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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 112 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 28 May – 3 June 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 3 June 2018, Iteka has documented at least 492 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 IMBONERAKURE</i>	4
<i>I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE</i>	4
<i>I.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY POLICE AND IMBONERAKURE</i>	5
<i>I.3. PEOPLE ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE. ADMINISTRATIVE AND SNR AGENTS</i>	6
<i>I.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE</i>	7
<i>I.5. VIOLATIONS OF ECONOMIC, SOCIOCULTURAL RIGHTS</i>	8
<i>II. SECURITY FACTS</i>	8
<i>III. INTIMIDATION ACTS</i>	9
<i>III. CONCLUSION</i>	11

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
DCE	: <i>Provincial Direction of Education</i>
DRC	: <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
EU	: <i>European Union</i>
EURAC	: <i>European Network for Central Africa</i>
FNL	: <i>National Liberation Front</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
RN	: <i>National road</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
UPG	: <i>Polytechnic University of Gitega</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>
UN	: <i>United Nations</i>
USA	: <i>United States of America</i>
VBG	: <i>Gender Based Violence</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

During the period covered by this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 12 people killed including 2 bodies found, 5 tortured and 33 arbitrarily arrested.

Imbonerakure youth affiliated to CNDD-FDD ruling party, police, military, SNR agents and administrative officials are singled out as the perpetrators of most of these human rights violations.

The phenomenon of bodies found continues to be observed.

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

Arrests on the basis of verification of household notebooks have become a phenomenon of ransoming the population by police officers.

Intimidation and arrests linked to the constitutional referendum are reported in this bulletin.

Cases of popular justice encouraged by administration have been noted.

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

Three people killed in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province,

On May 30, 2018, at night, in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province, Nkezabahizi of Migunga hill, Pascal of Karira hill and Evariste Misago, were killed by Imbonerakure Evode of Migunga hill, Daniel of Karira hill and Amisi alias Watara in complicity with Gasorwe zone head and the heads of Migunga and Gikwiye hills. According to sources on site, the victims were killed on Migunga hill but the reason for the assassination remains unknown.

I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A body found in Marangara commune, Ngozi province

On May 28, 2018, on Runda hill, Marangara commune, Ngozi province, a body of Thérèse Kangeyo was found in a banana plantation. According to local sources, her body showed signs of strangulation and was tied up. Four people were arrested by the police for investigation.

Three people killed in Gashoho commune, Muyinga province

On 3 June 2018, at night, on Burambira hill, Gashoho commune, Muyinga province, three people, Nsavyimana, his wife and their 3-month-old baby, were stabbed by unidentified people. According to sources on site, this crime is linked to land dispute. Four suspects were arrested for investigation.

One person killed and four others wounded in Bugendana commune, Gitega province

On the night of 31 May to 1 June 2018, at around 9 :00 pm, on Mirama hill in Munyinya locality, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, an armed group of 6 persons in military uniform attacked the shop of a chief of Imbonerakure, Valence Simpagaze, student at UPG in 2nd year. Corneille Rurajuragiza, who had just completed general humanities, died straightaway. Valencia and Concilie, a neighbour of the latter have been seriously injured and admitted at Gitega Regional Hospital. Two other people namely a woman and her child were slightly injured. Valence organized night patrols.

A body found in Gishubi commune, Gitega province

On May 28, 2018, in the morning, a body of a two-year-old boy was found on Nyakigina hill, Nyabitanga zone in Gishubi commune, Gitega province. According to sources on site, his head, his arms and his legs had been amputated and taken away by his assassins. According to the same sources, this child had been reported missing for more than three months. His family recognized him with the clothes he wore on the day of his disappearance.

1.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY POLICE AND IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province

On May 28, 2018, at Nyabikere market, Maramvya zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, a man named Ngendanzi was arrested by two policemen including Wilson and searched in his backpack, accusing him of illegally selling drugs. According to sources on site, they found nothing and Ngendanzi told them not to suspect him anymore. These police officers immediately accused him of insulting them, beat him up and chased him off the market.

A person tortured in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On 29 May 2018, on Kigoma hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, a young man named Pacifique was arrested, beaten and then taken by police to Karuzi province police station cell. According to local sources, these officers wanted to revenge on Pacifique who had injured one of them named Sezikeye when they wanted to drive him out of a car wash square. According to the same sources, when Pacifique arrived at the police station, he was tortured, accused of recruiting rebels trained in the DRC, in collaboration with a trader from Makamba who had just escaped the same day the arrest of the police on Karuzi market. Pacifique ended up confessing under torture that he had already recruited 25

young rebels and that he worked with his friends who fled including Niyongabo. The same sources add that Pacificque is in critical condition for the police broke his legs and arms.

Two people tortured in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city

Information received on May 28, 2018 indicates that on May 26, 2018, soldiers in patrol in Ngagara urban zone arrested, around 10:00pm, two young people named Danny and Eddy who quenched thirst in a car called "Chez Minani", located between the quarter II and III. Before being taken to the cell of this zone, they were beaten by these soldiers. They were released on May 27, 2018 after giving a ransom of 10,000 Bif each.

A person tortured in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province

On May 30, 2018, Jean Niyonkuru of Mukiga sub-hill, Bumba hill, Camazi zone, Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province was beaten by Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, they broke his right arm for seeing him with Harimenshi who had been murdered for robbery on the night of May 29, 2018. His family recovered him dying for treatment.

1.3. PEOPLE ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE. ADMINISTRATIVE AND SNR AGENTS

A person arrested in Rugazi commune, Bubanza province

On 31 May 2018, Jean Ndayishimiye, "Amizero y 'Abarundi" coalition member and employed in the laboratory service at CDS Rugazi, Rugazi zone and commune, Bubanza province, was arrested by Imbonerakure in complicity with the OPJ named Berchmans. He was accused of having sensitized the population to vote for "NO" in the constitutional referendum and was jailed for 4 days at Muzinda police station cell and then transferred to Bubanza central prison. On 13 May 2018, Jean Ndayishimiye had been arrested and jailed at Rugazi commune police station cell for the same reason and was released a week later.

A person arrested in Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province

On 1 June 2018, on Taba hill, Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province, Déo Akobagaya, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested and taken to Gihogazi police cell by the head of this hill. According to sources on site, Deo is being prosecuted for having observed the referendum poll for "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition and that he had opposed the Imbonerakure who were mistreating the members of this coalition.

A person arrested in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city

Information received on May 28, 2018 indicates that on May 26, 2018, policemen from Buterere urban zone post, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city arrested Samuel in worship from his New Light Church Burundi, legal representative at the same time head of Kiyange II quarter and jailed in the zone cell. Hours later, SNR agents came to pick him up. According to sources on site, he is jailed in the SNR cell in Rohero zone accused of having sensitized the population to vote for "NO" in the ranks of the voters on the day of the referendum elections.

Twelve people arrested in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city

On May 31, 2018, police officers and soldiers carried out a search to control household notebooks and irregulars from Avenue 0 to the 3rd avenue of Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city. According to local sources, 12 people were arrested and taken to the zone office. Six of them were jailed accused of not being registered in the household notebooks and others were released.

Two people arrested in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province

On May 29, 2018, at about 7:00 pm, on Kiri hill, Kiyonza zone, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province, a group of 15 Imbonerakure led by Yondori, attacked the families of two FNL members of Agathon Rwas's wing, Jean de Dieu Mbonyumugenzi and Dieudonné Bigirimana accusing them of refusing CNDD-FDD party to modify the results of the referendum poll during the counting of the votes. According to local sources, members of both families defended themselves and four Imbonerakure were injured and returned without achieving their goal. The next day, Jean de Dieu and Dieudonné went to complain to the OPJ and Bugabira commune administrator. The latter jailed them in Bugabira commune cell.

Two people arrested in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On May 31, 2018, at around 5 :00 am, on Kigwandi hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, the police accompanied by Imbonerakure conducted a search and no weapons were found. Two people, Jean Marie Kubwimana, Charles Nditije's UPRONA wing member and Thaddée Kazirukanyo, FNL member of Agathon Rwas's wing, both farmers, were arrested for investigation reasons.

1.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Rumonge commune and province

On May 29, 2018, 14-year-old FN from Gitwe hill, Buruhukiro zone, Rumonge commune and province, was raped at her parents' home by 40-year-old Venant Bizimana, residing in Gatete zone of the same commune and originating from Songa commune, Bururi province. On May 30, 2018, after a flagrancy

hearing held the same day, the TGI Rumonge sentenced him to 20 years in prison and an fine of 100,000 Bif and a sum of 3 million Bif compensation to give to the victim.

1.5. VIOLATIONS OF ECONOMIC, SOCIOCULTURAL RIGHTS

Suspension of activities at Rumonge port

On May 28, 2018, commercial activities were paralyzed at Rumonge port market. According to local sources, Tanzanian and Burundian traders have protested against a decision by the commune authorities to close the market located at the entrance to this port. The administration ordered the evacuation of this market and forced Tanzanian traders to sell their goods in another private market commonly called "Chez SION" an economic operator close to the regime. This market is located in Kanyenkoko quarter, one kilometer from the port of Rumonge. These traders denounce this decision and accuse the administration of wanting to help this economic operator to collect additional taxes. They believe that the taxes paid to OBR were too high, not to mention the loading and unloading charges that would be added if they were to sell their goods in this market belonging to this economic operator. Since the morning, there was a struggle between the administration and these traders. Tanzanian traders threatened to abandon Rumonge commercial port in case this measure was not lifted. In the stands of this port, more than 150 bags of fresh mukeke fish from Tanzania were still piled up at the unloading place because of this tussle. Burundian traders, meanwhile, accuse the authorities of making decisions against cross-border trade.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A person injured in Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province

Information received by League Iteka on May 28, 2018 indicates that on May 27, 2018, at about 6:00 pm, on Kididibizi hill, Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province, a policeman named Leonard Ndiokubwayo was shot by unidentified gunmen. According to local sources, he was treated at Kibuye Hospital. According to the same sources, there were other signs of insecurity in Ruyigi province, in Nyabitsinda commune where a trader named Didace Canka was robbed by a group of unidentified gunmen.

Illegal possession of weapons in Kirundo commune and province

On May 29, 2018, in the morning, police searched the households of Nyange-Bushaza quarter of Kirundo province city. According to sources on site, a rifle was seized in the household of an Imbonerakure who is also head of Nyange-Bushaza quarter. According to the same sources, the public prosecutor in Kirundo and the police head demanded that the weapon be returned to him.

A person killed in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province

On May 29, 2018, at night, residents of Mukiga sub hill, Bumba hill, Camazi zone, Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province have killed Harimenshi, caught stealing from a household. According to local sources, during an meeting on May 30, 2018, the governor of Cankuzo province and the deputy commissioner of

the judicial police stated that it is normal for the population to kill a gangster caught in the act. No one who participated this popular justice was arrested.

Two people killed in Butihinda commune, Muyinga province

Information received by League Iteka on 28 May 2018 indicates that on 22 May 2018, on Kamaramagambo hill, Butihinda commune, Muyinga province, two children, Sharif Nzubahimana and Jabil Irishura respectively aged 6 years and 2 years were killed by their father Omer Ndikumagenge in complicity with his concubine Jacqueline Nduwayezu. According to local sources, the alleged perpetrators are jailed in Muyinga central prison.

A house burned in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province

On May 30, 2018, around midnight on Ruhata hill, Kiremba commune, Ngozi province, Zacharie Gahungu's house was burned by unidentified people. According to sources on site, no human damage occurred and a land dispute is behind this act. Two people were arrested by the police for investigation.

III. INTIMIDATION ACTS

Threats after referendum vote in Cankuzo province

The information received by League Iteka on May 28, 2018 indicates that on May 25, 2018, Théoneste Ntaconayigize, director of ECOFO Cankuzo I, an Imbonerakure, complained in a group of teachers of his school that he, along with his colleagues Pie Kanani, director of Cankuzo communal high school, CNDD-FDD official and Anaclet Matituye, director of ECOFO Ndava, all of Cankuzo urban center, that they are being intimidated by MP Anglebert Ngendabanka of the same party CNDD-FDD accusing them that they influenced the vote of "NO" in their schools where there were polling stations. This threat is related to the fact that the vote of "NO" won in all the polling stations of Cankuzo urban center. A similar question was asked by Governor Désiré Njiji to his socio-cultural adviser Ferdinand Birahanyi, UPRONA party member close to power: "you and other UPRONA members, what did you do in the province to avoid the vote of "NO" while you are lying to us that you campaigned for "YES".

Intimidation to people voting for "NO" in Kabarore commune, Kayanza province

On June 2, 2018, on Ruhororo hill, Kabarore commune, Kayanza province, during community work of the construction of a CNDD-FDD party office, Domitien Ncamurwanko, human resources advisor to DCE Kabarore, recommended the ruling party members of this hill to crack down people who voted for "NO" in the referendum to be punished. Note that on this hill, there were 28 votes that voted "NO" and he said that these people are known.

Threats against the population who voted NO in Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province

On May 28, 2018, the commune administrator held a security meeting of Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province. In this meeting, the commune administrator's social advisor threatened residents of Ndago, Mureba and Nyagahanda hills that they will no longer receive aid for voting "NO" in the referendum of the constitution on May 17, 2018. This security meeting had involved the commune administrator, his social adviser, Nyabitsinda zone head and the SNR head in Nyabitsinda, Gisuru and Kinyinya communes.

Protests against the statement of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Burundi

On June 2, 2018, demonstrations were held in all provinces of the country to denounce the statement presented to the UN Security Council by Michel Kafando, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Burundi.

- In Ruyigi province, after the community works, Hassan Abdalah, Governor of Ruyigi denounced Michel Kafando's words on Burundi that he considered a settler.
- In Mwaro province, a demonstration was organized against those who attacked families in Cibitoke and killed 26 people. According to local sources, they also protested against UN special envoy Kafando. The same sources add that students from Mwaro High School were forced by their director, CNDD-FDD party member, to attend the demonstration. Shops were closed during the protest, those who opened were forced to pay a sum of 15000 Bif.
- In Gitega province, this demonstration led by the Governor of the province, Venant Manirambona insisted on the messages against the statement of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Burundi, Michel Kafando, against France on his remarks on the new Constitution and against the holding of a round table organized on 4 June 2018 by the EURAC in Brussels which will involve the "enemies of Burundi".
- In Bujumbura city, a demonstration was led by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior and Patriotic Training and Local Development, Terence Ntahiraja. Participants in the demonstration included CNDD-FDD militants and allies, as well as groups of people who had been forced, including taxi-bikes, taxi-bikes and tricycle drivers (touktouk), under threat of not continuing their work. The speech of the day and the slogans pronounced during this march were against the recent declaration of the special envoy of the UN Secretary General in Burundi, Michel Kafando, the recent attack of Ruhagarika as well as the meeting in Brussels organized by EURAC with the participation of some Burundian opponents in exile.
- In Kirundo province, CNDD-FDD party members organized a demonstration in Kirundo province city to protest against Michel Kafando's declaration and Ruhagarika massacre in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, on May 11, 2018. According to sources on site, hate speech and mischief were uttered by the CNDD-FDD party representative named Fabien announcing that the

same people who committed genocide since 1972 are supported by the colonist. The protesters had placards on which one could read: "Burundi is sovereign and independent and especially that it has security forces to face the enemy wherever it would come from ".

- In Cibitoke province, Imbonerakure youths led by Tonny, Cibitoke zone head and youth representative in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, began forcibly grabbing any passerby to join the protesters. Whoever tried to resist was beaten by these young Imbonerakure. Juma threatened the recalcitrant that they are against the regime. No shop had the right to open even Cibitoke modern market was closed.
- In Makamba province, the population of this locality in general, the Imbonerakure and the students in particular demonstrated from Makamba province city towards Gisenyi zone. The demonstrators protested against Michel Kafondo's declaration, France and Belgium. In his speech, the chief advisor of Makamba governor accused Michel Kafondo, France and Belgium.
- In Cankuzo province, the governor and his advisors, the communal administrators, CNDD-FDD officials, some heads of services and other individuals working in the province carried demonstrated to denounce Michel Kafondo's declaration and others enemies of the country like France, Belgium, the US, the EU, Pierre Claver Mbonimpa and Catherine Mabobori. According to sources on site, the roads to the RN13 were guarded by Imbonerakure who prevented people from going home and force them to attend the event.

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 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.

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 .