

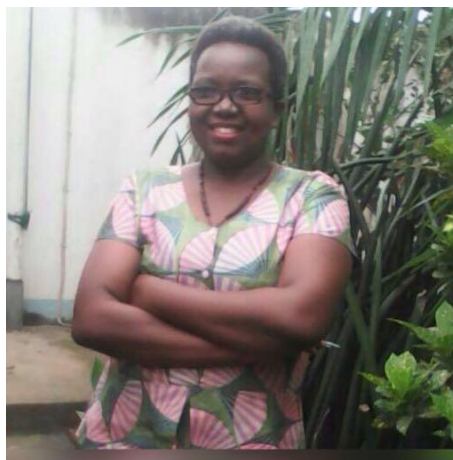
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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 106 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 9 – 15 April 2018**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 15 April 2018, Iteka has documented at least 483 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**BUCECO** : *Burundi Cement Company*

**CDS** : *Health Center*

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

**COSYBU** : *Burundi trade union confederation*

**FAB** : *Burundi Armed Forces*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

**FROLINA** : *Front for the Liberation of Burundi*

**MSD** : *Movement for Solidarity and Democracy*

**ONPR** : *National Bureau for Pensions and Professional Risks*

**OPC** : *Chief Police Officer*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

During the period covered by this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 10 people killed, including 6 bodies found, 6 abducted and then missing, 20 tortured and 35 arbitrarily arrested.

Imbonerakure youths affiliated with the ruling CNDD-FDD party, police officers, soldiers, SNR agents and administration 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, abductions, torture and arbitrary arrests of opponents and alleged opponents of the regime of President Pierre Nkurunziza.

Acts of intimidation linked to the constitutional referendum are reported in this bulletin.

Ligue Iteka protests against the impunity of crimes granted to CNDD-FDD party. Members of this party involved in various crimes enjoy impunity with a complicity displayed by public authorities.

## ***I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS***

### ***I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE***

#### ***I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE***

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

On 9 April 2018, on Mparambo I hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Thaddée Nzokizwanimana, aged 62, CNDD-FDD party member, was beaten up by young Imbonerakure accused of sorcery. He died on April 11, 2018 in Rugombo commune cell.

#### ***I.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS***

##### **A body found in Muyinga commune and province**

Information received by Iteka League dated April 13, 2018 indicates that on April 7, 2018, at around 6:00 am, in a bush between Rusengo and Kwibuye hills, Muyinga zone, commune and province, the body of Juma Muvejuru alias Mafakara, from Rusengo hill of the same zone was found. According to sources on site, Mafakara was killed on the night of April 6, 2018 by Imbonerakure militia members who accused him of stealing banana wine under fermentation. According to the same sources, the local administration buried the body hurriedly without waiting for any investigation.

### **A body found in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On April 13, 2018, a body of a man named Ndayishimiye, aged 50, was found on Murambi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, the victim came from Buhinja market to sell his cow. According to the same source, he went to a local bar to quench his thirst but did not return. His body was found after the alert launched by his family.

### **A body found in Buyengeru commune, Rumonge province**

Information received on April 9, 2018 indicates that on April 7, 2018, a body of an unidentified person was found on Runyinya hill, Muyama zone, Buyengeru commune. The reasons and circumstances of his death remain unknown. According to sources on site, the body had a rope around his neck.

### **A corpse found in Makebuko commune, Gitega Province**

On April 9, 2018, 49-year-old Athanase Nyagwenda's body was found in his home on Karoba hill, Makebuko commune, Gitega province. According to local sources, Athanase's wife and children had gone to the fields, and when they came back for lunch around 11:00, they found Athanases' body hanging in his room on a rope. Athanase was working at ONPR in Bujumbura, he came to visit his family, according to the same sources.

### **A person killed in Ruhororo commune province Ngozi**

On the evening of April 12, 2018, a man named David, one of the leaders of Taba II hill, Mubanga zone, Ruhororo commune, Ngozi province, was shot and killed by unidentified people. According to local sources, David was killed on Kobero hill in the same zone as he was returning home.

### **A body found in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province**

As of April 10, 2018, a body of Tabu alias Mom Brigitte residing on Buringa hill and zone, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province was found in Rukoko forest. According to sources on site, the body was buried quickly by the hill administration.

### **A body found in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province**

At about 5:00 pm on April 10, 2018, at village V, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, a corpse of Marguerite Habonimpa, about 70 years old, was found by the population of that locality, in a cassava field. The victim was slaughtered by unidentified people. Sorcery is said to be the reason behind the assassination, according to local sources.

## ***1.2. PEOPLE ABDUCTED AND THEN REPORTED MISSING***

### **Three people arrested and then reported missing in Cankuzo province**

Information received by Iteka League on April 9, 2018 indicates that on the evening of April 5, 2018, two detainees originating from Cibitoke province were released from Cankuzo police station cell by SNR agent Boniface Niyonkuru and taken by his vehicle to an unknown location. According to sources on site, these detainees were arrested five days earlier with another Rwandan on the Rwandan-Burundian border. According to the same sources, this Rwandan never arrived in Cankuzo cell where the two Burundians were sent. The SNR vehicle returned at night around 9:00 pm from Muyinga direction.

### **Two people abducted in Kirundo commune and province**

On April 11, 2018, at Kirundo car park, provincial police commissioner Jacques Nijimbere arrested two young Banyamurenge brothers from Rwanda. According to sources on site, he took them in his pick up but the reasons for their arrest are unknown. They were abducted in a probox cab driven by Miburo, driver from Bishisha, Busoni commune, Kirundo province. These young people said that they were going to participate in the funeral of their sister at Musasa refugee camp in Ngozi province

### **A person abducted in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city**

On the evening of April 12, 2018, Rodrigue Nzeyimana, head of sales department at BUCECO, was abducted by unidentified people at November 28 boulevard in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura City. According to sources on site, Rodrigue came to get fuel at Kigobe City Oil station and headed to Rohero quarter. His car was later found in a gutter next to Marc's bar on the same boulevard.

## ***1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICE, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND MILITARY***

### **Three people tortured in Ntega commune, Kirundo province**

On 14 April 2018, in Kinyovu, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, Thomas Mbarubukeye, Vianney Nkurikiye and Melchior Nzoshengera were arrested and tortured by the head of the military position and Imbonerakure of this hill. According to sources on site, they were accused of spying for the opposition. According to the same sources, they committed these acts of torture to execute the orders of CNDD-FDD party provincial president Fabien Bizumuremyi and Ntega commune administrator, Philippe Ngabonziza who held a meeting on April 13 in the parish room. During this meeting, these CNDD-FDD party officials ordered night patrols, first to watch the FNL party members who collaborate with the rebels already in Burundi and to prepare the machetes and spears to defend themselves starting with the opponents.

### **Three people tortured in Ntega commune, Kirundo province**

On April 13, 2018, on Nyemera hill, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, Mubonangando, Sabuhungu and Karangwa Sylvestre, FNL party members were arrested and tortured by the hill head named Edouard and Imbonerakure during community works. According to sources on site, they were accused of going to Kirundo after they were banned from going over their hill. They were taken to Kanyaru River swamps on Gitobe hill and Kunginagina for torture.

### **A person tortured in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province**

Information received by Iteka League on April 9, 2018 indicates that on April 8, 2018, around 9:00 pm, in a bar belonging to Placide Nahimana, located in Rwibaga center, Mugongo-Manga commune, rural Bujumbura province, two Imbonerakure Terence Manirakiza alias Fyiri, Liévin Manirakiza alias Togo and a NCO Theogene Ndayisaba beat up Maurice Hatungimana, MSD party member and Rwibaga market guard. According to our sources, Maurice Hatungimana refused to join CNDD-FDD party. His arm was broken, according to the same sources. The victim was hospitalized at Rwibaga hospital.

### **A person tortured in Ruyigi commune and province**

On April 11, 2018, at about 5:00 pm, in Ngarama bar, Ruyigi commune, Gonzague Kagiye was beaten by a group of six policemen led by Ruyigi police logistics officer named Nicodeme. Nicodeme said that Tutsis are good at being beaten. The reason is that Kagiye had bickered with a demobilized combatant. He was detained in Ruyigi police cell.

### **A person tortured in Bweru commune, Ruyigi province**

Information received by Iteka League on April 12, 2018 indicates that on April 3, 2018, in Bweru commune, Ruyigi province, Pacifique was beaten by a group of Imbonerakure. The reason is that he had just met with the MP from Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing, Pascal Bizumuremyi. According to sources on site, he is in critical condition.

### **Four people tortured in Muha commune in Bujumbura city**

On April 13, 2018, Felicien Nimbona, Gaspard Nzobakenga and Jonathan Toyi, all Amizero y'Abarundi coalition members, were tortured by Imbonerakure led by Claver in Kizingwe in Kanyosha zone, Muha commune in Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, this group of Imbonerakure who patrolled the day earlier with machetes had come to wake Felicien forcibly and he refused and even called the quarter leader but the latter refused to come. The next day, Felicien, accompanied by one of his friends went to see Claver to ask him why he came to wake him up. According to the same sources, Indonis and Masoro, 2 more Imbonerakure arrived and they began to beat up Felicien. Gaspard Nzobakenga and Jonathan Toyi, two other members of the same coalition

who came for rescue were also beaten, accusing them of being incredulous “ntumva” who want to disrupt the 2020 elections. Even Bernard Ndayisenga, a senator of the same coalition, who also came to their rescue, was mistreated by these Imbonerakure.

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

The information received by League Iteka on April 11, 2018 indicates that on April 5, 2018, at Busiga center, Busiga commune, Ngozi province, Egide Nkurunziza, driver and Jean Twagirayezu, docker, all working on the Burundian-Rwandan border of Mihigo were tortured by Imbonerakure of Mihigo zone chaired by their leader named Apollinaire. According to local sources, they accused the victims of smuggling goods on the border. According to the same sources, the driver was bringing goods consisting of bundles of clothes to the tradesman Manirakiza and the docker was answering the call of a tradesman Desire from Busiga to give him work. The victims were then taken to Ngozi central prison.

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

On April 14, 2018, at about 10:00 am, on Gatare hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Nicodeme Ruyuku, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa’s wing was beaten by two Imbonerakure, David Bukuru and Delphin until his right arm and his glasses are broken. They accused him of saying he would vote for "NO" in the referendum elections for the change of the constitution.

### **A person tortured in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province**

On 9 April 2018, on the hill, Gitaramuka zone and commune, Karuzi province, Imbonerakure commanded by their leader Evariste Sindayigaya alias Sidoru arrested Wanawana, one of the alleged sorcerers whose names are mentioned on a leaflet found there a few weeks accused of the death of several people in this locality. According to local sources, Wanawana is accused of killing a young man named Denis who died a month ago. These Imbonerakure beat him up, tied up and taken to the commune cell. The same sources add that Sidoru had gone alone to Wanawana on April 7, 2018 to warn him that he was going to kill him, to revenge Denis' death.

### **A person tortured in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province**

On 9 April 2018, at about 10:00 am, on Kibenga hill, Gitaramuka zone and commune, Karuzi province, the leader of the Imbonerakure named Ndayizeye alias Butare, intimidated his cousin Imbonerakure, accusing him of non-respect of Imbonerakure league leaders. Afterwards their Imbonerakure colleagues commanded by Arthemon hill head Mberamiheto tied him up, beat him up, and then took him to the commune cell, accusing him of disrupting public security.

### **Two people tortured in Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province**

On April 10, 2018, at Ruhuma hill bar, Rugwiza zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, a handicapped teacher to Gatonde communal high school named Bizoza was beaten by two



Imbonerakure named Bandyatuyaga and the man named Daniel alias Lisuba accusing him of refusing to participate in Imbonerakure's activities. According to sources on site, his mother Marie Nyandwi, having learned what was happening to her son, rushed to save him, she was also beaten. Both were taken to CDS Nyabikere for treatment and the perpetrators are still free.

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

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

On April 11, 2018, in the Mukoni quarter, Muyinga commune and province, Isaac Kamatari, ex-FAB was arrested at home by the provincial police commissioner, OPC1 Jérôme Ntibibogora, after a search where nothing was found when he was suspected of illegally detaining weapons. The victim was released the same day after an interrogation at the provincial police station.

##### **A person arrested in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

On April 13, 2018, Ferdinand Kagi, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested on the invitation of Gatabo zone head Gervais Habonimana. The latter informed him that he was invited by Kayogoro commune administrator, Zachee Misago who, in turn, said that he is wanted by the governor of Makamba province, Gad Niyukuri before he sent him to the communal police station to be jailed. According to sources on site, he is detained without a record.

##### **Twenty-one people arrested in Kinama urban zone , Bujumbura city**

On April 9, 2018, around 6:00 pm, twenty-one people, table tennis club members, were arrested in a bar called "Chez Nolasque" by police officers at Carama I quarter, Kinama urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city. They were taken to the SNR headquarters cell in Rohero urban zone. According to the police, these people were arrested because they were in a meeting to disrupt the country security. According to sources on site, they were released on April 10, 2018 towards evening. Among them were an army officer, 2 police officers and 18 civilians including Gilbert Nyawakira, COSYBU representative.

##### **A person arrested in Rohero urban zone, Bujumbura city**

On April 12, 2018, around 2:00 pm, SNR agents in a double-cab pickup arrested the Lion Story singer Paul Bienvenu Niyonzima alias Monseigneur at the roundabout called "Monument du soldat inconnue" near Regina Mundi Cathedral, Rohero urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city. He was taken to SNR headquarters and was released the same evening.

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

On April 11, 2018, in the Swahili district, commune and Muyinga province, Jumaine Rashid Ngerero was arrested at home by Gérard Ndayisenga, provincial head of the SNR. According to sources on the spot, he was taken to the SNR office and questioned about his stay outside Muyinga province. He was released the same day.

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

The information received by Iteka league on April 10, 2018 indicates that on April 8, 2018, on Nyamugari hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, four persons including Djuma Sawuli and Séverin Kagoye, originating from the same hill and two others who had come from Rumonge to help repair Sawuli's car were arrested by the SNR provincial officer accompanied by the police. According to local sources, they accused them of recruiting rebels and Sawuli was accused of lodging criminals. They were taken to SNR cell in Karuzi. The same sources say that they were tortured in this cell during the interrogation.

### **Two people arrested in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

On April 10, 2018, on Gatabo hill and zone, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, two returnees, David Nkunzimana, aged 20, and Jean Marie Barekebavuge, aged 35, were arrested by Imbonerakure militiamen. They were taken to Gatabo zone cell before being transferred to Kayogoro police cell.

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

On 13 April 2018, Etienne Ntiginzigo, over 60 years old, Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing member, resident on Kamenge hill, Kigwena zone, was arrested by administrative authorities of this zone and taken directly to Rumonge police cell. According to sources on site, this old man refused the solicitations asking him to join CNDD -FDD party.

On April 10, 2018 on Gashasha hill, Kigwena zone, a person named Kahise, member of FROLINA party, was arrested and jailed in Rumonge police cell. He was accused of sensitizing the population to vote for "NO" for the next constitutional referendum.

## ***II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED***

### ***II.1. A PERSON KILLED FOLLOWING MOB JUSTICE***

#### **A body discovered in Buyengero commune, Rumonge province**

Information received on April 9, 2018 indicates that on April 5, 2018, a woman named Hagabimana, aged 50, was killed with sticks by Ndayikengurukiye and Eloi Ndayishimiye on Kirama Mudende hill,

Buyengero commune, Rumonge province. According to police sources, this woman had a mental problem and stole a drum in a church.

### ***III. SECURITY FACTS***

#### **A body found in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province**

On April 9, 2018, on Gitandu hill, Nyaruhinda zone, Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, Etienne Bwatumanyeko's body was found hanged on a tree behind his house. According to sources on site, Etienne had said that since his second wife was seriously ill when he had nothing to save her, he would not let her die like the first one and stay widowed for the second time and that he had to die before her.

#### **Grenades found in Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province**

On April 11, 2018, on Kiguhu hill and zone, Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province, residents of the locality found two grenades in a bush. Police and administration have started investigations.

#### **Weapons found in Gitega commune and province**

On the afternoon of April 9, 2018, in Magarama, Gahera subhill, Gitega province, at the home of Alvera Nimbona, located near Saint Francis of Assisi parish, two grenades were found by the carpenter who was repairing the worn roof.

### ***IV. INTIMIDATION ACTS***

#### **Intimidation to displaced persons of Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On 12 April 2018, on Kigoma hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, police commanded by the provincial police commissioner Zabulon Mfuranzima conducted a search the displaced persons' site on that hill. According to sources on site, nothing was found but after this operation, an emergency meeting followed, held jointly by local administration officials with the support of the Governor of Karuzi and the provincial police commissioner. According to the same sources, communal administrator Euphrasia Ntakarutimana said that disrupters of public order are hiding in this site and that they will have to be arrested and the hill head Égide Niyomwungere alias Cambara took the floor where he accused publicly his deputy named Jimmy and another person named Bosco alias Bagaye who live on the same site that they are teaching these displaced not to vote for the constitution. And then the governor Calinie Mbarushimana, supported by this commissioner declared that they had just discovered these malefactors and that they were going to put them under surveillance. No one had the right of opinion or question even the accused did not have time to explain. They added that by the time they are arrested, they will be seriously corrected, because taking power has cost them dearly. They finally ordered the people to be home at 8:00 pm

### **Census of CNDD-FDD party non-members in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On 16 April 2018, Buhiga zone head Phocas Sindaruhuka held a meeting at his office for local administration where he ordered them to draw up lists of CNDD-FDD party non-members as soon as possible to identify those who will vote for "NO" in the constitutional referendum. Sources on site say that this activity was dictated to the administrative staff throughout the province by the governor and the CNDD-FDD party provincial leader.

### **Intimidation in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On April 14, 2018, residents of Kibago commune say that they were awakened by Imbonerakure youth in paramilitary training. According to sources on site, a hundred young people of the ruling party came from all zones to meet at the commune. Slogans hostile to opposition members were chanted. All in CNDD-FDD party uniform, they warn anyone who would oppose President Pierre Nkurunziz's regime. "Nkurunziza has taken power we support him, he will never go, those who will try to oppose his regime will be mended if they do not exile," they chanted.

### **Intimidation in Cankuzo province**

On April 12, 2018, at Agora Hotel in Cankuzo, there was a quarterly meeting chaired by Governor Désiré Njiji, for heads of services, representatives of religious denominations, political parties, civil society, NGOs, trade unions and traders. Désiré Njiji started the meeting with intimidation by conducting a systematic attendance check. According to sources on site, he insisted on the absence of opposition political parties. Speaking of security, he warned anyone who transmits any information on social media and outside radios like Humura and accused some NGOs and churches of participating in the destabilization of the country. He sensitized participants and especially churches to nibble on their tithes for contribution to the 2020 elections.

### **Speech of intimidation in Cankuzo province**

On April 11, 2018, in Cankuzo province, provincial police commissioner OPC1 Donatien Barandereka in a meeting of heads of services held in the Governor's office said that anyone who dares to denounce on social media the human rights violations committed in the locality, will be immediately eliminated once caught and will therefore have no other opportunity to transmit or write any information. He warned everyone and especially the intellectuals in the room who are content to write on social media as noticed recently by messing up their counterparts and their province. His idea was supported by Albert Bimenyimana, economic adviser to the governor who led this meeting. According to Nduwayo Philippe, development advisor to the administrator, every Saturday, tickets will be distributed to any individual who comes to community development work and those who do not have any will be fined. These tickets will be a condition of access to certain basic social services including market access.

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

The information received by Iteka League dated April 9, 2018 indicates that on April 6, 2018, in Cankuzo commune and province, the participation of the population to the death commemoration of President Ntaryamira Cyprien was a low. According to sources on site, there were a few dozen participants when laying wreaths. After the ceremonies, the commune administrator, Innocent Nyandwi, recommended the officials and traders to stay on site to give them sealed pieces of paper as proof of participation. Then, he ordered local officers accompanied by police to collect a fine of 5000 Bif for any business whose owner did not participate in these ceremonies.

### **Speech of intimidation in Ruyigi province**

On April 11, 2018, the Governor of Ruyigi province held a meeting for local administration officials in Bweru commune. According to sources on site, he ordered them to sensitize the population to vote for "yes" for the constitutional referendum and that any offender will be punished.

### **Imbonerakure's worrying garments in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province**

Information received by Iteka League on April 10, 2018 indicates that Imbonerakure wear overalls that are almost the same color as the police uniform. On Rusaka hill, these Imbonerakure run during the daytime wearing these outfits and people are worried about wearing these unaccustomed garments.

## ***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 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.

Intimidation linked to the constitutional referendum and forced contributions are a source of threats to the population.