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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 99 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 19-25 February 2018**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 25 February 2018, Iteka has documented at least 470 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**CDS** : *Health Center*

**CENI** : *National Independent Electoral Commission*

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

**DCA** : *Anti air Defence*

**ECOFO** : *Fundamental School*

**ETB** : *Technical School of Bubanza*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**UPD** : *Union for Peace and Democracy*

**VOA** : *Voice of America*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 6 persons killed including 1 corpse, 2 tortured and 61 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.

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

Arbitrary arrests linked to control of receipts linked to the referendum vote for the change of the constitution and paramilitary training 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 Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province**

On February 24, 2018, at around 10:00 pm, on Gahise hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Dismas Sinzinkayo of this hill, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was killed by Imbonerakure including Alexis Nduwimana, Paul Nsabimana, Claude Niyonzima and Mathieu Karikurubu. According to sources on site, they killed him because he refused to show them the receipt for registering to the referendum elections of the constitution.

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

##### **A person killed in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On February 24, 2018 on Kigoma hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, the body of a 4-year-old boy named Orly was found suspended on a tree in a tree plantation near Buhiga displaced persons site. According to local sources, the body showed had signs that he had been killed with clubs and knives. This child was missing the day before around noon when his mother Ndiokubwayo sought him but in vain. According to the same sources, investigations began the same day with the arrest of a youth named Kabebe, a 9<sup>th</sup> form student, the victim's cousin, and a cow-keeper named Deo was arrested on February 25, 2018 because the shoes that the child was wearing were found in his house. Deo was taken to Karuzi province police station.

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

On February 19, 2018, around 8:00 pm, Julienne Barakamfitye was killed in a grenade attack by an unidentified person at her home on Murambi hill, Gitaba zone, Makamba commune and province.

According to sources on site, her husband was seriously injured and evacuated to CDS Murenge. Administrative sources indicate that the reasons behind this attack are linked to sorcery.

### **Two persons killed in Bubanza commune and province**

On 20 February 2018, at about 11:00 pm, on Muhuzanama sub-hill, Muhenga hill, Buvyuko zone, Bubanza commune and province, two persons, a man and his wife known as Maurice Ntahokaraja, aged 65 and Marie Ntakarutimana, aged 45, were killed in their home by unidentified people with two grenades thrown through the window. According to local sources, Niyongabo, alias Giswaswa, a 31-year-old FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested by police and jailed at Bubanza police station for investigation.

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

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

On February 24, 2018, Jérémie Girukwishaka, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, from Gikomero hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, was beaten up by Imbonerakure of this hill, including Philbert Bigirimana and Ngiriye nicknamed Kidodo during a check of receipts by the Imbonerakure on the hill. They accused him of lying he had lost his receipt for registering in the referendum elections. According to the latter, he had not been enlisted because he is FNL party member.

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

Information received by Iteka League on 19 February 2018 indicates that on 15 February 2018, on Rukago hill, Gahombo commune, Kayanza province, Theogene, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing was arrested by Imbonerakure on the orders of CNDD-FDD party representative in that commune. They then took him to CNDD-FDD party office and was beaten up and jailed in the commune cell. They accused him of saying that no one should be forced into the elections. He was released the next day.

### ***1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SOLDIERS, POLICE, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND SNR OFFICERS***

#### **Two people arrested in Butezi commune, Ruyigi province**

Information received by Iteka League on February 24, 2018 indicates that on February 16, 2018, Igirimbabazi Noella from Rubaragaza hill, Bwagiriza commune, Butezi zone and Mathieu from Bwagiriza hill, both FNL members, were arrested and jailed in Bwagiriza refugee camp police cell. They were accused of preventing people from going to register for the referendum. According to sources on site, they were transferred on February 23, 2018, from Bwagiriza refugee camp police cell to Ruyigi police cell.

### **A person arrested in Cendajuru commune, Cankuzo province**

The information received by Iteka League on 19 February 2018 indicates that on 14 February 2018, Simon Bizimana of Gisoro hill, Twinkwavu zone, Cendajuru commune, Cankuzo province, had just spent two days in this commune police cell. According to sources on site, he was accused by the administrator of this commune, Béatrice Nibitanga that he is a member of a church that does not accept the elections.

### **A person arrested in Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province**

Information received by Iteka League on 19 February 2018 indicates that on 7 February 2018, Isidore Misago, teacher at ECOFO Rujungu, Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province was arrested for the second time and was jailed in Kigamba police cell. According to sources on site, the first time he was arrested by Imbonerakure on the order of the provincial commissioner on 25 January 2018 after saying in class that the state is not financially able to implement what students learn in entrepreneurship course but after a few days he was released. He had just spent a week at liberty. Isidore was phoned by the administrator, Nahimana Marie Rose, to report to the commune for clarification of his case. He was jailed in Kigamba commune cell before being transferred to Cankuzo police station cell.

### **A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On 21 February 2018, on Kigoma hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, a doctor named Jean Claude Niyongere alias Koboroto working at Karuzi reference hospital was arrested by police under the command of SNR head in Karuzi accusing him of having shared in a WhatsApp group a caricature photo of the CNDD-FDD Secretary General wearing a hat on which is written "vote NO" in the referendum for the change of the constitution. He was jailed in Karuzi police station and transferred to Gitega Central Prison on 22 February 2018.

### **A person arrested in Burambi commune, Rumonge province**

On 20 February 2018, Désiré Ndayiragije, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested on Keshu hill, Burambi commune, Rumonge province and was placed under arrest warrant of the General Prosecutor of the Republic in Rumonge, Donathe Niyonsaba. According to sources on site, this prisoner is recorded in the register without any charge.

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

On February 22, 2018, Dismas Irakoze, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested by police in complicity with a young Imbonerakure from Muhuta commune, Rumonge province. According to sources on site, he is accused of having campaigned to vote for "NO" in the next constitutional referendum. He is jailed in Gitaza police cell in Muhuta commune.

### **Three people arrested in Rumonge commune and province**

On February 20, 2018, three people including Pierre Sinkibashikako alias Peter Toch, UPD Zigamibanga member were arrested in Minago zone, Rumonge commune and province, by Eliphase Niyongabo, head of SNR in Rumonge. According to local sources, they are accused of holding clandestine meetings to teach to vote for "NO" in the next constitutional referendum. They were transferred to SNR office in Bujumbura.

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

On February 22, 2018, at about 1:00 pm, Bubanza commune and province, the technical director of E.T.B Albert Ndaruzaniye was arrested by SNR agents and jailed at Bubanza Central Prison. According to our sources, he is accused of having given VOA journalist information from the meeting held by the President of the Republic of Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza, on 20 February 2018 in ETB conference room.

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

On 19 February 2018, on Tenga hill, Rubirizi zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Pierre Baranyizigiye, a native of Rubirizi zone, was arrested by Imbonerakure of this locality accompanied by a demobilized named Claude and a retired soldier named Oscar, both native from Rubirizi hill center. According to our sources, Pierre Baranyizigiye is accused of refusing to join publicly CNDD-FDD party during a visit in Rubirizi zone by the head of CNDD-FDD party in Bujumbura rural province. Pierre Baranyizigiye was taken to Kabezi commune cell.

### **Two people arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On February 22, 2018, on the 13<sup>th</sup> Maramvya street, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Ezekiel Niyomutabazi and Dieudonné Havyarimana were arrested by Apollinaire Bangirinama, head of DCA Camp military position, located under the bridge of Mpanda River. According to our sources, Ezekiel Niyomutabazi and Dieudonne Havyarimana are accused by this soldier of campaigning against the referendum for the change of the constitution because they had Charles Nditije and Agathon Rwasa's photos. According to the same sources, these cards were dumped by a CENI vehicle which brings wastes. They were taken to that military position, and at about 9:00 pm the same day, Colonel Remy, commander of Gihanga Brigade, came to take them to Gihanga Brigade cell in Bubanza province.

### **Forty-seven people arrested in Ruhororo commune, Ngozi province**

Information received by Iteka League on February 19, 2018 indicates that on the morning of February 17, 2018, on Gitamo hill, Ruhororo commune, Ngozi province, 47 members of a church called "Temperant", were arrested by police officers accompanied by the CNDD-FDD party communal representative, Jean Paul Manirakiza on the orders of the commune administrator, Mamerte Birukundi, and were taken to the prison of the same commune. According to sources on site, these

people were arrested while praying, and are accused of wanting to disrupt the next vote, since they refused to enlist. According to the same sources, they were released for a ransom of 5000 Bif each.

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

### ***II.1. SECURITY FACTS***

#### **Weapons held by Imbonerakure in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On February 23, 2018, at Mutobo hill, Mayuyu zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province, a grenade exploded into Léon Akizanye's house, Vice President of Imbonerakure in Mukike commune. According to our sources, police immediately searched the house and found 4 guns and 2 grenades. Léon Akizanye was taken to Mayuyu police station.

#### **Grenade attack in Cibitoke urban zone , Bujumbura city**

On February 25, 2018, at around 9:00 pm, an unidentified person threw a grenade at Kobil gas station on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Cibitoke Urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city. Four people were injured.

#### **A person killed in Gishubi commune, Gitega province**

On 19 February 2018, on Ruhande hill, Gishubi commune, Gitega province, Noëlla Maniragumije was killed by her husband, Innocent Irambona with a club and their child was wounded. The husband was arrested and taken to Gitega Prison. The child is currently at Gitega hospital for care.

#### **A grenade launched in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province**

On February 22, 2018, on Ryagihana sub-hill, Gitwe hill, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province, a grenade was thrown at Gahungu Cyprien alias Gahuguru. According to sources on site, this grenade was launched by a former retired military soldier named Justin Mubumbe. The car, a kiosk and the door of Cyprien Gahungu's house were damaged. The reason remains unknown but Justin Mubumbe was arrested and jailed in Kirundo prosecutor's cell.

### ***II.2. INTIMIDATION ACTS***

#### **Check of receipts in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province**

The information received by Iteka League on February 20, 2018 indicates that since February 18, 2018, on Teme hill, Rugazi zone, Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province, Imbonerakure ordered by the nicknamed Mafuti had been entering households to check receipts to track down those who did enlist for the referendum. Those who did not have a receipt were first beaten up and then ransomed from 250 Bif to 500 Bif. Also, men who do not possess this paper were banned to attend any bar on this hill.

### **Checks of receipts in Kirundo province**

On February 24, 2018, on Gihosha, Mataka, Mwenya and Mutara hills of Kirundo commune and province, Imbonerakure led by Imbonerakure youth league head, André Minani, checked the receipts in the households by recording the numbers and names in a notebook to check the authenticity of those who have not registered.

### **Paramilitary training in Busoni commune, Kirundi province**

Information received on February 25, 2018 indicates that in Kirundo province, paramilitary training of Imbonerakure took place in Murehe Nature Reserve, as Busoni commune border with Rwanda where are grouped Imbonerakure from Busoni, Gitobe and Bwambarangwe communes. According to sources on site, those of Kirundo, Ntega, Vumbi and Bugabira communes are trained in Ntega. The official launch was held in Bwambarangwe in January 2018 by Ndayizeye Sylvestre, secretary general of CNDD-FDD affiliated leagues, the sources added.

### **Paramilitary exercises for minor children in Ntega commune, Kirundo province**

Information received by the Iteka League on 25 February 2018 indicates that in Nyemera, Kigaga and Mugina hills of Ntega commune, Kirundo province, children of at least 12 years are forced to patrol at night but also do paramilitary exercises. According to local sources, paramilitary exercises begin at 7:00 pm on working days and 5:00 am on weekends, under the supervision of Venant Ndaruzaniye alias Busongoye, CNDD-FDD representative on Nyemera hill, Alphonse Ntereke alias l'Homme, head of Imbonerakure of Ntega commune and Edouard Niyonzima, chief of Nyemera hill, responsible for gathering these children. According to the same sources, a child who refuses to participate must pay 15,000 Bif per week, and the absentee is first beaten up and then pays 2500 Bif.

### ***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, torture and 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, committed by administration officials and Imbonerakure from CNDD-FDD is a source of threats to the population.