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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 123 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 13 – 19 August 2018**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 19 August 2018, Iteka has documented at least 493 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**BLTP** : *Burundi Leadership Training Program*

**CDS** : *Health Center*

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

**FNL** : *Front for National Liberation*

**ONG** : *Non-Governmental Organization*

**PJ** : *Judicial Police*

**REGIDESO** : *Water and Electricity supplying company*

**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 10 people killed including 4 corpses found, 4 tortured, 40 arbitrarily arrested and 1 GBV victim.

Young people from the Imbonerakure militia affiliated to CNDD-FDD ruling party, soldiers, 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.

Grenade attacks are also reported in this bulletin

Sanctions against those who voted for "NO" in the constitutional referendum are also 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 IMBONERAKURE***

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

On the night of August 13 to 14, 2018, around 9:00 pm, Alfred Nimbona, FNL party member, Agathon Rwasa's wing, resident in village III, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, was assassinated using a hoe by Zabulon Sabushimike, his brother, Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, a land dispute is at the origin of this murder. The alleged perpetrator fled.

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

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

On August 15, 2018, in the morning, a body of an unidentified man was found in Kajoro Valley lying to the northeast of the Seventh Day Adventist Church's mission on Gasenyi rural hill, Gasenyi zone, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province. According to local sources, farmers saw it and who directly informed the local administration.

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

On 13 August 2018 at around 10:00 pm, at Munzenze hill, Kirundo commune and province, unidentified people threw consecutively two grenades at the home of 55-year-old Ndagijimana Ndigi, who succumbed to CDS Kigozi after evacuation. Three people, including the victim's concubine and Leopold Bashirahishize, aged 29, were arrested by police on the morning of 14 August 2018 for investigative reasons. According to sources on site, the origin of this assassination is linked to sorcery. A year ago, the same victim was attacked at his home for the same accusation.

##### **A person killed in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 14 August 2018 indicates that on 11 August 2018, on Rubindi hill, Mukungu zone, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province, Léonidas Ndayizeye alias Bushiriye, teacher at Bukeye High School in Kibago commune, aged 34, born on the same hill, was killed and burned and thrown into a gutter of water. According to sources on site, land conflicts are at the origin of this assassination. According to the same sources, the police arrested alleged perpetrators Alexis Bahati, the victim's elder brother and his wife, Chantal, and took them to Nyanza-Lac police cell for investigation.

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

On 14 August 2018, a body in decomposition of a man was discovered floating on Lake Tanganyika waters, in Kizuka, in Rumonge commune and province. According to sources on site, the victim was not identified and was buried in a hurry on the orders of the local administration.

### **A body found in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province**

On August 14, 2018, a body of a woman named Isabelle, aged 65, from Kanyami hill, Gatwe zone, in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province was found in Sambwe Valley separating this hill from Kirika hill, Bisoro commune. According to sources on site, on the morning of August 13, 2018, she went to sell her property to repair the damage caused by her son Nduwimana, who was in jail.

### **A body found in Busoni commune, Kirundo province**

On August 13, 2018, in the morning, a body of an unidentified man, about thirty years old, was found in a bush on Rugando sub-hill, Gatete hill, Gatere zone in Busoni commune, Kirundo province. According to sources on site, no signs of trauma have been noticed on the body of the victim

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

### **A taximan arrested by SNR and then reported missing in Mugongomanga commune, Bujumbura rural province<sup>1</sup>**

Justin Ahishakiye, a taxi driver in Ijenda commune in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province, was arbitrarily arrested by SNR agents on 1 April 2016. People who attended scene say they were surprised by this arrest and worried about the safety of this man known as a man of integrity.

## ***1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND POLICE***

### **A person tortured in Bujumbura City**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 13, 2018 indicates that on August 05, 2018, Ulrich Igiraneza, Administrative and Financial Director of the transport and mail company TransAfrica, from Magamba hill, Buhiga commune, province Karuzi was tortured in a clandestine cell of SNR. According to local sources, the victim was arrested while on his way to the service. According to the same sources, Ulrich was accused by the SNR of illegal trafficking in firearms. The same sources add that the victim was transferred to Mpimba central prison on August 13, 2018. According to these same sources, she was in poor health with wounds all over his body.

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<sup>1</sup> The case was reported in April 2016 monthly bulletin. He was jailed at SNR in Bujumbura. He was released the same month of April 2016 just after a week and he fled.

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

On August 18, 2018, at around 10:00 pm, Placide, employee of Murwi postal office was beaten up by a police officer known as Claude, a trainee at PJ office, in the presence of his police colleague known as Bayisingize. According to local sources, the victim was accused by this police officer of assaulting him.

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

On 14 August 2018, in Bibara zone, Mutumba commune, Karuzi province, Mathieu Ndayisenga, FNL party member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was beaten up by Imbonerakure led by Jean Claude Hankanimana and Sylvestre. According to sources on site, the victim is accused of having voted for "NO" in the constitutional referendum of May 17, 2018. The same sources add that the victim quenched his thirst in a bar located on Mwahirwa sub hill, after sharing a family property.

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

On August 19, 2018, around 9:00 pm, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, a widow, Virginie Bigirimana was beaten and wounded on the left eye by a young Imbonerakure named Tuyisenge, aged 20, 500 meters from home. According to local sources, the victim was returning home from Karuzi Hospital where she had carried food to a sick neighbor. The police said she was tracking the alleged perpetrator.

## ***1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATIVE***

### **Twenty-one people arrested in Makamba commune and province**

On August 17, 2018, twenty-one people including Evariste Ngendakumana and Ambassador Aloys Mbonayo were arrested by police on the order of Makamba province governor Gad Niyukuri. According to local sources, these people participated in a workshop on leadership in politics for the future of Burundi organized by the NGO BLTP in partnership with the Ministry of Interior. According to a police source, they were accused of holding an illegal meeting despite having a mission order signed by the Minister of Interior. They were released the same day on the order of the same Governor.

### **Sixteen people arrested in Mabanda commune, Makamba province**

On the morning of August 17, 2018, sixteen members of the Coalition of Harvest Churches were arrested in a hotel in the capital of Mabanda commune, Makamba province, and were taken by police officers to Makamba Prosecutor's office cell. According to a source on site, they had spent more than a week on an evangelistic mission. According to the same source, they were accused of holding an illegal meeting while a letter announcing their mission had been sent to the authorized authorities.

### **A person arrested in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 14 August 2018 indicates that on 12 August 2018, Ildephonse, REGIDESO agent in Rutegama commune, was arrested and handcuffed from 8:00 to 13:00 at his home on Cumba hill, in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province by Leonidas Nzoyihiki, the head of the commune police station. According to sources on site, the latter accused him of having closed the line that feeds the area where he lives.

### **A person arrested in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 13 August 2018 indicates that on 9 August 2018, Flora, Munyinya hill, Mushikamo zone, Rutegama commune, Muramvya province was arrested and jailed in Rutegama commune by young Imbonerakure on the order of Vivine Ndayambaje, the administrator of this commune. According to sources on site, this woman was accused by this authority of disrupting public order. According to the same sources, Flora had opposed the sale of the plot of her brother by her sister-in-law to that authority because her sister-in-law remarried after the death of her husband.

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

On 14 August 2018, Claver Ndikumasabo, a judge of Bururi Prosecution, was arrested and taken to the police cell by the Public Prosecutor in Bururi. According to sources on site, this judge was accused of insulting, in a bar, Zabulon Nyandwi, provincial representative of the Imbonerakure at the same time Director of the Paramedic School of Bururi.

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

### **A person raped in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 13 August 2018 indicates that, as of 12 August 2018, E.N. was raped at around 8:00 pm on Nyamurenge hill, Rusaka commune, Mwaro province. According to sources on site, the victim was returning home on Bisha hill and arrived on Nyamurenge hill, she was raped by Nkurunziza, Niyongabo and Oswald. They were arrested and taken to the province police station in Mwaro while the victim is hospitalized in Kibumbu.

## ***II. VIOLATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS***

### **Sanctions linked to the results of the constitutional referendum in Busoni commune, Kirundo province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 18 August 2018 indicates that in Busoni commune, Murore zone, Rutabo hill, Kirundo province, the market of Rusarasi center, at the commune city, was reinstalled in Murore by Administrator Marie Claudine Hashazinka, on August 14, 2018. According to local sources, this authority implemented the CNDD-FDD party decision and the MP Jean Baptiste Nzigamasabo alias Gihaha, elected in Kirundo. According to the same sources, during a meeting of

hill heads held on 7 August 2018, in Busoni commune, the administrator said that it was the market for Tutsi displaced from Rutabo camp and that they voted for "NO" in the constitutional referendum of May 2018, up to 97%.

### ***III. SECURITY FACTS***

#### **A person killed in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 15, 2018 indicates that on August 10, 2018, around 11:00 pm, on Jenda-urban hill, Mugongo-Manga commune, Emelyne Kamikazi was killed by her husband, Christophe Nshimirimana. According to local sources, the victim had sold a cow without her husband's permission. The same sources add that the alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to the commune police station cell.

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

On 14 August 2018, at about 2:00 pm, Nkanda hill, Kayongozi zone, Bweru commune, Joseph Mfatakanwa, aged 70, was murdered by his grandson, Alexandre Niyonzima, for sorcery. The alleged perpetrator was taken to Ruyigi police cell.

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

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of August, 2018, at about 12 o'clock, on Musema hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Eric Nizigiyimana was killed with machetes. According to local sources, land conflicts are linked to this murder and the alleged perpetrators are members of his family who have fled.

#### **A family mistreated in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province**

On the night of August 12 to 13, 2018, around midnight, a group of unidentified men attacked and destroyed Emmanuel Mupero's house, in Kiramira quarter, in Murwi commune city, Cibitoke province. According to sources on site, Emmanuel Mupero and his family were able to escape and nobody knows where they have gone for refuge. Accused of sorcery, this man had also been chased from Muterama hill.

#### **A house burned in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province**

On 14 August 2018, at around 10:00 pm, unknown people set fire to a house of a woman named Julienne from Nyangumba hill, Masango zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province. According to sources on site, this attack did not make a victim because the owner had not spent the night there. According to the same sources, a land dispute between this woman and one of her neighbors is at the origin of this attack.

### **A grenade launched in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province**

On August 16, 2018, at around 9:00 pm, a grenade attack was launched to Leopold Ndayisaba's home, administrator of Gihanga commune in Bubanza province. According to sources on site, during this attack, a police officer guarding the commune administrator was injured.

### **Grenade attack in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On August 18, 2018, around 9:00 pm, on Nyakazi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province, Léonce Ngabo and Ernest Kenguza, both CNDD-FDD members, were attacked with grenades en route, returning from a club by unidentified people. According to local sources, they were injured and taken to the local CDS for medical treatment.

### ***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.

Grenade attacks observed this week prove the proliferation of weapons in the population.

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.