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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 98 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 12-18 February 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 18 February 2018, Iteka has documented at least 470 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BSR	: <i>Special Bureau of Investigation</i>
CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CECI	: <i>Communal Independent Electoral Commission</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNI	: <i>National Identity Card</i>
CVR	: <i>Provincial Direction of Education</i>
DPE	: <i>Communal Direction of Education</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
EP	: <i>Primary School</i>
FNL	: <i>National Liberation Front</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police officer</i>
ONG	: <i>Non-Governmental Organization</i>
RN	: <i>National Road</i>
SOPRAD	: <i>Solidarity for the Promotion of Assistance and Development</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 6 persons were killed all found dead, 1 tortured and 54 arbitrarily arrested.

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

Rights to education, health and freedom of movement were violated following checks on receipts and enforced enrollment in the referendum and the 2020 elections.

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

Arbitrary arrests related to the control of household notebooks and the vote of the referendum for the change of the constitution, acts of intimidation linked to the registration in the referendum and the 2020 elections have been noted 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 Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province

On February 15, 2018, on Taba hill, Maramvya zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, a man named Busondogori of the Twa social component was found dead in Nyagwire Valley, arms and legs tied up. The perpetrators of this crime have not been identified. Maramvya zone head, Clement ordered to bury the body immediately. According to the police source on site, investigations have already begun and a man named Lin from Rwandagaro hill in the same zone was arrested.

One person found dead in Bururi commune and province

On February 16, 2017, 21-year-old Bosco Nibigira, son of Simon Bizoza and Stephanie Hakizimana from Bikere hill, Bukirasazi commune, Gitega province, died in Bururi prison. According to Jean Bosco Tuyizere, director of this prison, Bosco Nibigira committed suicide with a rope because his body was found suspended in the correction chamber where he had been

transferred in the morning following the fights he had provoked. Bosco Nibigira was arrested on 6 February 2018 on a charge of poisoning on Nyakabenga hill, Vyanda commune, Bururi province where he was a house worker before being taken to Bururi prison. According to some of his fellow detainees, the victim was beaten before being transferred to the correction chamber.

A corpse found in Kinindo urban zone, Bujumbura city

On the night of February 12, 2018, a young man named Deviliers, living in Kibenga neighborhood, Kinindo urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city, was found on Muha bridge around 1:00 am, shot by unidentified people, according to sources on site. The reasons for this murder remain unknown.

A body found in Gashikanwa commune, Ngozi province

On February 13, 2018, in the valley between Maruri and Gatukuza, Gashikanwa commune, Ngozi province, a decomposition body of an unidentified person was found by inhabitants. According to local sources, local residents alerted the administration, which in turn called health services to spray the body before burying it.

A corpse found in Rumonge commune and province

On February 15, 2018, in the morning, a body of a woman named Agnès Banyiyezako, over 70 years old, was found in a savannah on Kizuka hill and zone in Rumonge commune and province. According to sources on site, the victim, from the same hill, was killed in the afternoon of 14 February 2018 by unidentified people, while she was looking for rabbit food. The reasons for this murder would be linked to sorcery.

A person killed in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province

On the night of February 13, 2018, Ndegeya of Mungwa sub-hill, Ruramba hill, Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province, was found hanging on a tree. According to sources on site, Ndegeya was killed by unidentified people who attacked his home. The same sources add that the alleged perpetrators tied up his wife and son with their arms behind their backs and stole money. According to Lieutenant-Colonel Papien Nzeyimana and Major Pierre Bizimana respectively Commanders of Mutukura Brigade and Camp, Ndegeya would be killed by people accusing him of sorcery. The perpetrators of this crime are not yet known and no one is apprehended for investigation.

1.2. PEOPLE ABDUCTED OR REPORTED MISSING AND THEN FOUND¹

A person arrested and then reported missing in Kayanza province

On March 25, 2017, around 3:00 am, Elias, nicknamed General, who lives on Kirema hill, Kayanza commune and province, near the place called "Ku rubaho", was arrested by SNR agents, who accused him of possessing weapons. Nobody knows where he was taken.

A person abducted in Nyarusange commune, Gitega province

On December 21, 2017, around 1:00 pm, on Nyamazi hill, Nyarusange commune, Gitega province, Jerome Irampaye, director of ECOFO Nyamazi was abducted from his home by unidentified persons. According to our sources on site, the kidnappers were in a Prado jeep with tinted windows and took him to an unknown destination.

1.3. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Gitobe commune, Kirundo province

On the night of January 17, 2018, Gitobe hill and commune, Kirundo province, Ernest Mbazumutima, communal president of FNL party of Agathon Rwasa's wing and member of the communal council was scarcely stabbed by Imbonerakure led by their leader Semagara. The same sources add that he was injured on the arms and legs and these Imbonerakure subsequently began to forcibly pull his sex. He is treated at Gitobe CDS.

1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICE, ADMINISTRATION AND SNR OFFICERS

Twenty-one people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone , Bujumbura City

On February 14, 2018, police officers and soldiers carried out a search, control of household notebooks and receipts for the payment of household waste collection costs by Dido General Company from 13th to 15th avenue of Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City. They arrested and took twenty-one people to the zone office for not being registered in the household notebooks or having no stamps in front of their names or having no receipts from Dido. They were all released for ransom from 5,000 to 10,000 Bif.

Fourteen people arrested in Bujumbura City downtown

On February 12, 2018, around 4:00 pm, police in civilian clothes aboard a bus arrested fourteen street vendors on the 'Avenue de la France', Rohero urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura

¹ Information received by Iteka League on February 12, 2018 indicates that Elias nicknamed General returned home after he was reported missing while Jerome Irampaye was found in a cell in Gitega

City. According to sources on site, they were taken to BSR where a ransom of 10,000 to 20,000 Bif was requested to be released.

Seven people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone, Bujumbura City

On February 16, 2018, police and military conducted a search, control of household notebooks and receipts for payment of household waste collection costs by Dido General Company. Seven people were arrested and taken to Cibitoke zone office for not being registered in the notebooks or having no stamps in front of their names or having no receipt from Dido. According to sources on site, anyone arrested in these circumstances must pay a ransom of 5,000 to 10,000 Bif to be released.

A person arrested in Bubanza commune and province

On February 12, 2018, at around 9:00 am, on Bubanza town center hill, Bubanza commune and province, Oscar Nkurunziza, ECOFO Bubanza II supervisor and FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested by police officers in collaboration with Imbonerakure and then jailed in Bubanza police post. According to our sources, Oscar Nkurunziza was discussing with these Imbonerakure on the detainees in Cibitoke province who are alleged to be campaigning against the referendum registration for the change of the constitution and the 2020 elections. The victim is accused of campaigning against this registration.

A person arrested in Bubanza commune and province

On the morning of February 13, 2018, Jean Mpawenimana alias Nana, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, living in Bubanza downtown, Bubanza commune and province, was arrested by Imbonerakure including Hakiza and Révocat in collaboration with police then jailed in Bubanza police post cell. According to our sources, political reasons are at the origin of this arrest.

A person arrested in Bubanza commune and province

Information received by Iteka League on February 12, 2018 indicates that on February 10, 2018, around 3:00 am, Libere Nderayabandi, elected member of Bubanza commune council, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested at home in Bubanza downtown, Bubanza commune and province by police and was taken to Bubanza police post cell. According to our sources, political reasons are at the origin of this arrest.

Two people arrested in Rugazi commune, Bubanza province

The information received by Iteka League on February 12, 2018 indicates that on February 7, 2018, on Ndava sub-hill, Kirengane hill, Rugazi commune, Bubanza province, Jean Claude Bukuru, member of CECI Rugazi, in charge of the equipment and FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, with his brother named Cassien were arrested by Imbonerakure and were taken to

the police station of Muzinda. According to our sources, the political reason is at the origin of this arrest

A person arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On February 17, 2018, at 'Village de la Paix', Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Vincent Bankimbona, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing was arrested at home by Imbonerakure from this 'Village de la Paix' accompanied by the former hill head of the 13th street Maramvya, Elie Nzobambona. According to our sources, he is accused of campaigning against the registration for the referendum for the change of the constitution and the 2020 elections. He was taken to Maramvya zone police post.

A person arrested in Cendajuru commune, Cankuzo province

On February 15, 2018, Luc Ndayiragije, SOPRAD employee in Ruyigi, an NGO of Ruyigi diocese, working in Gisuru commune, living in Cendajuru commune, Kiruhura hill, Cankuzo province, was arrested in Cendajuru by SNR Cankuzo and jailed in Cankuzo police station, accusing him of commenting on "NO" or "YES" vote in the next referendum.

A person arrested in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province

Information received by Iteka League on February 15, 2018 indicates that Barnabé Kaziya, alias Juif, teacher in Mishiha commune, Kanihani trades school, son of Semambo, from Kigati hill in Gisagara commune, was arrested and jailed without a file in Mishiha commune cell since February 9, 2018 by the administrator Anaclet Bizimana, accusing him that he will vote for "NO" in the referendum.

Four people arrested in Ruhororo commune, Ngozi province

On February 13, 2018, on Gitaramuka hill, Ruhororo commune, Ngozi province, Mvuyekure and Bansigayeko were arrested on the orders of Ruhororo commune administrator Mamerte Birukundi. According to sources on site, these two men were arrested because they refused to register for the vote of the referendum for the next constitution, whereas their belief does not allow them. According to the same sources, Mvuyekure, who had been arrested with his two children, was subsequently released after mortgaging his solar panels to the commune, and the administrator promised to recover them after showing a receipt.

II. LLEGATIOS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Forced registration of students at referendum poll

Since February 12, 2018, school officials have threatened to expel any student who had not yet registered for the referendum vote.

- ❖ In Cibitoke province, the DPE ordered principals to check whether all 16-year-old students had registered. Some directors acknowledge the task is hard because some students do not have CNI. The DPE indicated that the order came from the government.

On February 14, 2018, at Rugombo Technical High School, students who were not yet enrolled kned in the school yard for 30 minutes and were subsequently sent back to collect the receipts.

- ❖ In Ruyigi province, classes were suspended on February 12, 2018 at the Technical High School, ECOFO Sanzu, and Nyamutobo High School under the orders of the DPE, Bernard Gasigaye, who forced the students to register.
- ❖ In Makamba province, some administration officials and those in the ruling party have made field trips to force pupils and schoolchildren to participate in the registration in the next referendum and the 2020 elections.

In Nyanza-Lac commune, all the students who did not register were expelled by the directors on the orders of the CNDD-FDD party officials.

In Makamba commune, Gad Niyukuri, governor of the province, has intimidated school principals who have not yet sent the students to register.

At Gahosha Communal High School, Makamba commune, Gitaba zone head broke into classrooms accompanied by a police officer to intimidate students who have not yet registered. According to sources on site, he was ordering every unregistered student to stand up. "Those who are registered are Burundian citizens while others are Belgians!", he said.

In other schools in Makamba commune, some administration officials and those in the ruling party took them out. They noted the names of those who did not have a CNI or birth certificate. The aim would be to provide them with required documents for registration, according to an administration source.

- ❖ In Kayanza province, Kinanira Communal High School, students who had not yet registered on February 12, 2018 were expelled. They had to return in the afternoon the same day after registering and should come back with a receipt.
- ❖ In Bururi province, on February 12, 2018, all Bururi Communal High School students without ID were expelled by Imbonerakure who accused the director of doing nothing. All these students spent the whole day at the commune office looking for this document. According to sources on site, the Imbonerakure among them Bikebesi, Diomede and

Gihaga typed these documents on the behalf of civil registrars. Some of these students growled that only those who are known as CNDD-FDD members easily get these CNI. Those who did not have the chance to have the document the same day were forced to return the next day to get the ID and be absent again at school.

- ❖ In Rumonge province, on February 14, 2018, schoolchildren and students from Muhuta commune, up to Rumonge urban center, were sent back to enlist. According to local sources, school officials ordered that activities be suspended to enlist and search for CNI.
- ❖ In Bubanza province, on February 12, 2018, at ECOFO Bubanza I, school activities were paralyzed when Jeremiah Simbagoye, the director of this school, sent the students to pick ID cards to register for the referendum for the change of the constitution and the 2020 elections.

At Gihanga Communal High School, Gihanga Commune, classes were suspended and all the students were expelled by the High School principal, Ngendabanka alias Sadam, to go to register for the referendum vote for the change of the constitution. According to sources on site, this same director had held a meeting with teachers and students, calling all students to register.

III. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

III.1. SECURITY FACTS

A person wounded in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province

Information received by Iteka League on February 12, 2018 indicates that on 9 February 2018 at about 8:00 pm, on Gahwazi hill II, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, a policeman known as Athanase Nkuzimana stabbed his pregnant wife wounding her on arm and aborted following this incident. According to our sources, marital conflicts are at the origin of this incident. The author is jailed in Bubanza central prison and the victim was taken to Bujumbura hospital.

Grenade attack in Bujumbura city

On February 13, 2018, around 10:00 pm, a grenade was thrown next to Wallis center, Musaga zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, no damage was recorded but a few minutes later, policemen from Musaga zone arrived at Wallis center and took out 7 young men who were then taken to Musaga zone office for investigation. According to the same sources, these young people were subsequently released by the OPJ of Musaga zone.

III.2. INTIMIDATION ACTS

Check of election receipts

- ❖ On February 13, 2018, at CDS Rugombo, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, no one was received if they did not have a receipt. According to sources on site, even those coming for vaccination had to show the receipt first, on the order of this CDS responsible, Léocadie Nkurikiye.
- ❖ On 14 and 15 February 2018, at CDS Ninga, Buringa zone, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, anyone who came to this CDS for treatment should first show their receipt to be received, sources on site said. .
- ❖ In Kirundo province, on February 14, 2018, all the market entrances and the province car park were blocked by Imbonerakure led by their leader Havyarimana alis Gasyo. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure required to show the receipt to access these public places.

On February 17, 2018, all roads to Kirundo city were barred by Imbonerakure to control the receipts. According to sources on site, those who did not have receipts were forcibly moved by these Imbonerakure to the closest registration center

- ❖ In Gitega province, on February 14, 2018, to enter Gitega market, people had to show their registration receipts in the elections. Salesmen returned home with their products.

On the morning of February 15, 2018, on Zege hill, Gitega commune, roadblocks were erected in some places. Anyone who had not registered for the referendum of the new constitution had to turn back.

During the second week of registration for the referendum for the change of the constitution, on Higiyo hill, Gitega commune, Imbonerakure imposed a fine of 5000 Bif on anyone who did not have a receipt.

Along the RN 13 Gitega-Ruyigi, the receipts had replaced the CNIs. The police together with Imbonerakure checked to see if all passengers had receipts.

- ❖ In Makamba province, on February 12, 2018, Japhet Ntanzwenayo, administrator of Makamba commune, ordered the Imbonerakure to close all the market gates of the province city. According to sources on site, only those who had receipts had the right to enter this market.

The same scenario occurred at Nyange market of the same commune on February 16, 2018. According to administrative sources, this follows the meeting of province officials who forbade their subordinates that no one will have right to their services without receipts showing their registration in the next referendum and the 2020 elections.

- ❖ In Rumonge province, on February 13, 2018, activities of Rumonge market were disrupted. According to local sources, Imbonerakure youth blocked all entrances and checked receipts under the supervision of Joseph Banyankiyubusa, alias Ryuna, senator from Rumonge province, according to our sources on site. Those who were not yet registered were sent back to register.

On February 15, 2018, the fishing port market was closed by Imbonerakure who controlled the receipts. According to local sources, all entrances to this port were closed. Police and young Imbonerakure had erected gates and ropes, and no one was allowed to enter or leave this port. Those who did not have them returned home to bring them. People who had not yet registered were sent back to the registration desk. These activities were supervised by the head of Rumonge urban center.

On February 15, 2018, Kennedy Habimana, head of Maramvya zone CDS, Burambi commune, checked receipts of all the patients who were on the CDS. According to sources on site, those who did not have receipts were not treated.

In Gatete zone on Mutambara hill, young Imbonerakure closed shops to force residents to register.

- ❖ As of 14 February 2018, at Cibitoke modern market, no one could sell his goods without a receipt, young Imbonerakure and local administration officials were dealing with this activity.
- ❖ In Ruyigi province, on February 14, 2018, Damas, the head of Imbonerakure of Sanzu quarter, in company with market guards forbade charcoal sellers to work except on presentation of the registration receipt in the referendum and elections. According to sources on site, about twenty sellers returned home empty handed because they were forced to turn back with their products. Imbonerakure passed door-to-door shops and kiosks and requested a receipt before opening shops or store. These Imbonerakure said the referendum elections are over and that "YES" will win, according to the same sources.
- ❖ In Rutana province, information received by Iteka League on February 15, 2018 indicates that in Rutana province, each head of department checks that his staff has registered in the referendum for the change of the constitution and in the 2020 elections.

High school students who are not yet registered are expelled from school by the principal and return after registration. Along the way, police ask for receipts from passengers, according to sources on site.

- ❖ In Cankuzo province, on February 16, 2018, in the morning, close to the market, along the RN 19, Imbonerakure stopped any passerby who did not have the CNI and the receipt. According to sources on site, they oriented them to the commune office to pick the CNI or to the registration offices and young people were mostly targeted.

On 14 February 2018, in the morning, during the meeting of heads of services and other executives held in his office by Governor, Njiji Désiré threatened some representatives of religious denominations, civil society, NGOs and opposition political parties that he will arrest them accusing them of teaching their members not to be registered in the referendum or campaigning to vote for "NO".

- ❖ In Karuzi province, on February 13, 2018, on Gihogazi hill, zone and commune, in the market, Gihogazi zone head, Protais Ntarwunguko, held a meeting and said that whoever will be caught without a receipt will be suitably punished. This frightened the population and especially those who do not belong to the ruling party who are always intimidated by Imbonerakure accusing them that they have a plan to sabotage the elections.

Disruption of CVR work in Kirundo province

During the week of February 12 to 16, the CVR conducted a field trip to Kirundo province in search of 1993 mass graves. According to local sources, this work created tensions between the Hutu and Tutsi because the Tutsi indicate that the CVR seeks justice for the Hutu and proposed to search all the graves regardless the year. In Bugabira commune, Kigoma hill, on 12 February 2018, the Tutsi protested arguing against giving their opinion to CVR. According to our sources on site, the Imbonerakure told them that time had arrived to avenge theirs.

In Busoni commune, on February 13, 2018, the commission wanted to investigate on the inhabitants of Rutabo and Marembo displaced people sites, but the Tutsi first demanded to inventory all the graves, not forgetting the one located in Gatete on the side of the border between Rwanda and Burundi where Imbonerakure are suspected of throwing all those who were arrested from Rwanda and then reported missing. The commission had to postpone its work for a later date, add the same sources.

CNI distributed to minors in Muramvya province

In Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, the commune administrator, the CNDD-FDD representative of this commune as well as his secretary, the representative of Imbonerakure and

the head of Rutegama police station gave CNI to young people under 16, including those of 13, to be able to register in the elections.

Secret recruitment of soldier candidates in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

Since February 14, 2018, in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, the CNDD-FDD party communal representative, Claver Nkeshimana alias Ruhombo in collaboration with the Imbonerakure communal representative, Manasse Bazishaka, is recruiting clandestinely military candidates and refused to post the tender at the commune office. According to sources on site, these two representatives ordered the CNDD-FDD hill councils that the young Hutu should be mobilized and that no one from the Tutsi social component can register.

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.