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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 124 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 20 – 26 August 2018**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 26 August 2018, Iteka has documented at least 493 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**API** : *Support for the Protection of Institutions*

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

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

**OPJ** : *Judicial Police Officer*

**PJ** : *Judicial Police*

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

**RDC** : *Democratic Republic of Congo*

**RN** : *National Road*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**UPD** : *Union for Peace and Development*

**VBG** : *Gender Based Violence*

## **0. INTRODUCTION**

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 9 people killed including 3 corpses found, 7 tortured, 24 arbitrarily arrested and 4 GBV victims.

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.

Cases of GBV are 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 Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province**

On 20 August 2018, on Munyika II hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Christophe Niyonkuru, a 23-year-old mason, Imbonerakure, was killed by other Imbonerakure of the area. According to sources on site, the reason for this assassination was a settling of accounts linked to the sharing of the loot stolen during night patrols. Four alleged perpetrators have been arrested for investigation reasons, the sources added.

##### **A person killed in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province**

On 22 August 2018, on Ruhagarika hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, an unidentified person was killed by Imbonerakure youth of the area on night patrol and buried him directly. According to sources on site, this person left the DRC at night to return to Burundi.

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

On 23 August 2018, at about 2:00 pm, on Kanyange hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, 9-year-old Eric Nsengiyumva had sex cut off during torture by an Imbonerakure called Cyriaque Ntirampeba. This child was taken to Karuzi Hospital but he died on the way. According to local sources, this child was with other children who were looking for firewood in the afforestation belonging to this Imbonerakure. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to Karuzi province police station cell.

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

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 20 August 2018 indicates that on 18 August 2018, on Buhomba sub-hill, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Melchior Nizigiyimana, an employee of the Ministry of Justice, was gunned by unidentified people on a motorcycle.

##### **A body found in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province**

On August 20, 2018, a body of Gilbert Bigirimana, 18-year-old cow keeper, was found on Mwimbiro hill, Muyange zone, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province. According to local sources, the victim was beaten in the head, tied up and then suspended in a house. Four shepherds, Clement Manirambona, Elias Bukuru, Anaclet Nishimwe and Fidèle Nsabimana who were with the victim were arrested and jailed at Nyanza-Lac commune police station cell.

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

On August 24, 2018, in the morning, a body of a man named Mohamed was found on a street in Kibogoye quarter, in Muyinga urban center. According to sources on site, the victim is from Kiryama quarter of the same city and the circumstances of his death remain unknown.

### ***I.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND POLICE***

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 20, 2018 indicates that on July 25, 2018, around 9:00 pm, in village III, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, Pascal Bigirimana, from Mubuga zone, Gitega commune and province, FNL party member of Agathon Rwasa's wing was beaten and had his penis amputated by Imbonerakure. According to sources site, Pascal Bigirimana was admitted at Gihanga hospital. The victim was accused of refusing to join CNDD-FDD party, add the same sources.

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

On 21 August 2018, at around 9:00 pm, Fiacre, a 5<sup>th</sup> street resident, who was in front of his house, was arrested, beaten and taken to Gihanga police station by Imbonerakure on patrol. According to sources on site, the commissioner of police asked him a sum of 50 000 Bif to release him. He remained in jail for lack of payment of this money.

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

On 22 August 2018, Bakari, a resident of Vyondo quarter, Gihanga hill and commune, Bubanza province, was arrested and beaten by Imbonerakure on night patrol before being taken to Gihanga police station. He was released upon payment of 50,000 Bif to the police commissioner of Gihanga without a receipt.

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

On August 20, 2018, around 9:00 pm, Idi, a soldier on leave, residing at the 9<sup>th</sup> street of Gihanga, was beaten up by a group of Imbonerakure led by Egide, one of the 5 elected officials when he was on the way home with his wife. According to sources on site, they accused him of violating a curfew of 8:00 pm, set up by the administrator of Gihanga commune, Léopold Ndayisaba, after a grenade attack on his home by unidentified people on 16, 2018. According to the same sources, the next day, he lodged a complaint to the hill head Salvator, who suggested that he file a complaint to the police. Subsequently, he went to the OPJ and he did nothing, arguing that the Imbonerakure cannot be punished.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 20, 2018 indicates that on August 18, 2018, on Nkango hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, around 7:00 pm, Firmin Barampama, FNL party member, wing of Agathon Rwasa was beaten by Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, they accused him of refusing to contribute a sum of 2000 Bif for the 2020 elections. He was admitted at Musema hospital.

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

On August 21, 2018, at Rutegama commune center, Muramvya province, a mentally disabled man was beaten up, handcuffed and tied to a REGIDESO pillar by Issa, a policeman (De Corps) from Rutegama police station. According to sources on site, he was on the road side when the President of the Republic was going to pass.

### ***I.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, SNR AGENTS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

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

On August 21, 2018, police raided some of Cankuzo city quarters and arrested a trader Vital Ntawumbabaye, who lives along the RN13 road axis, in the commercial quarter. According to sources on site, the police arrived at this trader's shop, the night of August 20 to 21, 2018 but he refused them access. According to the same sources, the police surrounded his house all night until 10:00 am on August 21, 2018. They accused him of possessing weapons but they found nothing after the search, add the same sources. He was mistreated and forced to buy 36 bottles of primus for the 18 policemen as punishment for denying them access. He was taken by the province governor Désiré Njiji in his car accompanied by the prosecutor and the provincial police commissioner to the province police station and accused him of failing to respect the institutions. He was released the same day.

#### **Ten people arrested in Makamba commune and province**

On August 23, 2018, ten UPD-Zigamibanga party members were arrested by Jovin Cishahayo, provincial SNR head in Makamba in collaboration with young Imbonerakure at Makamba II quarter, Makamba commune and province. According to local sources, 6 of them were taken to and jailed in SNR cell in Bujumbura, while 4 others remained in Makamba prosecutor's office cell. They have been accused of rebellion, according to the same sources.

#### **Three people arrested in Mutumba commune, Karuzi province**

On August 21, 2018, around 5:00 am, on Bibara hill and zone, Mutumba commune, Karuzi province, Eric Ndikumasabo, former FNL fighter and currently member of the communal committee of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing, was arrested with his two children, respectively aged 10 and 4, and taken to the commune cell by policemen commanded by the commune commissioner named Burakeye. According to sources on site, this arrest was preceded by a search carried out at his home and nothing was found. According to the same sources, he was accused by the commune authorities of sensitizing the population to vote for "NO" in the constitutional referendum of 17 May 2018.

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

On 23 August 2018, at about 2:00pm, on Rwingoma hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Barakebana, from Cuba hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune of the same province was arrested, beaten up, then taken to Buhiga zone cell by 3 policemen of the API who controlled the locality during the passage of the President of the Republic going to Buhiga for the religious crusade organized by the presidential family, since August 21, 2018. According to sources on site, this man who was coming

back from fields with his children crossed the RN 12 at the time the President of the Republic, Pierre Nkurunziza, was passing.

### **Three people arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On August 22, 2018, in Karuzi province city, Buhiga commune, Michel Kidwingira, owner of a public secretariat and Victoire Rivuzimana, bar owner and Michel Bucanganya who was in this bar, were arrested and taken to Karuzi province police station cell by police officers of the IPA led by Commissioner Zabulon Mfuranzima. According to sources on site, the victims were accused of not having closed their houses during the passage of President Pierre Nkurunziza. According to the same sources, during his visit, people were panicked and some hid in the public secretariat and others in the bar. The victims were released on August 25, 2018, after paying a sum of 50,000 Bif each.

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

On August 22, 2018, at about 1:00 pm, on Kigoma hill, Buhinyuza quarter, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, a young man named Emmanuel alias Jogojogo was arrested and taken to Karuzi province police station cell by SNR provincial head in Karuzi. According to sources on site, the victim was in the bar called "chez Sogo" and was ordered by this authority to quickly empty his bottle before being taken to the cell without telling him the reason for his arrest.

### **Five people arrested in Ngozi commune and province**

On August 23, 2018, in Kanyami quarter, Ngozi commune and province, Joseph Nkurunziza, Arthemon Nduwayezu, Innocent Manirambona, Niragira Consolate and Jacqueline Hakizimana palm oil sellers were arrested by police on the orders of Radjabu Songambere, administrator of Ngozi commune, then taken to PJ Ngozi cell. According to sources on site, 450 kg of palm oil belonging to these traders were seized and the latter were accused of sabotaging Vyegwa market in Mwumba commune of the same province while all oil sellers palm were forced to join this market by Ngozi commune administration. According to the same sources, this market was created by force in order to increase the revenues of the native commune of the President of the Republic.

## ***1.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE***

### **A girl raped in Bubanza commune and province**

On August 22, 2018, at about 3:00 pm, on Shari I hill, Bubanza commune and province, KN, aged 4, daughter of TN and P., was raped at her home by Jean Marie Bangura alias Kitumva, aged 16 years old. The victim was taken to Bubanza Hospital for medical treatment.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 26, 2018 indicates that as of August 3, 2018 6-year-old EI daughter of GB and JN of Kigarama hill, Buziracanda zone, was raped by Olivier Ndiokubwayo alias Kinyata, 19 year old from Kigarama hill. According to local sources, he was arrested and jailed in Mwaro province police station cell.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 26, 2018 indicates that on August 19, 2018, KK, a 3-year-old daughter of GN and CN from Kigarama hill, Buziracanda zone, was raped by their servant Paul Ntirenganya, 15 years old. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and jailed at Ndava commune cell.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 26 August 2018 indicates that on 9 August 2018, CN, a 6-year-old daughter of CH and MGN from Kivumu hill in Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province, was raped by Evangelic, their servant who fled afterwards.

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

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

On 20 August 2018, at around 10:00 pm, 15-year-old Adelphine Irakoze was killed after being raped. According to sources on site, her body was found on the morning of August 21, 2018, in a cassava field, near Bubanza Rock Church located in Nabubu quarter, Bubanza commune and province. The victim resided with Nathan Nyandwi and Julienne Nitanga. According to the same sources, four alleged perpetrators including Désiré Hakuziyaremye alias Gacube, Samuel Nijimbere and Manirwa were arrested and jailed in Bubanza police station cell.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 20, 2018 indicates that on the night of August 19, 2018, at about 9:00 pm, on Kayange hill, Musigati commune, Bubanza province, Romuald Wilfrid Nibigira, alias Commissioner, father of 2 children, was killed by his wife Cécile Uwimbabazi with a club. According to sources on site, the body of the victim was found in his house on the morning of August 20, 2018. Family conflicts were the heart of this assassination. Cécile Uwimbabazi was arrested and jailed in Musigati police station cell.

### **A body found in Gashoho commune, Muyinga province**

On August 23, 2018, in the morning, a body of a person of the twa component, named Ngogori, was found inside the plot of a resident of Muruta hill, Muyange zone, Gashoho commune, Muyinga province. According to local sources, the victim was lynched by the population when he came to steal from a household.

### **Intimidation in Rango commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by League Iteka on August 20, 2018 indicates that on August 19, 2018, on Nyabibuye hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, in the morning, Maurand Bucumi, FNL party member of Agathon Rwasa's wing found at home some leaflets announcing that he would be decapitated if he continued to be Agathon Rwasa fan.

### ***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.

GBV cases were observed 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.