accused him of

wanting to commit suicide because money was stolen from him. He was hospitalized in critical condition at Gahombo Hospital on Rukago hill.

### ***1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN, SOLDIERS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS***

#### **One person arrested in Nyabikere commune, Karusi province**

Information received by Iteka dated 2 October 2017 indicates that as of October 1, 2017, around 2:00 am, a nicknamed Museveni was arrested at home by Imbonerakure Ndereyimana and Mutama on Taba hill, Maramvya zone, Nyabikere commune, Karusi province. According to sources on site, they accused him of stealing from a local shopkeeper named Pascal, what his neighbors consider as a setup.

#### **A person arrested in Muyinga commune and province**

As of October 2, 2017, Halidi Hassan driver to UNHCR delegation in Muyinga, was arrested and placed in custody for three hours by Gérard Ndayisenga, SNR head in Muyinga province. Halidi Hassan was accused of "not participating in the demonstration organized by CNDD-FDD".

#### **One person arrested in Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province**

Information received by Iteka League on 2 October 2017 indicates that on 1 October 2017, on Vumwe hill, Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province, Nicelatte Ndikumana, accused of insulting Imbonerakure of the area, was beaten up by the latter. She was manu militari sent to Ruyigi central prison the same day and was transported by the vehicle of the Governor of Ruyigi province. According to sources on site, a few days before her arrest, her husband accused of robbery, was beaten and fined 600,000 Bif by the Imbonerakure. Nicelatte spoke to Humura and Inzamba programs on the progress of this act.

#### **Fifteen people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone, Bujumbura City**

On October 8, 2017, fifteen people were arrested by police and soldiers during a search to avenues 9 to 11, from n° 90 to 124 of Cibitoke urban zone , Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City. Four of them were released after paying a ransom of 5,000 Bif each.

#### **Two people arrested in Rugazi commune, Bubanza province**

As of October 5, 2017, on Muzinda hill, Rugazi commune, Bubanza province, two students, Bukuru and Butoyi were arrested by police of the area. According to sources on site, they were

taken to Bubanza province police station cell. The same sources indicate that the reason for their arrest is they refused to cut their hair because their church does not allow it. They preferred to drop out school.

### **Two people arrested in Busoni commune, Kirundo province**

On October 5, 2017, Jean Claude Ndabemeye, a 25-year-old motorcyclist from Kirundo town, from Runanira hill, Kirundo commune, was arrested around 6:00 pm at Mushasha police checkpoint, Gisenyi zone, Busoni commune. According to sources on site, Ndabemeye was accused of transporting two clients, a man and his wife who were traveling into Rwanda passing through the marshlands of Cimbogo, Gatete hill, Gatere zone, Busoni commune. The same sources add that this lady was caught by a group of Imbonerakure commanded by their leader named Ngenda who subsequently telephoned his colleagues from Mushasha where they arrested this motorcyclist. The latter and this lady were handed over to SNR head at Gasenyi border, who took them to a secret place. Information states that man managed to escape to Rwanda.

### **A person arrested in Muramvya commune and province**

As of October 2, 2017, Celeus Niyoyitungira was arrested by Imbonerakure and SNR agents on Mija-Musagara hill, commune and Muramvya province while he was identifying Uprona party members. He was taken to Muramvya province police station.

### **Twenty people arrested in Rumonge commune and province**

On October 5, 2017, twenty people were arrested by police during a search of hotels, bars and roads in Rumonge commune and province. They paid ransoms to be released and most of them were in possession of documents such as CNIs or travel documents for foreigners. Among those arrested were Congolese and persons qualified as prostitutes.

### **Illegal detention in Makamba province**

The TGI Makamba Chamber decided to jail four people, Lin Niyomukiza, ex-FAB, Tresor Nkuzubumwe and Thierry Ndayiragije, students at ECOFO Kibago, Ildephonse Ndiokubwayo, owner of the bar where the incident occurred. The decision was taken on 3 October 2017 and the alleged perpetrators were notified of the judgment on 4 October 2017. Information received by Iteka League indicates that all four were arrested during the attack on Kibago hill on 9 September 2017 by Imbonerakure from Rubimba hill, accompanied by Kibago zone head Phénias Kabura. This decision hit the victims of the attack while those who attacked never appeared neither before the OPJ nor the prosecution.

### **One person arrested in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On October 4, 2017, a soldier named Jean Claude Nshimirimana was arrested by police on Kibago hill, Makamba province. According to sources on site, Jean Claude Nshimirimana is accused of participating in an insurrectional group that attacked Ndiwokubwayo Ildephonse's bar on September 9, 2017, located on Kibago hill while those who attacked are Imbonerakure members of the joint committee known as Denis, Radjabu, Rufyikiri, and Emmanuel, accompanied by Kibago zone head Phénias Kabura.

### ***1.4. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE***

#### **A person raped in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province**

Information received by Iteka League on 2 October 2017 indicates that on 1 October 2017, around 8:00 pm, on Kizigama hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province, E.N was raped by Egide Ntirampeba. The victim was taken to Muriza CDS for treatment as of October 3, 2017.

### ***1.5. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS***

#### **Forced adherence to CNDD-FDD party in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province**

On October 4, 2017, Nduwumunsi, principal of Nyanza-Lac communal Lycee has forced all the students of the school to register at the CNDD-FDD party office in order to become party members and attend activities organized. Some senior students interviewed confirmed that they were enrolled. A school regulation number 610/178 on the organization of public and private secondary schools, in article 7 stipulates that the school is an apolitical environment.

## ***II. OTHER REPORTED FACTS***

#### **One person wounded in Karusi commune and province**

As of October 03, 2017, a trader of Buhiga named Evariste was wounded stabbed by an Imbonerakure named Sinahabari on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karusi province. According to sources, the victim was taken to Buhiga hospital.

#### **Discovery of a rifle in Burambi commune, Rumonge province**

On 4 October 2017, around 11:00 am, a Kalashnikov-type rifle with a full magazine was found in a bush on Gitaramuka hill, Burambi commune, Rumonge province. According to sources on site, the



rifle was found by Red Cross volunteers and called the police of this commune to take this weapon.

### **Illegal detention of a teacher in Rumonge commune and province**

Léopold Mugabaranoga, FNL party member of Agathon Rwasas' wing and teacher at Iteba Lycée in Rumonge commune and province was arrested on charges of attempted rape, is still jailed since 11 June 2017 at Rumonge central prison while he had been acquitted by TGI Rumonge. According to sources on site, Leopold Mugabaranoga was arrested on the orders of Iteba Lycee principal who is the wife of the Governor of Rumonge province. The court found the charges against Leopold Mugabaranoga were unfounded and decided to release him. His relatives request that he be released in accordance with the verdict of the court while continuing the case being free.

### **Discovery of ammunition in Musigati commune, Bubanza province**

On October 7, 2017, at ECOFO Musigati I, Musigati commune, Bubanza province, ammunition made of cartridges, grenades and a landmine was discovered in a septic tank of ECOFO Musigati I. According to our sources, these weapons were discovered by workers emptying school toilets. The head of Musigati police station said these weapons were left during the war because they were much damaged.

### ***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, torture, arbitrary and illegal arrests, targeted to CNDD-FDD regime opponents are also reported.

The phenomenon of corpses is also reported.

Intimidation by CNDD-FDD 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;