

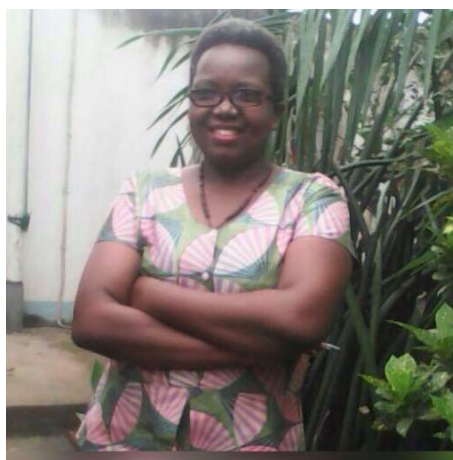
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°83 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 30 October – 5 November 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 5 November 2017, Iteka has documented at least 462 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- CNI** : *National Identity Card*
- CNDD-FDD** : *National Council for the Defense of Democracy*
- CNTB** : *National Land Commission for Burundi*
- ICC** : *International Criminal Court*
- ETSA** : *Secondary Art School*
- FAB** : *Burundi Armed forces*
- FNL** : *National Liberation Front*
- SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*
- ULB** : *Bujumbura Light University*
- UPRONA** : *Union for National Progress*
- GBV** : *Burundi Airport Authority*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 10 persons killed including 6 corpses, 3 reported missing, 4 tortured, 66 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 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.

Intimidation during meetings with administration officials are reported in this bulletin.

GBV cases are also reported in this bulletin.

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 UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A person killed in Gitega commune, Gitega province

Information received by Iteka League on 5 November 2017 indicates that on 17 October 2017, about 11:00 pm, in Rubuye sub-quarter of Magarama quarter, Gitega commune and province, Mukamarakoze alias Kwasha was beaten to death by Imbonerakure who were patrolling at night. He lived in Rusura. Four people, Damas, Samuel, Charles and Chantal, were arrested for investigation reasons.

Three people killed in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province

On October 30, 2017, in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province, around 10:00 pm, a trailer truck was ambushed by unidentified armed group. The driver and the conductor were killed on the spot. According to sources on site, a few minutes later, many shots were heard on a police station not far from the road. One police officer died and four others were injured. The armed group also burned the shop of Jean Pierre Nduwayezu, an Imbonerakure.

1.1.2. BODIES FOUND IN BUSH AND / OR IN RIVER

A body found in Gitega commune, Gitega province

On 4 November 2017, in the morning, Dieudonné Cimpaye, resident of Mwumba sub-hill, Nyabututsi hill, Gitega commune and province, was killed by machete by unknown people. His body was found, shredded, in Nyabututsi quarter in Gitega town between Lycée Sainte Thérèse of Mushasha and ETSA Gitega. Patrick, the biker who had transported him on the evening of 3 November, 2017 was arrested for investigation reasons.

A body found in Gitega commune and province

As of October 30, 2017, in the afternoon, a body of Faustin Niyonkuru was found in bush by the population on Nyabututsi hill, Gitega commune and province. According to sources on site, this body was half buried. Faustin Niyonkuru originated from Jimbi hill in Gitega commune. The victim was a motorcyclist who had disappeared with his motorcycle since October 25, 2017. The bike was not found. The body was buried on the spot because it was already decomposed.

A body found in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On November 3, 2017, on Mparambo hill II, close to Dogodogo Lake, in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, a body of an unidentified man was found. According to our sources, he was arrested by an SNR agent three days ago at Cibitoke market.

A body found in Butezi commune, Ruyigi province

On 30 October 2017, a body of Celestin Nyawenda, aged at least 30 years, was found floating on the waters of Kagogo River on Rugoti hill, Butezi commune, Ruyigi province. Local sources indicate that Celestin's body was later transported to Butezi hospital mortuary. According to police sources, a person named Rukere was arrested and jailed in Butezi commune police station for investigation reasons.

A body found in Kayanza commune and province

On 5 November 2017, in the morning, a body of an unidentified man was found on Rushiha sub-hill, Kirema hill, Kayanza commune and province. Sources on site indicate that this man was a thief and was with two others fleeing after being prevented from robbing to Diomedé's. He was later killed by Imbonerakure on patrol. Two people including Diomedé and his tenant were arrested and then jailed by the police for investigation reasons.

A body found in Gahombo commune, Kayanza province

On October 31, 2017, at Mikoni hill, Gahombo commune, Kayanza province, Minani's body was found in a cassava field. The perpetrators were not identified and his body was buried in haste.

I.2. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Bubanza commune and province

On 4 November 2017, at around 2:00 pm, a 12-year-old woman from Musigati commune living in Bubanza downtown was raped by her boss, Joachim Bizimana, a 37-year-old soldier of Muzinda Camp, living in downtown, Bubanza commune and province. The alleged perpetrator was arrested by the police and jailed at Bubanza central prison for investigation reasons.

A person raped in Bukeye commune, Muramvya province

On October 31, 2017, at Rweteto hill, Bukeye commune, Muramvya province, I.V, aged 17 years, resident of Shumba hill, Bukeye commune, Muramvya province, was raped by 25-year-old Jean Bosco Habonimana from Rusha hill, Bukeye commune, Muramvya province. Jean Bosco is married.

I.3. PEOPLE ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING

A person abducted in Kamenge urban zone, Bujumbura city

On November 5, 2017, at the 9th Avenue, Kamenge urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city, around 2:00 pm, Clovis Ngabirano, 27 years old, student at ULB, 1st BAC in Civil Engineering, resident at Kibenga quarter, Buragane Avenue No. 11, was abducted by two men in police uniforms aboard a TI car registered C 8168 A. Clovis Ngabirano was at a party celebrating his friend's diploma in a bar called "Le social". His family searched in the cells of Bujumbura but did not find him anywhere.

Two people abducted in Rohero urban zone, Bujumbura city

On 2 November 2017, clashes between FNL militants of Agathon Rwasa's wing and Imbonerakure occurred in Mugoboka quarter, Rohero urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city. Initially, two Imbonerakure, including Pierre, accompanied by police, tried to arrest Richard, a hill elected and FNL party committee member in Rohero urban zone, but his friends opposed the abusive arrest. Clashes were then engaged and Richard was released. Following these clashes, Claude Niyonkuru and Sinarinzi alias Gapapa, all FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing were abducted, on the night of November 2, 2017, by people who might be SNR agents accompanied by Imbonerakure to an unknown destination.

I.4. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person tortured in Kayanza commune and province

On November 2, 2017, on Kinga hill, Kayanza commune and province, a nicknamed whatsapp, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was beaten up by Imbonerakure. He was saved by the police.

A person tortured in Ngozi commune and province

On November 5, 2017, Nduwimana Henri, conductor at Ngozi car park, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing was beaten up by Ngozi city zone head, Saidi Nyandwi, with the young Imbonerakure, including Manwangari, well-known in acts of violence. According to our sources on site, Henri was accused of criticizing CNDD-FDD party.

A person tortured in Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province

On November 4, 2017, 35-year-old Thierry Sinigirira, an English teacher at Budahunga Communal High School, Bwambarangwe commune, was beaten up by a man named Fabrice, Imbonerakure, a driver at Mukenke Hospital when Thierry was heading home. According to sources on site, the neighbors tracked blood drops and smashed the door of the victim's room to see the destination of these traces and found him in critical condition.

A person tortured in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province

The information received by Iteka League dated October 30, 2017 indicates that as of October 29, 2017, Osée Nahayo, CNTB chairman in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province, was beaten up by CNDD-FDD party young Imbonerakure. Local sources indicate that a group of Imbonerakure, accompanied by Mishiha commune administrator, Anaclet Bizimana, entered a bar belonging to Pie, located in Mugeru center where Osée Nahayo was. They began beating him up and then took him to Mishiha commune prison in critical condition. He was rushed to Murore Hospital for health care.

I.5. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICE, MILITARY AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person arrested in Giheta commune, Gitega province

Information received by Iteka Ligue on October 30, 2017 indicates that on October 23, 2017, Benoit, FNL party member of Agathon Rwasa's wing and a pharmacist on Gisuru hill, Giheta commune, Gitega province, was arrested by Imbonerakure and taken to the police station of the area. He was accused of refusing to give a contribution requested from the population of this locality by these Imbonerakure. Benoit had been released a few days later on the orders of Giheta commune administrator. But these Imbonerakure continue threatening him.

Forty-five people arrested in Gitega commune and province

As of October 31, 2017, forty-five young people were arrested while watching movies. This happened in a raid by the police in the movie theaters located in Gitega downtown and in Nyamugari and Magarama quarters in Gitega town. According to the police station head in Gitega commune, the 45 youths were jailed in Gitega province police station cells.

A person arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On October 31, 2017, on Tenga-Gahwama hill, Rubirizi zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Tharcisse Mvuyekuye was arrested on the orders of Elysée Nindorera, the CNDD-FDD party leader in Mutimbuzi commune. According to our sources, Tharcisse Mvuyekuye refused to join CNDD-FDD party, which this official often asked him to do. On 2 November 2017, Tharcisse Mvuyekure was taken to Kabezi commune police cell.

A person arrested in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province

On November 3, 2017, on Jenda hill and zone, Mogongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province, soldiers under the command of Marius Gahomera alias Gakoryo arrested Claude Rufuku and then took him to Nyabiraba commune police cell. According to our sources, Claude Rufuku is accused of communicating with his brother Rufuku who is in exile and who used to be the administrator of Mugongo-Manga commune from UPRONA of Charles Nditije's wing. His mobile phone was confiscated but continued to be used by these soldiers to intercept his brother's messages, according to the same sources.

Eighteen people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone , Bujumbura City

On November 2, 2017, soldiers and police conducted a search on Avenues 6 to 8 of Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city. Eighteen people, including five men and 13 women accused of missing household notebooks or CNI, were arrested and taken to Cibitoke zone office. According to sources on site, all these people were released the same day after giving the police a ransom ranging between 2000 Bif and 5000 Bif, depending on the case.

1.6. INTIMIDATIONS BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS

Speeches of propaganda in Cankuzo province

On 2 November 2017, in "Kabeza Motel" meeting room in Cankuzo province city, in a meeting held by the Senate Speaker, Honorable Reverien Ndikuriyo for Cankuzo residents, said in his speech: *"The wisdom of Nkurunziza is that he continues to be elected"*. He added that those who advise President Nkurunziza to leave power to remain only among the wise of CNDD-FDD party are mistaken. *"Burundi is not comparable to America, Tanzania or other countries,"* said the Senate speaker.

Thirty-six people threatened with death in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province

Leaflets accusing 36 people of sorcery have been circulating for some time on Rushimabarimyi hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province. The last leaflet was found on October 31, 2017 on the same hill. It included writings indicating that people mentioned must be killed by 2017. According to our sources, these people are between the age of 30 and 70 years. About 20 of these people are not from

the ruling party, others do not want to give contributions requested by young Imbonerakure, hence the charge of sorcery, specify the same sources.

II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

A person wounded in Rutana province

On 1 November 2017, at around 4:00 am, on Gasakuza hill, Gitaba zone, Rutana commune and province, Egide Nshishikare, aged 28, was seriously injured in the back and arms with machete, while sleeping, by his wife Claudine Ngumansenga, aged 30 years. According to this woman, the cause of this act is the mismanagement of the family property. The victim was taken by ambulance to Rutana Hospital while the alleged perpetrator is jailed in Rutana police station.

Heavy fire in Cankuzo province

On 1 November 2017, around 9:00 pm, heavy firing around Cankuzo market was heard. It was a fight between policemen from Cankuzo police station and Mutukura camp soldiers, according to sources on site. The police wanted to force the soldiers to leave the bar and they resisted. They began exchanging punches and later the provincial police commissioner, Donatien Barandereka brought other policemen in a pickup who fired in the air to rescue their colleagues, according to the same sources.

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.

Intimidation organized 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;
- To cooperate fully with ICC to punish the perpetrators of crimes committed in Burundi