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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 133 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 22-28 October 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 28 October 2018, Iteka has documented at least 502 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APC	: Chief Police Agent
CDS	: Health Center
CNDD-FDD	: National Council for the Defense of Democracy
DCE	: Communal Director of Education
DPE	: Provincial Director of Education
ECOFO	: Ecole Fondamentale
ESCR	: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
FNL	: National Liberation Movement
FOREBU	: Republican Forces of Burundi
ITAB	: Institute of Agricultural Techniques of Burundi
MSD	: Movement for Solidarity and Democracy
OPJ	: Judicial Police Officer
PJ	: Judicial Police
RDC	: Democratic Republic of Congo
SOJEPAE	: Solidarity of Christian Youth for Peace and Childhood in Burundi
UPRONA	: Union for National Progress
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 bodies found, 3 persons abducted, 11 tortured, 3 arbitrarily arrested and 1 GBV victim.

Among the victims are 1 women and 1 minor killed as well as 3 women tortured.

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

Violations of the ESC rights and violation of the right to strike have been reported in this bulletin.

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 IMBONERAKURE

A person killed in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province

On 22 October 2018, at about 2:00 am, on Kabwira hill, Masabo zone, Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province, 80-year-old Gideon Bacanamwo, CNDD-FDD party member, was killed with sticks by Prosper Ntimpirangeza, aged 28, Imbonerakure, accusing him of sorcery. According to sources on site, the victim was evacuated to CDS Masabo where he died at 10:00 am of the same day. According to the same sources, his neighbors Emmanuel Sinzumusi, Elias Gahungu, Sylvestre Nkurikiye and Hatungimana, who were present at the scene, were arrested by the police and taken to the commune cell, accused of not helping a person in danger.

I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A person killed in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province

On 25 October 2018, Cassien Nimubona, aged 38, son of Frédéric Musita and Ntiringaniza Viva, from Mabanza hill, Muyama zone, Buyengerero commune, Rumonge province, was found dead hanged on a tree on Kazirabageni hill, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province. According to local sources, the victim's body showed signs of beatings, wounds and traces on his arms showing that he was tied up before being executed. According to the same sources, two alleged perpetrators of the crime were arrested and jailed in Nyanza-Lac police cell.

A person killed in Gitega commune and province

On October 22, 2018, at around 8:00 pm, near the Joachim Ruhuna Bishop monument, in Mushasha quarter, Gitega urban center, Bède Ntezicimpa, aged 31, a motorcycle taxi driver, was found dead stabbed and his genital organ ripped off by unidentified people. According to local sources, the victim was living in Magarama neighborhood on 2nd Avenue. According to the same sources, the motorcycle and the victim's phone were stolen. Five alleged perpetrators, all Imbonerakure, including Eric Hakizimana and Eloge Dushime, were arrested in Rango quarter on October 25, 2018, while Pacifique Irakoze and Gentil Elvis Arakaza were arrested by Gitega police on October 26, 2018.

A person killed in Shombo commune, Karuzi province

On 23 October 2018, at around 7:00 pm, on Muhororo hill, Nyarutambi zone, Shombo commune, Karuzi province, a 23-year-old girl named Claudine was killed at home with knives. According to sources on site, unidentified people entered the house when her parents were absent and killed her. The reason for this assassination was not known.

A person killed in Bisoro commune, Mwaro province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 24 October 2018 indicates that on 19 October 2018, Agnès Niragira of Buhabwa hill, Bisoro commune, Mwaro province was killed by unidentified people.

Two bodies found in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

On October 26, 2018, in Kibira Forest, Masango zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, two bodies tied up and in decomposition were found by passers-by. According to local sources, the beheaded victims were killed elsewhere before being dumped into Kibira Forest. According to the same sources, these bodies were directly buried on the orders of Jean Bosco Hategekimana, administrator of Bukinanyana commune. The victims as well as the origin of this double murder have not been identified.

1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING

Three people abducted in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

On 25 October 2018, on Rusenda hill and zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, three people Callixte Mpozenzi and Juvenal Mundane of Rwandan origin and Fabien Ngerageze, 28 years old, member of "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition were abducted by Miburo, SNR head in Cibitoke province. According to local sources, the victims were tied up before being taken aboard a vehicle that headed for Kayanza province. According to the same sources, he accused them of collaborating with armed groups who are staying in Rwanda and were taken to an unknown destination.

1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY ADMINISTRATIVE, POLICE AND IMBONERAKURE

Five people tortured in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

On October 25, 2018, around 9:00 pm, Felix Batungwanayo, Etienne Manirambona, Fabrice a visitor from Makamba, Romeo and Jean Claude, residents of Gihanga commune, Bubanza province were beaten up by police officers led by the logistics manager at the commune police station, before being taken to Gihanga police cell. According to sources on site, these police officers accused them of violating the curfew set up in this locality after a grenade attack which targeted the administrator of this commune, on the night of August 16, 2018. According to the same sources, the next day, these victims were released and went for treatment.

A person tortured in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 25 October 2018 indicates that on 20 October 2018, on Rutambiro hill, Kankima zone, Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province, Jean Claude Kazungu, from Buhoro hill, of the same commune was tortured by two Imbonerakure Pretty Ingabire and Perfect Nzeyimana. According to sources on site, Jean Claude Kazungu was accused of belonging to FOREBU armed movement

A person tortured in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On 27 October 2018, at night, Frédéric Ndayizeye, member of Amizero y'Abarundi coalition, was beaten by Imbonerakure on Nyamitanga hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province. According to local

sources, he was accused of collaborating with rebel groups established in the DRC and boasting of the attack of the night of 19 to 20 October 2018 on Nyamitanga military position. The victim is in critical condition and receives care at a local CDS.

A person tortured in Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province

On October 27, 2018, at Rutegama hill, Munanira zone, Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province, Ozella Niyitunga, aged 19, was tied up and beaten up by Ernest Nkuzimana, head of this hill. According to sources on site, this hill head accused him of complicity in the disappearance of her friend Marie Nsengiyumva, aged 17, since October 24, 2018. According to the same sources, Marie Nsengiyumva is in Gitega where she works as a baby-sitter.

Two people tortured in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On October 26, 2018, around 8:00 am, on Gahise hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Jeanne Niyonzima and Claudine Ahishakiye, all farmers and UPRONA members of Charles Nditije's wing, were beaten by five Imbonerakure Edmond Nkurunziza Augustin Niyibitanga, Jules Bizimana, Nicaise Nshimirimana and Venuste Niyongabo. They were accused of not contributing to the 2020 elections.

A person tortured in Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province

On October 26, 2018, around 8:00 am, Bukene, from Nyarumanga hill, Gisuru commune, a beer seller at Kayogoro market, Gisuru zone and commune, was beaten up by police officers from Kayogoro market position. According to sources on site, these police officers accused him of being part of an armed group that was about to steal traders from this market. They even shot on him. According to the same sources, this trader was rescued by Nyarumanga policemen who intervened on his behalf and said he was never part of the armed gangs. The victim is recovering at Gisuru Hospital.

1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE AND POLICE

A person arrested in commune and province Bubanza

On October 25, 2018, at about 10:00 am, Richard Nkurunziza, a 30-year-old member of MSD party, living in the city center, Bubanza commune and province, was arrested by Gaposho, Imbonerakure in collaboration with a police officer. According to sources on site, the reason for this arrest is not yet known. Richard Nkurunziza is jailed in Bubanza province police station cell.

Two people arrested in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 24 October 2018 indicates that on 19 October 2018, two men, one Rwandan and one Burundian named Gaspard, living on Kibaya hill, Ndora zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, were arrested by police and jailed in the commune cell. According to sources on site, they were accused of having built good relations while their two countries are in diplomatic conflict. According to the same sources, the administrator of Bukinanyana commune requested, in a meeting held on 23 October 2018, for the heads of hills and young Imbonerakure, to arrest Rwandan because Burundi and Rwanda are not in good terms.

Four people arrested in Muramvya commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on October 24, 2018 indicates that on October 20, 2018, four passengers including David Ninganza, SOJPAE President, aboard a Probox-type car were arrested by police and jailed in Muramvya police station cell. According to sources on site, they were accused of taking a photo of the President of the Republic's procession in Muramvya province city.

1.5 GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Musongati commune, Rutana province

On 25 October 2018, a police officer from Ngoma position, APC Ildephonse Ngendakumana from Musongati police station, Rutana province, was caught in the act of raping G.N, a woman with a mental disability. This policeman has been brought to justice. The High Court of Rutana decided the case in flagrante and sentenced this policeman to a penal servitude of 25 years and a fine of 200,000 Bif.

1.6. VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO STRIKE

Intimidation to teachers in Gitobe commune, Kirundo province

On 26 October 2018, the governor of Kirundo, the administrator of Gitobe commune, the DPE and the DCE intimidated teachers of ITAB of Bugwana, Gitobe commune, after issuing their strike notice. According to sources on site, the DPE told them that he was going to ask for the suspension of their salaries, that they will be expelled from teachers' residences and that they will be tracked down individually. According to the same sources, the reason for their strike notice is the cancelation of a decision of the jury of this school by the Minister of Education, Technical and Vocational Training.

II. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Politics in school

On 24 October 2018, at Lycée Communal Gihinga, Baziro zone, Gitobe commune, Kirundo province, the director of this school and the CNDD-FDD party leader in the commune, ordered the pupils of this school to join to CNDD-FDD party under threat of school retaliation. According to local sources, these authorities had organized a meeting for students at this school. According to the same sources, the director of this school said that students of the final classes who will not join will miss their diplomas.

III. SECURITY FACTS

A person killed in Gitega commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on October 23, 2018 indicates that on October 19, 2018, on Bihanga hill, Gitega commune and province, Cédric Bigirimana, of the same hill, 5th form pupil at ECOFO Bihanga I was beaten to death by Mathieu Mbarushimana, his teacher, living in Nyabisindu neighborhood of Gitega commune. According to sources on site, he was accused by this teacher of not bringing the appropriate equipment for cleaning the classroom. According to the same sources, his spine was fractured. Cédric was admitted to Sainte Thérèse Hospital in Songa, Gitega, where he died on

October 24, 2018. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and jailed in Gitega judicial police cell for investigation.

A person killed in Butezi commune, Ruyigi province

On the night of October 23, 2018, Janvier Ndabumvire, about 50 years old, father of 5 children, from Nyakivuvu, Bwagiriza zone, was killed on Gasenyi sub-hill, Bwagiriza hill, Butezi commune, Ruyigi province. According to sources on site, he was killed by the population, accused of stealing goats in Ndayizeye Philibert's household. The owner of the goat was heard by the OPJ but he was not arrested. The victim was buried the next morning by the administration.

A person injured in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 23 October 2018 indicates that on 21 October 2018, on Gihinga hill, Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province, Aaron Cimanishatse, aged 12, son of Jean Horugavye and Consolate Harimeshi been injured following an explosion of a grenade. According to local sources, children including the victim found this grenade while keeping cows. The child was taken to a local CDS.

A house burned in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province

On 25 October 2018, at about 11:00 pm, on Kivumvu hill, Buhindo zone, Murwi commune, Cibitoke province, unidentified persons burnt a house of Melanie Uwihoyiki, widow and mother of two children. According to sources on site, her neighbors accused her of sorcery. According to the same sources, Murwi zone head demanded all Kivumvu hill inhabitants to rebuild a house for this widow and contribute him 1000 Bif per household.

Forced contributions in Kirundo commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on October 23, 2018 indicates that since October 12, 2018, all inhabitants of Kavomo and Yaranda hills were required to give contributions by the rural Kirundo zone head, Frederic Ndayicariye alias Bidasesa and Imbonerakure. According to local sources, they said it's for the safety of fields while there are no crops or crops to keep. According to the same sources, each household must contribute 500 Bif, 2000 Bif shopkeepers and regardless of the property to keep.

IV. 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.