

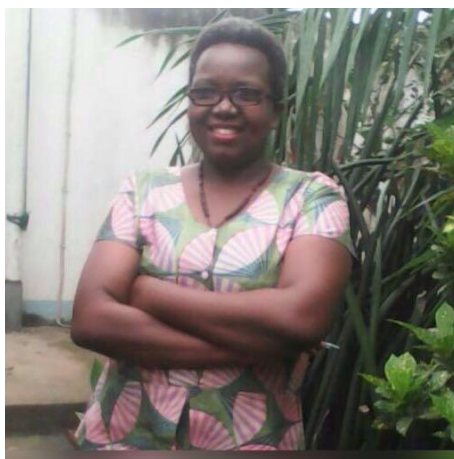
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 130 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 1 – 7 October 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 7 October 2018, Iteka has documented at least 497 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGR : *Income Generating Activity*

CDS : *Health Center*

CNS : *National Security Board*

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

DCE : *Communal Education Direction*

ECOFO : *Fundamental School*

FNL : *Front for National Liberation*

ONG : *Non-Governmental Organization*

OTRACO : *Public Transport Corporation*

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 14 people killed including 5 corpses found, 1 person abducted, 10 tortured, 6 arbitrarily arrested and 3 GBV victims.

Among then victims are 6 women killed including 1 baby, 3 women tortured and a woman arrested.

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

The phenomenon of bodies found and the number of people killed by unidentified people tend to increase

The phenomenon of people killed accused of sorcery is also intensifying across the country.

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 Shombo commune, Karuzi province

On 2 October 2018, at about 5:00 pm, on Nyabibuye hill and zone, Shombo commune, Karuzi province, Honorate Ngoragoze, aged 50, was beaten up with sticks and stones until she dies, then her body was thrown into Ruvubu River. According to sources on site, the victim was abducted the same day, at about 11:00 am from her home on Gatabo hill in Shombo commune, by an Imbonerakure group from that hill commanded by Sylvester and had taken her on Nyabibuye hill where she was killed accused of sorcery. According to the same sources, his body was not found. The police arrested Sylvestre with his nephew, also Imbonerakure, and took them to Shombo commune cell.

I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A body found in Isare commune, Bujumbura-rural province

On October 3, 2018, on Gisiga sub-hill, Bushaka hill, Benga zone, Isare commune, Bujumbura-rural province, a body of Rachele Iteriteka, a 2 and a half year old girl, was found on Muhunguzi River. According to sources on site, his killer slit her and left with some parts of her body. According to the same sources, a neighbor of the victim's family was arrested for investigation reasons.

A body found in Muyinga commune and province

On the morning of October 2, 2018, in Muyinga Bishopric, Muyinga commune and province, the body of Pascal Ntahombaye, about 50 years old, from Matyazo hill, Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province, was found floating in a well collecting rainwater. According to sources on site, the body had a swell on the left temple.

A body found in Muyinga commune and province

On October 1, 2018, on the Tanzanian side of Ruvubu River, in the locality called Rurambi, the body of Consolate Itangishaka, aged 24 and living with physical disabilities, from Ryabihira hill, Rugari zone, Muyinga commune and province was found. According to sources on site, his body had been toothless, disemboweled and burned.

A person killed in Gatara commune, Kayanza province

On the 1st of October 2018, in the morning, Victor, watchman to Gatara communal post, Kayanza province, was found dead. According to sources on site, the victim was beheaded by unidentified people who had

stolen a computer at the post. The same sources indicate that a few meters from the incident site were police officers from one position but they did not intervene.

A person killed in Burambi commune, Rumonge province

On October 4, 2018, at around 9:00 pm, Bikorimana, a worker and a native of Gisangazuba sub-hill, Maramvya hill and zone, Burambi commune, Rumonge province, was killed at his home by unidentified people. According to sources on site, he had just returned from Bujumbura where he worked. The reason remains unknown and two people are jailed for investigation reasons.

A person killed in Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province

On 1 October 2018, at about 8:00 pm, on Kavumwe hill, Ndemeka zone, Gisuru commune Ruyigi province, Marie José Niyokwizera, aged 50, was killed hammered to the head by unidentified people. According to sources on site, the victim was tortured before being killed by his attackers. According to the same sources, accusations of sorcery are at the origin of this killing.

A person killed in Ruyigi commune and province

On 4 October 2018, at around 11:00 pm, Fidèle Nkundabanyanka, aged about 50, was strangled by unidentified persons at his home in Kirambi, Rusengo zone, commune and Ruyigi province. According to sources on site, he was accused of sorcery.

1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING

A person arrested and reported missing in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province

The information received by Ligue Iteka on 1 October 2018 indicates that on 29 September 2018, at around 10:00 am, Sylvain Magorwa, former teacher at ECOFO Gikonko and FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, Rugusu sub hill, Munzenze hill, Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province, was arrested by Cossain, Munzenze zone head accompanied by Imbonerakure and took him to an unknown destination. According to sources on site, Sylvain Magorwa was back from Nduta refugee camp in Tanzania where he had exiled for fear of being killed by Jérôme Tegiriye, CNDD-FDD party communal leader, Bizimana Anaclet, commune administrator and Rénovat Miburo, communal leader of Imbonerakure. According to the same sources, his relatives sought him in commune police station cell, the police station and everywhere but in vain.

1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY POLICE AND IMBONERAKURE

Four people tortured in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On 2 October 2018, at around 9:00 am, policemen from Nyakabiga urban zone police station, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie, commanded by the post head named Egide, wet under the tap and whipped

4 detainees in that zone after taking them out. According to sources on site, they were accused of making noise in the prison cell.

A person tortured in Gitanga commune, Rutana province

On October 2, 2018, at about 10:00 pm, on Kinzanza hill and zone, Gitanga commune, Rutana province, Odette Niyukuri, aged 36, was beaten by Sabiyumva, Ntakarutimana, and Nsengimana, all members of Imbonerakure militia. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure accused him of contempt and having welcomed a lover at home but they searched and did not find him. The victim was treated at CDS Kinzanza following the beatings.

A person tortured in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province

On 1 October 2018, at around 8:00 pm, on Muyange hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, three Imbonerakure named Tuyishemeze, Tuyisenge and Mugisha who is the son of Cyprien Havyarimana, head of this hill, ambushed Nzirubusa alias Nzungu, charcoal trader, and beat him until he vomited blood. The victim was evacuated at about 11:00 pm and taken to CDS Kiranda before being transferred to Buhiga Hospital the following day at around 10:00 am. According to sources on site, they accused him of refusing to give them the money they had demanded to freely trade. According to the same sources, Nzungu was in order and paid communal taxes regularly. The alleged perpetrators were arrested by the police and taken to police station cell in Kiranda.

A person tortured in Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province

On 4 October, 2018, at about 9:00 pm, on Ruhuma hill, Rugwiza zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, Mbonimpa was beaten up by Imbonerakure, Bararinyeretse and Bandyatuyaga, leader of Imbonerakure on this hill. According to sources on site, Mbonimpa was returning home and met them en route and they attacked him with sticks. According to the same sources, the victim who is apolitical refused to join CNDD-FDD party. He was taken to Tabara Hospital in Nyabikere and the perpetrators are still free.

A person tortured in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province

On October 2, 2018, on Gikomero hill, Vumbi zone and commune, Kirundo province, Kibwa, of the Twa social component and employed in a restaurant, was beaten up by 3 young Imbonerakure from this hill. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure accused him of having taken money in the accountancy to pay himself after months of unpaid bills.

Two people tortured in Rumonge commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 1 October 2018 indicates that on 16 September 2018, Blandine Butoyi and her sister Radegonde Niyonkuru were beaten up by three Imbonerakure, Livingstone, Pascal and Niyongabo, all CNDD. FDD ex-combatants in Gatete zone, Rumonge commune and province. According to local sources, they were accused of selling prohibited drinks. According to the same sources,

Blandine, who had a broken arm, was evacuated to one of the hospitals in Bujumbura. The victims have lodged a complaint to the public prosecutor and the file is in progress.

1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICE AND SNR AGENTS

Three people arrested in Vugizo commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 1 October 2018 indicates that on 28 September 2018, 17-year-old Steve Arakaza, Arsène Habarugira and Onesphore Nkurunziza were arrested and taken to Vugizo commune police station cell by Imbonerakure on Karonge hill, Vugizo commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, they were brought there from Bujumbura Mairie by Samuel Ndayirata, a native of Nyanza-Lac commune, telling them that he wanted to enlist them in a rebel movement.

A person arrested in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 3 October 2018 indicates that on 28 September 2018, in the afternoon, on Mparambo hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Onesphore Niyonzima, 24 years old, mason, from Nyabisindu hill, Cankuzo commune and province, was arrested by Imbonerakure commanded by their leader, Hassan. According to local sources, Onesphore was jailed at SNR provincial prison in Cibitoke.

A person arrested in Mutaho commune, Gitega province

On 2 October 2018, Melchior Hakizimana, provincial police commissioner of Gitega arrested Chantal Nyandwi from Nyangungu hill, Rwisabi zone, Mutaho commune, Gitega province. According to sources on site, this woman was arrested instead of her husband on the run, accused of illegal practice of medicine. According to the same sources, this woman was taken to and jailed in Gitega province police station cell.

A person arrested in Muhuta commune, Rumonge province

On 1 October 2018, Vianney Sibomana, member of Amizero y'abarundi coalition, was arrested at his home in Gitaza, Muhuta commune, Rumonge province by Michel, SNR head in Rumonge. According to local sources, he is accused of undermining the internal security of the state.

1.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Mbuye commune, Muramvya province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 3 October 2018 indicates that on 8 September 2018, on Butare hill, Mbuye commune, Muramvya province, R.T, aged 9, was raped by Gervais Kagabogabo, farmer and resident on the same hill. According to sources on site, the facts occurred at Gervais Kagabogabo's house when the victim came to visit the child of the alleged perpetrator. He was arrested by the police on the complaint of the victim's parents and he is jailed in Muramvya prison.

A person raped in Muramvya commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 4 October 2018 indicates that on 20 September 2018, at Gakenke hill, Ryarusera zone, Muramvya commune and province, KN, aged 5, was raped by Ephrem Nshimirimana, 25 years old. According to sources on site, Ephrem Nshimirimana was working as a maid at the victim's uncle. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrator of the rape was arrested and jailed in Muramvya prison.

Attempted rape in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province

On 2 October 2018, at around 8:00 pm, on Canzikiro hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, 43-year-old Ferdinand Habimana was caught in the house of Jacqueline Ntakarutimana, her neighbor whose husband left for work in Makamba. According to sources on site, Ferdinand entered this house and took by force this woman who defended herself while shouting for help and her neighbors quickly intervened. The alleged perpetrator was caught and taken by the population to Bugenyuzi commune cell. According to the same sources, Ferdinand Habimana had been released from Gitega prison on 1 October 2018, after 5 years' imprisonment following the offense of rape.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A body found in Matana commune, Bururi province

On October 2, 2018, in the morning, a body of a newborn was found in a bush, on Matana hill, zone and commune, Bururi province. The administration buried of the corpse. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrators, his mother and the circumstances of his death are not known.

A body found in Kibago commune, Makamba province

On 2 October 2018, Zaburi Magenge, 50 years old, residing on Nyarubanga hill, Kiyange zone, Kibago commune, Makamba province, was found dead hanged on an avocado tree near his house. According to sources on site, a letter of farewell to the family was found under this avocado revealing that he committed suicide following a land dispute with his sisters.

A person killed in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

On 2 October 2018, around 2:00 am, on Bukobero sub-hill, Bupfunda hill, Mushikamo zone, Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, Peresina was clubbed by her husband on the head. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrator took off after the murder and family disputes were the origin.

A body found in Muyinga commune and province

On 1 October 2018, on Kayenzi hill, Muyinga commune and province, the body of Raphael Nkuzi, about 60 years old, from this hill was found in Ruvubu River. According to sources on site, the circumstances of his death were not known but he was in conflict with his sons.

A case of suicide in Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province

On October 3, 2018, on Busoro hill, Kiguhu zone, Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province, a 17-year-old girl named Carine committed suicide with poison to kill mice. According to local sources, the girl was pregnant and her mother kicked her out of the house. According to the same sources, she died in Rutana hospital.

A person killed in Rumonge commune and province

On the afternoon of October 4, 2018, Gérard Minani, a 24-year-old taxi-bike driver from Kigongo hill, Mudende zone, Buyengero commune, Rumonge province, succumbed to his injuries after being beaten on the night of October 3 to 4, 2018 by residents of Mugomere quarter, Rumonge commune and province urban center. According to local sources, the victim was suspected by the local population of being a robber and died at Rumonge Hospital after being evacuated by a motorcycle taxi driver who found him in critical condition.

Grenade attack in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On October 3, 2018, around 9:00 pm, unidentified people threw a grenade at a police station based in Kinanira II, Musaga urban zone at the place commonly known as 'OTRACO', Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie. . According to sources on site, 4 people were wounded including two policemen and a woman.

Intimidation in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

On 2 October 2018, at about 2:00 pm, at Gitaramuka IDP site, Gitaramuka zone and commune, Karuzi province, Jeannette Ningabiye, administrator of this commune, held a meeting for the displaced people, telling them that they must return to their original hills. According to sources on site, this commune authority indicated to them the existence of a project of construction of the commune offices including that of DCE and the zone chief in this IDP camp. According to the same sources, this administrator has already forcibly taken a parcel of Venantie Nshimirimana, a widow and refugee in Rwanda and ordered that the parcel be registered in the commune properties. It should be noted that the same message was given to IDPs from other sites in the country, including Ruhororo in Ngozi province and Bugendana in Gitega province.

Suspension of NGOs in Burundi

On October 1, 2018, NGOs working in Burundi were forced to suspend their activities following the communiqué of the National Security Board (CNS) of September 27, 2018, read by Major General Silas Ntigurirwa, Executive Secretary of the board, CNS decided to suspend the activities of all NGOs in the national territory for a three month period. On October 2, 2018, at a meeting organized by Pascal

Barandagiye, Minister of the Interior, Patriotic Education and Local Development, stated that the Government is conditioning the resumption of NGOs activities by the presentation of four types of documents namely the cooperation agreement signed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the implementing protocol of the law governing NGOs and the national development plan of Burundi, an act of commitment to compliance with banking regulations in Burundi as well as a progressive plan to correct ethnic imbalances with a three-year turnaround time and a one-year period of assessment of respect for these balances. According to local sources, the consequences of this suspension of NGOs began to be observed on the ground in the intervention zones of these NGOs.

For example, in Rumonge province, on October 1, 2018, vulnerable people assisted by the NGO Village Health Works hospital were not treated. Also, the activities of the NGO ZOA which intervenes in agriculture and of Care International which works in the setting up of microcredits and IGAs have been suspended. In Muramvya province, a large proportion of farmers in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, did not receive any chemical fertilizer from the NGO One Acre Fund-Tubura on 3 October 2018, when this NGO had distributed fertilizer to some farmers, the day before, other farmers of 3 October 2018 were notified that the distribution will not take place as planned because of the suspension of NGOs by the Government of Burundi via the CNS. According to the same sources, these farmers had already paid for these chemical fertilizers.

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, 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.