

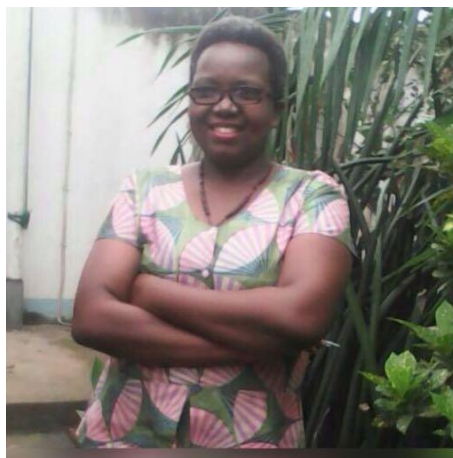
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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 114 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 11-17 June 2018**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 17 June 2018, Iteka has documented at least 497 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**APC** : *Chief Police Agent*

**CDS** : *Health Center*

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

**DCE** : *Communal Education Direction*

**DPE** : *Communal Education Direction*

**ECOFO** : *Fundamental School*

**FAB** : *Burundi Armed Forces*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

**ONG** : *Non-Governmental Organization*

**OPJ** : *Judicial Police Officer*

**PJ** : *Judiciary Police*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**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 7 people killed, including 1 body found, 2 abducted, 3 tortured, 7 arbitrarily arrested and 1 GBV victim.

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

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

Intimidations linked to the constitutional referendum are reported in this bulletin

## ***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***

##### **One person killed and 5 others wounded in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province**

On June 11, 2018, around 7:00 pm, a grenade was thrown by unidentified people at Samuel's home on Murwi and commune hill in Cibitoke province. According to sources on site, the grenade was launched in Samuel's living room and one of his children died on the spot and his four others and his wife were wounded. The same sources add that this family would be accused of sorcery and that three people were arrested for investigation.

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

On June 11, 2018, in the morning, a body of APC3 Gideon Nzambimana was discovered in a gutter, Nyakabiga urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura City. According to sources on site, the victim was murdered elsewhere and then dumped into this gutter by unidentified people. The body of the victim was injured in the head.

##### **Two people killed in Gitega commune and province**

Information received by ITEKA league on June 12, 2018 indicates that on June 10, 2018, around 7:00 pm, in Rutonde, on Birohe hill, Gitega rural zone, Gitega commune and province, a grenade was thrown in Niyonzima's bar. According to local sources, 60-year-old Prisca Ntibazonkiza, a peanut seller, died on the spot and a police officer died the next day at Gitega regional hospital. Another 26 people were injured, including one soldier. Two people were arrested on June 14, 2018 at their home. These are Dieudonné Arakaza, a demobilized ex FAB and Elias Manirakiza, a house worker. They were jailed at PJ cell in Gitega for investigation reasons.

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

On June 16, 2018, at about 1:00 am, on Musema hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Gabriel Ndayisenga was killed with a machete at his home. According to sources on site, Gabriel Ndayisenga had refused to pay contributions for the ruling party.

## ***1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED BY SNR AGENTS***

### **Two people abducted in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province**

On June 15, 2018, at around 1:00 pm, at village IV, Buringa zone, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, Etienne Nkunzimana, native of Ndava hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province and Sébastien Ndagijimana, native of Jenda, Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura Rural Province, both members of "Amizero y 'Abarundi" coalition, were abducted. According to sources on site, they were fired on one on the head and the other on the arm, by agents who would be from SNR before being embarked in a vehicle then taken to an unknown destination.

## ***1.3. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE***

### **Two people tortured in Rumonge commune and province**

On June 11, 2018, on Munege sub-hill, Kizuka hill and zone, Rumonge commune and province, Véronique, over 60 years old and her daughter Francine Ndorimana, both FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing were beaten by Imbonerakure. Local sources say a group of Imbonerakure including a nicknamed Kitu and Protais, leader of the demobilized who would hold a clandestine cell on this hill, led by Apollinaire Ndabambarire alias Kengo, hill advisor, attacked them at home. The victims were accused of having voted for "NO" in the constitutional referendum of 17 May 2018 and were subsequently hospitalized at CDS Kizuka.

### **A person tortured in Musongati commune, Rutana province**

On June 11, 2018, at 3:00 pm, on Karera hill, Shanga zone, Musongati commune, Rutana province, Innocent Igiraneza was beaten by Imbonerakure, including Edmond, Mutegetsi, Bugaru, Gicu, Hassan, Hatungimana and Eric Ciza, all from the same hill. On-site sources indicate that these Imbonerakure found the victim at a bar in Kavumu. Innocent Igiraneza is the victim of having sensitized the population to vote against the change of the constitution. The same sources reveal that the victim was taken and admitted at CDS Shanga for treatment.

## ***1.4. PEOPLE ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS***

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

Information received by Iteka league on June 11, 2018 indicates that on June 7, 2018, on Jenda hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, the hill head accompanied by Imbonerakure arrested Dismas Ntahomvukiye alias Shetani, teacher, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing. They accused him of

tearing off false palm trees "ibitongati" planted on the occasion of the arrival of President Pierre Nkurunziza in Bugendana while it was false. He was jailed at PJ Bugendana.

#### **A person arrested in Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province**

On June 15, 2018, Fabien Mahera, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested by the police in collaboration with Nyabihanga commune administrator. According to sources on site, after a meeting of the communal council that Mahera had just attended, he was arrested for investigation. During the referendum campaign period, he reportedly called out intimidating telephone numbers, including that of the administrator of Nyabihanga commune. He is jailed in Nyabihanga commune police station cell.

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

On June 15, 2018, at around 5:00 am, on Rwingoma hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Christian Niyonizigiye, medical technician and employee at Buhiga hospital, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested and taken to SNR Karuzi cell by the provincial head of SNR accompanied by the communal police commissioner in Karuzi named Gilbert and five policemen. According to local sources, they first searched his household and found no weapons. He was released in the evening of the same day after paying a ransom of 300,000 Bif and was threatened that if he did not join CNDD-FDD party he would be killed.

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

On June 14, 2018, on Buhomba hill, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura Rural province, Alain Ndayikeza, "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition member, was arrested at his home by Salvator, SNR head in Bujumbura rural provinces by order of Elysée Nindorera, CNDD-FDD party leader in Mutimbuzi commune. According to sources on site, Alain Ndayikeza was accused of not facilitating CNDD-FDD party in Mutimbuzi commune in the manipulation of votes during the constitutional referendum poll of May 17, 2018. He was taken to SNR cell in Bujumbura.

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

On June 15, 2018, on Nyabibuye hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Théogène Karabayinga was arrested by two Imbonerakure, Gédéon and Jérôme for the simple fact that he had just returned from Rwanda. According to local sources, he has been accused of belonging to rebel groups in Rwanda. He is jailed in the cell of the same commune.

#### **Two people arrested in Kabarore commune, Kayanza province**

On June 15, 2018, in the morning, on Ruhororo hill, Jene Zone, Kabarore commune, Kayanza province, Ngiruwonsanga of Manga hill and Venant from Ruhororo hill were arrested by an Imbonerakure named

Mayisha from Ruhororo hill for they were in possession of coffee. According to sources on site, he asked them to pay 30,000 Bif each to be released and they refused. Afterwards, this Imbonerakure telephoned the communal administrator and told him that these two men wanted to kill him with machetes. The commune administrator took them to the commune cell to be jailed.

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

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

On June 16, 2018, at about 3:00 pm, on Gisovu sub-hill, Bubanza downtown, Bubanza commune and province, BM, aged 14, student at ECOFO Kidahwe, was raped by Elvis Nduwimana, 17 years old in his house. According to sources on site, the victim shouted for help but in vain. Elvis Nduwimana was taken to Bubanza police station cell. The victim was taken to Bubanza hospital for treatment.

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

#### **A person attacked and physically assaulted in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province**

On June 16, 2018, during the night, on Matyazo hill, Gatabo zone, Kiganda commune, Muramvya province, Jonas, teacher at Kanyami communal High School was attacked by Imbonerakure from this hill and was seriously injured. According to sources on site, the latter accused him of not completely complying with CNDD-FDD party ideology. According to the same sources, the victim lodged a complaint against his attackers who also took 200,000 Bif. The alleged perpetrators never responded to the OPJ and were not even arrested.

#### **A person attacked and physically assaulted in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province**

On 17 June 2018, around 1:00 am, Claudine Nshimirimana from Muremera hill, Murwi commune, Cibitoke province, was beaten by young Imbonerakure arguing that her husband is an Agathon Rwaswa's FNL party wing activist.

#### **A newborn died in Nyabikere commune, Karuzi povince**

On June 15, 2018, on Rwandagaro hill, Maramvya zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, a newborn baby born by a young girl named Chantal died. According to local sources, Chantal's parents were unhappy with this event and deprived her of food until the newborn died of hunger.

#### **Guns and grenades found in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On June 15, 2018, at about 9:00 am, on Ndayi hill, Bikanka zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province, shepherds keeping cows found in the bush three guns and 10 grenades hidden and packed in



a bag. According to sources on site, these guns and grenades were taken and kept by Yamuremye, the CNDD-FDD party leader in Mukike commune.

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

The information received on June 11, 2018 indicates that since June 8, 2018, in hospital of the fiftieth anniversary of Karuzi, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, Eric Izerumukiza was imprisoned for four days and the body of his wife named Evelyne who had just died was in the morgue of this same hospital. According to sources on site, Eric Izerumukiza was billed a sum of two million for two months of his wife's care and hospitalization and could not pay them. According to the same sources, the couple was poor, from Rugabo hill, Kananira zone, Tangara commune, Ngozi province. He was released on June 12, 2018, around 6:00 pm after presentation of poverty certificate and payment of a sum of 400,000 Bif collected by his friends and acquaintances because the officials of this hospital had even refused to give the body to the family for burial.

### **Kiosks damaged by fire in Rutana province**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, 2018, at around 11:00 pm, Gitaba hill and zone, Rutana commune and province, the fire broke out and consumed 27 kiosks in Gitaba so that everything was there burnt, according to sources on site. The origin of this fire has not been identified, add the same sources.

### **A teacher stigmatized in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 15, 2018 indicates that in Butaganzwa commune in Ruyigi province, a teacher named Ndereyimana Pélégie alias Peggy, working at ECOFO Muriza was availed to the DPE by the DCE. According to sources on site, she is accused of sorcery. The DPE has not yet reassigned her to another school. According to the same sources, the DPE prepared an assignment commission to place her to Nyarumanga primary school in Gisuru commune on May 31, 2018, and this commission has not yet responded to this situation.

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

On June 12, 2018, at night, on Gihinga hill, Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province, Leopold Ntukamazina was beaten by his son Paul Muhimpundu and he died in the same night. According to sources on site, the next day the alleged perpetrator went to the police after the murder. According to the same sources, the heart of the conflict was linked to the money that the father had just had as a dowry for his daughter who had gone to get married before the payment of this dowry. The alleged perpetrator was not worried.

### ***III. INTIMIDATION ACTS***

#### **A hill head intimidated in Kiganda, Muramvya province**

On June 15, 2018, the adviser of Kiganda commune administrator in Muramvya province expelled from a meeting the Gahweza hill head, Kanyami zone, of the same commune, member of UPRONA party recognized by the government. This local authority was chased out of Caritas Burundi NGO training for all the hill heads of Kiganda commune. According to sources on site, he was criticized that this hill voted for "NO" during the constitutional referendum, contrary to what had been recommended by the former UPRONA president, Concilie Nibigira, a native of this hill.

#### **Intimidation of the population in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province**

On 13 June 2018, in Musenyi zone, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, Musenyi zone head intimidated residents of Murengeza hill in a meeting for them. This local authority asked them to step back because their hill was the first to vote for "NO" in the constitutional referendum of May 17, 2018. This authority reminded them that last year, they refused to attend community work while the President of the Republic wanted to join them, and each household was fined 5000 Bif.

#### **Two people intimidated in Gishubi commune, Gitega province**

On June 14, 2018, on Yanza hill, Nyabiraba zone, in Gishubi commune, Gitega province, in Nyabiraba parish facilities, a communal leader of CNDD-FDD party with Joseph, accompanied by the Parish Priest in the presence of Claude, an influential Imbonerakure, have threatened two militants of the "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition accusing them of being the source of the problems in this commune and ordering them to no longer manifest their political opinion in this commune and if not, they will face problems.

#### **Intimidation by Imbonerakure in Cankuzo commune and province**

On June 16, 2018, in Cankuzo urban center, Imbonerakure were led by Nyandwi Innocent, Cankuzo commune administrator, running with slogans of support to Nkurunziza to stay in power. According to local sources, they were about 40, wearing CNDD-FDD party uniforms and with sticks. They ran inside the quarters before gathering with others from the hills of the same commune.

#### **A person intimidated in Ngozi commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 12, 2018 indicates that since May 17, 2018, Emmanuel Niyongabire alias Duriye, living in Muremera quarter of Ngozi town, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, lives in hiding after being intimidated and driven out of his workplace by Muremera quarter head nicknamed Soda. According to sources on site, after the participation in the meeting held

by Agathon Rwasa at Muremera stadium during the referendum propaganda for "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition, this quarter head announced to all traders working at the center called "Beach" in Burengo sub-quarter, including Emmanuel Niyongabire that anyone who participated in this meeting will no longer work there.

#### ***IV. 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.

Acts of intimidation are a source of threat to the population

The Ligue Iteka protests against the impunity of the crimes enjoyed by CNDD-FDD party members involved in various violations under the complicity of the public authorities.