

## BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 139 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 3-9 December 2018**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 9 December 2018, Iteka has documented at least 510 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*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Movement*

**MSF** : *Doctors without Borders*

**ONG** : *Non-Governmental Organization*

**OPJ** : *Judicial Police Officer*

**OPP** : *Principal Police officer*

**PJ** : *Judicial Police*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**UA** : *African Union*

**VBG** : *Gender Based Violence*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 3 people killed including 1 body found, 1 abducted and/or reported missing, 3 tortured, 1 arbitrarily arrested and 1 GBV victim.

Among the victims are 2 women killed including 1 minor.

Young people from the Imbonerakure militia affiliated to CNDD-FDD ruling party, police, military, SNR agents 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 UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **A body found in Mbuye commune, Muramvya province**

On December 7, 2018, on Mugerera hill, Mbuye commune, Muramvya province, a body of 37-year-old Adelin Ndayishimiye, father of four children, was found hanged inside his house. According to sources on site, two people including the woman of the victim were arrested and jailed in Mbuye police cell investigation reasons.

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

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

On December 7, 2018, on Kigwati hill II, Rukaramu Zone, Mutimbuzi Commune, Bujumbura Rural Province, Jean de Dieu Ndayishimiye Alias Nshimi, a biker, demobilized from the FNL armed movement of Agathon's wing, was arrested by soldiers by accompanied an Imbonerakure Innocent Tuyishime alias Tuyi on the order of Major Eric Niyonzima, who is the commander of the military positions of Rukaramu zone. According to sources on site, Jean de Dieu Ndayishimiye was jailed on the military position of Kigwati hill II, then was transported by Richard, SNR head in rural Bujumbura province, the same day, in a double- cabin type vehicle with tinted windows. According to the same sources, the family searched the cells of Rukaramu zone, Maramvya, Rubirizi and SNR in Ngagara but in vain.

##### **A young student abducted and reported missing at Gare du Nord, Bujumbura Mairie<sup>1</sup>**

On November 26, 2016, Félicien Irambona, a 5<sup>th</sup> year student in the Faculty of Medicine at Ngozi University and a trainee at Kamenge Military Hospital, was abducted near gare du Nord in Kamenge urban zone, in Bujumbura Mairie. Since then, his family and friends do not know where he was taken and are worried about the fate of this young doctoral candidate.

##### **Two people arrested and reported missing on Mugomera hill, Mugamba commune, Bururi province<sup>2</sup>**

Remy Matabura and Prosper Sinzinkayo have been reported missing since April 17, 2016. They were arrested at their homes on Mugomera hill, Mugamba commune, Bururi province by men in military uniform and police officer aboard a vehicle without a registration number. They took them to an unknown destination, according to local sources.

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<sup>1</sup> According to information received by Ligue Iteka on December 9, 2018 indicates that the person was found, and is on his daily activities.

<sup>2</sup> Information received by Ligue Iteka indicates that Prosper Sinzinkayo has reappeared in Mpimba Prison but Remy Matabura remains untraceable.

### ***I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

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

On December 4, 2018, at about 9:00 am, on Kibati hill, Masango zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, Salomon Sinzinkayo was tied up and beaten by two young Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrators also robbed the victim of two banana bunches costing 7,000 Bif and blamed him for not having donated 1,000 fbu of contributions to the 2020 elections. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure, the two banana regimes represented this contribution as well as their compensation.

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

On 8 December 2018, at about 8:00 pm, on Nyarusange hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Alexis Ndayisaba, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was beaten up until vomiting blood by a group of Imbonerakure including Ngeze from Gipfuvya hill, Rumbete from Gihororo hill and Niga from Nyarusange hill. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure on patrol one of which was armed with a rifle, accused him of having lit his torch on them. According to the same sources, the victim went to seek treatment at CDS Gasenyi in Rango commune.

#### **A person tortured in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On December 6, 2018, Jean Marie, a student at Lycée communal de Mara, was beaten by Anicet Ndayongeje and Jean Bosco Irakoze, both Imbonerakure making hate speech, on Kibago hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, they arrested him around 6:30 pm before putting him on his knees. Ethnic hate was uttered to him "Abatutsi mutegerezwa kwishura ivyo mwakoze mu 1972" which means that the Tutsi have to pay for what they did in 1972. Then, they took his cell phone, adds the same sources. The victim complained to Kibago hill head and CNDD-FDD member Boba Ayubu who promised to conduct investigations.

#### **A person tortured in Giharo commune, Rutana province**

On December 7, 2018, on Butezi hill and zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province, Oscar Kabura, member of FNL of Agathon Rwas's wing and merchant, was beaten up in the commune office of CNDD-FDD party by Imbonerakure , Jonathan Ntakarutimana, Gakungu zone head, Gervais Bigirimana, Giharo communal typist, Athanase Bigirimana, CNDD-FDD party representative in Giharo zone, David, Imbonerakure communal representative in Giharo and Ferdinand, in charge of investigations of members who do not join their party. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of not joining CNDD-FDD party. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrators were commanded by Hakizimana Rénovat, communal representative of CNDD-FDD party and a member of Giharo communal council.

#### ***I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE***

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

On December 4, 2018, in Murwi commune city, Cibitoke province, police arrested Appollinaire Iribabajende. According to local sources, the victim was accused of sorcery after members of his family found a red candle and a necklace in his house. According to the same sources, Appollinaire Iribabajende was released late in the afternoon after payment of 50,000 Bif to the OPJ. After his release, his family threatened him that he would arrest him again if he did not offer him beer.

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

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 4 December 2018 indicates that on 2 December 2018, at around 7:00 pm, on Kiranda hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, Jeanine Igiraneza, aged 17, was injured in the head with a hoe by his older brother named Rivuzimana, aged 20, Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, he accused her of being pregnant. According to the same sources, the victim was knocked up by her brother-in-law Pontien, CNDD-FDD party member, and she had to drop out of school in 7<sup>th</sup> form. Neither the author of the pregnancy nor that of this physical attack is worried.

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

##### **A person killed in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

On December 4, 2018, in Kajiji quarter, Kanyosha urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie, Prime Nduwimana, OPP1 officer shot and killed his wife, 36-year-old Louise Hagabimana, and wounding her baby, 8 months old. According to sources on site, the woman prevented her husband from sleeping with a concubine in the marriage bed and her husband killed her with her service pistol. The child was taken to MSF NGO's hospital in Kigobe for treatment. According to the same sources, Prime Nduwimana was sentenced to life imprisonment by Muha High Court in a public hearing on 7 December 2018.

##### **A person killed in Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 4 December 2018 indicates that on 30 November 2018, at about 9:00 pm, on Kavugangoma hill, Rugabano zone, Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province, Odette Niyonizeye, aged 13, was beaten to death by his brother Gilbert Sibomana with Revocat Niyongabo. According to sources on site, the girl was evacuated to CDS Rugabano and died in the same night. According to the same sources, she was accused of sexual vagrancy and returning late at night. The alleged perpetrators were arrested by the police and taken to P.J Mwakiro cell.

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

On 6 December 2018, at around 6:00 am, on Taba hill, Maramvya zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, a woman named Bazahica, aged 57, of the Twa social component, a member of CNDD-FDD party, was attacked at his home by a group of Batwa commanded by Buzatsa, a member of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, they accused him of bewitching the child of Buzatsa who had

died the day before. According to the same sources, this woman has fled while the alleged perpetrators have not been worried and are still watching over her house.

### **Elected hill head sacked in commune and province Makamba**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 8 December 2018 indicates that Sagirije, Kanzege hill head, Makamba commune and province, was fired by Gad Niyukuri, Governor of that province, at the meeting held on 20 November 2018 for failing to collect sufficient contributions for the 2020 elections. According to local sources, at this meeting many other local elected officials and school directors were threatened with dismissal if they did not fail to collect all planned contributions.

### **Ransoming in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 4 December 2018 indicates that on 28 November 2018, on Rurenda sub hill, Musave hill, Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, Innocent of Nkonyovu hill, Mushikamo zone, Rutegama commune, was forced to pay a ransom of 150,000 Bif. According to sources on site, he was accused of stealing a banana at ECOFO Rurenda by 6 Imbonerakure including Eric, Toto, Gérard, Janvier Muzomwiza who is DCE, Fabrice Ndayizeye who is Director of ECOFO as well as Prosper Rugerinyange, representing parents of students at this school. They told him that they were doing him a favor by asking him for this sum otherwise they would take him to Muramvya prison

### **Marches organized in all provinces of the country**

On 8 December 2018, all the governors of the provinces of the country organized demonstrations to support the actions of the Government in connection with the reopening of the assassination file of President Melchior Ndadaye and to denounce various positions taken by regional partners and with regard to developments in the security and socio-political situation in Burundi. In fact, in Cankuzo and Kirundo provinces, under the supervision of the provincial administration, demonstrators chanted slogans against the president of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat accusing him of supporting the ex-Burundian President Pierre Buyoya, Special Envoy of the AU in the Sahel. Also, they denigrated the refugees, the alleged perpetrators of the failed coup of 2015, foreign countries including Rwanda and the United Nations. In Karuzi province, the demonstrators said that the African and international community must recover to arrest and extradite to Burundi the alleged perpetrators of the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye. According to sources on site, Imbonerakure sang songs intimidating all opponents to President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime that they will be removed.

### **Sequestration of a couple in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 4 December 2018 indicates that on 2 December 2018, on Gasenyi hill, Makamba zone, Rusaka commune, Mwaro province, a fight broke out between Chantal and her husband Désiré, all members of CNDD-FDD party. According to local sources, Imbonerakure militia youth of the same hill intervened and arrested and jailed them in an unoccupied house of a nicknamed Cuiro located in the trading center called "kwikuruba" where they spent all night leaving their children alone at home. The next day around 9:00 am, these Imbonerakure released them after



paying a ransom of 10,000 Bif. This incident was reported during a security meeting, but these Imbonerakure were not punished.

### ***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.

Members of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing have been particularly targeted of these violations.

Forced contributions for the 2020 elections were reported during this period.

Demonstration have been organized in the country to support the actions of the Government and denounce positions of regional and international partners.

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.