

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

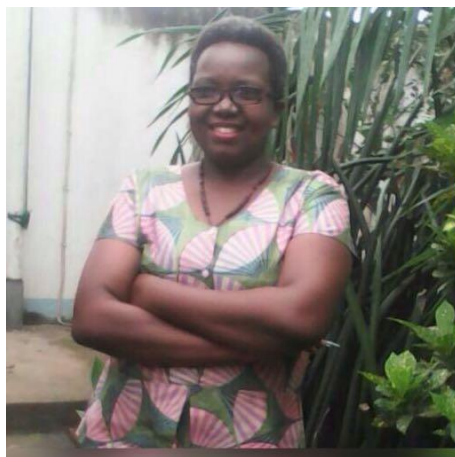
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 142 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 24-30 December 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 30 December 2018, Iteka has documented at least 512 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APN : *National Police Agent*

CDS : *Health Center*

EAC : *East African Community*

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

ECOFO : *Fundamental School*

FAB : *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

ONG : *Non-Governmental Organization*

OPJ : *Judicial Police Officer*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 7 persons were killed including 4 corpses found, 2 persons abducted, 3 tortured, 10 arbitrarily arrested and 2 GVB victim.

Among the victims are 1 minor killed, 1 woman and 1 minor arrested arbitrarily.

The Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD ruling party's youth, SNR agents, soldiers and policemen are blamed as the alleged perpetrators of most of human rights violations.

Forced contributions for the 2020 elections were reported in some provinces of the country.

The bulletin also notes cases of killings, abductions 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. PEOPLE KILLED BY POLICE

A person killed in Matana commune, Bururi province

On December 26, 2018, at around 7:00 pm, Elias Ntakirutimana, aged 31, head of the Imbonerakure on Kinyinya hill, Matana commune, Bururi province, was shot dead by APN Simon Ndayikengurukiye, registration number 1386, head of Nyagihotora police station. According to local sources, Elias Ntakirutimana was part of a group of bandits trying to disarm Simon Ndayikengurukiye and then defended himself and Elias Ntakirutimana died straightaway. According to the same sources, this policeman was returning to his post in Nyagihotora of the same commune from the issuance of certificates of completion of the post-fundamental school in Kinyinya. APN Simon Ndayikengurukiye was sentenced to 10 years of penal servitude in a flagrant judgment of 27 December 2018. He was jailed in Bururi central prison.

I.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

A body found in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On December 24, 2018, a body of an unidentified man was discovered at the place commonly known as "Kumase" in Ngagara urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie. According to sources on site, the body showed signs of torture on the face.

A body found in Bugendana commune, Gitega province

On December 30, 2018, in the afternoon, a body of an unidentified man, about 35 years old, was found in Mubarazi River of Gitega province, under the bridge connecting Bugendana and Mutaho commune of the same province. According to sources on site, the victim had his arms and legs tied by a rope and the circumstances of his death remain unknown.

A body found in Bururi commune and province

On December 26, 2018, a body of Germain Ngendambizi alias Mustapha, 67 years old, mason, was discovered in Kabasi-Muhora valley, on Burarana hill, Muzenga zone, Bururi commune and province. According to sources on site, the body had traces of blood in the mouth. According to the same sources, the body was evacuated by Red Cross volunteers to the mortuary of Bururi Hospital and four suspects were arrested for investigation reasons.

A body found in Cankuzo commune and province

On December 27, 2018, on Nyabisindu hill, Cankuzo commune and province, a body of Gerard Ntaherezo, guard to Cankuzo province office, was found in the savannah, suspended on a tree. According to sources on site, he committed suicide but the reasons are not known. The body was immediately buried under the supervision of the OPJ named Manisha.

1.3. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING

One person reported missing in Bururi commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 24, 2018 indicates that since December 13, 2018, Oscar Mbonihankuye, 58 years old, of Tarire sub hill, Gisanze hill, Bururi commune and province, worker of Bururi hospital cannot be found. According to sources on site, he disappeared when he was back from his workplace. According to his family members, three days ago, the Imbonerakure Rajabu, Jocker, Mugisha and Mutungwa, all of Bururi commune, under the orders of Bucumi, CNDD-FDD party communal representative, had forced him to pay a sum of 50,000 Bif for keeping his cows in the young grasses grown after the bush fires on his hill. According to the same sources, Mbonihankuye had refused to pay the sum illegally inflicted, which would be the cause of his disappearance. Family members seized the administration and the police to get involved in finding theirs in vain.

A person reported missing in Ndava commune, Mwaro province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 30, 2018 indicates that since December 19, 2018, Gordien Muyuku, retired ex-FAB from Nyakagoro sub hill, Gihinga hill, Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province, guard to Leo-Econet Company in Fota in Ndava commune, cannot be found. According to sources on site, Gordien lived in Fota center where he sold banana wine during the day. The circumstances of his disappearance are not known.

A person reported missing in Ruyigi province¹

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 25 March 2017 indicates that a retired ex-FAB named Janvier Gisoma alias Kaguruka, Rukaragata hill, Ruyigi zone, commune and province has not been found since the beginning of March 2017. His family questioned on this issue reserves to answer for reasons of their security.

A person abducted in Ntega commune, Kirundo province²

On February 6, 2018, at around 1:00 pm, Jean Pierre Mushengezi, nicknamed Batanga, representative of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing on Carurambo hill, Mugendo zone, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, was arrested by Imbonerakure from this hill at his home. According to sources on site, Jean Pierre was at home, when five Imbonerakure led by Daniel Majambere came to arrest him. They beat up him first, then took him to Kanyaru River to be thrown there, on the orders of the Imbonerakure head of Ntega commune Alphonse Ntereke alias l'Homme, and the CNDD-FDD representative in Ntega commune, Jean-Marie Mugumyankiko alias Sindyibigori. According to the same sources, Jean-Pierre is accused of denouncing torture by these Imbonerakure to another member of his party. His family is looking for her everywhere but in vain they have found the shirt he wore at the edge of this river.

¹ Information received by Ligue Iteka on 24 December 2018 indicates that January Gisoma alias Kaguruka, from Rukaragata hill, Ruyigi zone, commune and province was found jailed in Mpimba central prison for raping a Sister.

² He returned to his home after 6 months. According to sources on site, he had fled after an attempt of his assassination by Imbonerakure of this locality.

A person abducted and then reported missing in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province³

Jean Marie Ngabirano, aged 15, was abducted and reported missing on Butare hill in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province since the night of July 9, 2017. According to local sources, the head of Imbonerakure in this commune known as 'Americain' nickname, Nitereka and Charles are singled out by members of Ngabirano's family. They reportedly arrested the boy and revealed that he was part of a group of robbers and Jean Marie Ngabirano was not handed over to the police.

I.4. PERSONS TORTURED BY POLICE AND IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province

On December 27, 2018, 40-year-old Jeremie Mugunguru of Maramvya hill, Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province, was tortured by Bigoro, a policeman from Gatwe police station in the same commune. According to sources on site, this police officer went to look for a cow of Vénérand Mikwego, which had been stolen 2 years ago. Jeremie Mugunguru is in land dispute with Vénérand Mikwego who lied that the cow is to Mugunguru's. According to the same sources, the policeman tied up and beat Mugunguru on the fingers using the gun back until bleeding. According to the same sources, the victim's wife shouted for help and the policeman took the mobile phone and 7000 Bif that the victim had in his pocket and forced him to shut up, otherwise she will suffer other consequences. The following day, the victim complained to the province police commissioner and the latter jailed the police officer while waiting for witnesses.

Two persons tortured in Giharo commune, Rutana province

The information received by Ligue Iteka on December 30, 2018 indicates that on December 20, 2018, around 10:00 pm, on Bayaga hill, Giharo zone and commune, Rutana province, Imbonerakure led by Athanase Bigirimana, Eric Bahufise and Gédéon Niyongabo forced Nazaire Nyawenda and his wife Libérate Barayandema out of their house and beat them up. According to sources on site, the victims were accused of refusing to join CNDD-FDD party. The victims could not walk until December 30, 2018 and are under treatment. According to the same sources, the family did not even try to lodge a complaint, since the OPJ of this locality do not receive cases involving Imbonerakure.

I.5. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, MILITARY, IMBONERAKURE AND SNR AGENTS

A person arrested in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On December 25, 2018, at about 5:00 pm, Albert Niyonkuru, an employee of the NGO Handicap International in Makamba, from Muyange hill, Gitanga commune, Rutana province, was arrested by soldiers commanded by of Major Muco in a bar called "Chez Gérard", in Kinindo urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie. According to local sources, Albert Niyonkuru was drinking beer at the time of his arrest. He was taken to SNR cell in Rohero urban zone and the reason for his arrest remains unknown.

³ Jean Marie Ngabirano reappeared after spending 7 days in SNR cell in Bujumbura and was tortured.

A person arrested in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 24 December 2018 indicates that on 20 December 2018, in Rutegama commune city, Muramvya province, the farmer Roger was arrested by Evariste, SNR responsible in Rutegama commune. According to sources on site, Roger is accused of passing in front of the car of this officer. He took him to Rutegama communal police station cell.

Four people arrested in Giharo commune, Rutana province

On December 28, 2018, on Kanyererwe hill, Giharo area and commune, Rutana province, twenty Imbonerakure including Jean Bosco Ntimpirangeza, Ndayisenga, led by their Giharo zone leader Athanase Bigirimana, accompanied by demobilized Népomuscène, Pérès Ndayishimiye, Isidore and the nicknamed Mutokambali arrested Niyonzima, his wife Nyakigo and their two children and took them to the commune police station cell. According to sources on site, the household of Niyonzima had been attacked the day before by these same Imbonerakure. According to the same sources, they had beaten up the members of this family and Niyonzima, head of household had taken a machete and wounded Athanase, then the others had taken off.

Four people arrested in Makamba commune and province

On December 26, 2018, in Makamba commune and province, Ferouz Karenzi, Saleh Katandazi, Moussa Nimbasha and Pascal Niyukuri, all faithful of the Islamic community in Makamba province were arrested by police officers on warrant of arrest. According to sources on site, these faithful are accused by Amiri Nsabimana and Issa Mugenzi, representatives of the community in the southern region and CNDD-FDD party members to disobey the governing bodies of the community and hold night meetings. The same sources add that the governing bodies were set up in violation of the law because in their opinion the outgoing committee was replaced by CNDD-FDD militants on the orders of Gad Niyukuri, Governor of Makamba province. These four victims were taken to the commune police station cell in Makamba.

1.6. VIOLENCE BASED ON GENDER

A person raped and killed in Ryansoro commune, Gitega province

On December 25, 2018, on Mirango hill, Ryansoro commune, Gitega province, C.I., aged 6, was raped and killed by Trésor Mugisha, son of Dieudonné Nshimirimana. According to the commune administration sources, the alleged perpetrator of the crime was arrested for investigation reasons.

A person raped in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province

On December 25, 2018, at Burenza hill, Kiganda commune, Muramvya province, D., aged 17, 8th form student at ECOFO Kiganda, from that same commune, was raped by Onésime Ndayishimiye, OPJ from Kiganda commune.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A person killed in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province

On December 24, 2018, around 8:00 am, Bernadette Manirakiza, student at Butaganzwa Communal High School, in the 4th Normal, threw her newborn into the toilet of CDS Biyorwa. According to sources on site, Bernadette Manirakiza told her mother who had accompanied her to this health center that she wanted to defecate. Afterwards, she gave birth and then threw the baby in the toilet. According to the same sources, an OPJ rushed to make an observation but the girl was not punished. This toilet was demolished and the body of this baby was pulled out.

A grenade found in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On the morning of December 28, 2018, residents of Jabe quarter, Bwiza urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie, saw a grenade installed on a rope near a restaurant located in front of Jabe market, behind Hope Fund microfinance. According to sources on site, the police came and blew it up without causing any damage.

Looting of a house in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On December 28, 2018, around 10:00 am, SNR agents and heavily armed police in pickup vehicles, guided by Kinindo zone head, looted the home of the former Minister of Defense, General-Major Pontian Gaciyubwenge now in exile, located at Mutsinda Avenue No. 45, in Kinindo urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie. During this looting, all avenues leading to this home were blocked. According to sources on site, almost all the property of the house was looted by these policemen.

Demonstrations in Bujumbura Mairie

On December 29, 2018, members of civil society organizations close to the government responded to a call to protest against the letter of the bishops of the Catholic Church of Burundi, read to Christians on Christmas Day. According to sources on site, during this demonstration, speeches were made to protest Moussa Faki and support the defense and security forces and to express their gratitude to the father of the nation, the President of the Republic Pierre Nkurunziza. According to the same sources, these speeches were delivered by Aimé-Pascal Nduwimana, representative of the African Ministry of Compassion on behalf of the organizers. The assembly took place at the United Nations roundabout and headed to the Independence Square where the demonstration ended.

Demonstration in Karuzi province

On November 29, 2018, demonstrations were organized by the communal administrations. According to local sources, slogans of anger against the facilitator of the inter-Burundian dialogue and current President of the EAC, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni as well as against the letter of the Bishops of the Catholic Church, were chanted. According to the same sources, in all the

communes, the population was invited to the community works, then forced to demonstrate while the organization of this event was planned by CNDD-FDD party.

A person persecuted in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

On December 27, 2018, at around 7:00 pm, Alexandre Ngendakumana, from Gitaramuka hill and commune, Karuzi province, who had been jailed since 23 December 2018 in Gitaramuka commune cell, accused of having been absent in night patrol on December 21, 2018, was released with intense intimidation and ransom by Gitaramuka zone head, Claver Nkeshimana alias Ruhombo and SNR provincial head named Amos alias Nono as well as the commune police commissioner Alexandre Ndamama. According to sources on site, the zone head and the provincial SNR head have informed him while releasing him that if he is absent again in these night patrols, he will be killed for he has already been described as a rebel. They then took him to the office of the communal police commissioner, Alexandre Ndamama, and the authorities inflicted a ransom of 200,000 Bif, which he paid, and then told him that if he revealed it to anyone that is, he will also be killed. According to the same sources, they also told him that he is now forbidden to go outside his household beyond 6:00 pm. The intimidation continued by unidentified phones telling him that death is approaching if he does not collaborate with Imbonerakure, precise the same sources.

III. CONCLUSION

Human rights violations and allegations of violations following the deteriorating political context since the start of President Pierre Nkurunziza's third term challenge continue to be recorded in various parts of the country.

Cases of killings, abductions, torture, arbitrary and targeted illegal arrests against opponents and alleged opponents of CNDD-FDD party regime are reported.

Non-members of CNDD-FDD ruling party have been particularly targeted by these violations.

Ligue Iteka protests against the impunity of crimes that is attributed to relatives of CNDD-FDD party. Members of this party involved in various crimes enjoy impunity with a complicity displayed by public authorities.