

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 138 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 26 November – 2 October 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 511 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

DPE : *Provincial Direction of Education*

ECOFO : *Ecole Fondamentale*

FAB : *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL : *National Liberation Movement*

FROLINA : *National Liberation Front*

RDC : *Democratic Republic of Congo*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

UPD : *Union for Peace and Development*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 22 people killed including 2 bodies found, 4 abducted, 7 tortured, 31 arbitrarily arrested and 1 GBV victim.

Among the victims are 1 minor killed, 2 women tortured and 1 woman arrested.

Young people from the Imbonerakure militia affiliated to CNDD-FDD ruling party, police, soldiers, 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 SOLDIERS, IMBONERAKURE AND POLICE

A person killed in Bubanza commune and province

On November 30, 2018, at about 7:00 pm, on Gitanga hill, Bubanza commune and province, Joseph Bazirakumbona, an old man from the same hill, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was attacked with a spear, then he was gunned by six people including five Imbonerakure and a policeman. According to local sources, he had been threatened with death for a long time, accused of sorcery and even complained to the public prosecutor in Bubanza. According to the same sources, he was a victim of his political affiliation and sorcery was just a pretext. On 1 December 2018, in the morning, the alleged perpetrators were arrested by the police for investigation.

Eighteen people killed in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

On November 26, 2018, on Kibaya and Ruhembe hills, Ndora zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, 18 bodies were found by the local population. According to local sources, the victims were gold diggers who were killed by soldiers on patrol on the night of 25 November 2018. According to the same sources, the victims were suspected of exploiting minerals in Kibira Nature Reserve and the soldiers on patrol gunned 18 straightaway and others were able to flee.

I.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A person killed in Bubanza commune and province

On November 30, 2018, on Gitanga hill, Muramba zone, Bubanza commune and province, Nahayo, a member of "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition, was shot at his home by unidentified people. According to local sources, 6 people were arrested by the police for investigation reasons.

A body found in Gitega commune and province

On November 29, 2018, in the morning, on Tankoma hill, Gitega rural zone, Gitega commune and Gitega province, a body of an unidentified man was found close to a collapsed building that should serve as CNDD-FDD party office. According to local sources, the victim was killed with a machete and his body had deep wounds.

A body found in Matongo commune, Kayanza province

On November 30, 2018, on Kijuri hill, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, a body of a girl from Bwayi hill, aged about 15, was found in Inampemba River. According to sources on site, the body of the victim was buried the next day. According to the same sources, the perpetrators and reason of this murder remain unknown.

I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING

A person abducted in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 26, 2018 indicates that on November 25, 2018, on Maramvya hill, 15th street, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Jean Claude Niyukuri, 37 years old and member of FNL party of Agathon Rwasa's wing, from Makamba province, son of Pfakubaha and Ndayisenga, was abducted and taken to an unknown location by Richard, head of SNR in rural Bujumbura province. According to sources on site, Jean Claude Niyukuri was first arrested by Jérémie, head of SNR in Mutimbuzi commune in complicity with Augustin Nzitunga alias Bayore, head of CNDD-FDD party on this hill, near the bar of Alexis on the 15th street Maramvya. According to the same sources, the family searched at Maramvya zone cell, Mutimbuzi commune and the SNR cells in Bujumbura, close to Regina Mundi Cathedral, but in vain.

A person abducted in Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 26, 2018 indicates that on November 25, 2018, at about 2:00 pm, on Shinge hill, Gitanga zone, Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province, Ngabonziza Arnaud, aged 21, arrested at his home in Shinge by SNR agents and taken to Mishiha commune. According to sources on site, the victim worked in a pharmacy in Shinge, Shinge hill, Gitanga zone in Kigamba commune. According to the same sources, the family sought him in all the cells but in vain. However, a senator elected in the area and the provincial representative of CNDD-FDD in this province asked the family of the victim to pay two million Bif for the release of the young man accused of arms trafficking and drugs with a rebellion.

A person abducted in Cendajuru commune, Cankuzo province

On November 27, 2018, a man named Amos nicknamed Kirasiyo, a motorcycle mechanic, who fled to Tanzania in 2015 and repatriated via Ruyigi province, was arrested and jailed in Cendajuru commune cell. According to sources on site, the following day, the SNR head in Cankuzo removed him out of the cell overnight and took him to an unknown destination. According to the same sources, the victim had fled the country for fear of being killed because she was accused of collaborating with FNL militants of Agathon Rwasa's wing.

A person abducted in Vugizo commune, Makamba province

On November 26, 2018, Jean Marie Nkurunziza, teacher at ECOFO Matyazo, Vugizo commune, Makamba province, was arrested by police when he was in a bar in Gasekere Center, Matyazo hill, Gishiha zone and taken in the police cell in Vugizo. According to sources on site, she was accused of uttering words hostile to ten regime. According to the same sources, the next day, the victim was removed from the jail by an SNR agent to an unknown destination on the orders of Gad Niyukuri, Governor of Makamba province.

A teacher reported missing in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province¹

On May 31, 2016, police arrested a young teacher named Mélanche Hakizimana, a resident of Shana hill, Rusaka commune, Mwaro province and a native of Nyamiyaga. This person was taken to an unknown location, according to sources on site.

I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person tortured in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province

On November 29, 2018, on Butanuka hill and zone, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, Nkurikiye, was arrested and beaten up by Imbonerakure, including their leader on that hill. According to local sources, these Imbonerakure required him to recognize the child of a widow who accused him of being the biological father. According to the same sources, they took him to the commune cell after accompanying him to the registry office for the registration of this child. The victim cannot sit because of the whippings.

A person tortured in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On December 1, 2018, at about 10:00 pm, on Kinyinya hill, Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Dieudonné Nuwabagabo, mason, son of Lin Ribakare and Agrippine Ndikumana, was beaten up at his home by Alexis and Jordan, both hill heads in complicity with the nicknamed Mvubu, Bwayaze and Adoti, all Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, the victim was working on the building site of these hill heads and he had claimed her salary but in vain.

A person tortured in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On 29 November 2018, on Nyamitanga hill, Ndava zone, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, Monique Manirambona, a 23-year-old member of CNDD-FDD party, was beaten by a young Imbonerakure named Bucumi until to break his arm. According to local sources, Bucumi wanted to rape the victim.

A person tortured in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On November 30, 2018, at around 7:00 pm, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, 27-year-old Ramadhan Ruberintwari, member of CNDD-FDD party, was arrested, beaten up and taken to Buhiga zone cell by Gerard and Niyonkuru, both Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, they arrested Ramadhan Ruberintwari when he got off a car from Bujumbura town. According to the same sources, they searched him and beat him when they saw blood on his shirt. However, according to the same sources, Ramadhan Ruberintwari had just evacuated his friend Issa of Muyinga who had had an accident in Gitega province.

Three people tortured in Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province

¹ The case was reported and published among the reported missing persons in the November 2015 to November 2016 annual report of Ligue Iteka. The person was found after eight days of detention and was directly transferred to Bururi DPE.

On November 30, 2018, on Nyamitukwe sub hill, Nyabitsinda hill and commune, Ruyigi province, Ndondeye, his concubine and Tungimana, the local elected were beaten by Imbonerakure on the orders of hill head Albert Ntabiriho. According to local sources, the 3 victims were taken the same night to Nyabitsinda commune police station cell. The victims spent the night in the open, tied up, and this hill head ordered the other inmates to urinate on these victims while continuing to beat them.

I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY SNR, IMBONERAKURE, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person arrested in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 26, 2018 indicates that on November 21, 2018, 25-year-old Jean Marie Nsengiyumva, a native of Bururi province city center, was arrested by police and jailed in Gihanga commune police station cell. According to sources on site, he was heading to Bubanza commune to visit his sister who lives on Bubanza downtown hill and zone. According to the same sources, the victim was searched in his bag and found a passport containing a Rwandan visa. The victim was later manhandled and beaten by police officers who accused him of being a rebel. On November 28, 2018, Jean Marie Nsengiyumva was transferred to Bubanza province police station cell and then taken to Bubanza prison after being interrogated at Bubanza Prosecutor's office.

A person arrested in Mugamba commune, Bururi province

On 1 December 2018, Fidèle Niyomwungere, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested at his home in Vyuya zone, Mugamba commune, Bururi province by Rénovat Nicimpaye, SNR head in Bururi and jailed at Bururi police cell. According to sources on site, he was accused of participating in armed gangs in the DRC where he had often gone. According to the same sources, the victim was arrested after a search at his home but no compromising objects were found.

Two people arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On November 30, 2018, at about 3:00 pm, on Rutonganikwa hill and zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, Irene Makoto, CNDD-FDD party member and Rugabi hill merchant, Kananira zone, Tangara commune, Ngozi province and Cléoplace, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing and ex-hill head Rutonganyikwa, were arrested and taken to Buhiga police station cell by Thérance Bacebaseme, Imbonerakure member of Buhiga communal council and director of ECOFO Rutonganikwa . According to sources on site, Irené came to visit his friend Cleoplace, then this Imbonerakure who met him in front of the house asked him for his identity card and arrested him saying he was suspicious. According to the same sources, Cleoplace who asked why his visitor was arrested was also arrested and both were taken by a policeman aboard the motorcycle of the police station that had just been sent following a call from this Imbonerakure.

A person arrested in Matongo commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 26, 2018 indicates that on November 19, 2018, on Kijuri hill, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, Jean Paul, an ex-FAB retiree and member of UPD Zigamibanga party was arrested and jailed in Matongo commune cell on the order of Celestin Minani, CNDD-FDD communal representative. According to sources on site, he was transferred to Kayanza

province police station cell on November 26, 2018. According to the same sources, he was accused of recruiting rebels to take them to Kibira and he had just spent 6 months in one of the cells of the province.

A person arrested in Kirundo commune and province

On November 30, 2018, Serges Mberamiheto, ex-FAB, merchant in Kirundo commune and province was arrested and jailed in Kirundo prosecutor's office cell by Gérard Niyokindi, public prosecutor, without a warrant. According to sources on site, the next day, an unidentified person came aboard a probotype car accompanied by two policemen to whom the prosecutor handed over Serges Mberamiheto. According to the same sources, the people of Kirundo had made a sit-in at the prosecutor's office to ask him to prove the existence of Serges arrest warrant. The victim was transferred to Mpimba prison.

Two people arrested in Makamba commune and province

On November 26, 2018, Revocate Niyonizigiye, former head of Makamba II quarter from 2015 to January 2018, CNDD-FDD member and a biker named Chadrack, were arrested by Gad Niyukuri, Governor of Makamba province and jailed in the commune cell, all day. According to local sources, the Governor Gad Niyukuri accused them of collaborating with rebel groups. According to the same sources, they were released around 6:00 pm.

Two people arrested in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

On the morning of 30 November 2018, Egide Bucumi, member of FROLINA party and Jean Ciza, member of FNL of Agathon Rwasas wing, both from Mugerama hill, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province, were arrested by police and jailed in Nyanza-Lac commune police station cell. According to local sources, they have been accused of collaborating with rebel groups based in the DRC.

Twenty-one people arrested in Giharo commune, Rutana province

On November 26 and 27, 2018, Laurent Keranda, former member of FNL party who joined CNDD-FDD, Mura hill head and 20 FNL party members of Agathon Rwasas wing whose names are: Jean Pierre Nzoyisaba alias Derenganya Butezi hill and communal representative of that party, Mathias Ndabemeye and Bizimana, all of Nkurye hill; Oscar Karenzo, Donatien Nyawenda, Consolatte Kanani, Vénérand Sibomana, Cyriaque Nininahazwe and Audace Ndayishimiye, all from Buyaga hill; Abel, Albert Nivyubusa and Isaiah Sugwavuba, all of Musenyi hill; Nicodème Ndubaraye, François and André Ntahondereye, all of Mura hill; Bosco and Claude Nsabimana, all of Giharo hill; Jean Ntegakaje and Elias Nsengiyumva, all from Bukeno hill and Julien Nduhirubusa from Gitanga hill, were arrested and taken to Giharo commune police station cell by Imbonerakure accompanied by police officers. According to sources on site, these members were accused of holding a meeting of this party in a bar without permission. According to the same sources, from the date of these arrests, two members of FNL of Agathon Rwasas wing do not have the right to be together.

I.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 26, 2018 indicates that on November 15, 2018, on Rusamaza hill, Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province, a 19-year-old girl named M., student at ECOFO. Rusamaza I, was raped by his teacher Georges Nkuzimana, aged 37, member of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing. According to local sources, he was arrested on the same day and taken to Gihogazi commune cell and transferred to the province police station in Karuzi.

I.6. VIOLATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Interference in the recruitment of candidates for the meningitis vaccination campaign in Makamba and Nyanza-lac communes, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 26, 2018 indicates that since November 15, 2018, in the health district of Makamba, André Nininahazwe, communal secretary of CNDD-FDD party and director of Makamba High School of Excellence undertakes parallel recruitment to that of the technical services of health. According to sources on site, out of 156 candidates to be recruited to work during the vaccination campaign against meningitis planned for 4 to 13 December 2018, this communal secretary of CNDD-FD gave a list of 116 candidates from his party who are mostly not medical technicians. According to the same sources, a sum of 50,000 Bif from 250,000 Bif which represents the allowances is required for those who are not members of the ruling party. The same phenomenon has been observed in Nyanza-lac health district, according to a source close to the provincial health office in Makamba province.

II. SECURITY FACTS

Forced contributions in Mwaro province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 26, 2018 indicates that in all communes of Mwaro province, obtaining an administrative document is conditioned by the receipt of the payment of 2000 Bif for the 2020 elections or to pay on the spot. According to sources on site, any request for an administrative document must be accompanied by a receipt of proof of payment of the contribution to the 2020 elections.

A person wounded in Matongo commune, Kayanza province

On November 26, 2018, at around 8:00 pm, on Kijuri hill, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, Revocat Niyimbona, member of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was attacked at his home and wounded in the head by Kayigo, Tozi. and Ezekiel, all Imbonerakure armed with machetes. According to sources on site, the victim went to seek treatment at Musema hospital, Butaganzwa commune. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrators were not worried.

Intimidation in Cankuzo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 26, 2018 indicates that on November 23, 2018, at about 6:00 pm, in Cankuzo urban center, Imbonerakure from different communes of Cankuzo province gathered in groups, commune by commune, in different uniform with boots according to the communes

of origin. According to sources on site, they went along the RN 13 by chanting CNDD-FDD slogans, by singing songs of intimidation to the opponents and running in 4 different groups. Indeed, in their songs, one could hear: "ivyo bipinga tuzobimesa" (we are going to kill these opponents), "nta kugugumwa caratuvunye ntitubaha" (let's not be afraid, we will not give up the power, the country has cost us dearly), "ntiturota tukirekura" (we will never let go of power). According to the same sources, they spent the whole evening patrolling different quarters in Cankuzo urban center. The following day, these Imbonerakure gathered very early in the morning in paramilitary training at the stadium and in the streets of Cankuzo in the presence of the Governor of the province, Désiré Njiji, his advisers, the MPs and senators elected in the province, the commune administrators, provincial and communal officials, hill heads and taxi and motorcycle drivers were forced to participate in these ceremonies for fear of losing their parking for their work.

Impunity in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 27, 2018 indicates that in the afternoon of November 21, 2018, Célestin Karenzo alias Kitoko, communal commissioner of judicial police in Nyanza-lac, was arrested by police officers at his home in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, he was arrested after a search at his home during which two stolen motorbikes were seized. One of these motorbikes belonged to Donatien Ndayishimiye, who lived on Rangi hill, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province. On November 26, 2018, around 6:00 pm, Celestin Karenzo was released after the intervention of Zacharie Misago, administrator of Kayogoro commune, Celestin's brother despite dissatisfaction of taxi-bikers. According to the same sources, Celestin Karenzo was part of a network of six motorcycle thieves including Lionel and Alexis, a mechanic who transformed stolen motorcycles in the provinces of Bururi, Makamba, Rumonge and Rutana. The latter are jailed in Makamba's public prosecutor's office cell while Celestin Karenzo has been transferred to Makamba provincial police station.

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, abduction, torture, arbitrary and illegal arrests targeted of opponents and alleged opponents to CNDD-FDD party regime are reported.

FNL members of Agathon Rwas's wing were particularly targeted by these violations

Forced contributions for the 2020 elections 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.