

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

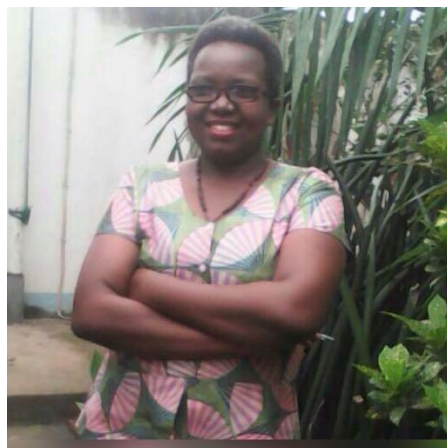
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 140 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 10-16 December 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 16 December 2018, Iteka has documented at least 511 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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|-----------------|--|
| BBC | : <i>British Broadcast Corporation</i> |
| CDS | : <i>Health Center</i> |
| CNDD-FDD | : <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i> |
| ECOFO | : <i>Ecole Fondamentale</i> |
| FAB | : <i>Burundi Armed Forces</i> |
| FNL | : <i>National Liberation Movement</i> |
| FODEBU | : <i>Doctors without Borders</i> |
| IFB | : <i>French institution of Burundi</i> |
| OPC | : <i>Chief Police Officer</i> |
| OPJ | : <i>Judicial Police officer</i> |
| PJ | : <i>Judicial Police</i> |
| SNR | : <i>National Intelligence Service</i> |
| UPRONA | : <i>Union for National Progress</i> |
| VBG | : <i>Gender Based Violence</i> |

0. INTRODUCTION

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 8 people killed including 3 bodies found, 1 abducted and/or reported missing, 1 tortured, 3 arbitrarily arrested and 2 GBV victims.

Among the victims are 1 women killed including 1 minor.

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

One person killed in Kirundo commune and province

On December 10, 2018, at around 8:00 pm, on Muramba hill, Kirundo commune and commune, Simon Nkezamihigo, alias Rubera, aged 45, member of FRODEBU party, father of 9 children, was killed with a machete by Imbonerakure in a night round. According to sources on site, the victim was from a bar in Kamabuye center on the same hill. According to the same sources, the victim had just been released from Ngozi prison where he had been jailed, accused of having sensitized the population to vote for "NO" in the constitutional referendum of May 2018.

I.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A person killed in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On December 15, 2018, Dieudonné Ntakirutimana, ex-FAB retired, living at the 13th Avenue, Cibitoke zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, from Kimerejana hill, Ruhororo commune, Ngozi province, was found dying in Nyabagere River of the same zone. According to local sources, the victim was evacuated to a hospital in Bujumbura Mairie where he succumbed to his injuries on December 16, 2018. According to the same sources, the victim had injuries on the head and his chest was swollen.

A person killed in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

On December 11, 2018, around midnight, on Masango hill and zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, Salvator Ngendananka, a 40-year-old farmer and member of CNDD-FDD party, was killed at home by unidentified people. .

A body found in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province

On December 12, 2018, at about 7:00 am, a body of an unidentified man was found by rice farmers in Ndurumu River between Karuri hill of Buhiga commune and Canzikiro hill in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province. According to sources on site, the legs and arms were tied back with another rope at the neck. He was also hanging on a bag full of stones. According to the same sources, Buhiga commune administrator, Euphrase Ntakarutimana accompanied by the provincial commissioner of police, named Gilbert recommended the population to bury the body immediately.

A body found in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

On December 12, 2018, at around 6:00 am, a body of the 30-year-old Ndikubwayo, Imbonerakure of Rwizingwe hill, was found in the marsh between Rwizingwe and Nyaruhinda hills of Nyaruhinda zone, Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province. According to local sources, this body showed signs that it was strangled and the perpetrators were not known. Gitaramuka commune administrator, Jeannette Ningabiye, recommended the population to bury the body immediately. Two people were arrested by police for investigations.

I.3. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING

A person abducted in Bujumbura Mairie

On December 12, 2018, Jeanne Inamahoro, 1st Sergeant Major and nurse to Burundi Navy assigned to the Port of Bujumbura, was abducted by unidentified people when she returned from her workplace. According to sources on site, her family searched her in the cells of Bujumbura Mairie but in vain.

I.4. PERSONS TORTURED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person tortured in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 10, 2018 indicates that on December 7, 2018, in Gihanga commune center, Bubanza province, a 26-year-old named Theodore, member of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was beaten and amputated one of his testicles and his penis injured by two Imbonerakure Jean Bizimana and Ephraim. According to local sources, the victim was taken to Gihanga Hospital and transferred to one of the hospitals in Bujumbura capital. According to the same sources, Jean Bizimana was arrested and jailed in Gihanga police station cell and Ephraim is on the run.

A person tortured in Mutaho commune Gitega province

On December 10, 2018, at night, on Bigera hill, Mutaho commune, Gitega province, Léonard Bakurakubusa, FNL party member, Agathon Rwasa's wing was beaten up and injured by the head of Imbonerakure of Bigera hill, Jérémie Ntahombaye, a hill elected official on that hill Dieudonné Ndacayisaba on the order of Elie, CNDD-FDD head on the same hill. According to sources on site, the victim claimed the payment of his debt to Elie who ordered Jeremie and Dieudonné to punish him.

A person tortured in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On December 10, 2018, at around 6:00 am, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, a group of 15 Imbonerakure commanded by Issa Nizigiyimana, Kimana and Jean-Marie, arrested and beat up their colleague Imbonerakure named Sebastien. According to local sources, they accused him of refusing to participate in night patrol with them and he insulted them when they woke him up. According to the same sources, they tried to take him to the cell but he resisted, then they beat him and inflicted a ransom of 15,000 Bif.

A person tortured in Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province

On December 10, 2018, at around 5:00 pm, on Gihogazi hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Revocat Nzisabira, trader was beaten with clubs until he lost consciousness by two police officers from Gihogazi police station Epipode, logistics manager and the nicknamed Gasongo. According to sources on site, Revocat was asking for his money from one of the policemen who had taken a few items equivalent to 3000 Bif in his shop. According to the same sources, the victim was evacuated by his

fellow traders to CDS Gihogazi. The next day, these police officers were summoned to the provincial police station.

A person tortured in Rumonge commune and province

On December 10, 2018, 36-year-old Félix Barihuta was beaten up by Imbonerekure youth commanded by Ndayishimiye, head of Imbonerakure of Busebwa hill, Gatete zone, Rumonge commune and province. According to sources on site, Felix was beaten after a quarrel at the bar called Havana Bar. The victim was hospitalized at Rumonge Hospital.

A person tortured in Rumonge commune and province

On 13 December 2018, a taxi driver named Gaspard, member of Swahwanya FRODEBU party, was beaten up by Imbonerakure in the presence of Savin Ntomoka, Busebwa hill head, Gatete zone, Rumonge commune and province. According to sources on site, the victim was beaten after a quarrel in the bar called Havana Bar. The victim is treated in secret for fear of retaliation of these young Imbonerakure.

Eight people tortured in Giharo commune, Rutana province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 10 December 2018 indicates that on 9 December 2018, at about 7:00pm, on Mura hill, Giharo commune, Rutana province, eight persons namely Lewis Ntibagirirwa, Paul Sindiho, Ntarundenga, Chartiel Ngororoka, Daniel Nteribicuro, Nyandwi, Basunura and Jean Bosco Nzenga, were beaten with iron bars by Nderagakura, Edward Hatungimana, Obede, Fulgence Karikurubu, Cyprien and Mwangere, all Imbonerakure. According to local sources, the victims were removed from their homes and taken to Mpanda River in the locality where they were beaten up all night. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure have beaten them by saying that they are members of "Amizero y'Abarundi" and that they will be killed and thrown into this river if they do not join CNDD-FDD party. These Imbonerakure have forbidden them to reveal the facts and if not, they will kill them. However, they filed a complaint to the OPJ but the latter did not carry out investigations to arrest the alleged perpetrators.

1.5. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND SNR OFFICERS

A person arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On the evening of 14 December 2018, Arielle Sabushimike, daughter of Jean Marie Sabushimike and Judith Ndayizeye, all professors at the University of Burundi, was arrested by police led by OPC1 Alfred Museremu, adviser in security issues at SNR, on board a pick-up, near the IFB, in Rohero urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie. According to sources on site, she was taken to SNR cell in Bujumbura Mairie. According to the same sources, the reason for his arrest was not revealed.

A person arrested in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 10, 2018 indicates that on December 9, 2018, in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, Félicien Muvunyi, teacher at ECOFO Gitaramuka and

residing on Gitaramuka hill, was arrested and jailed in the commune cell by police officers on the orders of Jeanette Ningabiye, administrator of this commune. According to sources on site, Félicien had been manhandled the day before, by Felix Ndayikengurutse and Serges, all Imbonerakure, guards of the administrator, in a bar located near the market of Gitaramuka. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure tried to arrest him and were prevented by other people on the spot but they inflicted him a ransom of 10,000 Bif he had immediately paid. Felicien was released on December 11, 2018 without explanation.

A person arrested in Bukemba commune, Rutana province

On December 14, 2018, on Gihofi hill and zone, Bukemba commune, Rutana province, Juvenal Havyarimana, was arrested by Imbonerakure from that locality and taken to Gihofi police station cell. According to local sources, the victim was accused of sorcery and hosting three Tanzanians suspected of sorcery. The latter had already returned home at his arrest.

I.6. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Musongati commune, Rutana province

On December 12, 2018, on Yove hill, Musongati zone and commune, Rutana province, V. I, 21 years old, post-fundamental 2nd year student, at Yove Communal High School, was raped by Misigaro, studies prefect of this same school. According to sources on site, this rape occurred in a bar of this locality. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrator was arrested by young Imbonerakure and taken to Musongati communal police station cell while the victim was taken to Musongati hospital for treatment.

A person sexually abused in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province

On December 10, 2018, at about 4:00 pm, in a bar on Mukubano hill, Nyanza-Lac zone and commune, Makamba province, Violette Nkeshimana, aged 31, farmer and mother of four children, was beaten up and injured on the arms and her loincloth torn by Melchior Ndayizeye, Imbonerakure of the same hill who forced her to be his concubine. According to sources on site, she was accused of having insulted him.

I.7. VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICE

Denial of access to public service in Gishubi commune, Gitega province

On 13 December 2018, a man named Ndimubandi from Cimba hill, Nyabiraba zone, Gishubi commune, Gitega province, was denied the issuance of a birth certificate for his child by the civil status service whose office is on Ruhande hill. According to sources on site, the reason for the refusal was that he did not have a receipt for the contribution of the 2020 elections. According to the same sources, the victim was forced to return home to bring the receipt he had forgotten but on his return there was no one to receive him. In the whole commune, nobody can benefit from a service without showing the receipt of the contribution

1.8. VIOLATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Nasty destruction and discrimination in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 10, 2018 indicates that on December 7, 2018, on Rutegama hill and commune, Muramvya province, at Gasange market, three bars including those of Bosco and Gakumbu, which were in front of CNDD-FDD party office, were demolished by Imbonerakure led by a man named Herman alias Assassin, arguing that they were built in front of their office. According to sources on site, only a bar of Melance, an Imbonerakure has not been demolished and among the victims of this demolition are two members of UPRONA party of Charles Nditije's wing. According to the same sources, this demolition was commanded by CNDD-FDD party provincial representative, Dominique, who ordered the commune administrator Vivine and the communal representative of the party, Diomede.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A body found in Bujumbura Mairie

On December 16, 2018, a corpse of Simon, a taxi-bike driver, was discovered in Ntakangwa River separating Kigobe and Jabe quarters, in Bujumbura Mairie. The circumstances of his death are not known.

A person killed in Mbuye commune, Muramvya province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 11 December 2018 indicates that on 6 December 2018, on Gasenyi hill, Gasura zone, Mbuye commune, Muramvya province, Alexis Nduwimana, farmer, was killed, kicked by Celestin Nduwimana, local beer trader. According to sources on site, the victim was accused by Celestin Nduwimana of having tried to steal a sum of 10,000 Bif from his jacket pocket. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrator was arrested and jailed by the police in Mbuye communal cell before being transferred to Muramvya prison.

A person killed in the commune of Gasorwe, Muyinga province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 11, 2018 indicates that on December 9, 2018, around 3 am, on Gishuha hill, Bwasare area, Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province, Stephanie Nyabenda, 50 years old was shot dead by Abraham Nduwayo from the same hill. According to local sources, Abraham Nduwayo was accompanied by three other people namely Tharcisse Kabura, Karama Hill, Gasorwe commune, Denis Nkundabanyanka of Bonero hill and Nsabimana of Gisebeyi hill, both of Gashoho commune. According to the same sources, a conflict related to a cow opposing the victim to his neighbor Générose Kazuba is at the origin of this assassination. The alleged perpetrators were arrested by the police and taken to the PJ cell in Gasorwe. In addition, a search was conducted at Abraham Nduwayo where two rifles, including a 'mugobore' rifle and a Kalashnikov stolen from a police officer at the communal police station, were seized.

Demonstration in all provinces of the country

On December 15, 2018, in all the provinces of the country, the administrative authorities organized demonstrations in the provincial to denounce the publication of a documentary of BBC radio on Burundi titled: "*kamwe kamwe*-inside Burundi's killing machine " .

According to local sources, in some provinces, authorities forced the population to participate in demonstrations. As illustration, in Karuzi province, the provincial administration forced all those who had just taken part in the community work to demonstrate from Kigoma hill in Buhiga commune to Karuzi stadium. Imbonerakure chanted slogans against BBC radio and "colonists". Arrived at the stadium, the speech of the circumstances was pronounced by the adviser in chief of the Governor, Innocent Ntirampeba who invited BBC radio to recover, to retract and apologize for the lies it diffused, if not that the Burundian justice will do act and that Burundians will use their power to chase it.

Also, in Ruyigi province, this demonstration took place in province city and was enhanced by the Senate speaker, Révérien Ndikuriyo. Demonstrators chanted slogans saying they do not need the "colonists" who exploit them, adding that the first step has been the closure of the Office of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Burundi.

In Bujumbura Mairie, demonstrations took place under the lead of the Assistant to the Minister of Interior with the participation of other State officials, CNDD-FDD party members and its allies. They denounced the recent documentary broadcast by BBC radio on illegal detention and torture centers. They also protested against the letter of Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni who responded to his Burundian counterpart.

Forced contributions in commune and province Rumonge

Since 10 December 2018, the governor of Rumonge province, Juvenal Bigirimana, has forced all tradespeople in his province to contribute for the 2020 elections and for the construction of a province building. According to local sources, each transport agent has to pay 12,000 Bif for the contribution to the 2020 elections. Owners of transport vehicles will also pay 12,000 Bif and the governor distributed receipts to the representatives of touts to collect this money from the drivers. Also, shop owners will have to contribute 10,000 Bif in addition to 2000 fbu paid by each household. In addition, in a meeting held for civil servants on 7 December 2018, the governor of the same province demanded a cement bag from each civil servant for the construction of a new province building and recommended that all school managers to inform their staff.

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.

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 denounce the documentary broadcasted by BBC radio.

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.