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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 101 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 5 – 11 March 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 11 March 2018, Iteka has documented at least 470 cases of enforced disappearances.

CONTENTS	PAGES
<i>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</i>	3
<i>0. INTRODUCTION</i>	4
<i>I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS</i>	4
<i>I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE</i>	4
<i>I.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS</i>	4
<i>I.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE</i>	4
<i>I.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKUR AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS</i>	6
<i>I.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE</i>	6
<i>II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED</i>	7
<i>III. SECURITY FACTS</i>	7
<i>III.1. INTIMIDATION ACTS</i>	7
<i>IV. CONCLUSION</i>	8

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

DPE : *Provincial Direction of Education*

ECOFO : *Fundamental School*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

OBR : *Burundi Revenue Authority*

OPJ : *Judicial Police officer*

PJ : *Judicial Police*

PMPA : *Armed Political and Military Movements*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

TGI : *High Court*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 1 person killed, 18 tortured, 2 arbitrarily arrested and 1 GBV victim.

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

Arbitrary arrests linked to the referendum vote for the change of the constitution, intimidation linked to the control of receipts of enrolment to the referendum and the 2020 elections is reported in this bulletin

Iteka League 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.

1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

1.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

A body found in Bubanza commune and province

On 9 March 2018, at around 9:00 am, a decomposing corpse of a man named Désiré, over 50 years old, was found in his house on Kabirizi hill in Bubanza commune and province by the population of this locality. The communal administration and public security police were informed but nothing was done until 3:00 pm the same day. The perpetrators and the reason for this murder are not yet known.

1.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Iteka League on March 5, 2018 indicates that on March 4, 2018, around 11:00 pm, on the hill, zone and commune Buhiga, province Karuzi, Emmanuel Nizigiyimana, member of Buhiga hill council was beaten up by two Imbonerakure including Jean Marie while on patrol. According to our sources on site, he was accused of having refused their order to stop. The victim complained to Buhiga OPJ named Leonidas but none of these Imbonerakure was prosecuted.

Police officer tortured in Mabanda commune, Makamba province

On March 8, 2018, Jean Marie Ndayizeye, a police officer at Mabanda commune police post was beaten by two Imbonerakure, one of whom was Hamisi. According to local sources, the police officer was beaten in OBR warehouse in Mabanda commune, Makamba province when he had seized fraudulent goods from a trader known as Badayi. The latter would have used this youth of the ruling

party to finish with this police officer. Police have already issued arrest warrants for these two alleged perpetrators, the sources added.

Nine people tortured in Gitega province

Information received by Iteka League on March 5, 2018 indicates that on February 24 to 25, 2018, around midnight, at the 1st avenue of Magarama quarter located in Gitega town, in "Tujajure" bar, 9 people were beaten by Imbonerakure led by Nshimirimana Claude. They accused them of having a message in their phone that Gitega commune administrator and the CNDD-FDD communal representative are distributing weapons to the Imbonerakure. The quarter head Jean Ngenda alias Mupfizi, banned these Imbonerakure from continuing to beat them. Jean was later arrested by Onesime from SNR where he was interrogated.

A person tortured in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On March 6, 2018, a 38-year-old Gedeon, CNDD-FDD party member, a merchant, living on the 7th street Cibitoke, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, was beaten up by young Imbonerakure from that locality led by Joseph Mvyariye. According to our sources, Gedeon is accused of having campaigned against the referendum for the change of the constitution. To avoid the worst, he had to give an amount of three million Burundian francs. According to the same sources, the victim is the nephew of Gabriel Ntisezerana, former vice president of the Republic of Burundi.

Two people tortured in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

On 8 March 2018, in Busoni commune, Kirundo province, Elias Barakamfitye, FNL head on Mukerwa hill, and Jean Nepomucene Bimenyimana, a member of this party, were beaten up by Imbonerakure of Busoni commune, Kirundo province. On-site sources report that four Imbonerakure youth led by Mbirinde broke into Elias Barakamfitye's household who was accused of holding a meeting to sensitize him to vote against the next referendum. The two FNL militants were then taken to Mukerwa cemetery where they were beaten up by these Imbonerakure and deprived of their property, add the same sources. Elias Barakamfitye is currently in critical condition and hill leaders have denied him to seek treatment.

Two people tortured in Ndava commune, Mwaro province

On March 5, 2018, around 7:00 pm, on Nyabisaka hill, Ndava zone and commune, a group of 8 bandits known in the locality, including four Imbonerakure Innocent, Bernard, Juvenal and Désiré from the same hill, entered a bar and beat two customers Leonardo, ex-PMPA and Ezekiel, all from Mpanuka hill from the same zone and commune. These criminals said, "Where do you get money to drink alone from?" According to sources on site, they stole two mobile phones and a sum of 27,000 Bif. No investigation has been conducted, add our sources. These criminals are part of a group of bandits who spread terror in the locality and are not worried.

A person tortured in Bururi commune and province

On March 6, 2018, at about 7:00 pm, in Myugaro, Bururi commune and province, an Imbonerakure named Eric alias Kiduduye beat up a judge named Eric. According to sources on site, this new judge at TGI Bururi was from sport and was exercising. This Imbonerakure on patrol then mistreated him, accusing him of being among those who are against the referendum. This judge was saved by Bururi TGI president he called on the phone. Kiduduye was arrested and taken to Bururi prison, the same sources added.

A person tortured in Gahombo commune, Kayanza province

On March 9, 2018, on Karinzi hill, Gahombo commune, Kayanza province, Nduwimana was beaten up by two Imbonerakure, Innocent and Désiré. They accused him of refusing to buy beer for them. According to sources on site, he was beaten up because he is not CNDD-FDD party member. He is hospitalized at Gahombo Hospital.

1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKUR AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person arrested in Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province

On March 8, 2018, in Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province, Eric Ndikumasabo from Mutumba commune, Karuzi province, communal youth leader of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing, was arrested by CNDD-FDD youth Imbonerakure. On-site sources indicate that he was surrounded by Imbonerakure at the market in the same locality as he returned from fields. They arrested him and took him directly to Mwakiro commune prison. Eric Ndikumasabo was interrogated the next day by an OPJ in the presence of these Imbonerakure accusing him of raising awareness against the next constitutional referendum.

A person arrested in Vugizo commune, Makamba province

On March 7, 2018, Willy Mucondo, No. 2 of Rurinda hill elected in Vugizo commune and FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested by Gad Niyukuri, Governor of Makamba Province, after a meeting at Rubanda Market on the same hill. According to sources on site, he would be accused of launching anti-regime statements and not paying taxes from his palm oil business. He was directly taken to Makamba Republic Procurator's Office.

1.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Mwumba commune, Ngozi province

On March 8, 2018, on Gitwa hill, Gatsinda zone, Mwumba commune, Ngozi province, Evariste Minani, a widower, was caught on Kanyaru River raping his daughter É.H. According to the commune administrator Emmanuel Ndayizeye, the man is accused of raping his daughter with whom he had a baby last January, which was then slaughtered and given to the dog. He is also charged with raping his own three girls, namely É. R. of 10 years and J. B. of five and a half years. The third girl would be dead

a month ago. According to the commune administrator, medical reports confirmed this rape. Evariste Minani was taken to Ngozi PJ cell and his case is being processed.

II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

Thefts in Cankuzo province

The information received by Iteka League on March 5, 2018 indicates that on the night of February 26 to 27, 2018, a whole Kit of a nursery school granted by a European partner stored in a classroom of ECOFO Cankuzo I, was totally stolen and transported by an unidentified vehicle and to an unknown destination. According to sources on site, this kit is made up of computers, bed sheets and pullovers, about thirty bikes for their educators, chairs adapted to kindergarten children and other class kits such as booklets and toys. According to the same sources, this kit was so coveted by the provincial authorities that as soon as they arrived, the province governor Désiré Njiji first took a laptop, Leonidas Tangira, DPE and former provincial representative of the Imbonerakure took in turn a bicycle, Revérien Ndugi, ex-DPE and provincial secretary of CNDD-FDD party, also took another bicycle.

III. SECURITY FACTS

III.1. INTIMIDATION ACTS

Intimidation in Butezi commune, Ruyigi province

On March 5, 2018, all Butezi commune hill heads, Ruyigi province filed lists of all those who did not register for the referendum and the 2020 elections at the commune office. According to local sources, residents of this commune are worried about this census.

Intimidation for Nkurunziza's lifetime reign

On March 7, 2018, on the hill, zone and Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province, the President of the Republic held a meeting for the population with one item on the agenda, review on traditional values and customs. Entering with telephone, pen or other equipment suspected of being able to record or take pictures was strictly prohibited. According to local sources, President Nkurunziza monopolized the floor and no one had right to speak or ask a question. According to the same sources, he said it is necessary to restore the old national motto "God-King-Burundi", which caused confusion among the population. He also added that he asked God to rule Burundi and stay alive for 130 years, and God has granted him another 20 years, this has increased confusions and fear to the people.

Worrying sports activities of Imbonerakure in Kirundo commune and province

On March 10, 2018, in Kirundo downtown, worrying sports activities of Imbonerakure took place. According to sources on site, these activities are organized for the second weekend. Their starting point is Bushaza football field, they crisscross the neighborhoods and the point of arrival is Mutwenzi field at 500 m from Mutwenzi military camp. On their way, they sing songs of hatred and political-ethnic division, add the same sources.

Roadblocks in Kirundo commune and province

On March 10, 2018, on Nyange-Bushaza sub-hill, Kanyinya hill, Kirundo commune and province, Imbonerakure roadblocks are observed for verification of the payment receipts of 500 Bif for the construction of CNDD-FDD provincial headquarters. According to local sources, during the year 2017, the population had given the same contribution, but also those intended for the construction of Kirundo car park and Nyarunazi stadium and nothing has been finished. According to the same sources, the water sources of Kirundo city center located in Kavogero quarter are not accessible without presentation of this receipt. The population laments because their contributions do not achieve anything.

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 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.