

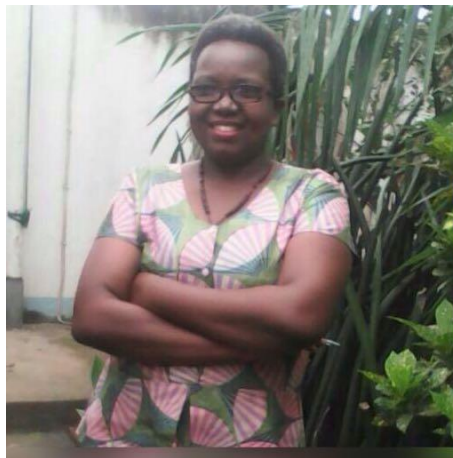
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 88 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 4-10 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 467 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BSR	: <i>Special Bureau for Investigation</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
ICC	: <i>International Criminal Court</i>
DDH	: <i>Human Rights Defenders</i>
DPAE	: <i>Provincial Direction for Agriculture and Breeding</i>
DPE	: <i>Provincial Direction of Education</i>
EALA	: <i>East African Legislative Assembly</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School/Ecole Fondamentale</i>
FNL	: <i>National Liberation Front</i>
GMIR	: <i>Rapid Intervention Police</i>
ITAB	: <i>Burundi Farming Techniques Institute</i>
MSD	: <i>Movement for Solidarity and Democracy</i>
MSF	: <i>Doctors Without Borders</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</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, 2 tortured and 63 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, 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 is reported in this bulletin

This bulletin recommends the government to change the precarious human rights situation in the country.

I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

I.1.1. BODIES FOUND IN RIVER

Three bodies found in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On 7 December 2017, in the morning, at the mouths of Rusizi and Mpanda Rivers, between Rukaramu zone and Gatumba, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, three bodies of young men tied together were found. According to sources on site, these bodies were floating towards Lake Tanganyika.

A body found in Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province

On 4 December 2017, at around 5:00 am, on Bihemba hill, Rugazi zone, Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province, the body of Athanase, who had returned from Bugenyuzi IDP camp, was found hanged on an avocado. According to sources on site, he had traces showing he was murdered. The perpetrators of this murder have not been identified.

I.2. PERSONS REPORTED MISSING

Two people abducted in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province

On December 8, 2017, around 3:00 am, on Vyuya sub-hill, Jenda hill, Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province, Emmanuel Ndayishimiye teacher at ECOFO Gihisi and Fabien Sakubu from this same hill were abducted by GMIR agents. According to our sources, they were abducted after a search without warrant in two houses, one belonging to Fabien Sakubu and the other belonging to Étienne Gahungu. They were embarked in a vehicle registered A329A PN.

I.3. PEOPLE TORTURED BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On 7 December 2017, at the seventh street Cibitoke, a man known as Sonde, driver, aged 45, was beaten by Imbonerakure under the supervision of Joseph Mvyariye, Rugombo commune accountant. According to sources on site, he was accused of criticizing the regime.

A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province

On December 9, 2017, at Nyarusange hill, Rango zone and commune, Kayanza province, Lucien Karenzo was beaten up by 4 Imbonerakure, including Bukuru and Rodesius Bitere, for refusing to contribute to the construction of a CNDD-FDD party office. He went to complain to Rango Zone head was told him that those who do not want to obey should be punished severely. He is currently in critical condition.

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

Three people arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city

On December 6, 2017, a search was carried out by police accompanied by Jabe III quarter head, in the households of Jabe II and III, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city. This search concerned the control of the household notebooks and three people were arrested and released afterwards.

Thirty-four people arrested in Bujumbura City downtown

On December 5, 2017, police arrested 34 street vendors in downtown Mukaza commune, Bujumbura City. They were taken to BSR cells and an on-site source indicates that they were ransomed to 10,000 Bif each as well as the seizure of all the goods.

Twenty people arrested in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City

On December 8, 2017, police conducted a search in Cibitoke urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city from the 10th to the 16th avenue, in a verification of household notebooks.

According to sources on site, twenty people were arrested and taken to the zone office where they spent a short time before being released for a ransom between 2,000 Bif and 10,000 Bif given to police.

Two people arrested in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province

Information received by Iteka League on December 10, 2017 indicates that since December 7, 2017, on Kanyunya hill, Rukina zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province, Arthémon Barimenya and Thierry Nturwanayo, all pupils at Rukina communal high school, were arrested and then jailed in Rukina police cell. According to our sources, they were arrested on the order of Didier, head of the Imbonerakure in Rukina zone, accusing them of being MSD party members.

A person arrested in Rumonge commune and province

On 8 December 2017, Paul Ninganza, native of Vyanda commune, Bururi province, provincial inspector of basic and post-basic education and also CNDD-FDD party member, was arrested by the SNR head in Rumonge. Paul Niganza had just been dismissed and was taken to SNR in Bujumbura after his arrest. The reason for his arrest remains unknown.

A person arrested in Bubanza commune and province

On December 8, 2017, at around 12:00 pm, on Zina hill, Buvyuko zone, Bubanza commune and province, Ferdinand Minani, aged 30, was arbitrarily arrested by a policeman nicknamed Gisahira and took him to Bubanza province police cell. According to our sources, Ferdinand Minani was accused of impregnating a single woman, Claudine Hafashimana, aged 28 years old.

A person arrested in Bubanza commune and province

On December 7, 2017, at about 6:00 pm, in Rugunga area, Bubanza commune and province, 25-year-old Claude Niyongere, son of Zacharie Bukuru and Rose Habonimana, was arrested by the OPJ Havyarimana and jailed without a record in Bubanza Police Station cell. According to our sources, the reason for his arrest remains unknown.

A person arrested in Gitanga commune, Rutana province

On December 4, 2017, Constantin Gisanganya, FNL party chair of Agathon Rwasa wing in Gitanga commune, Rutana province was arrested on the orders of Gitanga commune administrator, Aaron Nduwabike nicknamed Cuma and jailed in Gitanga police cell.

Sources on site indicate that Constantin Gisanganya was in a bar belonging to Jean Berchmans Buregeya and the Imbonerakure including Hilaire Nishimwe provoked him and beat him. After being beaten, Gitanga commune administrator ordered the OPJ in Gitanga nicknamed Dubare to arrest Constantin Gisanganya and jail him.

II. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province

On December 4, 2017, C.I, aged 15, a 7th form pupil at Heritage College, was raped by 20-year-old Olivier Niyonkuru, a pupil at Musenyi communal high school, son of Frédéric Ntsimbiyabandi and Stéphanie Mbabarempore. The author was arrested and jailed in Bubanza Province Police Station cell.

A girl raped in Buhiga commune, Karusi province

On December 4, 2017, on the hill, zone and commune Buhiga, Karusi province, a 3-year-old girl named V. was raped by a 15-year-old boy named Nkurikiye who found her alone at home. The girl was taken to Buhiga Hospital for treatment and Nkurikiye is not yet arrested. The police say it is looking for him.

III. INTIMIDATION BY IMBONERAKURE AND/ OR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

Intimidation in Gitega commune and province

Two girls, students of the ITAB Holy Sacrament of Mubuga in Gitega Province have left school for a few months following unwanted pregnancies. They are Inès, pupil in 10th form and Emelyne Nzungu, pupil in 2nd form at ITAB, daughter of Kimanama hill head of Mubuga zone, Gitega commune and province. According to sources on site they would have been impregnated by Mubuga zone head and the head of Imbonerakure in this locality. The HRDs of Gitega province demand that these accused persons be brought to justice. The head of Imbonerakure in Mubuga zone, Jean Marie Vianney Nshimirimana and the zone head, Placide Manirambona, reject all these accusations and say this information is propagated by FNL opponents of Agathon Rwas's wing. They had even threatened the two girls to kill them if they accused them.

Death threats in Kirundo province

Information received on December 9, 2017 indicates that Kanyarufunzo, trader of Kirundo, Serges Mberamiheto, Bosco Kibirengeye and Eric Nkeraguhiga are threatened to death by an Imbonerakure named Bitaruka. According to sources on site, Kanyarufunzo had accompanied Serges Barutwanayo former administrator to hospital who was murdered and the latter had revealed the identity of his executioners before his death including Kirundo zone head, Bitaruka and another unidentified.

On the funeral day, Kanyarufunzo said Serges had told them everything on his murder. Threats against Kanyarufunzo and the whole group that had accompanied Serges Barutwanayo are under way.

Opening of CNDD FDD party monuments in Cankuzo province

On December 9, 2017, CNDD-FDD party organized a marathon for the official opening of the monuments of this party on which are inscribed "caratuvunye, tsinda amatora 2020" (*We struggled to come to power, we must win the 2020 elections*). According to sources on site, the monument on Camazi hill and zone in Gisagara commune was open first, then that of Kiruhura hill, Cendajuru zone and commune, and finally that of Mugozi hill, zone and Cankuzo commune. Songs in which we could hear words of intimidation "batangatange, bashirize bose" (*Hunt them down, burn them*). All officials of the province were present including the Governor Desire Njiji, his advisors, commune administrators, DPE and CNDD-FDD party provincial chair Révérien Ndugi, DPAE J. Berchmans Hatungimana, provincial doctor Dr. Zacharie Kubwimana, and others. The bikers of Cankuzo were forced to follow the movement.

The Imbonerakure substitute police Makamba commune and province

On the morning of December 4, 2017, twenty young Imbonerakure entered Isaac Ngerageze's home on Nyabigina hill, Makamba commune and province. He was mistreated in front of his wife and children. The neighbors resisted his arrest. According to sources on site, Makamba commune administrator Japhet Ntungwanayo denied the case and later summoned Isaac to let him know that these Imbonerakure accused him of protecting people hostile to the regime. Makamba commune inhabitants denounce the attitude of these Imbonerakure who substitute security organs and the administration without being worried.

IV. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

A person killed in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On December 7, 2017, around 8:00 pm, near "Ziranova" Hotel in Kajaga, on Kinyinya I hill, Rukaramu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura Rural province, Grace Mutuyimana was killed by Elvis Nduwimana nicknamed Makenze. According to our sources, the author was arrested and then taken to Kabezi commune police cell.

A person killed in Musigati commune, Bubanza province

On December 9, 2017, around 10:00 pm, on Rugeyo hill, Ntamba zone, Musigati commune, Bubanza province, Sylvestre Ngerageze was killed stabbed in his room by his wife Immelde Ntirandekura and his child Evariste Nzokirantevye. According to sources on site, the reason for this killing would be land conflicts. The two alleged perpetrators have been jailed in Bubanza Provincial Police Station police cell since December 10, 2017.

Grenade attacks in Bujumbura city

On 4 December 2017, around 8:00 pm, a grenade was thrown at the bus park in Bwiza urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city, at the place commonly known as "permanence". Eighteen

people including three pullers were wounded and taken to different hospitals in Bujumbura city. The perpetrators and reasons of this attack are not known.

On December 6, 2017, around 8:00 pm, a grenade was thrown at the bus park near Musaga urban zone gas station and 3 unidentified persons were injured. The Authors and reasons are not yet known. According to Musaga zone head, Antoine Rumenyetso, this is a settling of scores without specifying the protagonists. The wounded were taken to MSF hospital in Kigobe.

On the same day, unidentified men threw a grenade in a plot of 18th street in Buyenzi urban zone No.12 and injured one person. The reasons for this attack are not known.

A person injured in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city

As of 5 December 2017, around 11:00 pm, gunshots were heard in Gihosha urban zone in Kigobe quarter. According to police spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye, men in a Jeep vehicle refused to stop for police control, were tracked and once arrived in Kigobe quarter, shot on those who pursued them. An EALA MP Pierre Rurakamvye alias Abega was wounded slightly on the arm.

Discovery of stolen property in Kirundo commune and province

On December 9, 2017, two televisions and a mattress of the destroyed hotel belonging to Dr. Jean Minani were found in the house of Nyange-Bushaza hill head and at the same time Imbonerakure named Nkurunziza. According to sources on site, Nkurunziza was denounced by a person named Noah also Imbonerakure. According to the same sources, the doors and tiles of the same hotel were used by the prosecutor in Kirundo Gerard Niyokindi in his new house built in Bushaza II.

A person injured in Musigati commune, Bubanza province

On December 4, 2017, on Mpishi hill, Musigati commune, Bubanza province, unidentified gunmen attacked the household of Mpishi hill head Paul Musafiri and wounded his servant Wilson Miburo at the finger.

V. 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.

Intimidation by CNDD-FDD youth Imbonerakure in complicity with administration officials is a source of threats against any non-member 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