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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 117 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 2-8 July 2018**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 8 July 2018, Iteka has documented at least 496 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**CDS** : *Health Center*

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

**DPE** : *Provincial Education Direction*

**FAB** : *Burundi Armed Forces*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

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

**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 12 people killed, including 6 body found, 1 tortured, 6 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, torture and arbitrary arrests of opponents and alleged opponents of President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime.

Forced contributions and intimidation 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 AND POLICE***

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

On 2 July 2018, Nzokira, from Buga hill and Audace Nyobewubusa, a mason, from Gitanga commune, succumbed to their injuries after being beaten by four Imbonerakure namely Havyarimana alias Nkorabara, CNDD-FDD Imbonerakure representative in Gatabo zone; Nyandwi alias Warigara CNDD-FDD party representative on Gatabo hill; Korimba, representative of Imbonerakure on Buga hill and Wakera. According to local sources, the victims were tortured on June 27, 2018, on Dunga hill, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province. According to the same sources, Nzokira was admitted to CDS Gatabo before being transferred to Kibuye hospital in Gitega province where he succumbed to his injuries and Audace also succumbed to his injuries.

##### **Two people killed in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On 6 July 2018, in Mayuyu zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province, two bodies, including that of Nicodeme, Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing member, a native of Kumudozi-Rurambira sub-hill, Nyarumanga hill, were found in Mukike commune police station cell. According to sources on site, these bodies were brought into this cell on the night of July 6, 2018, around 2 o'clock. In the morning, the population was informed and shouted for light to be shed on these bodies, which allowed the identification of one of the two victims. These bodies were buried on 8 July 2018 on the orders of Mukike commune administrator, Rénovat Nimubona.

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

##### **A body found in Giharo commune, Rutana province**

On 7 July 2018, in the morning, around 7:00 am, on Muzye hill and zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province, a body of a person not known to local residents was found on Muzye-Giharo roadside. According to local sources, the body showed signs that the victim was shot dead. The police started the investigations, add the same sources.

##### **A person killed in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On 5 July 2018, a biker named Epimaque was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on Mbizi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province. According to local sources, the victim was transporting a money changer who narrowly escaped.

### **A body found in Muha commune, Bujumbura city**

On July 2, 2018, a corpse of a child named King, 4 years old, son of Boniface Buziya, was found in a well located behind his father's house, at the 7<sup>th</sup> avenue of Gisyo neighborhood, Kanyosha urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city. According to local sources, the victim was abducted on 28 June 2018, around 3:00 pm. The reasons of this assassination remain unknown.

### **A body found in Muha commune, Bujumbura city**

On July 3, 2018, a body of an unidentified man was found on Mugina Avenue, Kinindo urban zone , Muha commune, Bujumbura city. According to local sources, the victim was shot dead. The same sources add that gunshots were heard in this locality around 3:00 am the same day.

### **A body found in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province**

On July 4, 2018, in the morning, a decomposition body of a forty-year old man, unidentified, was found about twenty meters from Rwegura Lake on Sehe hill in Masango zone. Bukinanyana commune of Cibitoke province. According to sources on site, the administration that arrived at the scene ordered the burial of the body.

### **One person killed in Kirundo commune and province**

On July 6, 2018, at around 8:00 pm, Jean Berchmas Nzirubusa, head of a coffee washing station, was shot dead by unidentified people in military uniform on Nyangwa hill, Kirundo commune and province. According to local sources, Jean Berchmas Nzirubusa was in a bar named Kayizere, located on Mweya hill when gunmen killed him and wounded the bar owner before taking off on a motorcycle. The police have already arrested two suspects and are being held in the prosecutor's office in Kirundo.

### **A body found in Itaba commune, Gitega province**

On July 4<sup>th</sup> 2018, on Kibogoye hill, Itaba commune, Gitega province, a body of Janvière Nzeyimana, aged 65, was found in a bush. According to local sources, the victim was beheaded. Four people from the neighborhood were arrested and jailed in Itaba police cell.

### **A body found in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province**

A body of a man was discovered by the population on the morning of July 4, 2018, on Muganza hill in Masango zone in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province. The victim was unidentified. According to sources on site, the corpse had traces of knives at the chest and a dagger was next to the body.

## ***1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING***

### **A person abducted and reported missing in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province**

Information received by Iteka League on 2 July 2018, indicates that a child, Arsène Iteriteka, aged 2 and a half, son of Cassien Gahungu, policeman, ex-FAB and Violette Nininahazwe, was abducted and reported missing by unidentified people, on Mugumya II sub hill, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, this child left the house on May 11, 2018, in the morning, to go play and he did not return.

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

On July 4, 2018, Léonard Niyonkuru, a student of Bac II at ENS, native of Bigina hill, Kayogoro commune and Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing member, was kidnapped by SNR agents at his home in Gikizi quarter, Kamenge urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, SNR agents carried out a search, seized his mobile phone and took him to an unknown destination. According to the same sources, he is accused of working for Rwanda.

## ***1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE***

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

On July 7, 2018, on Rango hill and commune, Kayanza Province, Charles Ndenzako, MSD member was beaten up by two Imbonerakure, Jean Karorero and Nazari alias Runahi, both from Rango hill. Charles was injured in the head. He was accused of collecting money for rebels, not buying beer for them as he had just sold his cow.

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

### **A person arrested in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city**

On July 3, 2018, two policemen arrested Ramazani Rubaya, a Congolese refugee living on the 15<sup>th</sup> avenue of Cibitoke quarter, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city. At the time of his arrest, he was at the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the same quarter and the police told him that they had a warrant for arrest but did not show him the document. After a brief discussion with the victim, supported by the surrounding population, the police took him forcibly to Cibitoke zone cell. Around 6:00 pm the same day, SNR agents came to take him out of the cell and took him to SNR cell in Rohero zone. According to local sources, Evode, the former Cibitoke zone head, was persecuting Ramazani Rubaya, accusing him of taking part in the 2015 demonstrations, he had fled the neighborhood to Buyenzi and that day he had come to see his family.

### **Two people arrested at Mutanga campus, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city**

On July 2, 2018, at Mutanga Campus, Mathieu Itangishaka and Jean Paul Kaburiyimbere, two students of the University of Burundi, Agathon Rwasas FNL wing members, were arrested by the police accompanied by some Imbonerakure who study in this campus. Local sources report that the arrest was made after a search of the victims' rooms. No compromising objects were found.

### **A person arrested in Gashikanwa commune, Ngozi province**

On July 3, 2018, on Cihonda Hill, Gashikanwa commune, Ngozi province, Jean Paul Nzirorera, Agathon Rwasas FNL wing member was arrested by Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, the victim was taken to the SNR cell in Ngozi before being transferred to the judicial police cell of this same province. The same sources add that Jean Paul Nzirorera was wanted by Imbonerakure led by a named Radjabu, from Gisha hill, Tangara commune of Ngozi province. They accused him of having sensitized the population to vote for "NO" in the constitutional referendum of May 2018, on Gisha hill.

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

On 8 July 2018, Jean Bosco Ntirakirwa, residing in Rubirizi zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province and from Giheta commune, Gitega province, was arrested by Jérémie, SNR head, in Mutimbuzi commune. He was taken to the SNR cell in Bujumbura city, near Regina Mundi cathedral. According to local sources, Jean Bosco Ntirakirwa was accused of being Agathon Rwasas FNL wing member.

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

On 5 July 2018, Jean Marie Nzoyisaba, Agathon Rwasas FNL wing member, from Rusagara hill, Nyaruhinda zone, Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, was arrested and taken to the police station cell of the same hill by Pascal Muryango, Rusagara hill head in complicity with Leonidas Mbikemunda, the hill officer of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, Jean Marie was accused of having a machete at the time of his arrest while he came from field work. However, the same sources indicate that he was arrested following the discussions over the third term he had in the bar with his friends. On July 6, 2018, the police took him to Gitaramuka Commune.

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

### **A woman beaten by her husband in Musongati commune, Rutana province**

On July 3, 2018, at about 1:00 pm, on Buhinga hill, Musongati zone and commune, Rutana province, C<sup>1</sup> was beaten naked by her husband Felicien. The victim was taken to Musongati Hospital before being

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<sup>1</sup> Iteka League did not reveal the identity of the victim as for other GBVs.



transferred to Gitega Hospital and her husband was arrested and taken by police to Musongati police station cell. According to sources on site, the reason for this violence is the refusal of sexual intercourse.

## ***I.6. VIOLATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS***

### **Traders banned from operating in Kirundo province**

On July 8, 2018, the governor of Kirundo province and the commune administrators of that province banned bean wholesalers who are not CNDD-FDD party members from selling their productions while they let those in the ruling party sell their products in markets.

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

### **Hard ball between Imbonerakure and police in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city**

On July 5, 2018, from 7:30 to 14:30, Imbonerakure in CNDD-FDD party t-shirt blocked University Avenue, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue of Nyakabiga II as well as Nyakabiga III, Nyakabiga High School, SOS Children's Village and SOS CDS. They only allowed pedestrians to pass but also after long negotiations. The head of the post had tried to prevent them but refused to leave saying to the head of the post that they have guns as he does. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure secured the ruling party meeting that was held at Nyakabiga High School Scheppers.

### **Forced labor and intimidation in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On July 7, 2018, around 9:00 am, during community work, an Imbonerakure named Gerard Ninziza, human resources manager at DPE Karuzi, forced all the bikers in Buhiga center including Jean Bosco Ntawubaheza to participate in the work organized by CNDD-FDD party. He intimidated them by saying, "We will correct anyone who does not participate in this work. We will bring a can of gasoline and burn him to give a good lesson.

### **Dismissal of seven hill heads in Ndava commune, Mwaro province**

Information received by Iteka League on 8 July 2018 indicates that as of 30 June 2018, seven heads of the hills Ngoro, Mpanuka, Matongo, Nyabisaka, Ndava, Murago and Higiuro of Ndava commune have been dismissed from by the communal council of Ndava on the orders of the commune administrator. According to sources on site, they are accused by the administrator of the non-respect towards him, not to sensitize the population to do community works, not to prevent the consumption of a prohibited drink "Umudiringi". But according to sources on site, these hill heads are victims of the results of the referendum elections. They voted a lot for "NO" for the revision of the constitution on their hills.

### **Forced contributions in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province**

Information received by Iteka Ligue on 2 July 2018, indicates that Imbonerakure of the four hills of Kiyonza zone in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province, have forcibly collected since June 26, 2018, a sum of 2000 Bif per household for the construction of the hill offices and CNDD-FDD party monuments. According to sources on site, each person who pays this amount of money receives a receipt from the ruling party. Since July 1, 2018 no one has been allowed to draw water from the sources while no one will access the markets from July 10, 2018, without showing the receipt.

### **Forced contributions in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

Since July 7, 2018, the population of Kayogoro zone complain against charges being collected by hill heads of Kayogoro commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, these charges are allocated to the construction of monuments of high dignitaries assassinated like Adolphe Nshimirimana and others.

### **Forced contributions in Kirundo commune and province**

Residents of the hills and neighborhoods of Kirundo commune and province complain of the compulsory contributions in money and food for the Imbonerakure required by hill and quarter heads. According to local sources, since July 7, 2018, these local authorities are demanding a sum of 5000 Bif per household of a civil servant and 5 kg of beans per household of a farmer. The collections are intended to feed "the guardians of peace" according to the collectors

### **Intimidation and extortion in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province**

Information received by Iteka League on July 2, 2018, indicates that on June 13, 2018, Gédéon and a nicknamed Kibuguma living respectively in Nyarukere and Rutegama hills in Rutegama zone and commune in Muramvya province were intimidated and extorted amounts of 300,000 and 100,000 Bif by the head of the communal police station, his deputy and the head of SNR in Rutegama and Kiganda communes. According to sources on site, the latter accused them of owning motorcycles without documents while these motorcycles were not in circulation.

### ***III. 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, arbitrary and illegal arrests targeted of opponents and alleged opponents to CNDD-FDD party regime are reported.

Forced contributions and intimidations are reported.

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.