

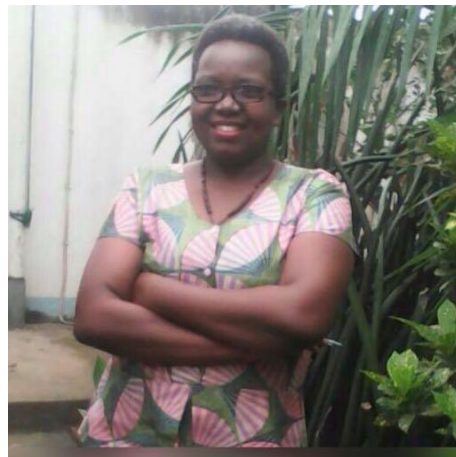
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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 135 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 5 -11 November 2018**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 11 November 2018, Iteka has documented at least 505 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**CDS** : *Health Center*

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

**DCE** : *Communal Director of Education*

**ECOFO** : *Ecole Fondamentale*

**FAB** : *Burundi Armed Forces*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Movement*

**OPJ** : *Judicial Police Officer*

**PMPA** : *Parties and Armed Political Movements*

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

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**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 7 people killed including 3 bodies found, 3 abducted and/or reported missing, 2 tortured, 6 arbitrarily arrested and 4 GBV victims.

Among the victims are 1 woman killed and one girl arbitrarily arrested.

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

GBV cases are reported in this bulletin

The bulletin also notes cases of killings, kidnappings and/or enforced disappearances, torture and arbitrary arrest 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 AND MILITARY***

##### **A person killed in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province**

On 5 November 2018, at about 1:00 am, on Rubumba hill, Kiganda commune, Muramvya province, Kibwa, of the Twa social component, was killed with machetes by Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, the victim was suspected of being part of a group of bandits who had just stolen from a household on the same hill. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure almost burned the remains of this man to give a strong signal to all thieves but they were prevented. About thirty Imbonerakure wearing boots, armed with clubs and machetes, marched in the morning to the commune city to announce to the administrator of this commune that they protected the family and the country by getting rid of a malefactor.

##### **Two people killed in Ntega commune, Kirundo province**

On November 9, 2018, at about 5:00 pm, on the military position of Kinyovu, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, two soldiers died following a shooting. According to sources on site, a soldier nicknamed Mafime has quarreled with his colleague, all ex-PMPA. An ex-FAB corporal Gervais Rugemintwaza alias Biregeya who intervened to separate them was gunned by Mafime who also wounded his colleague at the neck. According to the same sources, Mafime fired himself afterwards.

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

##### **A person killed in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province**

On November 7, 2018, at around 10:00 am, on Buvuma sub-hill, Gitwenge hill, Gisagara zone and commune, Cankuzo province, Matilde Mbonigaba, aged 60, was killed with machete by unidentified people when she was returning from a water well. According to local sources, she was accused of sorcery by her neighbors. No investigation was conducted to identify the perpetrators.

##### **Two bodies found in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province**

On November 7, 2018, in Rusizi River on Nyamitanga hill, Ndava zone, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, two bodies were found by the population. According to local sources, these bodies floated on Rusizi River.

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

On 6 November 2018, at around 8:00 am, a body of 56-year-old Patrice Ntibagirirwa was found in the bush on Nyamurenge hill, Makamba zone, Rusaka commune, Mwaro province. According to sources on site, the victim was killed half-way by unidentified people when he came from a bar called Mwijeri. Serges Niyongabo, OPJ of Rusaka commune and Athanase Mpawenayo, Makamba zone head

confirmed that Patrice Ntibagirirwa was killed. He was buried on November 7, 2018. The investigations are ongoing.

## ***I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING***

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

On November 10, 2018, around 5:00 am, on the 12<sup>th</sup> street and Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Stany Ndayizamba, aged 29, son of Gregoire Nizigiyimana and Libérate Nibampa, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, from Mugigo hill, Buyengero commune, Rumonge province was abducted by Richard, provincial head of SNR in rural Bujumbura. According to sources on site, the victim was transported by this SNR official in a double cab with tinted windows. According to the same sources, the family searched in the cells of Maramvya, Rubirizi and Mutimbuzi zones, but to no avail.

### **Two persons reported missing in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province**

On November 10, 2018, around 9:00 pm, on Muremera hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Diomede Nzoyisaba and Marc Nzisabira, both FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing, both traders were abducted by a group of four unidentified people dressed in coats. According to local sources, this group took them on foot to an unknown destination. They were abducted at their workplace and were residing on the same hill.

## ***I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE***

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

On November 5, 2018, on Rusagara hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, Elvis Ndayirukiye, aged 30, teacher, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was beaten up by Imbonerakure named Bizimana alias Bwayaze. According to sources on site, the victim was chatting with his friends when Bizimana, accompanied by other Imbonerakure, came to beat him accusing him of holding an illegal meeting but this Imbonerakure had asked him for a long time to join CNDD-FDD party. According to the same sources, the victim was taken to the CDS for treatment.

### **A person tortured in Ntega commune, Kirundo province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 5, 2018 indicates that on November 4, 2018, on Murungurira hill, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, Jean Prosper Hitimana, 40 years old, teacher at ECOFO Murungurira, UPRONA member of Charles Nditije's wing, was beaten up by his director Gérard Ntukabumwe and CNDD-FDD party communal head Jean Marie Mugumyankiko alias Sindyibigori. According to local sources, the two members of the Imbonerakure militia were in a bar where Hitimana stopped to ask for the money change to pay a biker who had transported him from Kirundo and began insulting him. According to the same sources, they beat him up saying that they want to do what the Tutsi did to the Hutu in 1972 and that they will send him to Mahama to join other Tutsi. Jean Prosper Hitimana had loaned 600,000 Bif in 2016 to his director Gerard Ntukabumwe who has never paid back the money and the case is before the court. Hitimana is now in critical condition and is afraid to go for treatment.

#### ***I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND POLICE***

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 6 November 2018 indicates that on 1 November 2018, on Gitanga hill, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, Joseph Nzomwitakuze, FNL party member, of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested by Imbonerakure, commanded by Buhiga zone head Phocas Sindaruhuka, and taken to Buhiga zone cell. According to local sources, Joseph was accused of insulting the Imbonerakure. The victim was released on November 6, 2018.

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

On November 5, 2018, on Teme hill, Rugazi zone, Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province, 20-year-old Moïse Jumatatu, a Congolese national, from Mulongwe-Uvira, DRC, was arrested and taken to commune Bugenyuzi cell by the commune administrator, Spéciose Gakecuru in collaboration with the Governor who availed his vehicle to embark. According to local sources, this Congolese was accused of spying on behalf of the armed movements in the DRC. According to the same sources, he was in order with the travel documents and had come to visit a friend of this hill since November 3, 2018.

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

On 6 November 2018, at Gitaramuka IDP site, Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, Larissa Murerangondo, aged 25, was arrested and taken to Gitaramuka commune cell by Jeannette Ningabiye, the communal administrator. According to local sources, Larissa was accused of having insulted the communal administrator when this authority wanted to demolish houses of the displaced, including that of the victim. According to the same sources, she was transferred to Karuzi province police station on November 9, 2018, around 5: 00 pm, and the charge was turned into an incitement to uprising.

##### **Two people arrested in Vugizo commune, Makamba province**

On 5 November 2018, Salvator Nsabiyumva and Zébéde Ntakirutimana, both members of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing, were arrested by police officers and jailed at Vugizo police station, Makamba province. According to local sources, they were arrested after residents of Murinda hill, Mpinga zone, Vugizo commune, Makamba province spent the night of 4 November 2018 outside following the cries of unidentified people who terrified the population. According to the same sources, they are rather accused of having sensitized to vote for "NO" during the referendum campaign of May 2018.

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

On November 5, 2018, Eric Niyubahwe, teacher at Gahosha communal High School in Makamba commune was arrested by Gad Niyukuri, Governor of Makamba, and taken to Makamba commune police station cell. According to sources on site, this teacher was forced to acknowledge that he has impregnated a girl from Mabanda commune who gave birth in July 2018. According to the same sources, the teacher did not acknowledge the facts.

## ***I.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE***

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 5, 2018 indicates that on October 26, 2018, on Nyarunazi hill, Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, B.K., aged 11, was raped by her half-brother named Eric Niyongere, 19 years old. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrator has been arrested and jailed in Muramvya prison since 8 November 2018.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 5, 2018 indicates that on October 22, 2018, on Nyamitwenzi hill, Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, AGG, aged 3 years and 10 months, daughter of C., was raped by Désiré Nshimirimana, 28, a house worker at Justine's, a neighbor of C. According to sources on site, this alleged perpetrator is from Nkonyovu hill in the same commune. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrator has been arrested and jailed in Muramvya prison since 8 November 2018.

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

On November 5, 2018, on Bucuzi hill, Murwi commune, Cibitoke province, V.N., student, age 17, was raped by a young Imbonerakure nicknamed Kibaga. According to local sources, the victim was taken to CDS Murwi for medical treatment while the alleged perpetrator was not worried.

### **A person raped in Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 6 November 2018 indicates that on 2 November 2018, on Nyenzi hill, Gatonde zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, a 14-year-old girl named N. from this hill was raped by Nkunuzimana, 35 years old, residing on the same hill. According to sources on site, Nkunuzimana took advantage of the absence of the victim's parents to break into the house. After the crime, the alleged perpetrator took off and the victim was taken to CDS Gatonde for medical care.

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

### **A grenade found in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province**

On November 6, 2018, at about 5: 00 pm, a Chinese-made grenade was found under Bagundi River Bridge separating Bumba hill of Camazi zone and Murago hill of Gisagara zone all of Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province. According to sources on site, this grenade was destroyed by soldiers in the presence of the inhabitants of the locality.

### **Property looted in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province**

On 6 November 2018, on Mparambo hill I, Rugombo zone and commune, Cibitoke province, loincloths, a mobile phone and a sum of 20,000 Bif belonging to Jacques Hatangimana, 42 years old, trader, were stolen by young Imbonerakure led by a nicknamed Kaduruvayo. According to sources on site, these young Imbonerakure attacked his home around 10:00 pm.



### **Threats of demolition of houses of Gitaramuka IDP site, Karuzi province**

On November 6, 2018, in the IDP camp of Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, a tension arose between the IDPs against the administrator Jeannette Ningabiye. According to sources on site, this authority brought a tractor to demolish 8 houses on this site to building two offices: one of the DCE and the zone head. According to the same sources, these IDPs resisted the demolition of these houses. This communal authority has still dumped stones and sand before arresting Larissa, a girl residing in this site accused of having insulted the administrator who threatened those displaced to chase them from this site.

### **Death threats in Kabarore commune, Kayanza province**

On November 5, 2018, in Kabarore commune, Kayanza province, the communal administrator, Victor ordered hill heads and agricultural monitors to denounce anyone who goes or comes from Rwanda. According to sources on site, this communal authority gave these orders at a meeting organized for these administration and agricultural officials at the local level. According to the same sources, the meeting was closed by the choice of informers on all the hills bordering Rwanda and by a decision to close all roads to Rwanda by planting herbs. Anyone who will be caught, going to or coming from Rwanda, will be removed according to this authority.

### ***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, 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.