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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 97 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 5 - 11 February 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 11 February 2018, Iteka has documented at least 472 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CECI : *Communal Independent Electoral Commission*

CNAP : *National commission for the fight Against the Proliferation of Small and Light Weapons*

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

DCE : *Provincial Direction of Education*

DPE : *Communal Direction of Education*

ECOFO : *Fundamental School*

EP : *Primary School*

FAB : *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

MSD : *Movement for Solidarity and Democracy*

RN : *National Road*

SILC : *Savings and Internal Lending Community*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 4 persons were killed including 3 corpses, 1 person abducted, 5 tortured and 625 arbitrarily arrested.

The Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD ruling party's youth, SNR agents, administration officials, soldiers and policemen 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, abductions, torture and arbitrary arrests of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3rd term opponents.

Arbitrary arrests, forced contributions and intimidation linked to the referendum vote for the change of the constitution and the 2020 elections 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 UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

A person killed in Rango commune, Kayanza province

On February 9, 2018, at Nyabigoyi hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Renilde Ndayishimiye, a student at Kabuye II communal High School, Nyabigoyi hill was shot and killed after rape. Two people, Paul Ndayavugwa and Karido Sinzumusi were arrested for investigation reasons.

A body found in Gitega commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 5, 2018 indicates that on February 4, 2018, at about 11:00 am, on Rutegama hill, Gitega commune and province, the body of Régine Ntawuyamara, aged at least 65, was found near a restaurant. The causes of his death are unknown.

A body found in Gishubi commune, Gitega province

On the morning of February 6, 2018, on Ruhande hill, Gishubi commune, Gitega province, a watchman at Gishubi High School was found dead at his workplace. Gishubi commune administrator said he died due to illness, while no investigation was done.

A body found in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province

On February 5, 2018, in the morning, a body of a 13-year-old girl, Rushats's child, from Gahongoro hill, Murago hill, Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province, was found in a bush on Gisagara hill 400

meters from Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province. According to her family members, the day before, she was coming from her uncle Elie Ntabarizo's home on Gitanga hill some 1.5 km from where she was killed. The perpetrators of this crime have not been identified.

1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED OR REPORTED MISSING

A person abducted in Ntega commune, Kirundo province

On February 6, 2018, at around 1:00 pm, Jean Pierre Mushengezi, nicknamed Batanga, FNL representative of Agathon Rwasa's wing on Carurambo hill, Mugendo zone, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, was arrested by Imbonerakure from this hill at his home. According to sources on site, Jean Pierre was at home, when five Imbonerakure led by Daniel Majambere came to arrest him. They beat him up first, then took him to Kanyaru River to throw him there, on the orders of the leader of Imbonerakure of Ntega commune Alphonse Ntereke alias "L'Homme", and the representative of CNDD-FDD in Ntega commune Jean-Marie Mugumyankiko alias Sindyibigori. According to the same sources, Jean-Pierre is accused of denouncing the torture made by these Imbonerakure to another member of his party. His family is looking for her everywhere but in vain they have rather found the shirt he wore at the edge of this river.

1.3. PEOPLE ABDUCTED OR REPORTED MISSING AND THEN FOUND

Two people arrested and then reported missing in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province¹

On January 12, 2017, at around 5:00 am, a girl named Francine and a boy named Guy Rukundo, all finalists of High School General Humanities, were abducted by police officers from Mayuyu position accompanied by soldiers from Mujejuru camp on Nyarumanga hill, Mayuyu zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province. They were embarked in a military vehicle from Mujejuru camp and then taken to an unknown destination.

According to sources on the spot, it was a week since they were exiled in Rwanda, and were accused of having participated in the anti-third term demonstrations of President Pierre Nkurunziza.

A person reported missing in Kirundo commune and province²

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

¹ Information received by Iteka League on February 5, 2018 indicates that Francine and Guy Rukundo were found after paying a ransom of 2,000,000 Bif.

² The information received by Iteka League on February 5, 2018 indicates that Edouard Nsabimana has been found and is free for now.

1.4. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE OR BY POLICEMEN

A person tortured in Rumonge commune and province

On February 6, 2018, Gatete zone head, Hassan Ndikumana tortured Paul Niyungeko, MSD party member jailed in that zone cell. He tortured him to force him to pay a debt he owed to a person.

A person tortured and jailed in Muyinga commune and province

On February 10, 2018, at Muyinga Hospital in Muyinga town, Pascal Itangishaka, a trainee at this hospital was beaten up and then taken to the police cell by the communal police commissioner in Muyinga, Bienvenu Ngenzirabona. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of abusing a girl whose identity is not known. The victim denies all charges and requests a confrontation with the girl.

A person tortured in Muyinga commune and province

On the night of February 6, 2018, on Kinyota hill, Muyinga commune and province, Dieudonné Barutwanayo was beaten up by Imbonerakure on patrol led by their hill head Eric Bitangimana. According to local sources, the victim was accused of staying out of his home late at night.

A person tortured in Gihogazi commune, Karusi province

On February 5, 2018, at about 3:00 pm, on the hill, zone and Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province, Haragirimana was beaten by 3 Imbonerakure chaired by their leader Astère Mbonabuca. According to sources on site, the victim was claiming his cups, which he used in his small restaurant when these Imbonerakure had taken them to use them to drink the local beer "Umugorigori".

A person tortured in Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province

On February 8, 2018, in Nyabihanga zone and commune, Mwaro province, at Nyabihanga center hotel called "Mugwampore", Xavier from Murama hill, Mwaro governor's nephew, member of Amizero y'Abarundi coalition was seriously wounded by the head of Imbonerakure in Nyabihanga commune named Dieudonné alias Rwembe. According to local sources, Xavier was rushed to Kibumbu Hospital and transferred to Bujumbura for health care. The alleged culprit was arrested by the police and jailed at Nyabihanga communal police post. According to the same sources, Dieudonné was released on February 10, 2018, but the governor telephoned the provincial commissioner, who in turn ordered Nyabihanga police to return Rwembe to the cell. Some CNDD FDD party members are doing everything to get their member Rwembe released.

1.5. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person arrested in Tangara commune, Ngozi province

On 9 March 2018, Leopold Nduwayezu, a teacher at Nyankurazo Primary School, Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province, was arrested at his home in Tangara by the head of Imbonerakure Pacifique Mbonyimpa and hill head Stanislas Mpendubwenge and Audace, head of Gasezerwa sub hill in Tangara commune. According to our sources, he was accused of campaigning to vote for "NO" in the referendum. Arrived at Gasezerwa

zone office, the zone head named Minani ordered the Imbonerakure to imprison Leopold Nduwayezu in the zone cell and then transferred to Tangara commune prison cell.

Two people arrested in Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province

On February 11, 2018, in Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province, two FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing, Évariste Bucumi pupil at Lycée Nyamurenza and Moïse Uwizeyimana pupil at Lycée Communal Gasegerwa, were arrested by Bosco Ndayishimiye, head of Imbonerakure in Ngozi province, along with Dieudonné Niyonzima, Nyamurenza commune administrator and Hassan Rumbete, communal police commissioner in Nyamurenza. According to our sources on site, those arrested are jailed illegally at Birambi police station.

A person arrested in Mugamba commune, Bururi province

On February 6, 2017, a young student named Philbert Ningaza from Mugamba commune, Nyagasasa zone, Bururi province was arbitrarily arrested by soldiers based in Mugamba and then embarked him on an army vehicle registered AFDN 457. Sources on site, Philbert is suspected of belonging to a rebellion based in Rwanda. He would be transferred to the FDN staff while other sources say he is in one of the SNR cells in Bujumbura.

Three people arrested in Kirundo commune and province

On 8 February 2018, around 1:00 am, Luc Sendegeya, aged 58, from Yaranda hill, Stany Nyabenda, aged 62, and Cyprien Ciza, aged 44, from Kavomo hill, all FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing, were arrested by police at their homes, then taken to Kirundo rural zone cell, Kirundo commune and province. According to local sources, these three FNL members are accused of failing to rescue the rural Kirundo zone head, Frederic Ndacayisaba, who had just been attacked with a grenade as he was returning home around 10:00 pm on Kavomo hill.

A person arrested in Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province

On 8 February 2018 on Gatwe hill, Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province, Jérôme Nimubona, a member of "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition, was arrested by Nyamurenza commune administrator, Dieudonné Niyonzima with the head of Gatwe police post and taken to the commune cell. Jerome is accused of spreading teachings from his coalition to sabotage the elections, when he had just mis-registered a name during the registration of those who will participate in the vote of the referendum for the change of the constitution.

Fifteen people arrested in Makamba commune and province

Information received on February 5, 2018 indicates that on the night of February 3 to 4, 2018, fifteen people from Gasaka, Kigamba and Nyabitabo hills of Makamba commune and province were arrested by Imbonerakure who called the governor and administrator of Mabanda commune. They were taken to Makamba police station. According to sources on site, they were arrested at Makamba-Mabanda border as they gathered to take the same bus to join their neighbors who went to work in the rice fields in Cibitoke province. They are accused of participating in armed movements.

A person arrested in Kibago commune, Makamba province

On February 5, 2018, Leonidas Barantandikiye, a retired ex-FAB, was arrested by an officer from Kibago commune, Makamba province. This retired ex-FAB was arrested while he was going to claim his cow seized while grazing in a wood plantation of Kibago communal high school. According to local sources, Zénon Nishimwe, Kibago commune administrator and Déo Ndicunguye, director of Kibago communal high school confiscated the cow in an unknown place and Leonidas Barantandikiye is jailed in Kibago police post.

A person arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On February 9, 2018, on the 15th street, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Jules Ndayisaba was arrested by Jérémie, SNR agent in Mutimbuzi commune under the order of Emmanuel Nkeshimana, CNDD-FDD party leader in Bujumbura rural province. Jules Ndayisaba was taken to Rubirizi zone police cell. According to sources on site, Emmanuel Nkeshimana asked Jules Ndayisaba to join the CNDD-FDD party but in vain.

II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

Discrimination in Kabarore commune, Kayanza Province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 5 February 2018 indicates that on 1 February 2018, on Munege hill, Kabarore commune, Kayanza province, Bernard Nsengiyumva, MSD member, was removed from the list of enumerators of Munege-B registration center by CECI Kabarore on the order of the CNDD-FDD representative of this commune.

School dropouts in Cankuzo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 8, 2018 indicates that a drop-out rate observed in Cankuzo province during the first quarter of the 2017-2018 school year is worrying. At least 2169 cases of school dropout including 1158 boys and 1011 girls were recorded. According to DPE Cankuzo, the main causes of abandonment are among other things, rice farming, departure to Tanzania in search of work, widespread poverty in families, disinterest, relocation, and cases of pregnancy among girls. DPE Leonidas Tangira said that a field trip is planned in all the communes of Cankuzo province for the sensitization of parents and their children so that the situation is improved before it is late. Of the 2,169 cases recorded, the DCE Mishiha alone accounts for 607 cases, Gisagara 604 cases, Kigamba 438 cases, Cankuzo 379 cases, and 141 cases for the DCE Cendajuru. Five cases of pregnancy were recorded in DCE Cankuzo, three cases in Kigamba, two cases in Cendajuru and one case in Mishiha; a total of 11 pregnancy cases for the entire province.

Politics at school in Ruyigi Province

The information received by Ligue Iteka on February 5, 2018 indicates that at Ruyigi Technical High School, forty-five minutes are granted to the general delegate to sensitize students to vote for "YES" in favor of the new constitution. He is sometimes accompanied by the prefect named Hermes alias Rwembe. They add that the vote is already over and that it is useless to vote for "NO". According to sources on site, this school whose director is Yasmin Ntakarutimana, former Ruyigi commune administrator, has become a place for political propaganda.

II.1. SECURITY FACTS

Grenade attack in Musaga urban zone , Bujumbura City

On February 11, 2018, at about 9:00 pm, a grenade was thrown by an unidentified person in a banana wine bar located at the place commonly known as Ceceni of Kinanira II quarter, Musaga urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city. According to police sources, 11 people were injured, one seriously.

Grenade attack in Kirundo commune and province

On 7 February 2018, on Kavomo hill, Kirundo zone head Frédéric Ndayisaba narrowly escaped a grenade attack by unidentified persons. Sources on site indicate that he was injured on his legs and was taken to Kirundo Hospital. The same sources add that the police arrested three FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing, including Luc Sendegeya from Yaranda hill, Stany Nyabenda and Cyprien Ciza, both from Kavomo hill. The population is worried about their arrest and their families are demanding their unconditional release.

Two people injured by pomegranate in Cankuzo province

On the night of 9 to 10 February 2018, on Mburi hill, Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province, Louis Ntemere and his wife Dancile Ndagijimana were seriously injured by grenade thrown at their home by unidentified people. According to local sources, this couple was taken to Murore Hospital for treatment.

II.2. INTIMIDATION ACTS

Forced Contributions in education for the 2020 elections

In different provinces across the country, in addition to source deductions from the salaries of all civil servants for the 2020 elections, teachers are obliged to contribute doubly.

For example:

In Rutana province, the information received by Iteka League on February 10, 2018 indicates that sensitization meetings were held with the hierarchical leaders. A director must give 10,000 Bif, a prefect 5,000 Bif and teachers 3,000 Bif. Anyone who dares asking for the destination of this money is intimidated by the hierarchy. For example, ECOFO Gakome teachers who have requested the destination of money collected by their director are intimidated. Cyprien Kubwayezu, director of this school, at the same time representative of Imbonerakure Youth League in Musongati commune, is at the origin of these intimidations linked to the posting of a list of those who could not contribute, add the same sources.

In Mwaro province, the information received on February 11, 2018 indicates that there is a rumble of teachers who are forced to contribute doubly to the 2020 elections. According to sources on site, the amount intended for the contribution is cut from the source but teachers are intimidated that anyone who will not contribute again will be a candidate for redeployment and they are forced to pay for fear.

In Kirundo province, information received on February 9, 2018 indicates that teachers are obliged to pay 5,000 Bif in addition to the amount already cut from source for the contribution to the 2020 elections. According to sources on site, principals require teachers to pay this amount. Whoever does not come to school with this amount is dismissed as a student who is not in order.

In Ruyigi province, information received on February 9, 2018 indicates that on February 1, 2018, DPE Ruyigi, Gasigaye Bernard, organized a meeting for DPE staff to compel them to contribute for the elections of 2020. According to the scale of these contributions, the secretary must contribute 2000 Bif, the DPE adviser 15000 Bif, DPE 20 000 Bif. In all the DCE Ruyigi, such contributions are in progress, the director of EP will give 5000 Bif and that of the secondary school 10000 Bif. The DCE will give 15000 Bif. What stresses the displeasure is that monthly deductions are made on salaries from source and this for 2 years.

In Cankuzo province, the information received by Iteka League on February 5, 2018 indicates that in the meeting of January 29, 2018, the director of ECOFO Cankuzo I, Ernest Ntaconayigize held a meeting with his staff, he said that any teacher must contribute a minimum of 1000 Bif for the 2020 elections without exceeding 2 February 2018.

In Muramvya province, on February 6, 2018, in Rutegama commune, school principals collected 2,000 Bif for all teachers by order of the DCE, who also acts under the orders of the DPE. These are forced contributions for the 2020 elections in addition to those cut from source. They were informed that this sum should arrive no later than 8 February 2018 at the DCE. In Muramvya commune, the same contribution is required for all teachers but the amount to be paid is not fixed. For them the sum collected should arrive at the DCE on February 12, 2018.

In Karuzi province, since 7 February 2018, all school directors in Karuzi province, under the orders of DPE Karuzi Stanislas Manirakiza, have compelled all teachers to contribute to the 2020 elections in a time not exceeding 2 days. According to local sources, the minimum contribution is 1000 Bif in addition to the one cut from source and this money must be sent to the Minister of Education but the final destination is not communicated to teachers.

In the Ministry of Education, as of February 9, 2018, Tharcisse Niyongabo, senior inspector of post-fundamental education at the Ministry of Education, threatened and intimidated staff in his department. According to sources on site, an employee of his department who contributed less than 5,000 Bif to the next referendum for the change of the constitution will suffer consequences "Bazomukorerako". This contribution started on January 20, 2018 and ended on February 9, 2018.

Implementation of ethnic based associations in Cankuzo province

The information received by Iteka League on February 5, 2018 indicates that on February 1, 2018, in Cankuzo urban center, in Kigwati IV, 4th avenue, Toyi Gabriel, CNAP member at the same time, Imbonerakure, held a meeting to set up a savings and credit association called SILC. No tutsi was invited to this meeting. The meeting began and was closed by CNDD-FDD party anthem. Attendees at this meeting were surprised to follow the sensitization on the new constitution and training on CNDD-FDD party ideology while they were invited to take part in the creation of a development association. According to local sources, this is a new disguised form of popularizing ethnically based teachings.

Intimidation in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On February 10, 2018, on Nzibariba hill, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, Buhiga communal council chairman Fabien Mbarushimana held a meeting for the population of this hill requiring them to vote for "YES" in the elections of referendum to permanently hunt whites who have stopped financial aid and other enemies of the country. He added that the population must be wary of Buyoya and Niyombare who work for

these "colonists". He said that anyone who will be caught having voted for "NO" will have a pass to heaven, as the President of the Republic has already announced it.

Check of receipts in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On February 10, 2018, since 6:00 am, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Buhiga zone head and CNDD-FDD party representative in Buhiga commune, Phocas Sindaruhuka, accompanied by Imbonerakure, blocked the RN 12 leading to Muyinga to all passers-by to check if everyone has his registration receipt for the referendum elections. Whoever did not have one was ordered to go to register immediately. According to local sources, bikers and shopkeepers are also controlled at their workplace by Buhiga post head named Gilbert supervised by Imbonerakure representative Nestor Bashingwanubusa and whoever has no receipt is not allowed to pursue his activities.

Forced contribution in schools in Giheta commune, Gitega province

In Giheta commune, Gitega province, all pupils of this commune must contribute 1000 Bif to pay part-time teachers. This decision was taken at a meeting held on February 8, 2018 by Giheta commune administrator Alexis Manirakiza and the staff of DCE Giheta. According to sources on site, the administrator had set up a commission to investigate on the needs of schools since there were courses not provided yet. The commission then reported back at this meeting, stating that at least 60 teachers are needed throughout the commune. The administrator then decided that pupils must contribute to pay for these teachers.

Intimidation in Matongo commune, Kayanza province

On February 10, 2018, in Matongo commune, Kayanza province, the Imbonerakure invaded all the hills and marshlands to prevent people from going for their field activities, telling them to go first to enlist for the referendum elections for the change of the constitution.

Intimidation of a journalist in Ruyigi province

On February 7, 2018, Jean Claude Nshimirimana, correspondent journalist for Isanganiro Radio in Ruyigi province, was arrested by Ruyigi province governor Abdallah Hassan. According to sources on site, it is following his report on the laments of teachers of this province on the contributions required by the ministerial order. Accused of disturbing security of that province, the governor of Ruyigi Abdallah Hassan and the SNR head in that province have ordered the journalist to no longer broadcast any information about the province and if not it will be jailed.

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

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