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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 104 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 26 March – 1 April 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 1 April 2018, Iteka has documented at least 474 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS : *Health Center*

CDP : *Patriots Council*

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

DCE : *Communal Direction of Education*

ECOFO : *Fundamental School*

FAB : *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

MSD : *Movement for Solidarity and Democracy*

PNB : *National Police*

RANAC : *National Rally for Change*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

UPRONA : *Union for National Progress*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 3 persons killed including 1 corpse, 2 persons abducted and reported missing, 1 tortured, 19 arbitrarily arrested and 3 GBV victims.

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

The phenomenon of corpses found across the country is still observed.

This bulletin reports cases of killings, abductions, torture and arbitrary arrests of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime opponents.

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.

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 body found in Ngagara urban zone, Bujumbura city

On March 29, 2018, a decomposing body of Anatole Nibaruta, from Rango commune, Kayanza province, taxi-bike driver was found floating on the waters of Lake Tanganyika, near the "Holly Beach" bar, Ngagara urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city.

I.2. PEOPLE ABDUCTED AND THEN REPORTED MISSING

A person abducted in Bujumbura city

On the morning of March 28, 2018, Corporal Janvier Bizimana, a soldier from Kirundo camp currently based in Mpanda, was abducted from his home in Bujumbura city by unidentified men to an unknown destination.

A person abducted in Kinama urban zone , Bujumbura city

Information received on March 26, 2018 indicates that on March 23, 2018, Alexandre Niyonzima, demobilized from FNL party, from Kitwe, Mageyo zone, Mubimbi commune, Bujumbura rural province and currently residing in Muyange area in Rubirizi, was abducted at the 17th avenue in Bubanza quarter, Kinama zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city, by unidentified people aboard a TI-type car with tinted windows where he went to visit his friend who is hospitalized in a CDS. He was taken to an unknown destination.

A person abducted then reported missing in Bujumbura city

Information received on March 26, 2018 indicates that Rubin Ndayikeza, an ex-FAB soldier ranked corporal who worked at Muha Camp, has been reported missing since March 23, 2018. The vehicle he was driving was found in Buterere zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city near quarter X of Ngagara zone. According to sources on site, he answered a phone call before being abducted by people not yet identified.

1.3. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Ruyigi commune and province

Information received by Iteka League on March 29, 2018 indicates that on March 15, 2018, a group of Imbonerakurera led by the director of Rusengo Communal High School, Berchmas Ciza and Limoja stole a sum of 95000 Bif from an old lady over 60 named Marcelline Kinyabwoya, from Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province. According to sources on site, it was around 4:00 pm, at Rusengo market, this group demanded that this woman give them money as she was strange person in the area. Fearing the eyes of others, they isolated her in another corner of the road and started beating her up until she fell to the ground. They shared the money but one of these Imbonerakure did not agree, he helped this old woman to complain the same evening to Rusengo zone head. To calm the situation down, the zone head jailed this old lady but the next day, the zone head handled the case. They acknowledged this physical aggression and the Director immediately returned the stolen amount. Marcelline complained to Ruyigi public prosecutor's office.

1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, MILITARY, SNR AGENTS AND IMBONERAKURE

Three people arrested in Bujumbura city downtown

On March 28, 2018, at about 1:00 pm, MSD member Ladislav Ndayiragije, native of Kiroba hill, Matana commune, Bururi province, was arrested by police in a double-cab pickup vehicle registered C 0852 A. According to sources on site, he answered a phone call and arrived on the ground floor of "Kwa Ngoma", Building, he was forcibly taken by these police officers. According to police spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye, Ladislav was arrested along with two other people whose identity he did not want to reveal. Ladislav is accused of undermining internal security of the state while the other two are accused of being complicit in this attack. They were jailed in SNR cell.

A person arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On March 30, 2018, on Vugizo hill, Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Joseph Ndayitwayeko, FNL member of Agathon Rwasas wing, was arrested by Imbonerakure of Vugizo hill and handed over to Jeremiah, SNR responsible in Mutimbuzi commune, then taken to Rubirizi zone police station cell.

A person arrested in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province

On March 27, 2018, Donatien Minani alias Kanyamuduri, a singer, resident of Ruberizi hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, was arrested by police officers and taken to Mugina commune cell. Sources on site indicate that this artist was arrested for a song "Inyundo irakura ntisumba iyayujuje" (one cannot match his parent) during the celebration of the victory of UPRONA party of Prince Louis Rwagasore of 1961, in the presence of the First Vice President of the Republic, Gaston Sindimwo. The same sources say that Donatien Minani nicknamed Kanyamuduri was beaten on the orders of CNDD-FDD party officials in Cibitoke.

Eleven people arrested in Gitega commune and province

On March 26, 2018, at around 6:00 pm, the RANAC National Party President, Aloys Baricako, was arrested by police officers at Rama pharmacy near the Bakery called "Chez Maniatis", accusing them of disrupting security, while he was chatting with five people including Pierre Kugirwa, CDP party representative in Gitega province. According to sources on site, they were talking over a burial that was to take place on March 27, 2018 in Karuzi. The police accused Aloys of reporting on the last CNARED meeting. These six people spent the night at the SNR cell in Gitega. The next day, the police accompanied Aloys Baricako and Pierre Kugirwa to Karuzi for the burial, with the order to bring them back to the SNR at the end of the funeral ceremonies.

On March 27, 2018, Gloriose Odette Nijebariko and Melance, RANAC party members, accompanied by Daniel Manirakiza, RANAC party representative in Muramvya province and those of the same party in the provinces of Mwaro and Karuzi were arrested by Blaise, SNR representative in Gitega province when they went to visit their leader jailed. These 5 people were interrogated about the content of their phones. The one from Muramvya Daniel Manirakiza was not only interrogated, but was taken to his home by SNR agents on Rutegama hill in Gitega commune for a search and was taken to Bujumbura in SNR cell the same day around 18:00. Aloys was interrogated at SNR cell in Bujumbura on March 29, 2018, for 4 hours, on the contents of his phone.

A person arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura town hall

On March 28, 2018, at around 3:00 pm, Audace Butoyi, MSD party member, was arrested at home on the 4th avenue of Bwiza zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, he was arrested and then boarded by a police vehicle on the orders of Joseph Mathias Niyonzima alias Kazungu. According to the same sources, he is jailed in one of SNR cells in Bujumbura.

A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On March 26, 2018, on the hill, zone and commune Buhiga, Karuzi province, a woman named Libérate Musavyemariya was arrested, beaten and jailed by the police station head named Gilbert when he found her in a bar sharing beer with a man named Eugene. According to sources on site, Eugene's wife had complained to this post head that Libérate is in concubine with her husband.

According to the same sources, the post head had warned this woman to no longer see her with Eugene.

A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On 27 March 2018, at around 11:00 pm, on the hill, zone and Buhiga commune, Etienne Ngezahingejeje was arrested and jailed in Buhiga zone cell by a soldier nicknamed Gatayeri of the 4th Commando Battalion installed in Kamahoro, accusing him of stealing an amount of 134,000 Bif and an Android phone. According to sources on site, this soldier had been beaten by people he did not remember when he had fought with them in a bar called "Chez Yebesi." According to the same sources, he met Etienne on the way and considered him as one of the group that beat him. Etienne was released on March 30, 2018, after his neighbors went to testify that he was not at the scene of the fight.

1.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Musongati commune, Rutana province

On March 29, 2018, on Rusunu hill, Musongati zone and commune, Rutana province, a 12-year-old girl named F. was raped by a relative named Method. The latter was taken to Musongati commune jail while the victim was taken to the CDS in that locality.

Forced marriage in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

On March 27, 2018, at about 6:00 pm, on Kibenga hill, Gitaramuka zone and commune, Karuzi province, a pregnant girl named Yvette of the 8th form at ECOFO Gitaramuka was tied up behind by her PNB retired father in the presence of the hill head, Arthémon Mberamiheto and took her to a boy named Festus who has impregnated her, student too and were forced to live together immediately if not they were going to be jailed. The boy accepted out of fear and the spouses live in his parents' house.

A person raped in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province

Information received on April 1, 2018 indicates that on March 4, 2018, at approximately 3:00 pm, a man named Ntagumuka, over 65 years old, from Nyamurenge hill, Rusaka commune, Mwaro province, went to Bisha hill, Makamba zone, of the same commune with a widow named Espérance Ntahnkiriye and took advantage of her absence to rape her 13-year-old daughter L.I. According to the victim, this criminal promised him 5000 Bif once the secret kept. According to sources on site, the mother was corrupted by the perpetrator and the latter promised him a sum of 30,000 Bif not to lodge a complaint.

II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

II.1. PERSONS KILLED FOLLOWING SETTLEMENT OF SCORES

A person killed in Kabarore commune, Kayanza province

Information received by League Iteka on 26 March 2018 indicates that on 10 March 2018, on Buvumo hill, Kabarore commune, Kayanza province, a soldier named Nduwimana alias Murizo, from Gitega, assigned to the this hill's position was shot by Nzeyimana accusing him of being his wife's lover. This man and his wife were jailed at Kayanza police station cell.

III. SECURITY FACTS

A person injured in Gisozi commune, Mwaro province

On March 30, 2018, at about 8:00 pm, on Gatare hill, Gisozi commune, Mwaro province, Anatole Nibitanga, aged 40, CDS Gisozi staff, was attacked by a group of 5 unidentified perpetrators on Kayokwe River Bridge separating the Gatare hill in Gisozi commune and Gihinga commune in Kayokwe commune. They stabbed him in sex and stole 54,000 Bif according to the victim himself. He was transported to the Red Cross CDS near the scene of the incident.

A person killed in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

On 29 March 2018, on Karwa hill, Gitaramuka zone and commune, Karuzi province, Deo Nubusa was killed with a hoe by his son Therence Bashirahishize, also injuring Monique Sindahabaye, a woman who was trying to intervene to save the victim. The author was arrested by the police, then taken to Gitaramuka commune and Monique is being treated at CDS Ntunda. On-site sources say the author has a mental disorder.

IV. INTIMIDATION ACTS

Intimidation in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province.

In Muhanga commune, Kayanza province, school principals require teachers to contribute a minimum of 1000 Bif to CNDD-FDD party by passing circulars among teachers. For instance at ECOFO Muhanga III, the director named Leonard told the teachers that whoever will not contribute to the ruling party will be forced to contribute by force or will be obliged to spend this sum to go to the new place of mutation.

Politics at school in Ruyigi Province

On March 26, 2018, the Administrator of Ruyigi, the governor's senior adviser and DCE Ruyigi, went to sensitize the students of the High School of "Notre Dame de la Joie" of Ruyigi to vote for "YES" in the constitutional referendum. According to sources on site, Ruyigi DCE, Adam Nimparira threatened the latter by telling them that they will have to vote for "YES" on that date and that he will be present to count their votes and said there is no to count the votes otherwise the

vote is over. In closing, this DCE said that only one voice remains to be found otherwise 50% are already counted.

Forced contributions in Mwaro province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 1 April 2018 indicates that during this reporting week, the CNDD-FDD party in Mwaro province wrote a letter to the hotel owners to contribute to this party to help propaganda to vote for "YES" to the constitution. The party recalled that it is its members who are accommodated in these hotels while on work mission. According to sources on site, it was the head of SNR in Mwaro who distributed the letters and asked to respond positively.

Intimidation in Gitega commune and province

On March 31, 2018, at Nyamugari quarter in Gitega commune and province, Imbonerakure of this quarter led by the nicknamed Madudu, went to all the shops of the 2nd avenue asking for a sum of 2000 or 3000 Bif, telling the owners of these shops that's because they refused to participate in community work. According to sources, it was rather a pretext to steal this money because they came at 7:00 am, a few hours before the start of community work.

Forced community work in Gitega commune and province

On 28 March 2018, the police forced Gitega market traders to participate in the finishing work on the construction of Gitega stadium. Since community work is normally done on Saturday, these tradesmen considered work in week days as forced labor. Police officers say they are working on the orders of the governor of Gitega province, Venant Manirambona.

V. CONCLUSION

Violations of human rights and allegations of violations following the deterioration of the political context since the beginning of the challenge of the 3rd term of President Pierre Nkurunziza continue to be recorded in various parts of the country.

Cases of killings, abductions, torture, arbitrary and illegal arrests targeted of opponents and alleged opponents to CNDD-FDD party regime are reported.

Cases of gender based violence are reported.

Intimidation linked to the constitutional referendum, forced contributions and politics at school is a source of threats to the population.