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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 111 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 21-27 may 2018**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 27 May 2018, Iteka has documented at least 491 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**CDS** : *Health Center*

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

**CNI** : *National identity Card*

**ECOFO** : *Fundamental School*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

**OPJ** : *Judicial Police Officer*

**PJ** : *Judiciary Police*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**UPG** : *Polytechnic University of Gitega*

**UPRONA** : *Union for National Progress*

**VBG** : *Gender Based Violence*

## **0. INTRODUCTION**

During the period covered by this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 8 people killed, including 2 bodies found, 3 tortured, 33 arbitrarily arrested and 3 GBV victims.

The phenomenon of bodies found continues to be observed.

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

A wave of arrests based on verification of household notebooks has become a means of ransoming the population by police officers. Arrests related to participation in the "NO" campaign and the vote against the constitutional referendum were observed in different provinces of the country.

Young people from the Imbonerakure militia are singled out as the perpetrators of most of these human rights violations.

## **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 a commune and province Muyinga**

On May 21, 2018, at around 2:00 pm, in Gasenyi quarter on the outskirts of Muyinga urban center, 25-year-old Isaac Sabushimike, a native of Giteranyi commune in the same province, a paid motorcyclist, was killed by two people he was carrying. According to sources on site, the authors then buried him in a plot where he had just dropped them. The victim's motorcycle was subsequently found on the morning of May 22, 2018 in Mukoni neighborhood of Muyinga City. Four people were arrested by the police for investigation.

##### **A person killed in Mugamba commune, Bururi province**

On May 23, 2018, Anicet Kanjori, aged 62, catechist of Burasira Catholic Church, Mugamba commune, Bururi province, was shot at night by unidentified people in military uniforms. According to sources on site, this incident occurred on Donge-Burasira hill, where the perpetrators also stole goods from people who were in a pub after forcing them to lie down. The same sources add that Anicet Kanjori was killed when he tried to flee.

### **A corpse found in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province**

On May 24, 2018, in the morning, a body of Joseph Niyokwizera was found in a cassava field on Nyamitanga hill, Ndava zone, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province. According to sources on site, Joseph had spent the night with his friends and the circumstances of his death are unknown.

### **A body found in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

On the morning of May 21, 2018, a body of an unidentified man was discovered in front of the Pentecostal Church of Ntakangwa located in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, this corpse showed signs as if it had been savagely killed before coming to throw it near this Church.

### **A person killed in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

On May 24, 2018, during the night, a man named Nicodeme Nyandwi was strangled on Rushimabarimyi hill, Ruziba zone, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province. According to sources on site, this person was killed by a group of bandits who walk and kill people or steal their property.

### **A person killed in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province**

On May 26, 2018, on Mufumya hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, at around 3:00 am, Jeremy Sinzinkayo, a farmer and FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was killed by unidentified people with machetes at his home.

## ***1.2 PERSONS ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING***

### **A person abducted in Bugarama commune, Rumonge province**

On May 21, 2018, at about 11:00 pm, in Magara II quarter, Bugarama commune, Rumonge province, Abel Nibigira, aged 30, "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition member, was abducted from his home by a group of 8 men armed with clubs. According to sources on site, he was kidnapped by Imbonerakure Youth League members. The reason and the place of his destination remain unknown.

## ***1.3. TORTURE OF PEOPLE BY IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

### **Two people tortured in Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province**

On May 21, 2018, on Shoza hill, Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province, Privat Mpawenayo and Aloys Miburo, both FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing were tortured by young Imbonerakure, Egide Minani alias Mutabazi and Nibitanga, in complicity with the head of this hill. According to sources on site, they are victims of their political affiliation.

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

On the night of May 22, 2018, on Kinyinya hill I, Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura Rural Province, Jean Pierre Nyandwi, "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition member, was beaten up by young Imbonerakure in front of the bar owned by Jean Marie. According to sources on site, Jean Pierre Nyandwi was arrested by young Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD party, including Séverin Bigirimana alias Vétérinaire. Jean Pierre Nyandwi is accused of have gone in Kinyinya I sector while he lives in Kinyinya II. While beating him up, these Imbonerakure told him they will beat him every time they will see him in that Kinyinya I area.

### ***I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, POLICE AND SNR AGENTS***

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

Information received by Iteka League on May 22, 2018 indicates that on May 18, 2018, on Mirama hill, Gitega commune and province, Janvier Manirakiza, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested by Imbonerakure near Mubuga zone office, accused of having sensitized to vote for "NO" on the constitutional referendum day. According to sources on site, he was jailed in Mubuga zone police cell and transferred to Gitega.

#### **Four people arrested in Gashikanwa commune, Ngozi province**

On May 21, 2018, in Gashikanwa commune, Ngozi province, four young Imbonerakure including Jean Ndikumana, civil status agent and Zabulon Habimana, land service agent, all from Gashikanwa commune were arrested by Gashikanwa commune administrator and then jailed in Ngozi police cell. According to local sources, they have been accused of helping Burundian refugees in Rwanda obtain NICs. However, the same sources indicate that they are being prosecuted for having secretly sensitized to vote for "NO" in the last constitutional referendum.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 22 May 2018 indicates that on 16 May 2018, on Zege hill, Gitega commune and province, Claude Nsavyimana, student at UPG, was arrested by Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, Claude was in possession of elections observation mandates on behalf of "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition. He was accused of having sensitized the population to vote for "NO" in the referendum elections. He was jailed in Gitega provincial police station cell.

#### **Three people arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On May 21, 2018, on Gitanga hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Félix Mbonihankuye, Gaspard Niyonkuru and Jacques, all "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition members, were summoned and

then taken to the commune prison by Phocas Sindaruhuka, Buhiga zone head. According to sources on site, they are accused by the head of this hill named Gérard, to have disturbed security when they shared beer on this hill. Felix and Gaspard were released on May 22, 2018 but Jacques was released on May 23, 2018.

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

Information received by Iteka League on 22 May 2018 indicates that on 20 May 2018, on Ngugo hill, Maramvya zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, a man named Gervais, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested and taken to the commune cell by the OPJ named Jean Bosco. According to sources on site, Gervais is accused of sorcery but he is a victim of his political affiliation.

#### **Four people arrested in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province**

On May 26, 2018, at Mufumya hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, police conducted a search in Rutoke locality, around 5:00 am. No weapons were found there. Four people, Libere Nzigendako, Jacques Kubwayo, Emmanuel Ntukamazina and Macaire Nsanzerugeze, all FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing who were not on the place at the time of this search, were arrested and jailed in the commune cell for investigation reasons. They are suspected of owning weapons, according to sources on site.

#### **Fifteen people arrested in Ntampangwa commune, Bujumbura city**

On May 21, 2018, police and soldiers conducted a search to control household notebooks and irregulars from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Cibitoke urban zone on Kanyoni Avenue. According to local sources, 15 people were arrested and some of them gave a ransom to police ranging between 10,000 Bif and 15,000 Bif while others were released on order of the prosecutor in Ntampangwa in field visit in Cibitoke zone cell who joined them in the quarter on 15<sup>th</sup> avenue.

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

On 23 May 2018, at Nyabiraba hill, Gishubi commune, Gitega province, Dismas was arrested and jailed in Gitega PJ cell. He is accused of having sensitized to vote for "NO" in the referendum elections.

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

On 24 May 2018, at about 8:00 pm, at Buhiga Hospital, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Phocas Nibaruta, student intern from Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, was arrested and taken to Karuzi provincial police station prison cell by the provincial head of SNR in complicity with an

accountant of Karuzi reference hospital who phoned the intern. The next day, the hospital staff interrupted activities to call light on the arrest, which disrupted the health service.

### **Two people arrested in Itaba commune, Gitega province**

On May 25, 2018, in Itaba commune, Gitega province, Mélance Ngenzebuhoro, member of the youth committee of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing and Leonidas Sabokwigura, UPRONA party representative of Charles Nditije's wing in Itaba commune were arrested by police officers. According to local sources, both of them sensitized the population to vote for "NO" during the last referendum campaign. They were taken and jailed to Gitega police station.

## ***1.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE***

### **A person raped in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 21 May 2018 indicates that on 16 May 2018, at about 5:00 pm, on Mbizi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province, an 8-year-old girl, P.A, was raped by Mamert Muhoza, 20 years old. According to sources on site, the perpetrator was arrested and taken to PJ Makamba sub-police station cell to be jailed there. The same sources add that the victim was taken to the Gender-Based Violence Integrated Center at Makamba Hospital for treatment.

### **A person raped in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

Information received by Iteka League on May 21, 2018 indicates that at approximately 2:00 pm on May 20, 2018, on Jimbi hill, Kiremba sub-hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province, A.A, aged 5 was raped by Venuste Vyumvuhore, aged 16, who domestic servant in their family. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to the PJ sub-station cell to be detained. As for the victim, she was taken to the Gender-Based Violence Integrated Center at Makamba Hospital for treatment.

### **Rape and murder attempted in Bugarama commune, Rumonge province**

On May 24, 2018, police officer Richard Bizindavyi attempted to rape a girl jailed in a cell in Magara, Bugarama commune, Rumonge province. According to sources on site, this girl resisted and this policeman shot on her. She was injured in her stomach. Richard was sentenced to 20 years for attempted murder.

## ***II. VIOLATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS***

### ***II. 1. VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH***

#### **Drug shortage in Makamba province**

According to information received by Iteka League on May 25, 2018, patients attending public health services lament the lack of medicines in Makamba province. According to sources on site, the

maternity service suffers from a glaring lack of medication. According to the prescriptions of the doctors, patients are obliged to buy, at exorbitant prices, the equipment and the necessary drugs from private pharmacies.

Due to this lack of medicines, the principle of free health care for children under 5 and pregnant women is no longer insured.

## ***II.2. SECURITY FACTS***

### **A family mistreated in Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province**

Information received by Iteka League on 22 May 2018 indicates that on 16 May 2018, at night, on Ruhogo hill, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province, Imbonerakure attacked the household of Stany Ntakarutimana, communal representative of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing. They sequestered his wife and children and took a sum of 50,000 Bif. Stany had already taken off. He was accused of sensitizing people to vote for "NO" in the constitutional referendum.

### **A grenade launched in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by Iteka League on May 21, 2018 indicates that on May 20, 2018, at about 9:00 pm, on Rushubi hill, Muhanga commune, Kayanza province, a grenade was thrown to a woman accused of sorcery. According to sources on site, this woman was taken to Mubogora zone prison for her safety.

### **A person killed in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province**

On May 22, 2018, Elie Ndikuriyo, aged 54, of Rucunda hill, Rusaka commune, Mwaro province, was killed by his son Richard Niyongendako, 26 years old. According to sources on site, land conflicts are at the base of this murder. His father sold a tea field without his family's consent. Mwaro High Court has sentenced Richard Niyongendako to 20 years in prison.

### **A person injured in Busoni commune, Kirundo province**

On 21 May 2018, on Buhoro hill, Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province, a grenade was thrown at the home of Ngerageze, "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition member by a group of Imbonerakure led by Edward, Director of ECOFO Minyago. According to sources on site, he was pursued by these Imbonerakure when he returned from a bar to Misigaro. Ngerageze was seriously injured in the leg and arm and was taken to Mukenke Hospital. Edward was denounced by neighbors (even CNDD-FDD party members) but he was not worried. The same sources add that he was manhandled during the referendum campaign by Imbonerakure, accused that he will vote for "NO".

### **A child killed in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province**

On May 23, 2018, on Kivuzo hill, Muhanga commune, Kayanza province, a corpse of a 2-year-old child was found in Ruvubu River. According to sources on site, this child was thrown into this river by his mother, Odette Kwizerimana, because her brothers had sent her back to Bujumbura to convince the father of the child to recognize him legally. Odette was jailed in women's prison in the province city.

### **Armed attack in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

On May 26, 2018, around 8:00 pm, unidentified gunmen attacked the home of a person named Pascasie at Kinyami Avenue, Carama quarter, Kinama urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, three people including this woman were wounded by bullet and money not yet known was stolen.

### ***III. CONCLUSION***

Violations of human rights and allegations of violations following the deterioration of the political context since the beginning of the challenge of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

During the constitutional post-referendum period, this bulletin identifies cases of rights violations linked to participation in this campaign.

The Ligue Iteka protests against the impunity of the crimes enjoyed by young members of the Imbonerakure militia affiliated to the ruling CNDD-FDD party, police officers, SNR agents and administrative officials implicated in various violations under the complicity of the public authorities .