

*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° 91 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 25-31 December 2017**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 31 December 2017, Iteka has documented at least 475 cases of enforced disappearances.*

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGES</b>
<i>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</i> .....	3
<i>0. INTRODUCTION</i> .....	4
<i>I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS</i> .....	4
<i>I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE</i> .....	4
<i>I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE</i> .....	4
<i>I.1. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING</i> .....	5
<i>I.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE</i> .....	5
<i>I.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICE AND/OR</i> <i>ADMINISTRATIONN OFFICIALS</i> .....	6
<i>II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED</i> .....	7
<i>II.1. PEOPLE KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLING OF SCORES</i> .....	7
<i>II.2. INTIMIDATION BY IMBONERAKURE</i> .....	8
<i>III. CONCLUSION</i> .....	8

## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**CDS** : *Health Center*

**CNDD-FDD** : *National Council for the Defense of Democracy*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

**MSD** : *Movement for Solidarity and Development*

**OPJ** : *Judicial Police Officer*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**SOSUMO** : *Mosso Sugar Factory*

**TGI** : *High Court*

**UPRONA** : *Union for National Progress*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 6 persons were killed including 4 corpses, 1 reported missing, 4 tortured and 31 arbitrarily arrested.

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, enforced disappearance, torture, and arbitrary arrests of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term opponents.

The phenomenon of mob justice and settling of scores is reported in different parts of the country.

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.

Arrests linked to the referendum vote for the change of the constitution is reported in this bulletin

## ***I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS***

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

#### ***I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

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

Information received by Iteka League on December 25, 2017 indicates that on December 18, 2017, a body of a girl named Butoyi, aged 20, residing on Muhuzu hill, Minago zone, Rumonge commune and province, was found in Ruzibazi River separating Rumonge and Bugarama communes.

Muhuzu hill head says if suicide but other sources on site are asking for investigations to determine the circumstances of his death because this is not the first time bodies have been found in this river.

##### **A body found in Bukemba commune, Rutana province**

On December 28, 2017, in F quarter of SOSUMO, Bukemba commune, Rutana province, a body of a SAGAR security guard, Amour Barihuta, from Gifunzo hill, zone, commune and province Rutana, member of Charles Nditije's UPRONA wing party, was found at home with a rope around his throat. According to sources on site, he was killed by unidentified persons who afterwards hanged him in his house to simulate suicide. According to the same sources, the position of the corpse shows that it is not a suicide.

##### **A body found in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province**

On December 25, 2017, at around 8:00 am, on Murengeza hill, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, a body of Onesphore Nduwayo, a janitor to CDS Murengeza, was found buried on the banks of Mpanda River. According to local sources, Onesphore Nduwayo was abducted from his

home and his goat was stolen by unknown persons on December 23, 2017. Mpanda police station head says investigations have already begun.

### **A body found in Rugazi commune, Bubanza province**

On the morning of December 29, 2017, a body of Tamari, student in second form at Rubirizi high school, daughter of a man named Pierre, residing in Muzinda zone, Rugazi commune, Bubanza province, was found hanged on a palm tree. She was killed by unknown persons. According to local sources, Tamari was reported missing when she went to fetch water on December 28, 2017, around 2:00 pm According to the same sources, a CNDD-FDD party flag was found at the place of the incident.

### ***1.1. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING***

#### **A person abducted in Rugazi commune, Bubanza province**

The information received by League Iteka on December 25, 2017, indicates that as of December 22, 2017, towards evening, at "Lianny" bar of Muzinda zone, Rugazi commune, Bubanza province, Olivier Butoyi, 28-year-old old, son of Antère Kubwimana and Anastasie Nzeyimana, provincial youth representative of MSD party in Bubanza, residing on Ruyange sub-hill, Muzinda hill and zone, Rugazi commune, Bubanza province, was abducted by unidentified people in civilian clothes accompanied by an OPJ from Muzinda police station named Berchmas, came in a Jeep vehicle from Bujumbura. According to our sources, Olivier Butoyi had fled to Kenya during the 2015 demonstrations and had just spent 8 months in Burundi. According to the same sources, the reason for his abduction is linked to his political affiliation because he had refused the CNDD-FDD authorities to divide his MSD party and join the CNDD-FDD party.

### ***1.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE***

#### **A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province**

The information received by Iteka League as of 31 December 2017 indicates that on 17 December 2017, on Rama hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Salvator Ntirampeba, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was beaten up by two Imbonerakure, Appolinaire Ncutinamagara and Philbert Bigirimana. They told him that they will even feed him faeces until he joins CNDD-FDD party. Salvator Ntirampeba is receiving health care at CDS Gasenyi.

#### **A person tortured in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province**

On December 28, 2017, at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, Ezekiel Mahoro, representing young people of FNL wing of Agathon Rwasa in Gihanga commune and member of the communal council of the same commune, was tortured by Imbonerakure and police officers who had just arrested him. According to sources on site, Ezekiel was arrested along with four other FNL party members, accused of holding an illegal meeting and raising awareness to vote "NO" in the forthcoming referendum for the change of the constitution.

### **A person tortured in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

On December 27, 2017, at Butaramuka hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, 23-year-old Jean Bukuru, member of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing, a farmer, was tortured by Imbonerakure youth led by Mababa. According to local sources, Jean Bukuru was accused of making anti-referendum propaganda. The victim was taken to CDS Nyeshenza.

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

On December 30, 2017, on Musema hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Libere Nzoyisaba, pastor of the Baptist Church and MSD party member was stabbed by Imbonerakure Lazare Niyimbonera alias Canke and Alexis Kubwimana alias Idiamini. They accused him of not being a member of the ruling party. He is currently in critical condition.

### ***1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICE AND/OR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

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

On December 26, 2017, on Rutoke hill, Rugari zone, commune and Muyinga province, Asman Bakundukize was arrested by SNR provincial head Gerard Ndayisenga. Bakundukize was violently beaten by the security guards when he tried to resist his arrest, which he was unaware of. The victim was arrested at his workplace in Rutoke where he ran a small restaurant.

#### **Twenty people arrested in Muyinga commune and province**

On December 26, 2017, twenty youths all from the communes of Gashikanwa, Kiremba, Nyamurenza and Ngozi in Ngozi province were arrested and jailed in Muyinga police judicial cells. They were arrested by police in the suburbs of Muyinga city center in a bus to Uganda. According to statements by a police source, they went to Uganda in search of work

#### **A person arrested in Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province**

On December 25, 2017, on the hill, zone and Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province, a woman named Marie Goreth Ntakarutimana was arrested and ill-treated by an Imbonerakure named Claude, accusing her of stealing from the trader Révérien Nasimbanye, Imbonerakure too, a mobile phone and a sum of money she did not want to say the amount. This Imbonerakure then called the police who took Marie Goreth to Bugenyuzi police cell. According to our sources, Marie Goreth did not steal from this merchant. The neighbors ask to release her because, besides being a victim of a fabrication, her health is fragile because she has a chronic illness.

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

On December 26, 2017, at Kajaga quarter, Kinyinya III hill, Rukaramu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Bonfils Ndayishimiye was arrested by Abdul, an Imbonerakure, and then taken to Rubirizi zone cell by Jérémie, SNR head in Mutimbuzi commune.

### **Five people arrested in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province**

On December 28, 2017, in the afternoon, in village III, at the 10<sup>th</sup> street, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, five members of FNL of Agathon Rwasa wing's, Ezekiel Mahoro, Jean Claude Nsengiyumva, Ernest Nahimana, Alexis Ntahomvukiye and Dominique were arrested by the police and jailed in Gihanga Brigade. According to sources on site, they are accused of having organized a meeting to make propaganda against the new constitution. According to the same sources, Ezekiel Mahoro and Jean Claude Nsengiyumva are members of Gihanga communal council.

### **Two people arrested in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province**

On 29 December 2017, Spès Caritas Kabanyana correspondent for Radio Isanganiro and Désiré Sindayihebura of Iwacu Press Group were arrested by an OPJ in Gihanga. According to sources on site, the two journalists went to Gihanga commune to investigate on the arrest of the five FNL party activists of Agathon Rwasa's wing arrested on December 28, 2017, accused of propaganda against the constitutional referendum. They were later released the same day.

### **A person arrested in Matongo commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by Iteka League on December 28, 2017 indicates that as of December 14, 2017, Bigirimana Methode, of Muganza hill, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, was arrested by order of CNDD-FDD MP Gélase Ndabirabe, and taken to Matongo commune cell. According to local sources, Methode had been provisionally released by TGI Ngozi in October 2017, when he was arrested for murder. According to the same sources, at a meeting that Gélase held with Matongo commune residents on December 14, 2017, the plaintiff against Methode raised that he is concerned for his release, and Gélase ordered that he is immediately arrested something that was done.

## ***II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED***

### ***II.1. PEOPLE KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLING OF SCORES***

#### **A person killed in Busiga commune, Ngozi province**

On the night of December 27, 2017, on Mparamirundi hill, Busiga commune, Ngozi province, Gaudencienne Nizigiyimana, a police officer assigned to Busiga commune, was stabbed to death at her home. According to sources on site, the victim was killed by her servant, Pierre Nyabenda, who fled afterwards.

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

On December 2, 2017, on Mugendo hill, Gitaza zone, Muhuta commune, Rumonge province, a person named Salvator Nyandwi was killed. According to sources on site, this murder is linked to sorcery.

### ***II.2. INTIMIDATION BY IMBONERAKURE***

#### **Intimidation in Makamba commune and province**

On the night of December 25, 2017, around 3:00 am, in Makamba commune and province, Imbonerakure have ordered the closing of "AstonVilla" snack bar. Despite the presence of the police station head in this commune and the deputy regional commissioner, these Imbonerakure created disorder there. The people who quenched their thirst refused the closure and called the governor. The latter rushed to close this snack bar all day of December 26, 2017 despite the explanation of the snack owner arguing that the security was total, because security officers were present. Governor Gad Niyukuri said that Imbonerakure reassured him more than the police officers who were there.

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

The information received by Ligue Iteka on 31 December 2017 indicates that in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, teachers are forced to pay 10 000 Bif before having access to administrative documents such as scoring bulletins and certificates of service. This amount is intended for the construction of a 6-storey provincial building. Other officials such as department heads contribute between 80,000 Bif and 300,000 Bif by the end of January 2017.

### ***III. CONCLUSION***

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.

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

Intimidation, forced contributions by administration officials and Imbonerakure from CNDD-FDD is a source of threats to the population.