

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° 121 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 30 July – 5 August 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 495 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

FDD : *Force for Defense of Democracy*

FNL : *Front for National Liberation*

FRODEBU : *Front for Democracy in Burundi*

FVS-AMADE : *Family to Defeat AIDS World –World Association of Childhood Friends*

ISABU : *Institute of Agronomic Sciences of Burundi*

MSD : *Movement for Solidarity and Democracy*

RFI : *Radio France International*

RN : *National Road*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

VBG : *Gender based Violence*

VOA : *Voice Of America*

0. INTRODUCTION

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 10 people killed including 1 corpses found, 2 abducted, 8 tortured, 34 arbitrarily arrested and 2 GBV cases.

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, abduction, torture and arbitrary arrests of opponents and alleged opponents of President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime.

GBV cases 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

Two people killed in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province

On August 3, 2018, at about 8:00 pm, at Nzoyisaba's bar, on Rutakara sub-hill, Ruzibazi hill, Mayuyu zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province, Nzoyisaba and Budigoma were killed by unidentified gunmen who injured another person in Rutumwako's family. According to local sources, during the day Nzoyisaba had conflicted with soldiers of the area for he had refused to transport the soldiers' food to their position.

A person killed in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On the night of August 3-4, 2018, around midnight, on Mufumya hill, Butaganzwa zone and commune, Kayanza province, a widow, Marie Nzeyimana, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was killed at her home, stabbed at the head and ribs by unidentified people. She was a seller of bananas.

A body found in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On 3 August 2018, a decomposing corpse of an unidentified man was found on the banks of Ndurumu River at Rukamba hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province. The inhabitants of the locality informed the commune administration who quickly ordered his burial under the supervision of the civil protection police without identification investigation.

I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING

A person abducted in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On 2 August, 2018, on Buhomba sub hill, at the 15th street in Maramvya, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Marthe Ngenzemake, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was abducted at her home by unidentified people. One was wearing a police uniform, aboard a TI vehicle in complicity with the hill head known as Bayore who is the party leader CNDD-FDD on this hill.

A person abducted and reported missing in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 5 August 2018 indicates that on 31 October 2015, at a police roadblock on RN1 in Kamenge urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Eric Niyungeko MSD party member and employed at ISABU in Karuzi was abducted by Gérard Ndayisenga, SNR head in Muyinga and a former SNR employee in Karuzi in charge of economic issues. According to local sources, the victim was in a vehicle belonging to MEMENTO Transport Company and was traveling to Karuzi to pay ISABU daily

casuals. Eric Niyungeko was taken to a hotel belonging to the former mayor of the city, Evrard Giswaswa, behind Kobil station in Kamenge before being taken to another unknown destination.

1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, POLICE AND SNR OFFICERS

A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province

On 4 August 2018, on Rama hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Cyprien Ndayitwayeko, FRODEBU party member, was beaten up by CNDD-FDD deputy representative Gédéon. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of not having participated in the festivities of the commune day.

A person tortured in Kabarore commune, Kayanza province

On 3 August 2018, at about 7:00 pm, on Randa hill, Jene zone, Kabarore commune, Kayanza province, the new secretary of Kabarore commune, Léonard accompanied by young Imbonerakure arrested, tied up Cyprien Kazoviwabo, a coffee farmer who was coming back from the harvest. According to sources on site, they accused him of selling his coffee in Rwanda. They threatened to take him to the cell so that a file could be opened to transfer him to Ngozi. He had to pay 60,000 Bif to save his life.

Three people tortured in Mutumba commune, Karuzi province

On 3 August, 2018, on Bibara hill and zone, Mutumba commune, Karuzi province, Frédéric Bujana, Denis Ncurebugufi, Désiré Singirankabo, all members of the "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition were tortured by a group of ten Imbonerakures ordered by Tharcisse Kababi and Dieudonné Nkuzimana. According to sources on site, these victims were accused of having voted for "NO" in the constitutional referendum of May 17, 2018.

A person tortured in Bweru commune, Ruyigi province

Information received by Iteka League on July 30, 2018 indicates that on July 2, 2018, on Bigombo hill in Kirambi zone in Bweru commune, Ruyigi province, Léonard Nugwubusa, FNL party member of Agathon Rwasa's wing was beaten and seriously injured in the head by young Imbonerakure of this hill. According to sources on site, these young people from the ruling party accused him of selling a prohibited drink. According to the same sources, the victim was jailed for five months in Ruyigi central prison accused of stealing CNDD-FDD party flag.

A person tortured in Cankuzo commune and province

On August 2, 2018, Charles Ndizeye alias Taylor, was arrested and beaten up near a Cankuzo gas station by Imbonerakure in the presence of a dozen policemen. According to sources on site, he was accused of taking pictures at the time of fuel distribution at the station and he was among the people who give information to private radio stations operating outside the country (Humura, Inzamba, RFI, VOA Radio,

Renaissance, ...). According to the same sources, he was taken by these Imbonerakure, first, to the CNDD-FDD party provincial headquarters for interrogation, then, in his studio to check in his machines and mobile phones if there was no compromising documents. He was released the same day, add the same sources.

A person tortured in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

Information received by Iteka League on 30 July 2018 indicates that on 22 July 2018, at night, Philibert Gashiranzigo, jailed at Rutegama commune police station cell, Muramvya province, was tortured by Leonidas Nzoyihiki, police station head of this commune and Evariste, head of SNR in Kiganda and Rutegama communes. According to sources on site, these police wanted the victim accused of raping his 13-year-old daughter to give them money to release him. According to the same sources, the victim had whip marks on his back, hands and feet.

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

Twenty-five people arrested in Rumonge commune and province

On 1 August 2018, twenty-five children from Rumonge, Bururi, Bubanza, Bujumbura Rural, Gitega, Makamba, Mwaro, Rutana and Muramvya provinces were arrested during a police raid and jailed in the police station cell in commune and province Rumonge. According to local sources, these children were accused of returning to the streets. As of August 2, 2018, sixteen children out of twenty-five were handed over to FVS-AMADE to help identify children and take them to their respective families.

Two people arrested in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

On 3 August 2018, in the morning, in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, 60-year-old Gabriel Marimbu and Jean Pierre Ndayambaje alias Kabeba, all members of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing were arrested and taken by the SNR head in Bubanza province, at SNR cell in Bujumbura. According to local sources, they have been accused of collaborating with armed gangs.

A person arrested in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

On 30 July 2018, on Gitaramuka hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Tharcisse Ndayisaba, civil status officer in Gitaramuka and member of the communal committee of the Red Cross Burundi, was arrested and jailed in the commune cell by the administrator Jeannette Ningabiye. According to sources on site, he was first accused of embezzlement of 9,000,000 Bif and was later accused of belonging to the armed groups and for delivering information to Humura and Inzamba radio stations. On August 3, 2018, he was transferred to Ngozi central prison.

A person arrested in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

Information received by Iteka League on 30 July 2018 indicates that on 24 July 2018, at around 8:00 pm, Richard, a demobilized from FDD in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, was arrested by two policemen on the orders of Leonidas Nzoyihiki, head of the commune police station in Rutegama. He reproached him for refusing him a drink. Handcuffed, this FDD former fighter was able to escape. The next day, he appeared before the presiding judge of the Rutegama Residence Court and the latter ordered Rutegama to be remove the handcuff. According to sources on site, Richard had to give the post head a sum of 20,000 Bif to save his life.

Five people arrested in Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Iteka League on 30 July 2018 indicates that on 26 July 2018, Imbonerakure on the orders of the commune administrator, Fébronie Nahingejeje, jailed Majidi, Juma, Niyonkuru, Abdallah Ahishakiye and Déo Rucahobatinya, all members of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing, in Bwambarangwe Brigade cell. According to sources on site, they were accused of creating a rebellion. All are from Bugorora hill and zone, Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province.

1.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Bubanza commune and province

On the night of July 30, 2018, at around 9:00 pm, on Bubanza town center hill in Gisovu, Bubanza commune and province, A. K., aged 24, was raped by 5 unidentified men. According to local sources, the victim was raped when she came to escort a patient from her family to Bubanza Hospital. According to the same sources, this victim was taken to Bubanza Hospital for appropriate care. The alleged perpetrators are young Imbonerakure who were on night patrols in the locality, add the same sources.

A girl raped in commune and province Bubanza

Information received by Iteka League on 4 August 2018 indicates that on 18 July 2018, at around 6:00 pm, on Mwanda hill, Muramba zone, Bubanza commune and province, IC, aged 16, was raped by an Imbonerakure Justin Ndayikeza in complicity with Odette Nshimirimana. According to local sources, after the rape, the victim was reported missing and found unconscious by her parents on 31 July 2018. She was taken to Bubanza Hospital for appropriate care. The parents of the victim went to complain to the province police station in Bubanza. The author is under a warrant for arrest, according to the same sources.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A person killed in Makamba commune and province¹

On 1 August 2018, in the afternoon, Zoubeli Ndayiragije died at Kibuye Hospital, Gitega province. According to local sources, the victim was stabbed by his wife Sauda Nyandwi in the genitals.

A person killed in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Iteka League on 30 July 2018 indicates that on 26 July 2018, on Gatozo hill, Maramvya zone, Muhanga commune, Kayanza province, Mpawenimana and Kwizerimana, two Zebiya followers' sisters, beat up to death their sister-in-law, Evelyne Ndikumana. According to local sources, their brother Clovis, who works in Bujumbura, sent them money that was accidentally burned. According to the same sources, their sister-in-law, Clovis's wife, heard their complaints and mocked them. In response, they beat her up and she died in the hospital as a result of the beatings. They fled, add the same sources. Ntawuyamara, hill head and Nduwimana, cell head were jailed for not reporting the facts on Evelyne Ndikumana murder.

A person killed in Bukemba commune, Rutana province

On August 4, 2018, on Bukemba hill, zone and commune, Rutana province, Eugénie Sirabahenda, aged 64, was murdered, with a stick, by her son Jean Claude Sugutora, single, teacher at Rubirize communal high school in Bukemba. According to sources on site, the reason for this assassination is not yet known. The surrounding population rushed the victim to Gihofi Hospital where she died. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and jailed at Bukemba police station.

Three people killed in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

On 5 August 2018, around 9:00 pm, on RN5, in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, a pickup-type military vehicle was ambushed by a group of unidentified gunmen. According to sources on site, three soldiers on board the vehicle died straightaway and two others were injured. After the attack, these gunmen retreated to Rukoko Nature Reserve, the same sources added.

Attempted armed robbery in Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province

On the night of July 30 to 31, 2018, at about 11:00 pm, on Nyantore hill, Munago zone, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province, a group of six gunmen attacked the home of a trader, Aaron Niyonizigiye. According to sources on site, one of the perpetrators was caught by Aaron and was wearing police uniform with a rifle. The people came to the rescue and the other criminals fled. Investigations are underway to arrest other criminals.

¹ The case was reported as seriously injured in the Bulletin Iteka n'ljambo No 120

Forced contributions in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Iteka League on 30 July 2018 indicates that on 23 July 2018, Marembo hill head, Gisenyi zone, Busoni commune, Kirundo province and young Imbonerakure went from household to household to demand contribution of 500 Bif or 1kg of beans per household for the 2020 elections. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure noted those who contributed in registers. According to the same sources, it is not for the 2020 elections but rather for feeding the Imbonerakure camped in Murehe Nature Reserve, close to Gasenyi border. Last year, provincial authorities were talking about the strategic stock to address climate change, but no stock has been constituted.

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 3rd 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 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.