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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 93 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 8-14 January 2017**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 14 January 2018, Iteka has documented at least 476 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## ***ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS***

***BCB*** : *Credit Bank of Bujumbura*

***BSR*** : *Special Bureau of Investigation*

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

***ECOFO*** : *Fundamental School*

***FNL*** : *National Liberation Front*

***GBV*** : *Gender based Violence*

***PJ*** : *Judicial Police*

***SNR*** : *National Intelligence Service*

***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 1 corpse, 3 tortured 39 arbitrarily arrested and 2 GBV victims.

The Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD ruling party's youth, SNR agents, policemen and administration officials are blamed as the perpetrators of most of human rights violations.

This bulletin reports cases of killings, abduction, torture, and arbitrary arrests of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term opponents.

Cases of gender based violence are also reported.

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. PEOPLE KILLED BY SNR AGENTS***

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

On January 8, 2018, at around 9:00 pm, Juma Maurice, a cattle trader at Kobero in Butihinda commune, Muyinga province, died in PJ Muyinga cell. He succumbed to torture inflicted after his arrest by Gérard Ndayisenga provincial SNR head in Muyinga. According to sources on site, he accused him of murdering the late Isaac Nzeyimana, a currency changer in Kobero.

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

##### **A person killed in Musigati commune, Bubanza province**

On January 11, 2018, at about 5:00 pm, a body of Evariste Nyandwi, resident of Bubanza commune, from Gatwe hill, Kayanza commune and province, married, was found in Kibira forest, on the side of Musigati commune in Bubanza province. According to local sources, the victim returned from his home province after selling his properties. He had a huge amount of money that was stripped by unknown people. The corpse was buried on January 12, 2018 in the cemetery of Musigati commune.

### **A person killed in Bujumbura city**

On January 9, 2018, Vincent Ntiranyibagira, a native of Muremera hill, Giheta commune, Gitega province, was killed in unclear circumstances. According to our sources, on the evening of January 9, 2018, Vincent Ntiranyibagira had left his fellow traders in “Village Market” Gallery in Bujumbura downtown to go home in Gihosha in Mutanga North quarter in Bujumbura city. His body was found in the morning of January 10, 2018 in front of King Khaled Hospital gate in Kamenge zone. Sources on site indicate that Vincent Ntiranyibagira was brought around 1:00 am by a Hilux type vehicle and without plate. After dumping the victim in agony, the vehicle rushed without waiting for it to be received by the doctor. Vincent Ntiranyibagira then died after the departure of the said vehicle. The same sources say the body of the victim had a wound on the neck.

### **Two people killed in Kirundo commune and province**

On January 13, 2018, at about 11:00 pm, on Rambo hill, Kirundo commune and province, André Nteziryayo's household was attacked by a group of unidentified people. They threw a grenade that killed his wife and 3-year-old child, and André was seriously injured. According to the police post head, land disputes are at the origin and investigations are under way.

## ***1.2. PEOPLE ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING***

### **A person abducted in Muyinga commune**

On January 10, 2018, Issa Mugemancuro, a resident of Swahiri quarter, trader in Muyinga city, was arrested and later reported missing by Imbonerakure youths with some security agents on the orders of SNR head in Muyinga Gérard Ndayisenga. Sources on site indicate that Issa Mugemancuro was phoned by people for a diesel deal in Gasenyi. Arrived on spot, these sources say that he was arrested at Gasenyi barrier by Imbonerakure including Shabani Nimubona head of Imbonerakure in Muyinga province, at the same time head of Cumba zone. The same sources say that the SNR head in Muyinga, Gérard Ndayisenga came to pick up the trader and then took him to an unknown place.

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

### **Two people tortured in Muyinga commune and province**

On January 8, 2018, Sauda Ntahondereye, 34 years old, residing in Ntita sub-hill, Kobero hill, Butihinda commune, Muyinga province and Kagubire, were tortured by Gérard Ndayisenga, SNR provincial head in Muyinga. According to our sources, the victims were accused of being the alleged perpetrators of the murder of Isaac Nzeyimana, currency changer and Sezirahiga, taxi biker occurred in Kobero, Muyinga commune and province dated January 5, 2018.

### **A person tortured in Ntega commune, Kirundo province**

Information received by Iteka League dated January 8, 2018 indicates that on January 5, 2018, Samson Uwizigiyimana, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, from Rushubije hill, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, was arrested at home by the head of Rushubije zone Emmanuel Rwasa accompanied by Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, he has been accused of teaching his neighbors the shortcomings of the referendum for the change of the constitution and that Agathon Rwasa can rule the country. Samson Uwizigiyimana was tortured and taken to Kabamba dam to be thrown in while bothered to call Agathon Rwasa for help. The same sources add that he was taken to Rushubije zone cell and spent 3 days there until he paid 100,000 Bif.

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

#### **A person arrested in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province**

On January 9, 2018, a person named Lazare living in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province, director of ECOFO Kibumbu II, was arrested at home by Rénovat Ntungicimpaye, SNR head in Mwaro and taken to Gatare PJ cell. According to local sources, he was accused of participating in a clandestine meeting Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing in Nyabihanga on 7 January 2018.

#### **A person arrested in Muramvya province**

Information received by Iteka League on January 8, 2018 indicates that on January 7, 2018, Dieudonné Habonimana, teacher at ECOFO Rurenda, from Cumba hill, Rutegama commune, Muramvya province and Uprona party member of Nditije's wing, was arrested at home by the head of Rutegama police post and jailed in the same post. On 8 January 2018, he was taken to Muramvya police cell and then taken to an unknown location in Bujumbura by Muramvya SNR head on 9 January 2018. The victim is accused of having sent a message on WhatsApp in a group called "Iterambere" (the development of Rutegama commune) saying that a meeting had been held in order to prepare for the assassination of Rwasa.

#### **Twenty-three people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone, Bujumbura city**

On January 8, 2018, police and soldiers carried out a search for control of irregulars from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> avenue of Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city. Twenty-three people were arrested and taken to Cibitoke zone office. They were all released after giving a ransom of 10,000 Bif each.

#### **Four people arrested in Bujumbura downtown**

On January 12, 2018, around 11:00 am, ununiformed policemen aboard a Coaster type vehicle arrested four people at the bar called "Patience" in front of BCB headquarters and boarded a bus that would be rented by a policeman nicknamed Cinjire. According to sources on site, they were taken to BSR cell and were released after paying between 10,000 and 20,000 Bif.

### **A person arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura City**

On January 9, 2018, Kinyange, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested in Bujumbura City. According to sources on site, he was having breakfast at Simbare cafeteria when he was arrested by SNR agents. The place of his detention is not known.

### **Two people arrested in Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province**

Information received on January 8, 2018 indicates that on January 7, 2018, around 1:00 pm, the administrator of Nyabihanga commune, Adrien Ntunzwenimana arrested Stany Ntakarutimana and Innocent Niyonkuru, respectively President and communal secretary of FNL party of Agathon Rwasa's wing. According to sources on site, they were arrested by order of this administrator, accused of holding a clandestine meeting. The same sources say they were arrested when accompanying their visitors. Along the way, they were taken aboard the administrator's vehicle, which took them to Nyabihanga police cell.

### **A person arrested in Busoni commune, Kirundo province**

On 10 January 2018, in Busoni commune, Astère Tumukunde, a teacher at ECOFO Sigu, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested at his workplace by Imbonerakure from Busoni commune, Kirundo province. According to sources on site, he was beaten up by these Imbonerakure before handing him over to Nyagisozi zone head Juvenal Ndorere. Astère Tumukunde was accused of sensitizing the population for voting "NO" in the constitutional referendum. He was taken to an unknown place.

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

On January 11, 2018, on Kinyinya hill I, Rukaramu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Louis Nahimana, teacher at ECOFO Kinyinya I, was arrested by the police in complicity with her director Adèle Nikunda. Louis Nahimana was jailed in Rukaramu zone police cell and then transferred to Kabezi commune cell on January 12, 2018. According to sources on site, he is accused of telling her director that he will not contribute for the 2020 elections because he had just spent a lot of money on his wedding on January 6, 2018.

## ***1.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE***

### **A person raped in Rutana commune and province**

On 11 January 2018, at Rutana hill in Birongozi commune and Rutana province, at night, a woman named S. of 4 children was raped at home by 5 unidentified persons in the absence of her husband, according to sources on site. This victim was taken to Rutana Hospital for treatment.

### **A person raped in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province**

On January 8, 2018, on Kanyami hill, Kiganda commune, Muramvya province, M.E., a lunatic, was raped by Samson Gahungu from the same hill. The author was jailed at Muramvya central prison.

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

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

##### **A person killed in Nyabiraba commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On January 12, 2018, at about 5:00 am, on Kizunga hill, Matara zone, Nyabiraba commune, Bujumbura Rural Province, Anitha Muzenga, daughter of Bernard Muzenga was beheaded by her husband, Leonidas Niyongabo. According to sources on site, the reason for this killing remains unknown.

#### ***III.2. INTIMIDATION ACTS***

##### **Intimidation speech in Cankuzo province**

On January 9, 2018, Cankuzo province governor Désiré Njiji held a meeting on the assessment of the security situation, the contribution for the 2020 elections, the contribution for the construction of Cankuzo stadium and miscellaneous. In this meeting, he warned NGOs that present a program to be implemented but teach something else in the field, who wire security reports in Geneva by commenting on human rights or sensitizing to vote for “NO” in the referendum.

##### **Forced contribution in Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province**

In Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province, a monthly contribution of 5,000 Bif is requested from each nurse at Kinyinya Hospital by the hospital management. According to sources on site, the management says that this contribution is intended for the development of the commune, but they do not receive a receipt.

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

On January 10, 2018, a meeting was held for ten household’s leaders by Gad Niyukuri, governor of Makamba province. The latter recommended the ten households leaders to align behind them all people of voting age under their responsibility on the day of enlistment and vote for the referendum for the change of the constitution. According to Gad Niyukuri, they will have to make sure that everyone under their responsibility would have come.

In the same province on January 11, 2018, at Makamba stadium in an awareness campaign to vote for the next referendum for the change of the constitution in all the communes of Makamba province, Gad Niyukuri reiterated his warning against those who would oppose it. After reading

all the articles without any explanation, this governor demanded all those present to vote for the next referendum for the change of the constitution. The threats were especially addressed to a group of 12 people whom he did not Names

### **Forced contribution in Ntega commune, Kirundo province**

From 10 January 2018, Nkurunziza, Kanyinya hill head, Kirundo commune and province, in complicity with Imbonerakure Bingwa, Musani, Nzungu and Tombora arrest passers-by and demand a sum of money 5000 Bif for the contribution to the 2020 elections but without receipt. According to sources on site, they arrest especially the people from Ntega commune who go to Kirundo market and some small traders. Whoever refuses to give the contribution is beaten until the payment of this sum. The case is known by the authorities but no action is taken.

#### ***IV. 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.

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

Cases of gender based violence are also reported.

Intimidation linked to the referendum for the change of the constitution of the Republic, forced contributions by administration officials and Imbonerakure from CNDD-FDD is a source of threats to the population.