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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 107 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 16 – 22 April 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 22 April 2018, Iteka has documented at least 483 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AT : Transmission Agent

APC : Chief Police Agent

CDS : Health Center

CNDD-FDD : National Council for the Defense of Democracy

CNI : National Identity card

DCE : Communal Education Direction

ECOFO : Fundamental School

FAB : Burundi Armed Forces

FNL : National Liberation Front

HCR : High Commissioner for Refugees

MSD : Movement for Solidarity and Democracy

PJ : Judicial Police

RANAC : Nation Coalition for Change

SNR : National Intelligence Service

UA : African Union

VBG : Gender Based Violence

0. INTRODUCTION

During the period covered by this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 22 people killed, including 8 bodies found, 20 tortured, 228 arbitrarily arrested and 1 GBV victim.

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, torture and arbitrary arrests of opponents and alleged opponents of the regime of President Pierre Nkurunziza.

A wave of arrests based on the control of household notebooks has become a phenomenon of ransoming the population by the police.

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 POLICE

A person killed in Rumonge commune and province

On 21 April 2018, Philémon Nsengiyumva, a prisoner in Rumonge prison, was shot dead three kilometers from the prison by an officer during an escape attempt. He was sentenced to life for robbery.

I.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person killed in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On April 21, 2018, at around 10:00am, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, a 20-year-old named Yamuremye, was beaten by 10 Imbonerakure including Fayida, Landry Munezero, Damas, Issa Nizigiyimana, Saidi alias Makara, Gerard, Asmani, Yoya, Bomare. According to sources on site, accusing him of stealing money from the mother of one of these Imbonerakure named Fayida. They then took him to Buhiga zone cell, being in critical condition, but the police sent him to CDS Buhiga, and he was quickly transferred to Buhiga Hospital where he died the same day at around 7:00 pm. The perpetrators of this murder were not worried.

A person killed in Gashoho commune, Muyinga province

Information received by Iteka League on April 22, 2018 indicates that on March 8, 2018, Ntirandekura of Gishambusha hill, Gashoho commune, Muyinga province was beaten to death by Imbonerakure, accused of cassava theft by Jocelyne Dusabe, sister-in-law of the commune administrator of Gashoho, Désiré Bigirimana. According to sources on site, Imbonerakure called by Jocelyne went first to search Ntirandekura's house and found nothing. But they immediately beat him until he died. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure, in complicity with the local authorities, quickly buried the corpse the next day and intimidated the victim's family that anyone who dares to deliver this information will suffer the same fate.

1.1.3. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

Three bodies found in Ntega commune, Kirundo province

On April 22, 2018, three unidentified dead bodies including two men and a woman were found in Kanyaru River on Karira sub-hill side, Carurambo hill, Mugendo zone, Ntega commune, Kirundo province. According to sources on site, the Imbonerakure recovered them from the river and called the commune administrator Philippe Ngabonziza and the communal representative of CNDD-FDD party. The latter forced them to reject them in this river, add the same sources.

A body found in Gitega commune and province

On April 18, 2018, around 7:00 pm, at the 2nd Avenue of Nyamugari district in Gitega urban center, Gitega province, the body of Ibrahim Nshimirimana alias Blaise, an 11-year-old street child, was found in front of a store. The child was beaten by another street child. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and jailed in the police cell for investigation reasons.

A body found in Ngagara urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city

On the morning of April 17, 2018, a corpse with traces of torture was found on the shore of Lake Tanganyika and taken to the mortuary of Kira Hospital by the vehicle of Ngagara Urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city.

A body found in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city

On April 18, 2018, a body of Alexander Nibigira was found in the shower of his house in Mirango 1, Kamenge zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, Alexander was stabbed and the dagger was still in his body by the time he was discovered.

A body found in Bubanza commune and province

The information received by Iteka League on April 16, 2018 indicates that on the night of April 15, 2018, on Mitakataka hill and zone, Bubanza commune and province, a body of Gratien Nduwimana, an employee of "GETRA" construction company was discovered in the mud by the population of this locality. The reason and the perpetrators of this assassination are not known. Injuries on the head suggest hammer blows, according to local sources.

A person killed in Giharo commune, Rutana province

On 19 April 2018, at about 9:00 pm, on Kanyeregwe hill, Giharo zone and commune, Rutana province, 60-year-old Martian Kajambo was killed when her husband had not returned yet. Leonidas Kanani and Valérie Ndubaraye are arrested and jailed in Giharo commune cell for investigations. Land conflicts would be the reason

A body found in Giharo commune, Rutana province

On 20 April 2018, at night, on Mugombwa hill, Gakungu zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province, Roger Ntawukirishamba, aged 33, was killed by unidentified people. The investigations are in progress.

1.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND SNR AGENTS

A person tortured in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On April 20, 2018, at around 7:00pm, on Kiryama hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Vianney Nikobimeze, teacher at ECOFO Rutare was beaten up by Jean Kazirukanyo, Astère Sinzinkayo, Claver Nduwimana and Claver Bigirindavyi. According to sources on site, he was accused of being FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing. He was then taken to the commune cell.

A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province

On April 21, 2018, on Rubungu hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Syldie Simbizi, member of MSD party, was beaten by 4 Imbonerakure. They were led by Barnabe Nahimana and Bukuru alias Ziryezose. His right leg was broken and his bike tires were punctured. They accused him of having friends called "Mujeri" (stray dog, term attributed to opponents) because he regularly visits his friends in the IDPs site.

A person tortured in Burambi commune, Rumonge province

Information received on April 16, 2018 indicates that on April 14, 2018, Pierre Mushimantwari, a 24-year-old member of MSD party and unemployed from Busaga hill, Burambi commune, Rumonge province, was beaten up by young Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, he is accused of having

insulted them, to photograph them and record slogans chanted during their mass sport. He is jailed in Rumonge police station.

A person tortured in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city

On the afternoon of April 22, 2018, Colonel Adrien Kadende was released from Mpimba central prison by SNR agents. According to sources on site, he was taken to SNR compound where he spent a sleepless night, bare-chested, in a torrential rain. One of the family members states that Colonel Adrien Kadende returned to Mpimba central prison on the night of April 23, 2018. He is accused of illegal possession of arms and has been jailed for two years without judgment and without access to medical care.

A person tortured in Rumonge commune and province

On April 22, 2018, around 8:00 pm, Christine Tuyisenge, provincial treasurer of Agathon Rwaswa's FNL wing in Rumonge commune and province, was abducted and tortured by a group of twenty young Imbonerakure party CNDD-FDD. According to sources on site, she was taken to Gatwe hill, Kizuka zone, commune and Rumonge province where she was beaten and abused before extorting 50,000 Bif from her. She was found on the morning of April 23, 2018 being in critical condition.

A person tortured in Muyinga commune and province

On April 19, 2018, around 8:00 pm, at the bar commonly called at Luc in Mukoni quarter, Muyinga commune and province, Patrick Baziro, an AU driver, was arrested and then taken to the SNR cell by Gérard Ndayisenga, SNR provincial manager in Muyinga, accusing him of contempt. According to sources on site, Patrick was also beaten by Gérard Ndayisenga's ATs en route, when he was transferred to PJ cell. On the morning of April 20, 2018, Patrick was transferred to Anti-Corruption Brigade. He was released the same day thanks to the intervention of his police acquaintance in Muyinga.

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

Three people arrested in Mabanda commune, Makamba province

On April 22, 2018, Alain Jovis Dushime and Ferdinand Niyikora, both aged 15, from Bikobe and Budaketwa hills, Mabanda commune, Makamba province, were arrested by police during a search at Melchiade Sindayigaya's home, former FAB and father of Dushime who was also summarily arrested before being released. After their arrest, they were delivered to SNR representative in Makamba for investigation purposes. They are for the moment kept in Makamba commune police station cell. According to local sources, these young boys are accused by local Imbonerakure of participation in armed movements.

A person arrested in Muyinga commune and province

On April 20, 2018, at Muyinga commune office, Léonidas Habiyakare, Muyinga commune secretary, was arrested at his workplace and taken to PJ cell by Gérard Ndayisenga, SNR provincial officer in Muyinga. According to sources on site, Leonidas was accused of embezzlement. He was released the same day.

Sixty people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone, Bujumbura city

On April 16, 2018, police officers led by the zone commander, commissioner Magorwa, and soldiers carried out a search on Avenues 9-16 of Cibitoke zone from No. 1 to No. 60, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, they controlled household notebooks and CNIs. Of the 60 arrested, 15 were jailed for not having a CNI or household notebooks while others were released by paying money to the police.

One hundred and sixty people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone, Bujumbura city

On April 20, 2018, police officers and soldiers carried out a search on the 0-3 avenues of Mutakura neighborhood, Cibitoke urban zone , Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city for the control of household notebooks, CNIs and weapons. According to local sources, 160 people were arrested and gathered at Cibitoke zone office. After an hour between 8 and 9 o'clock warning against any attempt to hide the perpetrators, they were released but there is a person who lives on the 1st avenue of Mutakura neighborhood whose identity was not was known who was removed from the group and boarded a SNR vehicle to the cell of this service which would be the one located in Rohero zone.

A person arrested in Rumonge commune and province

Information received on April 16, 2018 indicates that Ferdinand Ndagijimana was arrested on April 11, 2018 by SNR head in Rumonge, Eliphase Niyongabo. According to sources on site, he is accused of preventing Christians from participating in the referendum because it is a vote bringing bad luck for Burundi. He was taken directly to SNR office in Bujumbura.

A person arrested in Buyengero commune, Rumonge province

On 16 April 2018, on Sebeyi hill, Muyama zone, Buyengero commune, Rumonge province, Norbert Nzoyihaya, a teacher at Bigoti High School and RANAC party member, was arrested by Imbonerakure of that hill. According to sources on site, Norbert is accused of campaigning for "NO" at the next constitutional referendum, and he was taken Buyengero commune cell and then transferred the next day to Rumonge provincial police station.

Two people arrested in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province

On the night of April 18, 2018, on Musenyi hill and zone, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, Jean Berchmans Barakamfitye was arrested by Wilson, head of SNR in Bubanza. According to sources on site, Wilson first searched his house, accusing him of having a weapon, but nothing was found. He then embarked, ordering the hill Commander to imprison Jean Berchmans' wife if she refused to give her husband's phone. The woman, with her baby, spent the night in the commune cell and was released the next day after giving the phone.

1.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Rutana province

On April 20, 2018, on Butezi hill and zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province, S.N., aged 13, was raped by Nyamwero, 38 years old. The latter was arrested and jailed in Giharo police station.

1.5. VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Politics at school in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

On April 19, 2018, at around 10:00 am, in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, the DCE forced the director of Munyinya High School to send all the students in Thursday's CNDD-FDD prayer during the study hours.

II. SECURITY FACTS

Five people killed in Gahombo commune, Kayanza province

On 21 April 2018, at about 9:00 pm, on Kivoga hill, Gahombo commune, Kayanza province, two grenades were thrown into a bar. Five people died including two in the hospital and 22 others wounded. According to sources on site, a policeman named Yves was subsequently arrested and then jailed at Ngozi central prison for investigation reasons.

A person injured by gunfire in Ntega commune, Kirundo province

On April 22, 2018, at about 8:00 pm, on Nyakibingo hill, Rushubije zone, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, Imbonerakure and hill head of police station APC Jules Habarugira quarreled. According to sources on site, APC Jules Habarugira gunned an Imbonerakure named Leonard Nibigira, 24 years old. The same sources indicate that Leonard Nibigira had refused the orders given by this head of post to no longer chant CNDD-FDD songs and inciting hatred in bars and roads. These Imbonerakure had a curfew and forced people to go home. Since these Imbonerakure did not comply with the orders of the

head of the post, he opened fire and the victim was wounded in the stomach and then transferred to Kiremba Hospital.

Two people killed and three injured in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

On April 16, 2018, around 8:00 pm, at the 1st street, on Kagwema-Gihungwe hill, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, 2 people were killed and 3 seriously injured, 2 vehicles damaged and a house burned during an armed attack by a group of unidentified gunmen from Rukoko Nature Reserve on a vehicle filled with goods (cement) that came from Cibitoke province to Bujumbura. According to local sources, a driver abducted returned in the morning of April 17, 2018 after spending the night in the bush. According to the same sources, there was a police intervention and an exchange of fire as the criminals retreated to Rukoko after committing the crime.

Two people killed and four wounded in Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province

On 17 April 2018, on Kibande hill, Ruhororo zone, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province, 2 young Imbonerakure were killed and 4 others wounded during the shootings between young Imbonerakure and soldiers in Kibira forest. According to our sources, the local population saw armed men in the forest and alerted soldiers knowing that they were rebels. The military attacked these young Imbonerakure, resulting in the aforementioned damage.

A grenade thrown into Musasa Congolese refugee camp in, Kiremba commune, Ngozi province

On 17 April 2018, at around 7:00 pm, at the Congolese refugee camp in Musasa, Kiremba commune, Ngozi province, a grenade was thrown by unidentified people in Ngwasha Eluku's house. According to sources on site, Eluku was wounded and then taken to the clinic of this camp where he remained guarded by police officers. According to the same sources, Ngwasha Eluku is one of the people who spoke a few days ago during the visit of the UNHCR representative to this camp, where they denounced the lack of respect for refugees' rights by the responsible of this camp.

III. INTIMIDATION ACTS

Census of CNDD-FDD party members in Cibitoke province

During this week of the bulletin, in Cibitoke province, in neighboring quarters such as the social quarter, Nyamagana and Nasagarare, young Imbonerakure have counted CNDD-FDD party members with the aim of scaring the people so that they vote for "YES" at the next referendum. According to our sources, these young Imbonerakure say they will know who will vote for "NO".

Investigation of CNDD-FDD party non-members in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On April 18, 2018, in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, CNDD-FDD party commune representative, Phocas Sindaruhuka, accompanied by commune administrator Euphrasie Ntakarutimana held a meeting for CNDD-FDD party hill representatives and the heads of ten households to give the restitution of the census of non-members of the ruling party. The examples given are those of Rwingoma hills where they had a list of 140 opponents, Kigoma where they have 800 opponents. These authorities announced that work continues throughout the country. This meeting causes fear among the inhabitants of the locality not members of CNDD-FDD because they do not know the aftermath of this census.

Roadblocks by Imbonerakure in Songa commune, Bururi province

On April 22, 2018, young Imbonerakure block the road in Kivumu, Songa commune, Bururi province. On the night of April 21, 2018, all public transportation vehicles on Bururi-Matana Road were forced to stop in front of a rope block in Kivumu in Songa commune. The young Imbonerakure, including Severin from the same locality, who was armed with a rifle and police jacket, searched every vehicle. They said "we are looking for something and we are ordered by Nyiganga, police station head in Matana ". According to the users of this route it is done for a week by the Imbonerakure in night patrol

Hate speeches in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

On April 19, 2018, CNDD-FDD party provincial representative named Fabien made a field trip in the meeting room of Rusarasi of Busoni commune where he held a meeting whose agenda was the party coaching campaign. This meeting was attended by the commune administrator Marie Claudine Hashazinka, the CNDD-FDD party communal representative, Evariste Bivugire alias Gauche, his deputy Pascal Shirambere, the former cantonal inspector, all the representatives of Imbonerakure and the hill heads and zones. He said that every Thursday is dedicated to teaching CNDD-FDD party ideology, re-verification and turnaround of opponents. According to sources on site, the absentees at this meeting will be considered as deviants who will vote for "NO" in the constitutional referendum and these authorities have sworn to punish them severely. This descent is the second and the first took place in Ntega commune of the same province.

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 3rd term of President Pierre Nkurunziza continue to be recorded in various parts of the country.

Cases of killings, 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.