

## BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

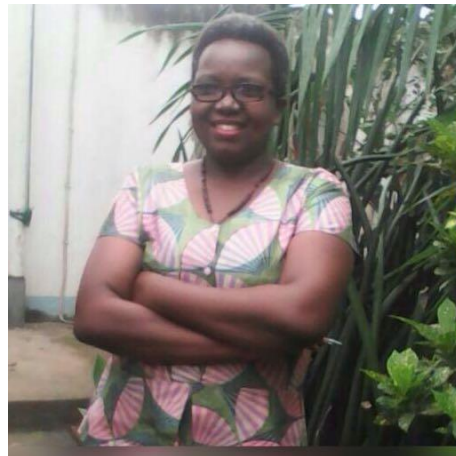
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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 137 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 19 -25 November 2018**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 25 November 2018, Iteka has documented at least 508 cases of enforced disappearances.*

**CONTENTS**

**PAGES**

*ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS* ..... 3

*0. INTRODUCTION*..... 4

*I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS* ..... 5

*I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE*..... 5

*I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE AND POLICE*..... 5

*I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE*..... 5

*I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING*..... 5

*I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE* ..... 6

*I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY SNR AGENTS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS*..... 6

*I.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE* ..... 7

*II. SECURITY FACTS* ..... 7

*III. CONCLUSION* ..... 9

## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**AT** : *Transmission Agent*

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

**COMIBU** : *Islamic Community of Burundi*

**ECOFO** : *Ecole Fondamentale*

**ETP** : *School of Public Works*

**FAB** : *Burundi Armed Forces*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Movement*

**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 5 people killed including 1 bodies found, 3 abducted, 2 tortured, 2 arbitrarily arrested and 1 GBV victim.

Among the victims are 1 women killed.

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

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 POLICE***

##### **A person killed in a commune and province Gitega**

On the night of November 18, 2018, around 9:00 pm, in Mushasha neighborhood, Gitega commune and province, near the Archbishop's house of the Catholic Church, Olivier Bimenyimana, alias Dunga, living in Gitega downtown, was killed by a policeman, Dieudonné Nibitanga. According to sources on site, the victim was with three people, at the time of the facts. According to Marie Rose, head of Mushasha quarter, the alleged perpetrator went to the police station. The reasons for this murder remain unknown.

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

On November 21, 2018, at about 10:00 am, on Rubuga hill, Gitaramuka zone and commune, Karuzi province, a body of 60-year-old Herman Bukuru, widower, farmer, CNDD-FDD party member, from this hill was found tied on a rope to a bag containing objects, in Nyabihu marshlands. According to local sources, there were traces on the neck showing that the victim had been strangled. According to the same sources, the victim had been abducted from her home the night before and was on a list of 10 people accused of sorcery on that hill two months ago. According to the same sources, Jean Claude Niyongabo, Imbonerakure, who had threatened the victim a few days before, was arrested and taken to the police cell for investigation reasons. On the same day, around 11:00 am, the administrator of this commune, Jeannette Ningabiye, held a meeting for the population of Nyarutovu hill and she said that the hill has many sorcerers and poisoners who kill innocent people, that from now on they are all known and will soon suffer an exemplary punishment.

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

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

On the morning of 23 November 2018, a body of farmer Frédiane Nahimana was found in her house where she lived alone in Karonda village, Kigwena zone, Rumonge commune and province. The administrative sources indicate it is an assassination linked to land conflicts. The alleged perpetrators and reason for this murder remain unknown.

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

#### **Three persons reported missing in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 20, 2018, indicates that at about 6:00 pm on November 16, 2018, Berchmans Ntakirutimana, a former employee of SOGEA SATOM, residing in Musama quarter, Kanyosha zone, Théogène Nsengiyumva, member of Muha commune council, residing in Kamesa quarter, Musaga zone and Ferdinand Muterateka, residing in Kinanira II quarter, 6<sup>th</sup> avenue number 21, in Muha commune and from Tora in Mugamba commune, were abducted by unknown persons, one of whom was in civil cloth and one in police uniform, aboard two TI-type

vehicles with tinted windows, at "Kwa Musitanteri" bar, in Gisyo quarter, Kanyosha zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie. According to local sources, the abductees are FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing and Theogene Nsengiyumva was just released from Mpimba prison. According to the same sources, they were abducted after they received a call from the Econet-Leo company number 71944681 from their friend who gathered them to the bar. This man was also arrested before fleeing, handcuffed. After their kidnapping, those who called Theogene's phone received messages telling them, "Do not look for me, I went to a meeting in Rwanda and I will be staying to Napoleon's house".

### ***1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE***

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 19, 2018 indicates that on November 17, 2018, on Gisenyi hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, a group of six Imbonerakures were returning from the fighter day celebration, commanded by Hakizimana, beaten Jean Bosco Ndiokubwayo, member of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing. According to sources on site, they accused him of having refused to join CNDD-FDD party. According to the same sources, they imposed the victim to pay 30,000 Bif to be released.

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

On November 24, 2018, at Nyarusange hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Salvator Ndizeye, deputy representative of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing in Rango zone, was beaten up by two Imbonerakure, Giteme and Kamwenubusa alias Cotsi. According to sources on site, they arrested him and detained him in the commune cell. They accused him of saying that CNDD-FDD party should be forced out power in 2020.

### ***1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY SNR AGENTS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

#### **A person arrested in Cendajuru commune, Cankuzo province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 20, 2018 indicates that on November 10, 2018, Michel Niyonkuru, a CNDD-FDD activist, residing in Cendajuru commune, was arrested and jailed by Boniface Niyonkuru, SNR provincial head in Cankuzo, on the order of the Governor of Cankuzo province, Désiré Njiji. According to sources on site, Michel Niyonkuru has been accused of spreading messages in their whatsapp group that this governor would be the cause of underdevelopment of the province by taking all the markets, while dismissing other potential competitors. According to the same sources, the victim was released on 21 November 2018.

#### **A person arrested in Mabanda commune, Makamba province**

On November 20, 2018, in Mabanda commune, Makamba province, Charles Ndikumana alias Munyuwisi, retired ex-FAB, merchant, was arrested by Janvier, SNR head in Mabanda. According to local sources, the victim was accused of traveling outside the country. The same sources add that Charles is jailed in Makamba commune police station cell.

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

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 20, 2018 indicates that on November 10, 2018, on the Musumba hill, Bukeye commune, Muramvya province, A.I., aged 10, was raped in a cornfield by Hermès Nayuburundi, aged 35, married, farmer and neighbor of the victim's parents. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrator was arrested and jailed in Muramvya prison.

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

### **A body found in Cankuzo province**

On November 19, 2018, in the morning, a body of Joseph Butumiro, watchman of a house in the zone office under construction was found in Cankuzo urban center, in the construction site of the house where he worked. According to sources from the commune and police authorities, he was killed by a madman named Ezekiel alias Hotori using stones and who sought to lodge in this unfinished house.

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

On 22 November 2018, at about 11:00 pm, in a bar on Bonero hill, Rugazi zone, Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province, Dieudonné Havyarimana, aged 35, was killed with machetes and knives during a fight between Prosper Bavumiragiye and Eric Riyazimana, all members of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, this victim with four other injured persons namely Thérance Nzimenya, Thierry Nkunzimana, Christiane Sogorore and her 9-month-old baby, also members of CNDD-FDD party, intervened to stop this fight. According to the same sources, five people including the two alleged perpetrators and three other suspected accomplices, Severin Shagari, Celestin Nduwimana and Jean Claude Barinze were arrested by the police and taken to the commune cell. The wounded were rushed to Bugenyuzi Hospital.

### **A person gunned in Muyinga commune and province**

On 22 November 2018, at around 10:00 am, in Gasenyi quarter, Muyinga commune and province, 37-year-old Gérard Ntahiraja was seriously wounded on the knee by a bullet fired by a soldier Corporal Ndereyimana, registration number HR 13803, AT of Colonel Barimurabo, in charge of social issues (B9) at the 3<sup>rd</sup> military division. According to sources on site, the victim who was digging a septic tank was accused by the soldier of being a clandestine gold digger. According to the same sources, Corporal Ndereyimana was arrested and jailed in the cell of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Military Division in Muyinga.

### **A person injured in Bukemba commune, Rutana province**

On November 23, 2018, on Gihofi hill, Bukemba zone and commune, Rutana province, Joseph Bangurambona was wounded on his left arm with a machete by an unidentified person when he was walking at 2:00 am. The police began investigations to know the reason and the author.

### **Forced contributions in Bururi province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 23 November 2018 indicates that the principals of some secondary schools in Bururi province are expelling students aged 16 and over who have not yet paid 1000 Bif to contribute for the 2020 elections. As an illustration, on November 23, 2018, Claver Ndayishimiye, Director of Bururi Communal High School, at the flag salute, announced that only those students who had already contributed to the 2020 elections have right to enter in class. According to local sources, the post-fundamental classes remained empty. In addition, Juvenal Hakizimana, Director of Ntega Commune High School in Matana commune had also expelled all post-fundamental students on 22 November 2018 for not paying this contribution. According to these school officials, the order was given by Frédéric Niyonzima, Governor of Bururi province.

### **Forced contributions in Kirundo commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 24 November 2018 indicates that Marc Nduwamahoro, director of Murama ETP, commune and Kirundo province, required students to pay a contribution to the 2020 elections. According to local sources, each student had to pay 1000 Bif and since November 8, 2018, any student who had not yet paid, was expelled. Parents and students lament because each household has already paid 2000 Bif but do not understand how they have to pay especially for students.

### **Violation of the home and intimidation in commune and Muyinga province**

On November 19, 2018, at around 6:00 pm, in Swahili quarter, Muyinga commune and province, a group of Imbonerakure commanded by their leader Isaac Nibigira, at the same time head of Muyinga zone, broke into Caritas Nibaruta's home, teacher at ECOFO of COMIBU of Muyinga. According to sources on site, they searched her house and told her that they would kill her if they did not find her younger sister wanted by the police for forgery. According to the same sources, his younger sister did not live with Caritas.

### **Distribution of military items in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province**

The information received by Ligue Iteka on 19 November 2018 indicates that since 17 November 2018, in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, military items, especially rain clothing and boots, have been distributed to Imbonerakure by Manasse Bazishaka, communal representative of Imbonerakure and Nyaruhinda zone head, Patrice, Ntunda zone head and Jérémie Nkundabashaka, former Gitaramuka zone head. According to sources on site, Innocent Ntunzwenimana, Director of ECOFO Rubuga, Issa Cimana, taxi-motorcycle driver and Jean Claude Sindayigaya alias SIDORO (long saw) received these items. According to the same sources, the stock is to Manasse Bazishaka's home and the delivery of the boots is conditioned by a payment of 7000 Bif. These items are worn by Imbonerakure on night patrol in Gitaramuka commune.

### **Intimidation in Cankuzo province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 20, 2018 indicates that on November 17, 2018, in Cankuzo province city, demonstrations for the celebration of the fighters' day made by CNDD-FDD party activists were marked by intimidation. According to local sources, some thirty Imbonerakure in uniforms in black trousers and CNDD-FDD party t-shirts, with whistles, marched



with Kalashnikov rifle-shaped trees, dancing in the streets and around the city market. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure chanted slogans of the CNDD-FDD party saying that they must not be afraid, the country has cost them dear, they do not let go. The ceremonies continued and ended to the communal party office.

### ***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.

Forced contributions in post-fundamental schools were reported during this period.

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.