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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 126 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 3 - 9 September 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 9 September 2018, Iteka has documented at least 495 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APC : *Chief Police Agent*

BPC : *Chief Police Brigadier*

CDS : *Health Centre*

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

ECOFO : *Ecole Fondamentale*

FAB : *Burundi Armed Force*

FNL : *Front for National Liberation*

MRC : *Movement for Citizen Rehabilitation*

OPC : *Chief Police Officer*

OPJ : *Judicial Police Officer*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 5 people killed, 1 case of abductions and/or reported missing, 6 tortured, 2 arbitrarily arrested and 1 GBV case.

Young people from the Imbonerakure militia affiliated to CNDD-FDD ruling party, soldiers, police and administration officials are singled out as the perpetrators of most of these human rights violations.

This bulletin notes cases of killings, abductions, torture and arbitrary arrests of opponents and alleged opponents of President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime.

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 SOLDIERS

A person killed in Mugamba commune, Bururi province

On 6 September 2018, at around 700 pm, BPC Raymond Hakizimana, of the Tutsi social component, head of Kivumu police station, Mugamba commune, Bururi province, was shot dead at Isanganiro center of the same locality and his colleague APC Gaspard Barikore was injured in the leg. According to sources on site, this head of the police station was commanding 4 other policemen who came to Isanganiro center 1 km from the position, alerted by a person from this locality. The latter denounced the torture made by six people dressed in civilian clothes and armed with guns including three soldiers working in Muyange of the same commune and three Imbonerakure against people who shared a drink. Arrived at the scene for intervention, the head of the police station was shot by one of these criminals and he died straightaway.

According to the same sources, these executioners had come to Isanganiro center in a Probox-type vehicle, saying that they were looking for someone who was illegally detaining a gun and ordered anyone him to lie down on the floor. The same sources describe this as a coup prepared by these soldiers and Imbonerakure sent by Lieutenant-Colonel Dismas Sindaye nicknamed Gafuni to kill the policemen of Kivumu position who sometimes oppose some cases of illegal arrests made by these soldiers. Police sources say that a communication error would be at the origin.

I.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A person killed in Gitanga commune, Rutana province

On September 7, 2018, Pontien died of his injuries at Kibuye Hospital in Gitega province. According to local sources, while returning home, the victim was stabbed on 3 September 2018 by unidentified people on Kivoma hill, Gitanga commune, Rutana province.

Two people killed in Gitobe commune, Kirundo province

On the night of September 2-3, 2018, on Baziro hill and zone, Gitobe commune, Kirundo province, a couple of Miburo and Minani were murdered with machetes by unidentified people. According to local sources, they were accused of sorcery by their neighborhood. A man and a woman are jailed at the commune post for investigation reasons.

I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING

A person reported missing in Muyinga commune and province

Since September 4, 2018, Denis Ntamubano, motorcycle taxi driver, in Muyinga downtown and from Kwibuye hill, Muyinga zone and commune, has been reported missing. According to sources on site, he went to Butihinda commune in the same province after a phone call from a client who asked him to bring him rice and he never returned.

1.3. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND POLICE

A person tortured in Kirundo commune and province

On September 4, 2018, in Rupfunda quarter, Kirundo commune and province, Pierre Uhagaze, OPJ and retired ex-FAB, was beaten up by patrolling Imbonerakure led by Thierry Mwitende, from Ntega commune and director of Lycée Budahunga in Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province. According to sources on site, Pierre met these Imbonerakure while returning from a bar. The victim is accused of wanting to take revenge against the killers of his mother, Constance Kagorora, who was killed during the 1988 crisis, while taking soldiers to Thierry's father to kill him. Thierry's father had been able to escape, adds the same sources.

A person tortured in Kirundo commune and province

On 3 September 2018, OPC1 Innocent Zimiyabandi, environmental commissioner in Ngozi province, from Kirundo province, beat up and injured on his head with a pistol, a man named Minani, an employee to Thomas Ntibariyumwe's bar located in Swahili quarter of Kirundo province. According to sources on site, this commissioner hit the staff and the customers who were in this bar. According to the same sources, the bar staff refused to serve him beer because he never pays for his drinks. The victim was taken to one of the CDS in Kirundo.

Four people tortured in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province

On September 7, 2018, on Gitaro hill, Kiremba commune, Ngozi province, Evariste Manirakiza, hill advisor, Marie Rose Uwizeyimana and Claver Miburo, all FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing and Bosco Miburo, Evariste's brother were tortured by Imbonerakure from Gitaro, Kiremba, Musanga, Migerera, Gahororo and Gatwaro hills, led by Angelo Nsabimbona, representative of Imbonerakure in Gitaro and his deputy Gervais Karenzo. According to sources on site, Evariste Manirakiza and his team are accused of teaching the ideology of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing to the local inhabitants. According to the same sources, the hill representative of the Imbonerakure acted under the orders of Gregoire Nsanzamahoro, Imbonerakure's commune representative, and Sebigo, the commune representative of CNDD-FDD party.

1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On 3 September 2018, around 5:00 am, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Georges Nkuzimana, teacher at ECOFO Mugege, Gitaramuka commune of the same province, MRC-Rurenzangemero party member, was arrested at his home and taken to Buhiga zone cell by police officers commanded by Epipode, from Buhiga police station logistics officer. According to local sources, Georges was accused of swindling a soldier living in Gatumba who had a mushroom project of 900,000 Bif. According to the same sources, political reasons are linked to his arrest since he refused to join CNDD-FDD party despite many solicitations.

A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On September 5, 2018, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Daphrose Ndayisenga, a teacher at ECOFO Buhiga III, was arrested and taken to Buhiga zone cell by Buhiga zone head Phocas Sindaruhuka, accusing her of having burned a eucalyptus afforestation belonging to Evariste Ngendankazi located on Gitanga hill of the same commune. According to sources on site, these accusations have no evidence and are only a means of ransoming because this zone head and police officers asked him for 200,000 Bif to be released but she refused.

I.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 4 September 2018 indicates that from 2 to 4 September 2018, on Canzikiro hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, JS, aged 16, from Kiranda hill from the same zone and commune, was raped by Jean de Dieu Niyonzima, a 27-year-old Imbonerakure. According to local sources, this Imbonerakure removed her from the road when she returned home from the province capital city and locked her in his home. According to the same sources, the crime was known when the victim went to complain to the OPJ of Bugenyuzi commune. She was taken to Karuzi Hospital while the alleged perpetrator run away.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A person killed in Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province

On September 6, 2018, Emile Banyiyezako, aged 38 years of Twa social component was killed with a machete on Kavumu hill, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province. According to sources on site, a fight is at the origin of this murder due to a land dispute between two families of the same social component.

Weapons found in Burambi commune, Rumonge province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 3 September 2018 indicates that on 1 September 2018, weapons consisting of bombs, rocket launchers, bullets for machine gun rifles and Kalashnikovs were found on Rusabagi hill, Burambi commune, Rumonge province. According to local sources, more than 400 bullets of machine gun and more than 200 Kalashnikov rifle bullets were packed in a black bag. These weapons were found by soldiers on patrol, add the same sources.

A body exhumed in Makamba commune and province

On September 4, 2018, the body of Jacques Ndayisaba was exhumed after being buried by the administration of Makamba commune and province by confusion of another body of an unknown person dropped in Makamba hospital mortuary. According to sources on site, the administration made a serious mistake for not having sought the identification of the deceased by an official communique so that it is buried by his relatives.

Intimidation in Karuzi province

On 8 September 2018, in some communes of Karuzi province, Imbonerakure, using vehicles of some of CNDD-FDD party members, have gone through the streets of Buhiga, Gitaramuka, Bugenyuzi and Gihogazi communes chanting intimidation songs, saying that opponents must clear off. According to sources on site, the rally took place in Buhiga commune, some were in police uniform, others in military uniform and there was no activity prepared by that party that day at the national level.

Two people injured in commune and province Ngozi

Information received by Ligue Iteka on September 3, 2018 indicates that on September 2, 2018, around 10:00 pm, a shopkeeper Audace and a woman were shot by two unidentified persons, one of whom was in police uniform in Gabiro quarter of Ngozi commune and province city center. According to sources on site, Audace was seriously wounded and the reason for this attack remains unknown.

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.

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.