

Approved by Ministerial Order n° 530/0273 of 10 November 1994 revising Order No. 550 /029 of 6 February 1991



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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 115 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 18-24 June 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 24 June 2018, Iteka has documented at least 494 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

ECOFO : *Fundamental School*

FAB : *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

OPJ : *Judicial Police Officer*

PJ : *Judiciary Police*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 6 people killed, including 1 body found, 1 abducted, 5 tortured, 3 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 IMBONERAKURE

A person killed in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province¹

On June 16, 2018, at about 1:00 am, on Musema hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Gabriel Ndayisenga was killed at his home with a machete. According to sources on site, Gabriel Ndayisenga refused to pay the contributions for the ruling party. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrators of this murder are four Imbonerakure Marc Ciza and Gabriel Gahuzenge already arrested as well as Donatien Gahungu and Thaddée Sinigirira who are still wanted.

I.1.2 PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A person killed in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

On June 19, 2018, a 60-year-old widow named Kankuyo from Higiroyo hill, Gisenyi zone, Busoni commune was murdered by a grenade thrown by unidentified people. According to local sources, she was accused of sorcery. However, the zone head Jérémie Rauszuguzza and the commune administrator Marie Claudine Hashazinka claim that land conflicts are the cause of this incident. Athanase's son-in-law and Alexis were arrested for investigation.

A person killed in Kanyosha urban zone, Bujumbura City

On the night of June 21 to 22, 2018, Beni from Kamesa neighborhood, Musaga urban zone was gunned in Gisyo quarter, Kanyosha urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city. The reason and the perpetrators of this assassination remain unknown.

A person killed in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province

On June 21, 2018, on Ngara hill, Kanyami zone, Kiganda commune, Muramvya province, an old man Pie Nahayo was killed with machetes by unidentified people. Three people were arrested by the police for investigation reasons.

A body found in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province

On June 18, 2018, a body of 72-year-old Gabriel Ndikumugongo, a farmer and father of 7 children was found near his home on Burenda-Kibande hill, Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province. According to local sources, the body was hung with a rope on an avocado tree

A person killed in Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province

The information received by League Iteka on June 19, 2018 indicates that on June 17, 2018, in the afternoon, on Taba hill, Muramvya zone Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, a body of a woman

¹ This case was reported in the bulletin Iteka n'Ijambo No 114. The alleged perpetrators are provided. .

named Caritas was found in her house. According to sources on site, the body showed traces of machetes at the head and there was blood in the house. The corpse was buried and the police say the investigations are ongoing. According to the same sources, the victim lived alone in the house.

1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED BY SNR AGENTS

A person reported missing found in Kirundo commune and province²

Information dated June 20, 2018 indicates that Edward Nsabimana was released after one month of detention at Kirundo SNR cell and returned to his work. The case had been reported as follows:

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 2 December 2017 indicates that Edouard Nsabimana from Gasura, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province, registrar at Vumbi Residence Court has not been found since 27 November 2017 in all Kirundo province cells. According to sources in his family, he was arrested on 24 November 2017 and taken to Kirundo SNR cell.

A person abducted and found in Ntega commune, Kirundo province³

Information dated June 20, 2018 indicates Pierre Mushengezi has reappeared. Indeed, the case had been reported as follows:

On February 6, 2018, at around 1:00 pm, Jean Pierre Mushengezi, nicknamed Batanga, Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing representative on Carurambo hill, Mugendo zone, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, was arrested by Imbonerakure from this hill at his home. According to sources on site, Jean Pierre was at home, when five Imbonerakure led by Daniel Majambere came to arrest him. They beat him first, then took him to Kanyaru River to be dumped there, on the orders of the leader of Imbonerakure of Ntega commune Alphonse Ntereke alias l'Homme, and the CNDD-FDD representative in Ntega commune Jean-Marie Mugumyankiko alias Sindyibigori. According to the same sources, Jean-Pierre is accused of denouncing torture made by these Imbonerakure to another member of his party. His family is looking for him everywhere but in vain they have found the shirt he wore at the edge of this river. Pierre Mushengezi reappeared after being beaten to death and thrown into Kanyaru River, he fled and almost a month ago he came home in his family, but he still concerned for his safety.

Two people kidnapped and found in Kirundo commune and province⁴

Information received on June 20, 2018, indicates that two young Banyamulenge brothers abducted on April 11, 2018 were found in PJ Kirundo cell. The case was reported as follows:

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

² This is a follow up abduction case already reported in Iteka League monthly report in December 2017

³ This is a follow up abduction case already reported in Iteka League monthly report in February 2018

⁴ This is a follow up abduction case already reported in Iteka League monthly report in April 2018

Miburo, driver from Bishisha, Busoni commune, Kirundo province. These young people said they were going to participate in the funeral of their sister at Musasa refugee camp in Ngozi province.

A person reported missing in Mukaza commune in Bujumbura city

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 19, 2018 indicates that Fabrice Nkurunziza, aged 18, student in the 9th form and living in Nyakabiga II, 6th avenue, number 24, is missing. According to sources on site, Fabrice left his home on June 17, 2018, around 5:00 pm, and did not return. The same sources add that his family sought him in all cells of Bujumbura city but in vain.

1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person beaten in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province

On June 21, 2018, Salvator Budigoma, a teacher at ECOFO Rucunda in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province, was beaten by an Imbonerakure named Gérard alias Gitabo when he went to work. According to sources on site, he accused him for having campaigned for "NO" during the constitutional referendum campaign. The victim complained to Rusaka PJ who then summoned the alleged perpetrator. According to sources on site, during the interrogation of the alleged perpetrator, Athanase Mpawenayo, the CNDD-FDD party representative in Rusaka commune entered the office of the OPJ for intimidation.

A person tortured in Makamba commune and province

Information received by League Iteka on June 21, 2018 indicates that on June 16, 2018, on Murambi hill, Makamba commune and province, Peressi Ndayishimiye, over 60 years old, member of "Amizero y 'Abarundi' coalition, was beaten up by Imbonerakure led by Jean Nibimpa, representing young Imbonerakure on this hill. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure burst into Peressi Ndayishimiye's room after breaking the door of the house, and beat him naked in front of his daughters, then took him to ECOFO Murambi where they continued to beat him up. The Imbonerakure also took him a sum of 10,000 Bif and a goat according to the same sources. The victim is in critical condition and is receiving medical care at Makamba Hospital. According to local sources, they accused him of leaving CNDD-FDD party and joining of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing.

A person tortured in Rumonge commune and province

Information received on June 19, 2018 indicates that at about 11:00 pm on June 11, 2018, Sungura, Sahwanya FRODEBU party member, was beaten and tied up by Imbonerakure led by a man named Darius when he went home to Mutambara hill, Rumonge commune and province. According to sources on site, he fell into a patrol of these Imbonerakure and he complained but the alleged perpetrator was not worried.

A person tortured in Gitega commune and province

The information received by Iteka League on June 19, 2018 indicates that on June 16, 2018, in Nyamugari quarter in Gitega commune, Jean Luc Bukuru of the 5th avenue Nyamugari, Sahwanya FRODEBU party member and observer of this party during the referendum elections of May 17, 2018 was beaten up by Imbonerakure including Bosco alias Pake, head of Imbonerakure in this quarter, Audace, Tharcisse, Vianney and Richard alias Macade. The victim was seriously injured in the left eye, head and legs. The case is at PJ but the authors are free.

A person tortured in Gashoho commune, Muyinga province

Information received by Iteka League on June 19, 2018 indicates that on June 11, 2018, Patrice Niyonsaba, innkeeper on Muzingi hill, Gisanze zone, Gashoho commune, Muyinga province, Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing member, was tortured by Imbonerakure commanded by the hill head Willy Ndacayisaba, then was taken to Gashoho police cell. According to sources on site, he was accused of having campaigned for "NO" in the constitutional referendum of 17 May 2018. According to the same sources, he was released the same day after being forced to give a ransom to the Imbonerakure and to the police. As a result, his bar was closed and he lives in hiding.

I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person arrested in Matongo commune, Kayanza province

On June 20, 2018, on Murambi hill, Banga zone, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, Alfred Sindayigaya, an ex-FAB non-commissioned officer, was arrested and jailed in Ngozi judicial police cell by substitute prosecutor at the court of appeal of Ngozi named Leopold. Sources on site reveal that this soldier was arrested on behalf of his wife following the theft of more than 30 million Burundian francs committed in April 2018 in a micro-finance called UCODE agency of Matongo commune, Kayanza province. According to the same sources, Alfred Sindayigaya was at home on leave since his wife has been away from home for some time.

A person arrested in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province

Information received by League Iteka on June 18, 2018 indicates that on June 10, 2018, Béatrice Minani, member of "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition was arrested on Ciri hill, Kiremba commune, Ngozi province. According to sources on site, Béatrice quarreled with an Imbonerakure and the latter arrested her, accusing her of insulting the President of the Republic. The victim was jailed in Kiremba commune cell.

A person arrested in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

Information received by Iteka League on June 18, 2018 indicates that on June 11, 2018, on Nyarukere hill, Rutegama zone and commune, Muramvya province, Ntibagirirwa Antoine was arrested and extorted from a sum of 200 000 Bif by the communal police commissioner and Evariste the head of SNR in Rutegama and Kiganda communes. Local sources indicate that they accused him of refusing to pay for his child support. He was arrested and handcuffed at Buye market and taken to the communal police cell. He was released around 6:00 pm after payment of this fine. He had been arrested last March and robbed of 300,000 bif with intimidation by the two policemen who accused him of having impregnated the mother of this child.

1.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person beaten in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

Information received on June 18, 2018 indicates that on June 13, 2018, a woman named Nzeyimana was beaten by her husband, Ndayegamiye, CNDD-FDD party member of Kazirabageni hill and zone in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province, accusing her of being Tutsi and that she has always refused to join CNDD-FDD party. This ruling party member wounded her with stones in her face.

A girl raped in Muramvya commune and province

Information received by Iteka League on June 18, 2018 indicates that on June 12, 2018, on Burambana hill, Muramvya commune and province, A., aged 15, was raped by an Imbonerakure Cédric Niyonkuru. He threatened the victim's family and the victim was afraid to file a complaint.

1.6. VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO FAIR JUSTICE

A rape convict released a few days later in Ruyigi commune and province

On June 19, 2018, Jeremiah Nyandwi, Pastor of Nyamutobo Pentecost Church on Rukaragata hill in Ruyigi zone, commune and province, was released after being sentenced to 25 years in prison by TGI Ruyigi in a trial for rape of his two nieces who lived in his house. According to sources on site, he was arrested on June 12, 2018 by the police and jailed at Ruyigi central prison.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A person killed in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province

On June 18, 2018, at Nyamiyaga hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province, 20-year-old Béoline Niyizomburanira, a sixth-year student at ECOFO Musenga, was wounded with a machete. According to local sources, this girl was phoned around 8:00 pm by Niyorugira, a teacher at the same school, who asked her to join him in a banana plantation where she was hit by machetes in the head, at the throat

and on the arms. The same sources add that Beoline Niyizomburanira is pregnant and that she was impregnated by teacher Niyorugira. The victim was taken to the hospital where she succumbed to her injuries on June 19, 2018. The same sources state that the alleged perpetrator was arrested by the police and escaped from Ruyigi police station on the night of June 21, 2018 with the support of Sabuzoya, policeman on duty. This policeman was arrested and taken to Ruyigi central prison on June 22, 2018.

A person attacked in Matongo commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Iteka League on June 18, 2018 indicates that on June 17, 2018, on Burengo hill, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, a retiree named Félicien was attacked at his home, around 9:00 pm, by 3 Imbonerakure including Ildephonse. According to sources on site, they were armed with machetes, they ordered him to open the door but he refused and they left.

A person injured in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

On June 18, 2018, at about 1:00 am, in Vyiniro quarter, Gitaramuka zone and commune, Karuzi province, a widow named Odesiane Harerimana who came from a bar with Cyprien, with whom she had shared beer was attacked along the way by Habarugira. The latter stabbed the woman accusing her of refusing the beer he had just bought. Cyprien did not rescue the victim and he fled. The two men were arrested and jailed in the commune cell while the victim was taken to Karuzi referral hospital.

A person injured in Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province

On 22 June 2018, at around 10:00 pm, Damas Ndayanse of Ruhuma hill, Rugwiza zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province was wounded on the arms by a group of unidentified people. According to local sources, the victim complained to the local administration and it did not react.

III. INTIMIDATION ACTS

Intimidation in Bugenyuzi commune, province Karuzi

On June 23, 2018, on ECOFO Kiranda field, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, Imbonerakure of Kiranda, Nyagoba and Muyange hills of the same commune carried out paramilitary training after having furrowed the three hills while chanting slogans intimidating opponents. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure said that those who voted for "NO" in the constitutional referendum are all known and will be killed.

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, 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.

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