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***Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 120 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"***

**Week from 22-29 July 2018**



***In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 29 July 2018, Iteka has documented at least 493 cases of enforced disappearances.***

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGES</b>
<i>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</i> .....	3
<i>0. INTRODUCTION</i> .....	4
<i>I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS</i> .....	5
<i>I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE</i> .....	5
<i>I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE</i> .....	5
<i>I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING</i> .....	7
<i>I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE</i> .....	8
<i>I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS</i> .....	9
<i>I.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE</i> .....	9
<i>II. SECURITY FACTS</i> .....	10
<i>III. CONCLUSION</i> .....	13

## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**BSR** : *Special Bureau of Investigation*

**CDS** : *Health Center*

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

**ECOFO** : *Fundamental School*

**ENS** : *High School*

**FDN** : *Burundi National Defense*

**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 11 people killed including 6 corpses found, 6 tortured, 6 arbitrarily arrested and 3 GBV victim.

Young people from the Imbonerakure militia affiliated to CNDD-FDD ruling party, police, SNR agents and administration 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.

The phenomenon of bodies found across the country is reported in the bulletin

GBV are also reported in this bulletin

Forced contributions for 2020 elections 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. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **A person killed in Bukirasazi commune, Gitega province**

On July 25, 2018, on Rugoma hill, Bukirasazi commune, Gitega province, 26-year-old Dieudonné Niyonizigiye was shot dead at his home by unidentified people. Police say it is a land dispute. Sources on site indicate that his father and mother were arrested and are jailed in the commune cell by the police for investigation.

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

On July 27, 2018, on Rutegama hill in Gitega commune and province, Philibert was killed by unknown persons. According to sources on site, he was killed with clubs and land conflicts are behind this assassination. According to the same sources, two people, including the head of this hill, were arrested by the police for investigation reasons.

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

On 23 July 2018, on Kimanama hill, Mubuga zone, Gitega commune and province, Cassilde Ntirampeba, aged 80, was tied up and burned alive by unidentified people in her house. According to sources on site, before her assassination, local people accused her of sorcery.

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

On July 26, 2018, a body of Jean Claude Mudende of the Twa social component resident of Taba hill, Gatonde zone, was found on Ngugo hill, in a bush near Nyabikere market, Nyabikere commune, province Karuzi. Sources on site indicate that Jean Claude Mudende was killed by unknown people who afterwards removed his tongue.

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

Information received by Iteka Ligue on 23 July 2018 indicates that since 18 July 2018, a corpse of a man tied up in decomposition, floated on Lake Tanganyika waters from the small port of Busambi, Gatete zone, Rumonge commune and province. According to sources on site, this corpse was not buried.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 23 July 2018 indicates that on 19 July 2018, a 5-year-old corpse of Charité Bikorimana was found in a toilet in Gihwanya quarter, Rumonge commune and province. According to sources on site, the circumstances of his death remain unknown.

### **A body found in Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province**

On July 23, 2018, on Juragati hill, Kayero zone, Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province, Niyokindi's body was found on roadside. According to local sources, the victim was CNDD-FDD party member and resided on Kabingo sub hill, Juragati hill. According to the same sources, fingernail traces were visible on his neck and the authors were not identified.

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

On July 25, 2018, around 5:00 am, on Butezi hill and zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province, a body of Marcienne Niyokindi, over 60 years old, was found in a gutter. According to sources on site, the perpetrators of this assassination have not been identified.

### **A body found in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City**

On July 26, 2018, a corpse of Urbain Elvis Intwari, 24 years old, son of Dismas and Zidona Caritas, first year student in Statistics at the University of Lake Tanganyika, was found in Kigobe quarter, Gihosha zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City. According to sources on site, the victim was shared beer with his friends in a bar located near ENS. The same sources add that Urbain Elvis Intwari left the bar and after a few hours, he was found dead in a garden located 10 meters from the bar. The circumstances of his death remain unknown.

### **A person killed in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province**

On 23 July 2018, at around 8:00 pm, a woman in her 50s, Mary of Munzenze hill, Mishiha zone and commune, Cankuzo province, was shot dead by an unidentified person. The reason for this assassination remains unknown.

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

### **A person arrested and then reported missing in Kayanza province<sup>1</sup>**

On March 25, 2017, around 3:00 am, Elias, nicknamed General, who lives on Kirema hill, Kayanza commune and province, near the place called "Ku rubaho", was arrested by SNR agents, who accused him of possessing weapons. Nobody knows where he was taken.

### **A person abducted and then reported missing in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province<sup>2</sup>**

On 6 April 2017, Bosco Ngabirano, from Gatozo hill, Muhanga commune, Kayanza province, was abducted by SNR agents in the commune cell where he had spent three days, accused of having participated in the demonstrations against President Pierre Nkurunziza third term.

### **Two people tortured then reported missing in Kayanza province<sup>3</sup>**

Information received on April 1, 2017 indicates that, as of March 31, 2017, Claude, of Karinzi hill, Gahombo commune, Kayanza province, was beaten up by an Imbonerakure named Juma, who accused him of being a thief.

On 6 April 2017, Nkore of Rukago hill, Gahombo commune, Kayanza province, was beaten up by an Imbonerakure, who accused him of being a thief.

The same source indicates that the police refused to admit the two victims in jail due to their critical condition. The Imbonerakure then took them to an unknown destination.

### **A person abducted in Nyarusange commune, Gitega province<sup>4</sup>**

On December 21, 2017, around 1:00 pm, on Nyamazi hill, Nyarusange commune, Gitega province, Jerome Irampaye, director of ECOFO Nyamazi was abducted from his home by unidentified persons. According to our sources on site, the kidnappers were in a Prado jeep with tinted windows and took him to an unknown destination.

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<sup>1</sup> The case was published in January- March 2017 quarterly report. The person was found and is at home.

<sup>2</sup> The case was published in April - June 2017 quarterly report. The person had fled the country and is now at home.

<sup>3</sup> These cases were published in April - June 2017 quarterly report. Claude died following torture. Nkore is at home for now.

<sup>4</sup> The case was published in weekly report No 90. He is currently jailed in Gitega central prison. His name is Jeremie and not Jerome. He an influential member of Agathon Rwasa's FNL party

### ***I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE***

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

On 23 July, 2018, at around 9:00 pm, on Rugeregere hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Callixte Nduwimana was beaten up by Imbonerakure of this hill. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure attacked him as he was returning home, accusing him of refusing to join CNDD-FDD party. Callixte is being treated.

#### **A person tortured in Mutaho commune, Gitega province**

On 23 July 2018, in Rwisabi zone, Mutaho commune, Gitega province, Noé Ndayisaba, a member of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing, was tortured and stabbed by Jean Marie of CNDD-FDD party Imbonerakure youth league. Sources on site say Noah Ndayisaba met these Imbonerakure on patrols around 9:00 pm when he returned home.

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

On July 27, 2018, around 3:00 pm, on Bibara hill and zone, Mutumba commune, Karuzi province, Prosper Rwanteyirungu, communal youth leader of FNL party, Agathon Rwasa's wing was attacked by Imbonerakure Jean Claude Hankanimana, Tharcisse Kababi, Dieudonné Nkunzimana, Sylvestre Ntaconirukira, Oscar Nibigira, Emery Ntibararira and Ndereyimana commanded by Pierre-Claver Niyonkuru, the head of Imbonerakure in the commune. According to sources on site, they tortured him when he was sharing beer with his friends at the bar of this hill and they accused him of disrupting public safety. The victim was taken to CDS Rabiro of the same commune and the alleged perpetrators remain free.

#### **A person tortured in Bugendana commune, Gitega province**

On 25 July 2018, a man named Roger from Gitongo hill, Bitare zone, Bugendana commune, Gitega province was tied up and beaten by Imbonerakure and their deputy head in the commune. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure accused him of beating his wife, who contributed 2,000 Bif for the 2020 elections. The victim was injured in the head.

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

Information received by Iteka League on 24 July 2018 indicates that on 21 July 2018, at about 9:00 pm, on Rutegama hill, Munanira zone, Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province, Stanislas Gahungu, CNDD-FDD member was beaten by a group of Imbonerakure on patrol commanded by Ndayikengurukiye. According to sources on site, they accused him of walking at night when he had not participated in Imbonerakure's activities that day.

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

On July 24, 2018, Gélase Kibangara from Gatwaro hill, Kirambi zone, Bweru commune, Ruyigi province was beaten and injured by Imbonerakure from Kirambi hill. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of stealing a phone. The victim was taken to the local CDS before being transferred to Ruyigi Hospital.

### ***I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

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

On 23 July 2018, on Murengeza hill, Musenyi zone, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, Noé Ndayizeye, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing was arrested by Imbonerakure of the areas in collaboration with police and was jailed at Mpanda police station. According to sources on site, Noé Ndayizeye was accused of refusing to join CNDD-FDD party.

#### **A person arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura City**

On 23 July 2018, Ferdinand Harushimana, journalist for the online newspaper Imboneza News, was arrested and taken to BSR by the police. According to sources on site, he took pictures during a raid by the police in Bujumbura City downtown. He was released later after his Director had advocated for him and his confiscated work equipment was handed over to him.

#### **Four people arrested in Matana commune, Bururi province**

The information received by Iteka League on July 24, 2018 indicates that on July 20, 2018, Claver, Innocent, Bienvenu and Fabien their leader, all responsible for the Association of the conductors of Matana commune were arrested and jailed at the commune police station on the order of the Governor of Bururi province. According to local sources, the four conductors were arrested after being accused of disturbing public order by the provincial authority. However, the same sources indicate that these conductors opposed the new management team of Imbonerakure imposed by the Governor.

### ***I.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE***

#### **A person raped in Bugendana commune, Gitega province**

On July 24, 2018, on Rwingiri hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, Jean Claude Bacinoni, director of ECOFO Rwingiri, raped Y., a pupil of his school. He was arrested and taken to the police.

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

On July 23, 2018, M.R.I., a 6-year-old girl from Mbizi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province, was raped by a house worker, Pacifique Congera. The victim was taken to health care services while Congera was arrested and jailed in Makamba police cell.

### **An attempted forced abortion in Ruyigi commune and province**

Information received by Iteka League dated July 24, 2018, indicates that on July 21, 2018, PN, a student of Gisuru communal high school, living in Sanzu quarter, in Ruyigi province, about 5 months pregnant was almost killed by two men. According to local sources, a nurse and Mohamed Nkurunziza alias Mutama, a dump truck driver who is the author of the pregnancy, tried to force her to abort. The two abusers undressed her by force and then introduced pills through her genitals and in the mouth before locking her in her room for 24 hours to abort. Imbonerakure on the orders of the public prosecutor in Ruyigi broke down the door of the house and transported the victim to Ruyigi hospital, where she spent 36 hours in a coma. The head of the embryo was affected, according to ultrasound. The alleged authors are on the run.

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

### **A person killed in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province**

On the night of July 23, 2018, eight-year-old Jean de Dieu Iteriteka was killed with machete by unidentified people on Nyamugari hill, Biyorwa zone, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province. According to sources on site, the perpetrators also injured Fabiola Niyonzima, the mother of the child, before fleeing. The same sources add that the child died straightaway while his mother is at Rema Hospital in Shalom House. Nestor Ntirampeba, Fabiola's concubine in a land dispute with the family, is suspected as the author of this murder.

### **Weapons found in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura-rural province**

On July 25, 2018, around 2:00 pm, two antipersonnel mines were found on both sides of the 15<sup>th</sup> street, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura-rural province. Police and soldiers intervened to clear them and blow them up.

### **Attempted assassination in Matongo commune, Kayanza province**

On the night of July 24 to 25, 2018, around midnight, five Imbonerakure brothers from Bandaga hill, Ruganza zone, Matongo commune, Kayanza province nearly killed Epimaque, their father, had it not been for the neighbors' intervention. According to local sources, these young men also assaulted neighbors who had intervened when they tried to strangle their father with a rope. According to the same sources, the victim had constantly opposed the participation of his children in CNDD-FDD youth league

Imbonerakure. The woman of the victim suspected of being the instigator as well as the executors remain invisible and the police said to be hunting them down. The victim no longer spend the night at home for fear of being killed by his persecutors.

### **Two people injured in Ntega commune, Kirundo province**

On 25 July 2018, in Runanira III quarter, unidentified persons armed with machetes attacked the family of Sylvestre, a nurse in Ntega commune, Kirundo province. According to sources on site, his wife cried for help and the neighbors Gasongo and Zuwena intervened and they were wounded by these armed men. The two wounded were taken to Kanyinya Hospital.

### **Armed attack in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province**

Information received by Iteka League on 23 July 2018 indicates that on the night of 22 July 2018, around 10:00 pm, gunshots were fired between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> streets, Buringa zone, Gihanga Commune, Bubanza province. According to local sources, an FDN position in this locality was attacked by unidentified gunmen.

### **A person injured in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province**

On the night of 26 July 2018, in Buringa zone, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, Véronique Niyonzimna, a mentally disabled person, was shot in the leg by soldiers from Buringa position who were patrolling between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> street. According to local sources, the victim is in critical condition.

### **A person stabbed in Makamba commune and province**

On 29 July 2018, around 9:00 pm, Zoubeli Ndayiragije was stabbed by his wife Sauda Nyandwi, aged 36, both living in Makamba II quatter, Makamba commune and Makamba province. According to local sources, the victim was seriously injured in the genitals. He was taken to Makamba Hospital before being transferred to Kibuye Hospital in Gitega province while her wife was arrested for attempted murder.

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

On July 25, 2018, at Gisenyi zone office, Busoni commune, Kirundo province, CNDD-FDD party commissioner Salvator Muvunyi met all the teachers of Busoni commune and forced them to pay a sum of 3,000 Bif within 24 hours for the contribution to the 2020 elections. According to sources on site, Salvator Muvunyi threatened these teachers that whoever will not pay will be dismissed.

### **Forced contributions to the IDPs site in Rusarasi, Kirundo province**

On the morning of July 26, 2018, the population of Rusarasi IDP site woke up surrounded by Imbonerakure from Rutabo hill, Murore zone, Busoni commune, Kirundo province. According to sources

on site, these Imbonerakure led by Edouard Burikukiye, director of ECOFO Rusarasi, controlled, household by household, receipts of contributions for 2020 elections. According to the same sources, they have marked crosses with a chalk on the doors of households that have not yet paid and told the heads of these households that they will be punished.

### **Forced contributions Kirundo downtown**

On July 28, 2018, in all quarters of Kirundo province, Imbonerakure and quarter heads forcibly collected house-by-house clothes, beans and contributions for the 2020 elections.

### **Forced contribution in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On 23 July 2018, on Nzibariba hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, a woman named Macumi was prevented from working in Nyabiho swamp by hill head Jonathan Nirema accompanied by two young Imbonerakure asking her a contribution receipt for the 2020 elections. As she did not have it, the hill head wanted to pull out her hoe but the woman defended wounding the hill head on the fingers and rolled him in the mud. These Imbonerakure called the police who quickly intervened and controlled the woman. The punishment was decided straightaway and the woman was forced to pay a sum of 60,000 Bif without receipt with 2,000 Bif contribution to the elections. According to sources on site, this hill head particularly targeted Macumi accusing him of being an opponent with her husband named Emmanuel alias Mishatsi who is a member of Amizero y'Abarundi coalition.

### **Forced contribution in Bubanza commune and province**

On the morning of July 29, 2018, on the city center hill, commune and Bubanza province, a roadblock was erected by Imbonerakure and Salvator Niragira, hill head, accompanied by a policeman, next to Bubanza High School, near Bubanza Market, on the road to Buyuko zone. According to sources on site, no one could pass this roadblock without showing receipt or paying 2000 Bif as contribution to the 2020 elections.

### **Forced contribution in Makamba Province**

On July 27, 2018, Imbonerakure of the hills Kabuye, Siza, Nyange and Makamba commune, Mara hill of Mabanda commune in Makamba province prohibited the inhabitants of these localities from going to the market for shopping without showing the contribution receipt for the 2020 elections. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure road blocked these localities they kept and any passer-by had to show his receipt or give this contribution. According to the same sources, the inhabitants denounce these untimely contributions because even the students are not spared by this decision.

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

Forced contributions for the 2020 elections and intimidations were reported in this week.

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.