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***Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 108 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"***

**Week from 23 – 29 April 2018**



***In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 29 April 2018, Iteka has documented at least 486 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*

**CEPI** : *Provincial Electoral Commission*

**DCE** : *Communal Education Direction*

**ECOFO** : *Fundamental School*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

**INSS** : *National Social Security Institute*

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

**PJ** : *Judicial Police*

**REJA** : *Youth Organisations in Action*

**RN** : *National Road*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**VBG** : *Gender Based Violence*

## *0. INTRODUCTION*

During this bulletin reporting period, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 3 people killed, including 2 bodies found, 3 abducted, 7 tortured, 61 arbitrarily arrested and 2 GBV victims.

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.

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 UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE*

##### **A body found in Kabarore commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by Iteka Ligue on 23 April 2018 indicates that on 16 April 2018, the body of Vianney, son of Rachid of Manga hill, was found on the banks of Kanyaru River. The governor of the province and Kabarore commune administrator, prevented family members from recovering the body because according to the Governor he had just sold coffee in Rwanda. The cause of his death is unknown but people think he drowned.

##### **A body discovered in Ngagara urban zone , Bujumbura city**

On April 24, 2018, a body of Divine Kaneza, a resident of Ngagara III quarter, from Mugomera hill, Mugamba commune, Bururi province, was found in quarter IV in the same zone opposite Kigobe Congress Palace parliament house. According to local sources, the victim was strangled and showed signs of rape. She was abducted the evening of April 23, 2018 after answering a phone call.

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

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

On April 26, 2018, around 3:00 pm, unidentified men in a pickup truck abducted Josiane Keranda near her home in INSS quarter, Bururi Avenue, Rohero urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, Josiane had just finished her studies at Ntare Rugamba University and had just joined CNDD-FDD party a few days ago. She was taken to an unknown destination.

### **Abducted person in Gihosha urban zone , Bujumbura city**

On April 27, 2018, three men, two in police uniform and one in civilian clothes, abducted Ir. Mathieu Ndayizeye, an employee of METALLUBIA. According to sources on site, these three men were aboard a TI-type car with tinted windows. They cut him off at Gikungu communal High School in Gihosha zone, got out of their car and forced him to leave the wheel of his car. The man in civilian uniform then took the wheel of Mathieu's vehicle and took him to a destination that is not yet known, while those in police uniform have left in their TI-type car.

### **A person abducted in Ngagara urban zone , Bujumbura city**

On the morning of April 27, 2018, SNR agents aboard a double-cab light truck arrested Fabrice Ruberintwari at his home in quarter IV of Ngagara urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city. He was taken to an unknown destination.

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

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

On 23 April 2018, Juvénal Bizimana aka Kamenge, a 38-year-old member of CNDD-FDD party, was beaten up at the 7<sup>th</sup> street in Cibitoke in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, by young Imbonerakure on patrol. According to our sources, he was accused of failing to respect the 9:00 pm curfew of these young Imbonerakure. He was saved by the people alerted by his cries.

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

Information received by Iteka League on 23 April 2018 indicates that on the evening of 22 April 2018, Christine Tuyizere, Amizero y'Abarundi coalition member, was tortured by Imbonerakure from Kizuka zone, Rumonge commune and province. According to sources on site, Christine was taken out of her house at night by these Imbonerakure, who took her to a bush on Gatwe hill in the same zone, tied her up and started beating her up. Her husband, who had followed them in secret, shouted for help and the Imbonerakure fled, according to the same sources.

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

On the evening of April 26, 2018, Lucien Nkurunziza and Japhet Ntigacika, all members of Agathon Rwaswa's FNL wing, were abducted by young Imbonerakure at their home in the center of Kizuka, commune and Rumonge province. They were taken to the cemetery of this zone near Tanganyika Lake below the locality commonly known as "Ku mwembe". These young Imbonerakure began torturing them accusing them of opposing the next constitutional referendum of May 17, 2018. They threatened to kill them and bury them in this cemetery. They were saved thanks to the intervention of the police of the locality. This police was alerted by one of the two victims' wives.

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

On 27 April 2018, on Kiramahira hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Simeon Ngiriye was beaten up at his home by 2 Imbonerakure, Deo Nduwimana and Bitozi until he vomited blood. He was accused of saying in a bar that voting "YES" in the next referendum is leading the country to ruin. He is being treated at Rwisabi CDS in the same commune.

### **Two people tortured in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On 25 April 2018, Simon Sibomana and Kabura, both members of Agathon Rwaswa's FNL wing, were beaten up by young Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD party on Bukeye hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, they jostled them and then covered them with mud on the ears arguing that they are incredulous "Murintumva nukubakorerako".

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

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

On April 24, 2018, on Tenga locale hill, Rubirizi zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Joseph Ndayitwayeko, was arrested at his home by Imbonerakure led by Claude and a soldier named Oscar native of Rubirizi hill and zone. According to our sources, he was accused of never talking about CNDD-FDD party ideology. He was taken to Rubirizi zone police station and then transferred to SNR cell in Bujumbura by Salvator, SNR responsible in Bujumbura rural province.

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

Information received by Iteka League on 23 April 2018 indicates that on 22 April 2018, at about 10:00 pm, at Bubanza Center, Bubanza commune and province, 16-year-old Francine Shurweryimana was arrested and jailed by the police at Bubanza provincial police station while she was in the road close to her home. The reason for arresting this minor remains unknown.

### **Three people arrested in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province**

Information received by Iteka League on April 23, 2018 indicates that on April 22, 2018, in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, 3 FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing, Berchmans alias Gakeke of Musenyi hill, Buregeya, from Rugenge hill, Adolphe Nizigiyimana alias Wado, from Rugenge hill, were arrested by SNR agents and jailed in Mpimba central prison in Bujumbura. According to our sources, they are accused of illegal possession of weapons. But the political reason is the heart of this arrest.

### **A person arrested in Rugazi commune, Bubanza province**

On 24 April 2018, on Ruce Hill, Rugazi commune, Bubanza province, Marc was arrested by young Imbonerakure from that locality and was taken to Rugazi police station cell. According to sources on site, he was accused of recruiting members of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing.

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

On April 24, 2018, at around 7:00 pm, Anicet Miburo from Rugero hill, Kirundo commune and province was arrested in the city center by Imbonerakure, Minani of Kireka and Nkurunziza of Kanyinya. According to sources on site, they called the prosecutor who took him aboard his vehicle. The Imbonerakure accused him that he had stolen a computer at CDS Gaharo two years ago but Anicet Miburo was shouting that he had fled because of the crisis.

### **Seven people arrested in Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province**

On 24 April 2018, at Mukenke center in Bwambarangwe commune, Gambaki, Jackson Karemerwa, Jean Baptiste and three other teachers at Mukenke High School and Budahunga College and Felix the head of the household who were celebrating his university degree, were arrested and jailed in the police cell. According to sources on site, they were accused of holding a non-informed meeting while they were in a party. They are all are alleged opponents, add our sources.

### **A person arrested in Songa commune, Bururi province**

On April 23, 2018, Constance Niyonzima, ECOFO Kiryama teacher and Amizero y'Abarundi coalition member, was arrested by Imbonerakure who took her to Rumeza police station in Songa commune, Bururi province. . According to sources on site, Constance is accused of campaigning for "NO" at the next constitutional referendum.

### **Six people arrested in Giheta commune, Gitega province**

The information received by Iteka League on April 23, 2018 indicates that on April 22, 2018, around 5:00 pm, on Kiremura hill, Giheta commune, Gitega province, 6 people all FNL members Agathon Rwasa's wing including Pascal Bucumi, his wife Concilie and their six-month-old child, Deo Njejimana,

David Ntiranyibagira, Raphael were arrested by the provincial police commissioner in Gitega. According to sources on site, these people were arrested in a bar at Raphael where they were celebrating the baptism of a child and they were accused of holding an illegal meeting.

#### **Seven people arrested in Gihosha urban zone , Bujumbura city**

On the morning of April 28, 2018, police raided and searched irregulars in Kigobe North quarter, Gihosha urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city. Seven people were arrested accused of irregularity but were soon released after paying the police officers a sum not known as confirmed by an eyewitness.

#### **Five people arrested in Ngagara urban zone, Bujumbura city**

On April 26, 2018, police officers and soldiers carried out a search, control of CNI and household notebooks in the quarter IV of Ngagara urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city and 5 boys were arrested. According to sources on site, they were boarded and seated under the rear seats of a pickup vehicle of the police registered A262A PN and then led to Ngagara zone office. They were released after giving a ransom.

#### **Six people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone , Bujumbura city**

On April 24, 2018, police officers and soldiers conducted a search, control of the CNI and household notebooks from the dorsal avenue to the third avenue of Cibitoke urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city. Six people were arrested, gathered at the 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue accused of various irregularities. They were taken to the zone office but were all released en route after giving a ransom to the police escorting them.

#### **Twelve people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone, Bujumbura city**

On April 25, 2018, police officers and soldiers carried out a search, control of CNI and household notebooks on the 14-15 avenues of Cibitoke urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city. Twelve people including 5 women and 7 men were arrested on charges of irregularity. They were taken to the zone office but were all released en route after giving ransom between 2,000 Bif and 5,000 Bif to the police escorting them.

#### **Nine people arrested in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by the Iteka League on 23 April 2018 indicates that on 8 April in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province, at Ceyerezi communal High School, around 6:00 am, 9 students from this high school were arrested and jailed in the commune police cell. The director of this school, Louis Citeretse at the same time representing Imbonerakure in this commune, accused them of holding a meeting that aimed to destabilize security while they were in a meeting of their association led by a local

association REJA supported by CARE International. These students were jailed in very deplorable conditions where they were locked up for 4 days in a cement closet and each student was in a small space. The Director then wanted to expel them from school, but the teachers objected. According to our sources, in reality these students are accused of not participating in CNDD-FDD party works.

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

On 29 April 2018, on Shanga hill, Rutonganikwa zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, former MSD member Jean Jacques Nduwayo was arrested and jailed in Buhiga zone cell by Gilbert, the communal police commissioner. According to local sources, Nduwayo is accused of teaching the population to vote against the referendum for the new constitution.

#### **A person arrested in Burambi commune, Rumonge province**

On 26 April 2018, Jean Claude Nizigiyimana, a member of FNL wing of Agathon Rwasa, was arrested by police officers in the afternoon on Rwaniro hill, Murago zone, Burambi commune, Rumonge province. According to sources on site, he is accused by Burambi commune administration of campaigning for "NO" at the next constitutional referendum of 17 May 2018. He was directly taken to Burambi police cell.

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

#### **A pupil impregnated in Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province**

Information received by Iteka League on 23 April 2018 indicates that on 18 April 2018, Jérémie Nyawenda, Gisuru commune accountant, was arrested and jailed in Ruyigi police cell for impregnating a girl. NG, a student at Gisuru Communal High School. The girl has given birth but the newborn is dead. Jeremie had tried to bribe authorities including the Gisuru commune administrator and DCE Gisuru to turn a blind eye to this case. The DCE did not want to reveal this incident, but the communal council members demanded that the DCE deal with the problem if not that the case would turn against him. According to sources on site, Jeremie was transferred around 4:00 pm to Ruyigi central prison.

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

On 23 April 2018, at Musagara hill, Ngoma zone, Musongati commune, Rutana province, a girl named K.J., aged 16, was raped by Dismas and Ndabaneze. According to local sources, the victim was admitted in Musongati hospital and the alleged perpetrators were arrested and jailed in Musongati cell.

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

### **Attempted assassination in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2018, at about 6:00 pm, on Ruhuma hill, Rugwiza zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, an old man named Misigaro was attacked at his home by Nyetereye accompanied by two Imbonerakure named Makaliwa and Kimoshori, armed with machetes. According to sources on site, Nyetereye is in land dispute with Misigaro. The attacked person was able to escape and never returned to his house, he hides in an unknown place. The authors are still free although the hill head has been informed by Misigaro's neighbors.

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

The information received by Iteka League on April 29, 2018 indicates that on the night of April 22, 2018, at Murama Trading Center, Murama hill, Rugari zone, Muyinga commune and province, Ramadhan Ruziga, was shot dead when he was at night guard at a trader named Fulgence. According to sources on site, the murder was committed during a robbery at Fulgence's where a sum of more than 3 million Bif was stolen. According to the same sources, police officer Emery Arakaza is presumed to have committed the murder because he was seen around the scene at the time of the crime. He had left his workplace without permission, which is more than 5 km from Murama. Arakaza has been jailed at Muyinga province police station since April 23, 2018

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

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 23, 2018 indicates that on April 13, 2018, a speech of intimidation was delivered during a visit by Senate speaker Reverien Ndikuriyo to residents of Mishiha and Kigamba communes, Cankuzo province. Upon arrival, in Mishiha commune meeting room, propaganda songs for the referendum of May 17, 2018 resounded. In his speech, he stigmatized the survivors and victims of the 2015 protests in the localities of Bujumbura city, Mugongomanga, Jenda, Mugamba, Mwaro, Muramvya and Matana saying that they were repressed and killed. He ended his speech by explaining what was changed in the new constitution while mobilizing the population to come in at 5:00 am and finish at 10 am on the referendum day.

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

On April 18, 2018, in Cankuzo province city, in a meeting of heads of services during which everyone presented his achievements of the past week and current forecasts. According to sources on site, when a CEPI executive took the floor, the Governor told him this "mwihende mwonone amatora, muzoca mujana nayo, mumenye ko nyakwubahwa yarivumereye ko uwuzobirengako azoba arenze umurongo

utukura, Ehhh, nor mwihende." "(Beware if the vote goes badly, you will suffer consequences, know that his excellence said that whoever will be against the elections will have crossed a red line).

### **Intimidation in Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province**

On the night of April 27, 2018, around 8:00 pm, on Taba hill, Munanira zone, Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province, Imbonerakure of Mugogo and Taba hills commanded by their leaders Jean Mananderera of Mugogo and Rénovat of Taba made military exercises and besieged Deo's household, a member of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure chanted songs intimidating opponents saying that the president has taken the country and will never leave power, that the elections are drawing near and that anyone who dares to vote or teach to vote "AGAINST" will be corrected, that the opponents will eventually disappear.

#### ***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, torture, abduction, 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.