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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 95 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 22-28 January 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 28 January 2018, Iteka has documented at least 476 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BUDECA : *Burundi Coffee Processing Plant*

CDS : *Health Centre*

CECAD : *Cooperative for savings and Loans for self-Development*

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

ETSK : *Kayanza Technical Secondary School*

ECOFO : *Fundamental School*

FAB : *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

FRODEBU : *Front for Democracy in Burundi*

GBV : *Gender based Violence*

PMPA : *Parties and Armed Political Movements*

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 11 persons were killed including 4 corpses, 2 persons reported missing, 75 arbitrarily arrested and 3 GBV victims.

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

The phenomenon of corpses found across the country is reported in this bulletin.

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

Cases of gender based violence are also reported.

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

Arbitrary arrests and intimidation linked to the referendum vote for the change of the constitution is reported in this bulletin

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.

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 IMBONERAKURE

A person killed in Butanganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On January 28, 2018, around 4:00 am, on Gatabo hill, Butanganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Pontien Siboniyo, farmer and member of Charles Nditije's UPRONA wing party was killed by Imbonerakure, including Claver nicknamed Ziryezose, Nepomucene and Desire. According to sources on site, he had bought a property from Salvator Nduwayo, CNDD-FDD party member. The latter wanted to take back his property and give the money to Pontien, which he refused. The alleged perpetrators of this crime were not worried.

A person killed in Buhiga commune, Karusi province

On 27 January 2018, on Gitanga hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Ndabemeye, ex-PMPA, mentally ill, from Kinyota hill, Nyaruhinda zone, Gitaramuka commune of the same province, was beaten to death by Imbonerakure of Gitanga led by Yunusu Nzomwitakuze, head of Gitanga hill. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure accused him that he wanted to smash the door of a house to steal. According to the same sources, they took his body to Ruhamba Valley. The police then found the body and took it to Buhiga hospital morgue, and

then the hill head was arrested with three Imbonerakure including Evariste and Serges and jailed in the Buhiga zone police cell and then transferred at Karuzi police station.

One person killed in Muramvya commune and province

On the morning of January 25, 2018, an unidentified man was found dead on Gatwaro hill, Shombo zone, Muramvya commune and province. According to the sources on site, the person was killed by Imbonerakure in night patrols.

1.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A person killed in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province

On the night of January 23, 2018, in the locality called Karira, Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province, an unidentified body with machetes traces was found in a small bush near Gasorwe-Muyinga road.

A corpse found in Nyanza-Lake commune, Makamba province

On the morning of January 22, 2018, a driver named Gaude was found dead in his home at Gitunda quarter, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, the cause of Gaude's death is unknown since he was alone in the house, his wife, a nurse, having spent the night at work.

Two bodies found in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province

On January 24, 2018, two unidentified bodies of unidentified men were found on Rubirizi hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province.

A body found in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province

On January 24, 2018, at about 3:00 pm, on Mayuyu hill, Mukike commune, Bujumbura Rural province, a body of Juvenal Nyabenda was found in a field. According to our sources, the victim might have been slaughtered. Juvenal Nyabenda was from Nyagikaranga sub-hill, Mutobo hill, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province.

1.2. PEOPLE ABDUCTED AND THEN REPORTED MISSING

A person reported missing in Tangara commune, Ngozi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 21, 2018 indicates that since January 9, 2018, Frederic Nduwimana, aged 27, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing has been reported missing. According to sources on site, Frédéric was last seen at the bar called "Ku Mwembe" when he shared a drink with his cousin Viateur Ndayisenga, Accounting Assistant of Tangara commune.

A person abducted in Rohero urban zone, Bujumbura city

Information received on January 22, 2018 indicates that on January 19, 2018, Jean Berchmans Nyabenda, ex-FAB-in-office and currency changer, was abducted by people who were on board a SNR vehicle. According to sources on site, they cut the priority on November 28 boulevard when he left CECAD office aboard his car and told him to follow them to an unknown destination. Three days later, his car without a registration number was found near BUMEREC hospital. The reason for his abduction remains unknown.

Two people abducted in Ndava commune, Mwaro province then found¹

On the 14th of June 2017, around 7:00 pm, Pacifique Nzoyisaba, 9th student form at ECOFO Buziracanda II and Fiacre Kubwimana finalist at Buziracanda communal Lycée, were abducted by Rénovat, SNR head in Mwaro province. According to sources on site, these two students were taken out of their classrooms by this SNR official before being taken to an unknown place.

1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person arrested in Kibago commune, Makamba province

Information received on January 22, 2018 indicates that on January 21, 2018, Audace Nibayubahe was arrested without a warrant by police and young Imbonerakure at home on Mbizi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, Audace Nibayubahe is accused of facilitating the departure of young people of the locality to unknown places. He is being jailed at Kibago police station.

A person arrested in Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province

On January 22, 2018, on Gatonde hill and zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, Gabriel Ntahongendera, Gatonde hill head and FRODEBU-Nyakuri party member was arrested by Imbonerakure of the same hill accusing him of campaigning to vote for "NO" in the referendum for the new constitution. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure took him to the communal administrator Leonidas Nakumuryango who kept him and released him after a few hours when 2 residents of Gatonde hill testified that their hill head is innocent. In releasing him, the communal administrator warned him that when he will be caught, he will suffer the worst punishment and he repeated that the ropes are still available to bind unbelievers whoever they are.

¹ Information received by Iteka League on 26 January 2018 indicates that the two students Pacifique Nzoyisaba and Fiacre Kubwimana who had been abducted in June 2017 were found.

A person arrested in Kirundo commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 22, 2018 indicates that on January 21, 2018 at night, Jean Paul Sinziraniga alias Magara, ex-FAB soldier of Mutwenzi military camp was arrested by Kirundo SNR logistician, Alphonse at Nziha's bar in Bushaza quarter. According to local sources, he was unjustly accused of drunkenness and was released the next day and handed over to Mutwenzi camp commander.

A person arrested in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province

On January 26, 2018, Ngendabanka, driver at Kibumbu Hospital, was arrested by SNR Mwaro head and taken to the provincial police cell. According to local sources, Ngendabanka had clashes with Kayokwe police station head Kazungu, who phoned the SNR head in Mwaro who quickly arrived and boarded him.

Sixteen people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone, Bujumbura city

On January 24, 2018, police and soldiers conducted a search for a control of household notebooks and receipts for the payment of garbage collection fees from the 10th to the 12th avenue of Cibitoke urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city. Sixteen people accused of irregularities were arrested and taken by police to the zone cell. Six of them were released around 10:00 am after giving a ransom ranging between 5,000 and 10,000 Bif each to De Corps of the police post, Daniel Gadi. Ten others were jailed in Cibitoke urban zone police post cell.

Sixteen people arrested in Buterere urban zone , Bujumbura city

On January 25, 2018, police officers and military officers carried out a search search for a check of household books and receipts for the payment of garbage removal fees in households in Ward I of Buterere Urban Area, Ntakangwa Commune. , Bujumbura Mairie. Sixteen people accused of various irregularities were arrested and released after giving a ransom of 10,000 fbu each.

Twenty-eight people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone , Bujumbura city

On January 26, 2018, police and soldiers carried out a search for a control of household notebooks and irregulars, from the 2nd to the 5th avenue of Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke urban zone , Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city. Twenty-eight persons accused of various irregularities were arrested but 17 of them gave the police a ransom of 2,000 Bif each and were released while the 11 others were taken to the zone office where they were jailed.

Ten people arrested in Musaga the urban zone , Bujumbura city

On January 26, 2018, police and soldiers carried out a search for a control of house workers not registered in household notebooks on Avenues 7 and 8 of Kinanira quarter, Musaga urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city. Ten people accused of various irregularities were arrested and released after giving the police a ransom of 2,000 Bif each.

A person arrested in Cankuzo province

On 25 January 2018, Isidore, a teacher at ECOFO Rujungu in Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province, was arrested by Imbonerakure. He was teaching entrepreneurship at this school the same day and said in class: "nuko nyene ata mitahe iriho guko igihugu kigeze ahatemba" "*there is no capital because the country is financially unable to implement what you are learning.*" The students reported this to their parents and the parents quickly telephoned the provincial commissioner. The latter conveyed this message to the Imbonerakure of Rujungu hill who rushed to arrest him and took him to Kigamba commune police cell.

1.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province

Information received by League Iteka on January 22, 2018 indicates that on the night of January 20 to 21, 2017, on Musongati hill in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province, Désiré Niyonkuru, aged 23, raped EN, aged 29, in the absence of her husband. Désiré was a former E.N's house worker.

A person raped in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province

On January 22, 2018, hill and Kiganda commune, Muramvya province, ADK, aged 16, 9th form pupil was raped by 25-year-old Olivier Nahimana who is a bus conductor who carries passengers in Buyenzi quarter, in Bujumbura city.

A girl raped in Bubanza commune and province

Information received by League Iteka on January 22, 2018 indicates that on January 21, 2018, at around 7:00 pm, on Giko hill, Bubanza zone, commune and province, BU, aged 16, was raped by Paul Bucumi, 24 years old. According to our sources, the victim returned from Bubanza city center to buy medicine. Arriving in a place where there was no one on the way, she met Paul Bucumi that he took her by force, drove her into the bush and then raped her. The victim loudly shouted but nobody helped. The author was arrested and jailed at Bubanza province police station and the victim was taken to Seruka Center on 22 January 2018 for treatment.

II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

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

Two people killed in Bukemba commune, Rutana province

Information received by Iteka League on January 22, 2018 indicates that on January 21, 2018, at Kabanga hill, Bukemba commune, Rutana province, the 38-year-old Naraguma killed his wife with machete due to family conflict, according to local sources. After killing his wife, Naraguma fled into forest and the CNDD-FDD ruling party youth and some local residents pursued him and killed him. The alleged perpetrators were not worried

II.2. SECURITY FACTS

One person killed and two others wounded in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On January 22, 2018, at around 4:00 pm on Samwe hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, a child known as Jehovah Tuyishemeze, 3 years old, was killed and two others were seriously injured. On-site sources indicate that three children were playing near the road and picked up two grenades left in a small afforestation. When the three young people were manipulating these grenades, the same sources indicate that one of the grenades exploded immediately killing one of the children known as Jehovah Tuyishemeze. According to the same sources, two other children including Thierry Shemezimana and Bosco Girukwishaka were seriously injured and taken to CDS Cinquantenaire of Rugombo commune to be treated.

A person found in a critical condition in Gitega

On the afternoon of January 24, 2018, Jean Marie Ndabagiye, from Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province, ex-retired FAB who served as De Corps at Gitega Air Base, was found tied up and in critical condition in a bush of Songa area, opposite BUDECA processing plant, 10 km from Gitega province urban center. He lived in Nyabiharage quarter of Gitega commune. He had disappeared the day before, January 23, 2018, around 3:00 pm in downtown while he was going to buy medicine. According to witnesses who were there, he was abducted by people in a Starlet vehicle in Mushasha. He was admitted to Bethany hospital in Songa and then transferred to Bujumbura.

Politics at school in Kayanza commune and province

The information received by Iteka League on January 22, 2018 indicates that on January 20, 2018, in the afternoon in Kayanza commune, Kayanza province, in the framework of civic teaching that will be conducted in all schools of Kayanza town, the Imbonerakure head gathered the ETSK students at Gatwaro stadium. He told them that whoever loves his country should vote for "YES" in the referendum for the new constitution. The legal representative of this school, Jimmy Ndayizeye, was present. The students returned after attendance check. According to our sources, this is not the first time such teaching has been given to students. The director of ECOFO Gasenyi I, Françoise, has already given such teaching to 7th, 8th and 9th form pupils.

II.3. INTIMIDATION ACTS

Paramilitary training in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province

Military training is conducted at ECOFO Bambo, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province, for 6th form students. According to sources on site, these students are trained by their head teacher Jérémie Ndikumana and Imbonerakure of this hill border of Rwanda and patrol at night on Fridays and Saturdays especially close to the houses of opponents to the regime and the refugees into Rwanda since 2015. These students are also tortured in case of absence to this activity. A member of CNDD-FDD party had tried to advise these students to get rid of these Imbonerakure

but they threatened him. This movement started in October 2017 and was revealed by these students at the end of the 1st quarter of the 2017-2018 school year as they found that they had a bad school results while their head teacher had promised good ones.

Threats and intimidation in Bururi province

From 20 to 26 January 2018, threats and acts of intimidation against priests and Christians of Butwe Catholic Church, Matana commune, Bururi province, have been observed. According to sources on site, these acts of intimidation and serious insults inciting to hatred are made by Imbonerakure young people and the local administration in full of view of Matana police. Bullets were placed as offerings during Mass and a decapitated dog cadaver was placed on the altar of Butwe Church. The reason is the construction of a monument of the ruling party in front of Butwe Catholic Church at night, add the same sources on site.

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.

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

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