

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°85 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 13-19 November 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 19 November 2017, Iteka has documented at least 464 cases of enforced disappearances.

CONTENTS

PAGES

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS 3

0. INTRODUCTION..... 4

I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS..... 4

I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED..... 4

I.1.2. BODIES FOUND IN BUSH OR OTHER PLACES..... 5

I.2. PERSONS REPORTED MISSING 5

*I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, SNR AGENTS, POLICE AND
IMBONERAKURE*..... 6

*I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION
OFFICIALS*..... 7

II. CASES OF VIOLENCE BASED ON GENDER..... 8

III. OTHER FACTS REPORTED 9

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS..... 11

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
ICC	: <i>International Criminal Court</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School/Ecole Fondamentale</i>
FAB	: <i>Burundi Armed Forces</i>
FNL	: <i>National Liberation Front</i>
OIDEB	: <i>Observatoire Ineza des Droits de l'Enfant au Burundi</i>
ONG	: <i>Non-Governmental Organization</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
PJ	: <i>Judicial Police</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
TGI	: <i>High Court</i>
GBV	: <i>Gender Based Violence</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 6 persons killed including 4 corpses, 2 reported missing, 18 tortured and 63 arbitrarily arrested and 5 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 Veterans Day where high ranked officials of the country were present is 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

Two people killed in Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province

Information received on 13 November 2017 indicates that on November 8, 2017, on Muramba hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, a man named Buhungu of the Twa social component set fire to his own house when his wife went to collect firewood. His two four-year-old and two-year-old children who were inside were burned to death as their father stayed by the door with a machete, refused the neighbors to save the children. One of the neighbors wanted to come by force to save them and had to fight with this man who threw him into the fire before he could enter. The seriously injured neighbor was taken to Bugenyuzi hospital and Buhungu was finally arrested by police and then jailed in Karusi province police station cell.

1.1.2. BODIES FOUND IN BUSH OR OTHER PLACES

A body found in Kabezi commune, Bujumbura rural province

As of November 13, 2017, a body of an unidentified man was found near Kirasa River, Migera zone in Kabezi commune, Bujumbura rural province. The reason for this killing is not known. On-site sources say the victim was strangled.

A corpse found in Cankuzo commune and province

On the afternoon of November 13, 2017, a body of Cyrille Banyakiki¹ was found on Kavumu hill, Minyare zone, commune and Cankuzo province. According to the commune administrator, Innocent Nyandwi, Cyrille Banyakiki had been reported missing since October 4, 2017 and the reasons of this killing were not yet known. According to sources on site, this body was buried on November 14, 2017, on Kavumu hill where the victim resided.

A corpse found in Muramvya commune and province

On November 14, 2017, a body of a watchman named Buringo, from the Twa social component was found in a house under construction in Rwasazi quarter in Muramvya province. According to administrative sources, the circumstances of this death are not yet known. He was taken to Muramvya mortuary by the Red Cross agents.

A body found in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province

On November 13, 2017, a body of an unidentified woman was found on Kizi hill, Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province. The woman, aged at least 60 years, died strangled. According to sources on site, this woman was accused of being a witch. One of her family was arrested for investigation reasons.

1.2. PERSONS REPORTED MISSING

Two persons reported missing in Rumonge commune and province

Information received on November 13, 2017 indicates that on November 12, 2017, Hassan Uwezo and Dupfiki, all fishermen, from Gitaza zone, Muhuta commune, Rumonge province, were reported missing in Lake Tanganyika waters at Kagongo locality level, Kizuka zone, Rumonge commune and province. According to their colleague, they might have been abducted and killed by their Congolese colleagues on the night of November 12, 2017.

¹ Cyrille Banyakiki had been reported missing on 4 October 2017

I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, SNR AGENTS, POLICE AND IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Nyabikere commune, Karusi province

Information received on November 13, 2017 indicates that on November 6, 2017, on Ngugo hill, Maramvya zone, Nyabikere commune, Karusi province, Léocadie was beaten up by a policeman guarding the commune administrator, Leonidas Nakumuryango, under the latter's orders. According to sources on site, she was accused of having insulted this authority.

A person tortured in Makebuko commune, Gitega province

On November 9, 2017, Françoise Kwizera, manager of Makebuko Post Office, was summoned to the SNR provincial office in Musinzira quarter, Gitega commune and province, and was beaten up by two SNR agents in Gitega, including Onésime. She was summoned to provide information on the robbery of ten million Bif, operated at the post office because thieves were not identified. She told her torturers that she knew where the money was, just to save her life. She was released by the Provincial police commissioner the same day, in critical condition, her body covered with wounds.

Twelve people tortured in Muyinga commune and province

On 13 November 2017, at least 12 people were beaten up by Imbonerakure of Cumba zone, commune and Muyinga province, for failing to participate in the protests against ICC decision to open investigations on Burundi. According to sources on site, the order was given by Cumba zone head, Shabani Nimubona at the same time head of Imbonerakure of this zone, to track down all those who did not participate in this demonstration and to punish them. The population of this zone does not know what to do especially if you attend, while you are not party CNDD-FDD you are accused of spy.

A person tortured in Rumonge commune and province

On November 15, 2017, a policeman named Havyarimana from Gatwe, Kizuka zone, Rumonge commune and province, tortured Cyprien Nkenguburundi from that hill. This policeman beat him at night and was only saved after calling for help from neighbors. The victim is currently hospitalized at CDS Kizuka. His family is asking for justice because this policeman is still free. The latter beat Cyprien Nkenguburundi because he had advised not to ransom people who make charcoal on this hill.

A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province

On November 18, 2017, on Gipfuvya hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Adolphe Bikorimana was beaten up by Imbonerakure including Diomedé Ngeze and another nicknamed Gitari. He was accused of saying that the day dedicated to the Veterans is a way to give power to Imbonerakure. He is currently at home in critical condition.

A person tortured in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province

As of November 14, 2017, on Mirombero hill, Murwi commune, Cibitoke province, Miburo, of Twa social component, 20-year-old farmer, was beaten up by a young Imbonerakure known as Kiduda. According to our sources, Miburo has been accused of treating young Imbonerakure as criminals.

A person tortured in Kirundo commune and province

On November 13, 2017, a biker, intelligence informant also Imbonerakure named Nowa of Gikuyo hill, commune and province Kirundo, was beaten up by a group of Imbonerakure of Bushaza quarter, in Kirundo province urban center headed by the quarter head named Nkurunziza. According to sources on site, Nowa was accused of having facilitated a teacher named Claude Bigirimana to escape from an ambush. Nowa lodged a complaint to the OPJ and the prosecutor, but his complaint was rejected.

1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karusi province

Information received on November 13, 2017 indicates that on October 30, 2017, around 3:00 am, on the hill, zone and commune Buhiga, Juvénal alias Gunungu, ex-FAB retiree, was arrested and taken to Buhiga police cell by Buhiga hill head André Mbonihankuye and the police jailed him. According to sources on site, Juvenal had gone to his Bururi home province and spent there more than a year. The local administration accuses him of fleeing the country into Rwanda and detaining weapons illegally.

A person arrested in Nyabikere commune, Karusi province

Information received on November 13, 2017 indicates that on November 5, 2017, on Butamenwa hill, Rugwiza zone, Nyabikere commune, around 7:00 pm in Blaise's bar, FNL party member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested and jailed by police while he was discussing in a bar with the hill head who immediately accused him of criticizing the ruling party.

Two persons arrested in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province

On November 17, 2017, on Ndayi hill, Bikanka zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura Rural province, two young people Didier Ndayizeye and Ndhokubwayo were arrested by the police in complicity with CNDD-FDD party head in Mukike commune named Yamuremye residing on this same hill. According to sources on site, they were accused of not participating in the veteran's party. They were jailed at Bikanka zone police station.

A person arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On November 17, 2017, on the 13th street of Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura Rural province, Roger Ntahongendera was arrested by Imbonerakure from this area, including Jean de Dieu, hill head, Darius Ntamavukiro, CNDD-FDD party head on this hill and Samson Nguvu. He was accused of passing close to where these Imbonerakure were meeting. He was taken to Maramvya zone police station.

A person arrested in Makamba commune and province

On November 16, 2017, Édouard Ndizeye, former registrar, was arrested by Makamba commune administrator, Japhet Ntungwanayo. According to sources on site, he is accused of staying in the house belonging to the commune while a trial is already in TGI Makamba opposing the commune and the latter. He was released the same day around 7:00 pm.

On November 17, 2017, around 5:00 am, the same administrator accompanied by 7 young Imbonerakure broke into the house and disrupt all the property before throwing them out and the family members. Several objects were damaged by these Imbonerakure assisted by the police.

A person arrested in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

On 18 November 2017, Patricie, from Sampeke hill, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, was arrested and jailed in Gatwe station by Bigina zone head, Paul Rwajekera. She was accused of polyandry.

A person arrested in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

Information received on November 13, 2017 indicates that on November 12, 2017, Mahwera from Gatwe zone, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, was arrested by local administration officials and then taken to this commune cell. Mahwera was accused of saying that the Hutus are not helpful and that his father massacred people in the 1996 crisis.

II. CASES OF VIOLENCE BASED ON GENDER

A person raped in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province

Information received on November 13, 2017 indicates that on November 9, 2017, at around 9:00 pm, on Mugeru hill, Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province, DN, aged 22, was raped by Innocent Manirambona, technical advisor in charge of administrative and social issues of the Mishiha commune administrator. According to sources on site, this girl was taken to CDS Gishungo.

A person raped in Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province

On 16 November 2017, at around 2:00 pm, on Kiranda hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karusi province, AN, aged 8, pupil at ECOFO Kiranda, was raped by Félix Rivuzimana, 17 years old of the

Twa social component. The girl was taken to CDS Buhiga. The author accepted the crime and was taken to Bugenyuzi commune cell.

Two people raped in commune and province Rumonge

On November 14, 2017, two girls, aged 15 and 16, were raped by two young bikers living in Gihanya quarter of Rumonge urban center. They took them home by night of November 14, 2017 and forced them to sleep with them all night long. On November 15, 2017, the police arrested the two alleged perpetrators and the other fled. According to a source close to the children's rights NGO OIDEB, Rumonge Antenna, these two girls seem traumatized. Other bikers would have gone around the Rumonge police to try to force them to withdraw the complaint. The same source states that these girls were transferred to Bujumbura to another organization fighting violence against women for assistance and proper care. The OIDEB branch which provided legal assistance regrets that the phenomenon of rape against underage girls is very common in Rumonge town and its surroundings.

A person raped in Nyabikere commune, Karusi province

Information received on November 13, 2017 indicates that on November 4, 2017, at about 7:00 pm, on Taba hill, Maramvya zone, Nyabikere commune, Karusi province, Prosper raped a woman named S. She was taken to Nyabikere CDS for emergency care but the next day her husband turned her away and she went back to her parents' home. Prosper has taken off.

III. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

Imbonerakure tasked to conduct investigations in Bururi province

On November 13, 2017, Antoine Ngoyi, OPJ working in Bururi demanded Leonidas, trader of Bururi commune to give 20,000 Bif each to Imbonerakure Regis and Diomedé to conduct investigations in his behalf to find people who robbed at Leonidas' on November 4, 2017. According to sources on site, the stolen merchandise had a value of 4 000 000 Bif.

Forced contributions in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

Information received on November 13, 2017 indicates that on November 10, 2017, at Nyanza-Lac Technical High School, the high school principal issued a note stating that all students must participate in the contribution for the 2020 presidential elections by putting money on open accounts in all banking institutions. The ministry had proposed that schools be apolitical.

People beaten in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On November 18, 2017, in Cibitoke province town, Imbonerakure led by Cibitoke zone head Tony, also head of Imbonerakure of Rugombo commune, beat women selling fruit while mobilizing them to participate in the veteran's day.

Leaflets found in Rumonge commune and province

Leaflets were found in Karonda area in Kigwena zone, Rumonge commune and province on November 14, 2017. These leaflets called on the population of this locality to kill seven alleged poisoners who would be responsible for the deaths of ten or so people in the last two months.

Paramilitary training in Makamba commune and province

On November 18, 2017, the CNDD-FDD party Veteran Day ceremonies in Makamba commune and province were started with paramilitary training of young Imbonerakure. Slogans hostile to Rwanda and the opponents were sung: *"Let's multiply battalions, Kagame is enraged, we will jump on him, the opponents, we will give them sanctions suiting them!"*

IV. 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 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 Imbonerakure League youth policemen, SNR agents 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