

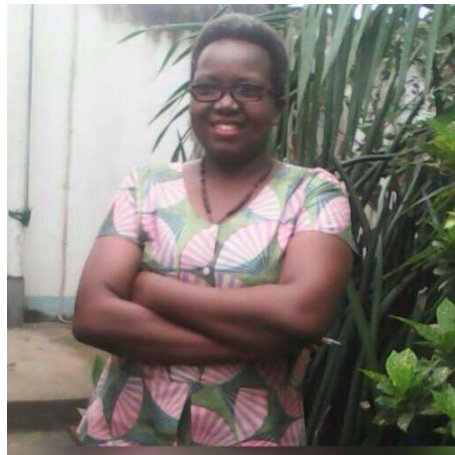
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°86 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 20-26 November 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 26 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. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RIGHT TO LIFE 4

I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE AND POLICEMEN..... 4

I.1.2. BODIES FOUND IN BUSH AND/OR IN RIVERS 4

*I.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, POLICE AND
IMBONERAKURE* 5

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

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

III. OTHER FACTS REPORTED..... 8

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS 10

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BSR	: <i>Special Bureau of Investigation</i>
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>
FRODEBU	: <i>Front for Democracy in Burundi</i>
FROLINA	: <i>Front for National Liberation</i>
PJ	: <i>Judicial Police</i>
RANAC	: <i>Gathering for National Change</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
TGI	: <i>High Court</i>
GBV	: <i>Gender Based Violence</i>
HIV/Aids	: <i>Human immunodeficiency Virus/Aids</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 6 persons killed including 3 corpses, 12 tortured and 48 arbitrarily arrested and 4 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, 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.

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

Three people killed in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On November 24, 2017, three unidentified people jailed at Buganda commune police station, Cibitoke province, were killed by a young Imbonerakure nicknamed Mavubi, Deo the leader of the demobilized in Cibitoke province and the logistics officer of Cibitoke police station. According to our sources, the bodies were transported by a TGI Cibitoke vehicle forcibly seized and were buried in a mass grave on Rukana hill, Rugombo commune. According to the same sources, young Imbonerakure are performing paramilitary training on this hill.

I.1.2. BODIES FOUND IN BUSH AND/OR IN RIVERS

A corpse found in Buterere urban zone, Bujumbura City

On November 26, 2017, a body of an unidentified girl who was reported to have been smashed with a large stone was found in Kiyange I quarter called "Miroir" on the road to airport, Buterere urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city. The reasons of his killing remain unknown.

A body found in Kayanza commune and province

On November 24, 2017, in the morning, a body of a one-and-a-half-year-old child was fished in Kayave River, Taba sub-hill, Ryirengeye hill, Kabuye zone, Kayanza commune and province. Sources on site indicate that the child had been drowned by his mother the day before. The mother, Philomene Nshimirimana, a 30-year-old woman divorced when she was 6 months pregnant, accepted the crime saying she was unable to feed her child. She was taken to Kayanza police cell.

A corpse found in Makamba commune and province

On November 24, 2017, a body of Serges Ndikumagenge, from Mudahandwa hill, Bururi commune, retired ex-FAB, merchant, was found in his local wine bar in Makamba II quarter of Makamba province. According to sources on site, the door was open when the macabre was discovered and his body lying on the ground. An unknown amount of money would have been stolen. The victim's body was taken to Makamba Hospital mortuary.

1.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, POLICE AND IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Rumonge commune and province

On November 20, 2017, Raphael Nyandwi, deputy chief of the hill and at the same time head of returnees of Busebwa II village in Gatete zone, Rumonge commune and province, responsible for the young Imbonerakure in this village, beat up a woman named Colette known as Malan Meri, a member of FROLINA party. Colette filed a complaint against this deputy chief of hill but she only had 50,000 Bif to go for treatment. This administration officer was not worried. There had been a dispute between Colette and another woman from CNDD-FDD ruling party, but only Colette was beaten up.

A person tortured in Buhiga commune, Karusi province

On November 21, 2017, around 6:00 pm, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karusi province, Mugisha, from Mwoya hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karusi province, was beaten up by three Imbonerakure, including Nizigiyimana. Issa, Asmani and Kezakimana, accusing him of being FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing. Mugisha managed to escape them and one of the Imbonerakure, Asmani, got upset because he wanted to be beaten him severely.

A person tortured in Kibago commune, Makamba province

On November 22, 2017, around 9:00 pm, Niyonkuru, Imbonerakure youth representative on Jimbi hill, was beaten up and jailed by communal commissioner Jean Bosco Hatungimana. According to sources on site, he was the victim of a report he would have given to the superiors of this commissioner who did not like it. This Imbonerakure was wounded in the face and was taken to Kibago police station in Makamba province. However, he was allowed to seek treatment at CDS Jimbi.

Two people tortured in Kirundo commune and province

On 24 November 2017, Alphonse Nyabuyoya, 41 years old and his wife Marie of Gikuyo hill, Kirundo commune and province were beaten up by Imbonerakure of the same hill under the supervision of the hill head named Nyamurundi Jean Bosco. According sources on site, Alphonse Nyabuyoya and his wife Marie were sent home by bicycle and were denied treatment to avoid denouncing the perpetrators.

Six people tortured in Buhiga commune, Karusi province

On November 20, 2017, six FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing, Dieudonné Ndayiziga, Aimé Ndikumagenge, Firoz Hakizimana, Abdul Niyonkuru, Jean Claude Irakoze and Onésime Bitangimana, jailed in Buhiga commune cell, accused of insurrection, were tortured by Buhiga zone head Phocas Sindaruhuka, aided by police. According to sources on site, these detainees were not registered in the detainee register. Their families fear their abduction. According to the same sources, these detainees were arrested after denouncing Imbonerakure who raped girls.

A person tortured in Nyakabiga zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city

On November 22, 2017, Jean Berchmans Nduwayo was beaten up by three Imbonerakure, including Arnaud Riyazimana, known as Business, Innocent Nshimirimana nicknamed Madara, and Niyonkuru, known as Ben in Nyakabiga III quarter when he returned home. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure had arrested a person when he passed on 9th Avenue and when Jean Berchmans approached them to inquire on the situation, he was beaten up. The same sources add that these Imbonerakure are on the run but Arnaud Riyazimana has been arrested by the police for investigation reasons. Jean Berchmans Nduwayo asks to be treated as his health is in critical condition.

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

A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karusi province

On November 21, 2017, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karusi province, Eddy Bukeyeneza, a pastor to New Life Church, was arrested and taken by the provincial commissioner vehicle escorted by Buhiga zone head, Phocas Sindaruhuka. He was jailed in Karusi police station. According to our sources, he has been accused of managing a lot of money from America and the administration does not see the achievements of this religious denomination. On November 24, 2017, he was transferred to BSR in Bujumbura but was released the next day.

Thirty-six people arrested in Rumonge commune and province

As of November 26, 2017, five men, six women, two young men and twenty-two children, all from Kizuka zone, Rumonge commune and province, were arrested by police and taken to Rumonge commune office in Rumonge urban center. According to sources on site, these people went to

DRC for field work. Police sources suspect a movement of the population trying to flee the country for unfounded reasons. The head of the household that sheltered them was also arrested for investigation reasons. The administration has already decided to return them home after investigations.

Five people arrested in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province

On November 24, 2017, five people including Edouard, 53 years old, member of CNDD-FDD party since 2010, clerk in the court of residence of Vumbi commune, accused of inadvertently forwarding messages against President Nkurunziza into his generation group; Ciza, teacher, salesman of credits at Gasura market after working hours, accused of transferring Humura and Inzamba programs in more than 5 whatsapp groups; Diomede, aged 25, from Gahe hill, Bukuba zone accused of returning from Rwanda on 23 November 2017 and two other unidentified Imbonerakure from Gasura were arrested. According to sources on site, all these people were arrested by the SNR provincial officer in Gasura, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province. They were taken to SNR Kirundo cell.

A person arrested in Butihinda commune, Muyinga province

On 23 November 2017, Balthazar Misigaro, a communal representative of FRODEBU Nyakuri in Butihinda commune and a member of the communal council, was jailed by Muyinga provincial prosecutor Vincent Witonze. He is prosecuted for insulting the head of state. Sources on site indicate that he is a victim of his political affiliation. According to the same sources, he was repeatedly forced to join the ruling party and he refused. He was arrested on November 18, 2017 by the SNR head in Butihinda, Philippe Rwaswa.

A person arrested in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province

On the night of 22-23 November 2017, on Muzire hill, Camazi zone, Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province, Naminani, was arrested and jailed in this commune police cell, accused of sorcery, according to sources on site.

A person arrested in Gitega commune and province

On November 21, 2017, in Musinzira quarter, Gitega commune and province, Nestor Nibitanga, former representative of APRODH in the center-east of the country, was arrested by the provincial police commissioner and the SNR head in Gitega, accused of undermining internal security of the State. They had just carried out a search at his home, his laptop and his phone were confiscated. According to our sources, he was last seen on 23 November 2017 in one of SNR cells in Bujumbura.

Three people arrested in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On 22 November 2017, Aloys, Dieudonné and Elie from Kirekura 14th street, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province were arrested in Ndava zone, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, on the order of Ndava zone head, Jean Claude. According to our sources, they were taken to Ndava zone cell on November 23, 2017, and then transferred to Buganda commune cell but are not found. According to the same sources, these people had fled the Imbonerakure from Kirekura kill, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province.

II. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Nyabikere commune, Karusi province

On 23 November 2017, at Ngugo hill, Maramvya zone, Nyabikere commune, Karusi province, a girl named D. aged 13, 5th form student, was raped by a man named Bugari. According to our sources on site, the perpetrator of this crime was arrested and jailed in Nyabikere commune cell.

A person raped in commune and province Makamba

Information received on November 20, 2017 indicates that as of November 19, 2017 F.N, aged 16, was raped by an Imbonerakure named Fabien Niyogakiza. The latter is relative to the Senate speaker, Reverien Ndikuriyo and the prosecutor would have tried to release him since the beginning of the investigation on the case before the PJ officer According to sources on site, negotiations are under way to release this Imbonerakure. In the hospital, nurses confirmed the facts. They also deplore the state of health of the underage. She underwent transfusion, two blood kits to revive her.

Two people raped in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province

On November 22, 2017, on Rutryazo hill, Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province, two children were raped by their grandfather, Augustin Gahungu, over 60 years old. According to sources on spot, these two girls, one 6-year-old and the other 7-year-old, used to regularly accompany their grandfather to keep cows, which was a good opportunity to rape them. These two children revealed the rape to their mothers and there was a general warning on the hill to denounce this crime. The alleged perpetrator was taken to Mwaro police cell and the victims were taken to Fota Hospital for health care. Our sources on site add that Augustin Gahungu is a person living with HIV AIDS.

III. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

Suspension of a meeting in Rumonge commune and province

Information received on November 20, 2017 indicates that on November 19, 2017, Célestin Nitanga, administrator of Rumonge commune, suspended a meeting of RANAC party in Swahili quarter, Rumonge commune and province. The members of this party regret that the ruling party

wants to occupy alone the political space, opposition parties have trouble exercising their political rights.

Two people illegally detained at Ngozi Central Prison

On November 23, 2017, Moise Nimubona and Antoine Nizigiyimana, jailed at Ngozi Central Prison, accused of participating in the attack on Mukoni military camp in Muyinga were acquitted by TGI Muyinga three months ago but still remain imprisoned. They demand the restoration of their rights.

Explosion of a grenade in Bugendana commune, Gitega province

On November 25, 2017, a grenade exploded near a police station located next to Mugeru parish, Bugendana commune, Gitega province. The reasons and the perpetrators of this attack are not yet known.

Two children amputated their hands in Gitega province

On November 22, 2017, at night, on Karemba hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province, two children aged 5 and 9 years were amputated their left hands with knives and machetes for stealing maize in a field. These children were caught by two young boys who were keeping this field. The children were taken to Kibuye Hospital in Gitega Province. According to the administration, the perpetrators of these acts are both students. In a flagrant trial by Gitega TGI on 25 November 2017, in the afternoon, the two perpetrators were sentenced to 20 years for the eldest, 19-year-old Shadrac Ndayikengurukiye, while a 15-year-old underage, Didier Bayubahe, was sentenced to 4 years. The court ordered the authors to pay 8 million Bif and a fine of 300,000 Bif for both. This trial was attended by the Burundian Minister of Justice.

Politics in school in Kabezi commune, Bujumbura Rural province

Information received by Iteka League on 26 November 2017 indicates that at ECOFO Gakungwe, Kabezi commune, Bujumbura rural province, class delegates remain at school on Tuesdays and Fridays on order of the Director of this school. The latter teaches them CNDD FDD principles, and tells them that the Tutsi are their enemies and that are the source of the misfortunes Burundi is going through. He also tells them to show him FNL members. These students are not allowed to bring a telephone, a notebook or a pen, and those who are absent are punished.

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

The phenomenon of corpses is also reported in this bulletin.

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