

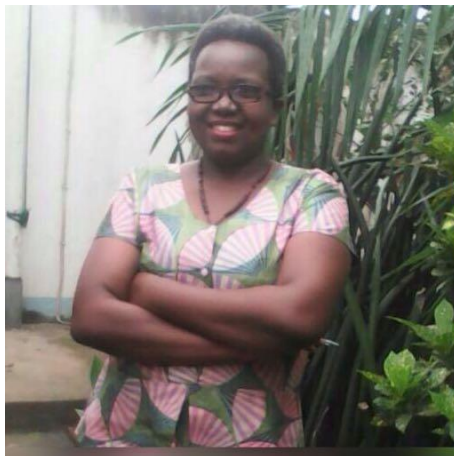
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°80 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 8-15 October 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 15 October 2017, Iteka has documented at least 454 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*

EUSEBU: *Holy Ghost Unity Church in Burundi*

FNL: *National Liberation Front*

MSD: *Movement for Solidarity*

SNR: *National Intelligence Service*

TGI: *High Court*

UB: *University of Burundi*

VBG: *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 11 persons killed including 4 corpses, 7 reported missing, 5 tortured, 17 arbitrarily arrested and 2 GBV victims.

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, abduction, and arbitrary arrests 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.

1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RIGHT TO LIFE

1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A person killed in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On October 7, 2017, about 1:00 am, on Busokoza hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza Province, Niyongabo Evariste, a cow seller, was killed with a machete by unidentified persons, according to sources on site.

1.1.2. CORPSES FOUND IN BUSH

A body found in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On October 9, 2017, a body of an unidentified young boy, aged at least 12 years old was found in Kigoma quarter, Buhiga commune, Karuzi Province. Sources on site say the victim was reportedly killed elsewhere and thrown into a house under construction in the quarter.

A body found in Marangara commune, Ngozi province

On October 13, 2017, a body of Hilaire Buhungu, aged 35, native of Renga hill, was discovered in a eucalyptus plantation on the same hill in Marangara commune, Ngozi province. Sources on site say the body was found on the border of Marangara and Kiremba communes in Ngozi province. The same sources added that the victim was clubbed to death when trying to flee to Kiremba commune after he was caught in act of robbery.

A corpse found in Bururi commune and province

On October 15, 2017, in the morning, a body of a lady named Concilie, aged 20, mother of two children was found on Kagwa hill, Bamba zone, Bururi commune and province.

A body found in Gitaramuka commune, Karusi province

On October 11, 2017, around 9:00 am, on Gitaramuka hill, zone and commune, Karusi province, a corpse of a 3-year child was found in a public toilet opposite Lycée St Augustin. According to sources on site, the child was killed by his own mother named Evelyne Nininahazwe from Rwizingwe hill, Nyaruhinda zone, Gitaramuka commune Karusi province. This woman was taken to Karusi province police station cell.

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

Six people killed in Buhiga commune, Karusi province

On October 9, 2017, on Rweya hill, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, a family of six persons was decimated and ten houses burnt by Claude Ntirandekura, aged 24. Sources on site say that among the victims was a man, his mother, his wife and three children. According to the same sources, three of these victims were killed with machetes and the other three burned in their houses. These sources add that the perpetrator known as a mason and carpenter on this hill also killed cows, goats and hens encountered as he passed. Administration officials indicate that Jean Claude Ntirandekura's body was discovered on the morning of October 10, 2017. The same sources indicate that this corpse was suspended on a tree on the road to Muyinga province and that 7 people were arrested for investigation reasons including Rweya hill head.

1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING

One person abducted and reported missing in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On 10 October 2017, on the 15th street of Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Francois was abducted by Jérémie, SNR head in Mutimbuzi commune in complicity with Odette Ngerageze of the CNDD -FDD women's league. He was taken to an unknown destination.

Two people abducted and reported missing in Cankuzo commune and province

As of October 11, 2017, the administrator of Cankuzo commune submitted a security report of two reported missing persons. It is Cyrille Banyakiki and Deo Nurwubusa, abducted by unidentified persons on 4 October 2017 and theirs are despaired to see them again. Sources on site indicate that Cyrille Banyakiki from Kavumu hill, Minyare zone, Cankuzo commune and province, was last seen at Busoro market on the same hill. According to the administrator and the prosecutor, Cyrille Banyakiki was not in good terms with his brothers Banyakiki Onesphore and Banyakiki Claude. The latter were arrested and are detained at Cankuzo police station cell for investigation reason. Concerning Deo Nurwubusa from Rutoke hill, Minyare zone, he was reported missing in unclear circumstances.

One person abducted and reported missing in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On the night of 10 October 2017, around 7:00 am, on the 15th avenue, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province Chanceline Nshimirimana, FNL party member of Agathon Rwasa's wing and mother of two children was abducted by Abraham nicknamed Mafyeri, SNR agent. He was taken to an unknown destination.

One person abducted and reported missing in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On October 13, 2017, on the 15th avenue, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Bushiti was abducted by unidentified persons. According to sources on site, her neighbor Odette Ngerageze of the CNDD-FDD Women's League played a role in the Bushiti's abduction.

One person abducted in Mutambu commune, Bujumbura rural province

On October 13, 2017, around 2:00 pm, on Gomvyi hill, Mutambu zone and commune, province Bujumbura rural, Thaddee, FNL leader of Agathon Rwasa's wing of this hill was abducted by Imbonerakure of this locality. He was taken to an unknown location.

One person abducted and reported missing in Bujumbura City

Information received by Iteka League on October 13, 2017 indicates that Diomède Niyonkuru from Kinwa hill, Songa zone, Matana commune, Bururi province, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was abducted on October 4, 2017 at Mutanga campus by people in a vehicle without a plate number and then reported missing. On-site sources indicate that Diomede Niyonkuru went to Bujumbura to take his documents from the UB. The family said they waited for his return but in vain.

1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND POLICE

A person tortured in Musongati commune, Rutana province

On October 10, 2017, Ernest was taken beaten up by Imbonerakure Nahayo and Nduwayo on Ngoma hill and zone, Musongati commune, Rutana province. Ernest was taken to Ngoma CDS as a result of torture. He was accused of denouncing their vile acts of patrolling and brutalizing people at night. These alleged perpetrators were arrested and taken to Musongati police station.

A person tortured in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province

As of October 11, 2017, around 4:00 pm, on Ruzibazi hill, Mayuyu zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province, Claudine, 8th form student at Rurambira secondary school was tortured by a policeman named Innocent Bahebiyake. According to our sources, the policeman asked the girl to reveal where her brother was. The girl was admitted at Mayuyu CDS.

A person arrested and then tortured in Bururi commune and province

On the night of October 11, 2017, Alexis Niyongabo alias Volvo, trader of Mugozi hill, Bururi commune, Bururi province was arbitrarily arrested by Bururi province police deputy commissioner, nicknamed Gentil. According to sources on site, the reason for his arrest remains unknown. When he was arrested, he was tortured with belts and plastic clubs. The victim was in critical condition at Bururi cell.

A person tortured in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province

On October 13, 2017, on Kagurutsi hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, Gaspard Barutwanayo, farmer, aged 23, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing was beaten up by young Imbonerakure of this area led by Minani known as Kibaga. According to our sources, he was accused of not joining CNDD-FDD party.

A person tortured in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

On October 14, 2017, in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, Herman was beaten by CNDD-FDD deputy representative in Rutegama commune. According to sources on site, he was accused of not responding him politely. He was jailed in Rutegama police cell.

1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICE, SOLDIERS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS

A person arrested in commune and province Bururi

On 12 October 2017, in the afternoon, Didier Hakizimana, a pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church from Bujumbura rural province was arrested by police and taken to Bururi province police cell. According to sources on site, he is prosecuted for slandering the Catholic Church

One person arrested in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province

As of October 12, 2017, around 2:00 pm, Claude, politically unaffiliated, supplier of construction materials such as sand and stones, originating from Gikebuka hill, Rusaka zone and commune, Mwaro province was arrested by Mwaro province SNR agents. According to sources on site, Claude was arrested at Rwibaga market in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province. He was subsequently taken to Mwaro province police station cell. According to the same source, the reason for his arrest remains unknown.

One person arrested in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

As of October 9, 2017, on the 7th street of Cibitoke hill in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, the 56-year-old Makera, MSD party member, was arrested by Imbonerakure youths led by Bucumi, leader of these Imbonerakure, on order of a MP known named Usiel. According to our sources, Makera was accused of not contributing to CNDD-FDD party. He was released on 12 October 2017.

A person arrested in Makamba commune and province

On the afternoon of 11 October 2017, a man named Ananias Bayubahe was arrested by Gad Niyukuri, governor of Makamba province and taken to the Makamba police station. He is accused of calling the governor by his name when he passed close by. According to police sources, no offense is charged to him. The victim's relatives request his unconditional release. He was released on 12 October 2017.

Seven people arrested in Musaga urban zone, Bujumbura City

On October 13, 2017, seven house workers were arrested during a search by soldiers and policemen in Kinanira I quarter, Musaga urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city. They were released after checking the household notebooks.

One person arrested in Mbuye commune, Muramvya province

On October 9, 2017, Chanel Bigirimana, a motorcyclist from internal displaced persons site of Kibumbu in Mbuye commune, was arrested by Imbonerakure, one of whom was nicknamed Gahanga, in Mbuye commune, Muramvya province.

Sources on site indicate that Chanel Bigirimana was taken by people aboard Remy's vehicle, SNR head in Muramvya. The same sources said that Chanel Bigirimana was reportedly delivered by an Imbonerakure named Cyriaque, a driver of CNDD-FDD party leader in Mbuye commune, accusing him of having transported students from ECOFO Muramvya to the Burundi-Rwanda border to join rebel groups. These sources say there is misunderstanding between the displaced people of Kibumbu site and CNDD-FDD party members. His family members report he was taken to Muramvya police station cell.

Two people arrested in Makamba commune and province

As of October 13, 2017, two pastors of EUSEBU church were arrested in the mass on order of Makamba administrator Japhet Ntungwanayo. They were accused of sabotaging anniversary celebrations of Prince Louis Rwagasore assassination. They were released in the afternoon on the same day. This spread fear among church members who were at mass.

A person arrested in Rumonge commune and province

On October 14, 2017, T rence Nicimpaye, a former soldier was arrested by the SNR head in Rumonge province on Mibanda sub hill, Musave hill, Kizuka zone, Rumonge commune and province. This former soldier is accused of beating soldiers of Musave position, according to police

source. He was taken to Rumonge police station cell. His relatives rejected the accusations against him. They accuse Musave hill head Jean Bosco Ndayiragije of orchestrating a setup against this former soldier saying he held weapons. The same sources indicate that T rence Nicimpaye had been beaten by young Imbonerakure of this hill on orders of the hill head. The reason is that he refused to give the hill head an amount of 300,000 Bif to allow him building a house on this hill.

Illegal detention in Kibago commune, Makamba province

In Kibago commune, a soldier named Jean Claude Nshimirimana, arrested on 4 October 2017, is still jailed in Makamba public prosecutor's office after more than a week, while the TGI Chambers was held on 5 October 2017 but the decision of the Chambers which should enacted within 48 hours is not yet pronounced. According to sources on site, Jean Claude Nshimirimana is accused of participating in insurrectional groups that attacked Ildephonse Ndiwokubwayo'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 Ph nias Kabura.

The same situation is observed at Bururi Court of Appeal where 6 people remain detained after the court has decided to release them. It is Fid le Nsabumukiza, Eli zere Ndayambaje, Josaphat, Sal se, Wilson and Ast re, all CNDD party members of Nyangoma and originating from Makamba province. They were arrested in December 2016, accused of participating in armed movements. The prosecutor at Bururi Court of Appeal said the decision to keep them detained was taken for public security reasons. The decision to release them had been taken on 20 September 2017.

1.5. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS

Demonstrations with hate speeches in Bujumbura City

On the morning of October 14, 2017 until 10:00 am, CNDD-FDD members, taxi bikers of the tricycles, bicycle taxis have demonstrated in the city center streets, at the independence square and in front of the Belgian embassy. The demonstrators also listened to the speech of Th rence Ntahiraja (Home Affairs Ministry spokesman) accusing Rwanda of siding to Europeans, Belgium in particular, to destabilize the Burundian regime and distribute weapons to Burundian refugees exiled in Rwanda. During these demonstrations, the traffic on the route of these demonstrators was temporarily blocked by police.

Demonstration in Makamba province

On October 14, 2017, demonstration of Imbonerakure was organized in all the communes of Makamba province. Slogans hostile to the opposition, civil society and international community

such as Rwanda and Belgium were chanted. One could hear, *"Intumva Zikurugutur, Nibakine nabo bangana ahandiho tuzobaca amazosi! Urwanda naba koroni bababirigi ntibihende kirimwo abagabo! (The disbelievers should understand this and play with their pairs, if not we will decapitate them! Rwanda and the Belgian colonists should not venture, the country is under control)*. This terrified people of Makamba province city because the demonstration began with a kind of paramilitary training of these Imbonerakure from 5:00 am to 8:00 am.

People brutalized in Musongati commune, Rutana province

On October 11, 2017, on Ngoma hill and zone, Musongati commune, Rutana province, the Imbonerakure, Mbonirema, Safari and Thérance have beaten up the population at Ngoma market, accusing them of exceeding 6:00 pm, the market closing hours.

Forced contribution to the 2020 elections in Rutana province

On 12 October 2017, at Mpinga-Kayove commune of Rutana province, the administrator of this commune held a meeting on the agenda to give 500 Bif per person to contribute to the 2020 elections.

1.6. CASES OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Muramvya commune and province

Information dated 8 October 2017 indicates that on 4 October 2017, on Biganda hill, Muramvya commune and province, N.N, aged 6, was raped by Habonimana Ezéchiel, born in 1975 in Mbuye commune and living in Biganda hill.

A person raped in Muramvya province

Information dated 8 October 2017 indicates that as of 6 October 2017 on Biganda hill, Muramvya commune and province, V.M., aged 15, was raped by Manirakiza Innocent, aged 27 and originating from Masango hill in Muramvya commune and province.

II. OTHER REPORTED FACTS

One person died in Muyinga Central Prison

On October 7, 2017, Anastasie Sibomana, jailed in Muyinga central prison died as a result of the neglect of prison authorities. Inmates in Muyinga central prison complain about the lack of medical care at the prison infirmary due to lack of medication. They are also denied permission to seek

treatment outside the prison. According to sources on site, critically ill patients remain stuck in their dormitories, resulting in deaths in prison. At least 4 prisoners died in this prison so far this year.

Prisoners harassed at Gitega prison

The alleged coup plotters in Gitega central prison face difficulties in seeking treatment. They cannot even see the doctor in the prison infirmary while other prisoners easily consult the doctor. They also deplore the fact that they are denied the right to consult specialist doctors outside the central prison. They do not understand how they are denied the right to information while another category of prisoners in the same Gitega central prison can track information on radio or television. This happens when this category of people had been described as "dangerous prisoners" by the public prosecutor's office.

Albinos hunting in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province

On October 11, 2017, the public prosecutor in Cankuzo, Léonard Sindayigaya, informed in a meeting of the heads of services that 5 people were arrested on October 9, 2017 in Mishiha commune searching for a market to sell albino bones. According to the prosecutor, the bone rests are of a 4-year-old girl Ntiharirizwa Devote abducted on the night of March 23, 2016, on Musemo hill, Mugeru zone, Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province. Sources on site indicate that the albino girl was with her mother at home and the people who abducted her intimidated her mother telling her that she would be killed if she shouted. This girl cried loudly when she was abducted but the people who heard her including her mother kept silent for fear of being killed by these people. The persons arrested were jailed on 9 October 2017 in Mishiha police station. They were transferred to Cankuzo Prosecutor's office for interrogation and detained in Cankuzo police station cell. These people are: Jean de Dieu Kwizera and Cyprien Miburo from Rwamvura hill in Kigamba commune, Sylvestre Ngayabosha and Jonas Banyiyezako from Saswe hill in Kigamba commune and Simeon Nzoyihera from Humure I hill in the same commune.

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 CNDD-FDD regime opponents are also reported.

The phenomenon of corpses is also reported in this bulletin.

GBV are also reported in this bulletin.

Intimidation, night patrols and forced contributions by CNDD-FDD Imbonerakure youth in complicity with administration officials 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;
- Protect GBV victims.