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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°87 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 27 November -3 December 2017**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 3 December 2017, Iteka has documented at least 465 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>BPE</b>	: <i>Pedagogical Bureau of Evaluation</i>
<b>BSR</b>	: <i>Special Bureau for Investigation</i>
<b>CDS</b>	: <i>Health Center</i>
<b>CNDD-FDD</b>	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
<b>CNTB</b>	: <i>National Land Commission for Burundi</i>
<b>CVR</b>	: <i>Truth and Reconciliation Commission</i>
<b>DPE</b>	: <i>Provincial Direction of Education</i>
<b>ECOFO</b>	: <i>Fundamental School/Ecole Fondamentale</i>
<b>FNL</b>	: <i>National Liberation Front</i>
<b>MSD</b>	: <i>Movement for Solidarity and Democracy</i>
<b>PJ</b>	: <i>Judicial Police</i>
<b>RDC</b>	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
<b>RN</b>	: <i>National Road</i>
<b>SNR</b>	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
<b>GBV</b>	: <i>Gender Based Violence</i>

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 10 persons killed including 4 corpses, 1 reported missing, 5 tortured and 9 arbitrarily arrested and 1 GBV victim.

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 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.

Intimidation 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 IN ARMED ATTACKS***

##### **One person killed and another wounded in an armed attack in Bukeye commune, Muramvya province**

As of 30 November 2017, in the morning, one person was shot dead and another wounded in an armed attack by a group of unidentified people in Teza area, Bukeye commune, Muramvya province. According to sources on site, the victims, who sell cows, came from Bubanza and went to Rugazi cattle market in Bukeye commune. According to the same sources, the body of the person killed was found beheaded, and an unknown amount of money was stolen. According to police, these people were wounded in a clash between the criminal group and the military. It claims to have started investigations, and that one of the perpetrators has already been identified.

#### ***I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **A person killed in Vyanda commune, Bururi province**

As of November 26, 2017, afternoon, on Mirango hill, Gitsiro zone, Vyanda commune Bururi province, a man named Niyongabo was killed. According to sources on site, two alleged

perpetrators were arrested on November 28, 2017. The victim was beaten before dying. His body would be buried by the same authors before their escape. According to our sources on site, the true mobile is a land conflict because some people had taken advantage of his family property when he was exiled to Tanzania. His return to his homeland was not well seen by the former occupants.

### **One person killed in Kirundo commune and province**

On 28 November 2017, at around 8:00 pm, in Nyange-Bushaza quarter, Kirundo commune and province, Serges Barutwanayo, former commune administrator of Kirundo, member of Charles Nditije UPRONA party wing, was stabbed by a group of unidentified people. According to sources on site, he subsequently succumbed to his injuries at Ngozi hospital.

#### ***1.1.3. PERSONS KILLED BY POLICE AND/OR IMBONERAKURE***

### **A person killed in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province**

On December 1, 2017, at about 10:00 pm, Paul Sindayigaya, 28-year-old farmer, member of MSD party from Busokoza hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province was killed by Imbonerakure Gabriel Niyonkuru, Thomas Nzoyisaba, Privat Basekahino, Xavier Nduwimana. The reason for this killing remains unknown.

### **A person killed in Musaga urban zone , Bujumbura City**

On November 30, 2017, around 4:00 am, Fabrice Hatungimana, over thirty years old, was killed by a policeman in Gasekebuye quarter, Musaga zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, the victim had just stolen from one of the houses in this quarter, and the policeman who killed is General Segaba guard, living in the same neighborhood.

#### ***1.1.4. BODIES FOUND IN BUSH OR OTHER PLACES***

### **A body found in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke Province**

On November 29, 2017, between Ndora and Masango zones, around 6:00 pm, a decomposing body of an unidentified person was found in Kibira Nature Reserve. According to military sources, the body was tied up.

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

On December 1, 2017, on Cukiro hill in Kayanza commune and province, a corpse of a decapitated man who was in a bag was found. He could not be identified.

### **A body found in Bwiza urban zone, Bujumbura City**

On November 28, 2017, a body of a university professor, Léonard Rumonge, was found in Bwiza quarter in a house located at the 4<sup>th</sup> avenue, number 87. A woman named Mélanie Nimbona was arrested for investigation reasons.

### ***1.2. PERSONS REPORTED MISSING***

#### **A person reported missing in Kirundo commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 2 December 2017 indicates that Edouard Nsabimana of Gasura, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province, registrar at Vumbi Residence Court has not been found since 27 November 2017 in all Kirundo province cells, according to his family sources. He was arrested on 24 November 2017 and taken to SNR cell in Kirundo (See the monthly report of Ligue Iteka of November 2017)

### ***1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, SNR AGENTS, POLICE AND IMBONERAKURE***

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

On November 28, 2017, in Muyinga commune and province, a young boy was beaten by the head of the SNR in this province, Gérard Ndayisenga, aided by his guard. According to sources on site, he accused him of having looked at his car for a long time and while beating him, he told him that everyone must leave during his passage.

#### **A person tortured in Makamba commune and province**

On November 30, 2017, a girl named Diane was beaten up by the SNR representative in Makamba province, Jovin Cishahayo. She was accused of poor fuel distribution at the gas station of Makamba province town. According to sources on site, this distribution is supervised by Imbonerakure and police chosen by the administration. The latter, instead of distributing it properly, they put it in cans to sell it at 5000 Bif per liter. This girl is in a critical state of health.

#### **Two policemen tortured in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province**

On November 29, 2017, at the 7<sup>th</sup> Cibitoke street, on Cibitoke hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, two policemen were beaten up by Imbonerakure young people who were selling fuel fraudulently. According to our sources, they were supported by the provincial executive secretary of CNDD-FDD party known as Miremera.

#### **A person tortured in Bubanza commune and province**

On November 27, 2017, at around 1:00 am, in Bubanza downtown, Kidahwe quarter, Bubanza commune and province, Ernest Nduwimana, a bicycle taxi driver, living on Ngara hill, Muramba zone, Bubanza commune and province was victim of machetes on his left arm and left leg by a

young Imbonerakure known as Emmanuel Ndagijimana, resident in Bubanza downtown. According to our sources, Ernest Nduwimana was returning home when this Imbonerakure was on patrol. The victim was transferred to one of the hospitals in Bujumbura and the perpetrator was arrested by the police.

#### ***1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

##### **A person arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province**

As of November 30, 2017, on Muyange I hill, Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura Rural province, Bonfils Ndayishimiye was arrested by Imbonerakure from this hill. According to our sources, Georges Ntamagara, leader of CNDD-FDD party on this hill ordered the Imbonerakure to beat up Bonfils Ntamagara. The victim has been accused of collaborating with rebels in DRC. Bonfils Ntamagara was jailed in Gatumba Brigade cell.

##### **Three people arrested in Mutambu commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On 30 November 2017, at about 3:00 pm, on Rutovu hill, Mutambu commune, Bujumbura Rural province, three young boys, including Ndayisenga and Claude, FNL members of Agathon Rwasa wing were arrested by the police. According to our sources, they have been accused of being against President Pierre Nkurunziza regime and not participating in community development work. They were imprisoned at Mutambu police station cell.

##### **Three people arrested in Rohero urban zone, Bujumbura City**

On 30 November 2017, Aline Wege, Philibert Kana and Bwatemba, all BPE employees, were arrested at the workplace by SNR agents and were taken to the cell. According to sources on site, they are accused of losing of state exams copies edition 2017 for five schools of DPE Rutana. Surprisingly, the SNR handled the case on the behalf of the PJ and the BSR but also those arrested should not be the first to respond on this loss while they were not on ground. They were only responsible for the rooms where the boxes containing the copies had been stored in Bujumbura. Note that these copies were not presented in the correction. Bwatemba was released on December 1, 2017 but Aline and Philibert remained in detention.

##### **Two people arrested in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province**

Information received on November 27, 2017 indicates that on November 20, 2017, Capitoline Karenzo, a 46-year-old widow and Samuel Ishimwe, a 20-year-old orphan, were arrested by the OPJ of Nyanza- Lake nicknamed Kitoko on Buheka hill, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province. They are accused of rebelling against CNTB measures. They have been jailed since 20 November 2017 in Makamba Procurato's office cell. The latter were arrested while the case is pending before the special tribunal of the same commission, a measure deemed unfair by the local

administrative authorities. This widow suffers from diabetes and this orphan of malaria and has not until now been allowed to go for treatment.

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

### **A girl raped in Buhiga commune, Karusi province.**

On November 30, 2017, at Nyamugari hill, Buhinyuza quarter, Buhiga commune, Karusi province, a 4-year-old girl was raped at home by Ndorimana, a house worker. The child was taken to CDS Karusi and Ndorimana was arrested by the police and taken to Karusi provincial police station cell.

## ***III. OTHER FACTS REPORTED***

### **Nasty destruction in Kirundo commune and province**

The Top Hill Hotel, located in Rupfunda quarter, Kirundo commune and province belonging to Dr. Jean Minani, CNARED chair has been ransacked since October 30, 2017 until November 2, 2017 by the Imbonerakure including Minani of Kireka, Bisereka of Kibuburu, Nkurunziza of Nyange-Bushaza, under the supervision of provincial authorities including the Prosecutor of the Republic in Kirundo, Gerard Niyokindi, Provincial Police Commissioner Jacques Nijimbere and the head of the Imbonerakure at the province level Abel Ahishakiye. According to sources on site, this hotel is located 10 meters from the governor's residence and 20 meters from Kirundo Police Station. The vice-commissioner named Célestin who had arrested 4 destroyers on November 1, 2017 found them all released by the commissioner.

### **Incitement to violence in Buhiga commune, Karusi province**

On November 29, 2017, on the hill, zone and Buhiga commune, Karusi province, Nestor Bashingwanubusa, head of the Imbonerakure in Buhiga commune, held a meeting for Imbonerakure from Buhiga and Rwingoma hills requiring them to severely correct all opponents to the ruling party by 2018 and even eliminate them if they persist. He added that in case of resistance, anyone who will be arrested will be corrected by hanging on the bow built on the RN 12. This meeting was held following the liberation of a group of 6 FNL party members of Agathon Rwasa wing by the Prosecutor of the Republic in Karusi.

### **Forced contributions in Mabanda commune, Makamba province**

The information received on December 3, 2017 indicates that in Kigwati II quarter, Mabanda commune, Makamba province, the quarter head, Emile Nsabiyumva, also Director of ECOFO Mabanda, is going house by house and requesting contribution of 5000 Bif per household for the construction of CNDD-FDD huts. According to sources on site, those who do not give this money are threatened to death.

### **Intimidation in Giharo commune, Rutana province**

Information received on December 2, 2017 indicates that on Murara hill, Giharo commune, Rutana province, Imbonerakure, aided by veterans, erected roadblocks close to those of the police. According to sources on site, the people who pass there are searched, identity cards are asked or questions are put to them notably on the name of the hill head and his telephone number. Those who do not have their IDs on them or who do not respond correctly to these questions are beaten up. Those who are not beaten are obliged to give ransoms.

### **A body found in Ndava commune, Mwaro province**

On November 30, 2017, on Muramba hill, Buziracanda zone, Ndava commune, Mwaro province, Rémy Minani committed suicide. According to sources on site, his body was found hanged in his house. His wife had prevented him from selling part of land, which could be the reason for his suicide, add the same sources on site.

### **A person killed in Buyengero commune, Rumonge province**

Information received on November 27, 2017 indicates that on the night of November 25 to 26, 2017, Pascal Murekambanze hit his wife Valérie Ndikuriyo a piece of wood on the head and finished her by stabbing her on Mabanza hill, Muyama zone, Buyengero commune, Rumonge province. According to sources on site, this crime is linked to family conflict. Pascal Murekambanze was sentenced to life on 29 November 2017.

### **Implementation of the deposition agents in Makamba province**

Information received as of December 2, 2017 indicates that the week of November 27, 2017 to November 3, 2017 was marked by the introduction of the CVR's deposition agents. This activity is questioned by opposition political parties and civil society. Nepotism and exclusion marked this activity. According to our sources, all 80 deposition agents and 3 supervisors are from the CNDD-FDD ruling party and the civil society close to power. Other political parties were not associated and ethnic quotas were not respected. Imbonerakure were recruited under cover of the Tutsi social component in Nyanza-Lac commune. All of the administrator's advisers recruited their wives, including the administrator's wife. This activity started on November 23, 2017 and will last 20 days in Makamba, Bururi and Rumonge provinces.

### **Three graves unearthed in Burambi commune, Rumonge province**

Information received on November 27, 2017 indicates that on November 20, 2017, three graves each containing a corpse were unearthed by unidentified persons on Rumonyi hill, Mariza zone, Burambi commune, Rumonge province. According to our sources, a military position was subsequently installed on this hill.

## **Forced community development work in Bubanza province**

On December 2, 2017, at around 8:00 am, provincial governor of Bubanza Tharcisse Niyongabo, accompanied by his senior advisor Aster Nitunga, went to Bubanza High School and forced students to go to community development work. This work was enhanced by the President of the National Assembly Pascal Nyabenda. According to our sources, the director of this school was not on site and these students were preparing for the exams starting on December 4, 2017.

#### ***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