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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 136 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 12 -18 November 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 18 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*

ECOFO : *Ecole Fondamentale*

FNL : *National Liberation Movement*

PJ : *Judicial Police*

PLWHIV : *Persons Living with HIV*

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 13 people killed including 11 bodies found, 6 tortured, 5 arbitrarily arrested and 1 GBV victim.

Among the victims are 2 women killed, 2 minors killed and 2 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.

People killed, most of whom are found dead, are worrying in their numbers and the lack of investigations.

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

A body found in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

On the afternoon of November 13, 2018, a body of Boniface Nizigiyimana was found marked with wounds and amputated ears in Maragarazi River on the Burundo-Tanzanian border, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, the victim was heading to Gatabo hill and zone aboard a motorcycle driven by Eric Ndayizeye, young influential Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD party on November 11, 2018, around 7:00 pm. According to the same sources, Eric returned alone around midnight. The victim was also a member of CNDD-FDD party. Eric Ndayizeye was arrested and jailed in Kayogoro commune police station for investigative reasons.

One person killed in Kirundo commune and province

On November 11, 2018, Nshimiye, vehicle washer, Imbonerakure of Kavogero quarter, Kirundo commune and province, was beaten by other Imbonerakure led by Nkurunziza, Kanyinya hill head and chief of Imbonerakure of Kirundo center. According to sources on site, Nshimiye succumbed to his injuries at Kirundo Hospital on November 12, 2018. According to the same sources, the victim was accused of using a water point called Kumarimano without permission from Abel Ahishakiye, provincial chief of Imbonerakure. The latter is owner of this water point privatized by the commune for the cleaning of vehicles. No vehicle washer has access to this water point without paying 1000 Bif per vehicle. The Imbonerakure who had taken him to the hospital are also threatened because they have disclosed the facts to the public prosecutor in Kirundo province, but the perpetrators have not been prosecuted so far.

I.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A body found in Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province

On November 17, 2018, at about 5:00 pm, on Buhoro hill, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province, a body of 62-year-old Symphorien Ngendakumana was found covered in blood at his home. According to sources on site, the victim was attacked by unknown persons who inflicted several blows of clubs. According to the same sources, Symphorien Ngendakumana was accused of sorcery by the local population.

Eight bodies found in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

From November 12 to 14, 2018, eight bodies were found in Busoni commune, Kirundo province. According to sources on site, dated November 12, 2018, two male bodies were found in Rweru Lake and were quickly buried, the same day, by the Imbonerakure on the order of the commune administrator, Marie Claudine Hashazinka, on Gikurajoro sub-hill, hill and Gatare zone, Busoni commune, Kirundo province, without doing any investigations. According to the same sources, over the next two days, six other bodies were found. One was floating on the side of Gatare hill and five

others including 2 children, a man and a woman were seen tied up, without clothes and beheaded, all pierced by a piece of wood at the navel level on Senga sub hill, Nyagisozi hill. The administrative authorities have banned the public from revealing the facts and have warned opposition members known from the sub hill that once the secret is leaked they will pay dearly. The Imbonerakure accompanied by some local administrative authorities remain positioned at the edge of Lake Rweru waiting for other corpses.

A body found in Buyengero commune of, Rumonge province

On November 17, 2018, a body of 30-year-old Anastasie Nsabimana from Nyacambuko hill, Buyengero commune, Rumonge province, was found in her house where she lived with her younger sister. According to local sources, administrative authorities said that the victim committed suicide while neighbors spoke of a suicide simulation. According to the same sources, three persons, namely a pupil of ECOFO Gite, Rumonge commune, a pupil of Gasanda Teacher Training College, Bururi commune and another person from Bugarama commune were arrested for investigative reasons.

1.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

On November 15, 2018, Thomas Bucumi, a 32-year-old farmer, a member of FNL wing of Agathon Rwasa, of Bihembe hill, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, was beaten by an Imbonerakure, Jackson Bizuru. According to local sources, Thomas Bucumi was accused by this Imbonerakure of collecting food for rebels.

A person tortured in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

On November 18, 2018, at Karurama hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Nizigiyimana, a 22-year-old biker and member of CNDD-FDD party, was beaten up by young Imbonerakure from that hill. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of stealing a bike

Three people tortured in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On November 17, 2018, around 8:00 pm, on Mufumya hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Damien Nzibavuga, Anatole Karenzo and Lenathe Nkundwanabake, all members of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing were beaten by Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, they were accused of not having participated in the day of the combatant and being opponents. According to the same sources, the victims were treated at Musema Hospital in Butaganzwa commune.

A person tortured in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 14 November 2018 indicates that on the afternoon of 10 November 2018, on Kigomagoma hill, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, Elias Bavuge, a member of Imbonerakure militia, beat up his wife naked, Isidora Niyukuri for refusing to join CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, the victim was beaten by her husband armed with knife before kicking her in the street. According to the same sources, the victim went to the hill head at the same time as the CNDD-FDD hill secretary to complain and ask for clothes.

1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

A person arrested in Gitega commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 12, 2018 indicates that on November 7, 2018, Marc Nahigombeye, FNL member wing of Agathon Rwaswa's wing and head of Kiremera hill, Giheta commune, Gitega province, was transferred in PJ Gitega cell, after being arrested and jailed in Giheta commune cell by Imbonerakure accompanied by police on the order of Alexis, Giheta commune administrator. According to sources on site, he was accused of not sensitizing the population to contribute to the 2020 elections. According to the same sources, the contribution of his hill was small compared to the amount of money expected by the commune authority.

Three people arrested in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

On November 15, 2018, in Gitaramuka IDP camp, Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, three people, Jean Marie Niyongabo, Nestor Ngendakumana and Déo were arrested and taken to the commune jail by Jeanette Ningabiye, Gitaramuka commune administrator. . According to sources on site, she accused them of insurrection during the resistance against the demolition of some houses in the IDP camp on November 6, 2018. According to the same sources, the detainees were released on November 16, 2018 after payment of 20,000 Bif each.

A person arrested in Matongo commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 12, 2018 indicates that on November 5, 2018, at Kivumu hill, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, Amos Niyirera, a pupil at ECOFO Ryakabamba II of the same commune, was arrested by Imbonerakure and taken to Matongo commune cell. According to local sources, he was accused of tearing grass for his cows in the field of Mathieu Bazira, the deputy representative of CNDD-FDD party in the province. According to the same sources, a woman named Constance had also paid the sum of 5000 Bif for having passed in this field.

1.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 12, 2018 indicates that on November 7, 2018, at about 6:00 pm, a shopkeeper named Bosco, raped I., a schoolgirl in the 5th form. According to local sources, the victim was taken by force into a bush when accompanied by Bosco. Nyanza-Lac hospital confirmed the rape while the rapist was arrested and jailed in Nyanza-Lac, Makamba province.

1.5. VIOLATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Denial of access to health care in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

Larissa Murerangondo, who had been jailed since 6 November 2018 in Gitaramuka commune cell by the commune administrator Jeanette Ningabiye, then transferred on 9 November 2018 to the province police station, was denied by officials of the police station cell to take drugs of PLWHIV registered at CDS Gitaramuka despite the solicitations of the staff of this CDS in charge of the follow-up of the

PLWHA. According to sources on site, the victim had reported since her incarceration that she was under treatment but she was not listened to. According to the same sources, Larissa's health began to deteriorate due to lack of antiretroviral drugs.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A person commits suicide by explosion of a grenade in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 12, 2018 indicates that on November 10, 2018, at about 7:00 pm, on Kibimba hill, Rusaka commune, Mwaro province, Jean Marie Ndayisenga, aged 34, Imbonerakure, has committed suicide with a grenade. According to sources on site, Jean Marie Ndayisenga first took out his children and unhooked the grenade and then lay on it that quickly exploded. According to the same sources, the neighbors helped him but he died at Rusaka CDS.

A person killed in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province

On November 16, 2018, at night, on Mibazi hill, Muhanga commune, Kayanza province, Kinuma was killed by Euphrasia, widow, her sister-in-law, using a small hoe. According to sources on site, Euphrasie heard Kinuma talking about her with his wife and she got angry and then went to hit Kinuma with the little hoe. According to the same sources, the following morning, she was arrested and jailed at Kayanza commune police station before being transferred to the province police station cell.

A person injured in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province

On November 12, 2018, at about 8:00 pm, on Mirombero hill, Murwi zone and commune, Cibitoke province, a man named Nyamibara, about 50 years old, was seriously injured in an attack by unidentified men armed with machetes. According to local sources, the victim was rushed to Rugombo Hospital to Rubasa in critical condition. According to the same sources, accusations of sorcery were at the origin of this aggression.

Two people injured in Mutaho commune, Gitega province

On November 12, 2018, at around 4:00 pm, at Bigera Peace Village, Rwisabi zone, Mutaho commune, Gitega province, Pascasie Nzeyimana and her 15-year-old daughter Claudine Dusabe were injured with clubs at home by three unidentified men. According to local sources, the victims were injured on the arms and head. According to the same sources, the victims were accused of sorcery. They were taken to Nyangungu CDS.

A person injured in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province

On November 13, 2018, at about 6:00 pm, on Gisara hill, Mubogora zone, Muhanga commune, Kayanza province, Yolande Ntukamazina, aged 61, was attacked at her home by unidentified people and seriously injured her with the machete. According to sources on site, the victim had conflicts with members of his family linked with sorcery. According to the same sources, this victim was taken to Rukago Hospital in Gahombo commune for medical treatment.

Meeting to track opponents in Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 13, 2018 indicates that on November 10, 2018, a meeting was held by Adalbert Nininahazwe, provincial leader of CNDD-FDD party, at the CNDD-FDD provincial headquarters, in Makamba province, the members of this party decided to hunt down all FNL militants of Agathon Rwasa's wing. According to local sources, police commissioners were also present including Leonidas Ninganza, provincial police commissioner in Rutana and Abdoul Mossi Ndimurukundo recently appointed police commissioner in Muramvya province, all of whom were native in Makamba commune. According to the same sources, these two police commissioners wore CNDD-FDD party scarves and forbade the participants in this meeting to take pictures. The purpose of this meeting was to track down FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing who adopted a strategy of clandestine household to household propaganda.

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.