

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

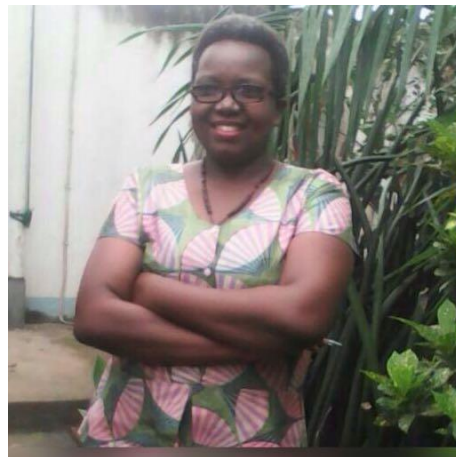
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 145 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 14 – 20 January 2019



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 20 January 2019, Iteka has documented at least 516 cases of enforced disappearances.

CONTENTS	PAGES
<i>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</i>	3
<i>0. INTRODUCTION</i>	4
<i>I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS</i>	5
<i>I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE</i>	5
<i>I.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS</i>	5
<i>I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING</i>	6
<i>I.3. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE</i>	7
<i>I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE</i>	8
<i>I.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCES</i>	9
<i>I.6. VIOLATIONS OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS</i>	9
<i>II. SECURITY FACTS</i>	9
<i>III. CONCLUSION</i>	11

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APC : *Police Chief Agent*

BRB : *Bank of the Republic of Burundi*

CDS : *Health Center*

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

DPE : *Provincial Direction of Education*

ECOFO : *Fundamental School*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

GMIR : *Rapid Mobile Intervention Unit*

OPJ : *Judicial Police Officer*

RDC : *Democratic Republic of Congo*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 13 persons were killed including 7 corpses found, 4 person abducted, 4 tortured, 8 arbitrarily arrested and 2 GBV victims.

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

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

The phenomenon of corpse found takes a worrying pace suggestive of a strategy of dissimulation of perpetrators.

Forced contributions for the 2020 elections and the construction of public infrastructures 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 particularly FNL party members of Agathn Rwasa's wing.

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 UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

A body found in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On January 15, 2019, a body of Arsène Ndabihawenimana, residing in Carama quarter, Kinama urban zone, Bujumbura Mairie, head of electricity service at Bujumbura International Airport, member of Imbonerakure militia of CNDD- FDD, was found on Ave Maria Avenue, Kinama zone in a gutter near the CDS called "chez Ntiba" and GMIR camp. According to sources on site, the victim's body showed signs that he had been strangled. According to the same sources, at around 5:00 pm on January 14, 2019, he answered a phone call and then went to meet the person who called him and did not return. The perpetrators and the reason of his assassination are not yet known.

A body found in Gitanga commune, Rutana province

On January 19, 2019, on Gihasha sub-hill, Kinzanza hill, Gitanga commune, Rutana province, a body of Ildephonse Nduwimana, married and father of 6 children, aged around 45 years, was found close to his home. According to sources on site, this man was killed by unidentified people who beheaded him with a machete and cut off his arm. According to the same sources, the victim was buried then same day in Gatereni cemetery in the presence of communal and provincial authorities. A person named Sinaniranye suspected for this assassination was arrested the police for investigation reasons.

A body found in Kayanza commune and province

On January 16, 2019, on Ruhororo hill, Kayanza about 5 km from Kayanza province, on Kayanza-Kanyaru road commune and province, a body of an unidentified young man, slaughtered, aged around 30 years old was found slaughtered and arms tied up in the back. According to sources on site, the body naked, had traces and wounds showing that he was tortured before being killed. According to the same sources, his face was hidden by a piece of cloth was dumped on the night of January 15 to January 16, 2019, by a vehicle in which there were people in civilian clothes.

Two people killed in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province

On the night of January 16, 2019, Kinyinya hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province Gishatsi Methode and his son Melance Ntiranyibagira, aged 15, living in the same hill, were killed stabbed by four unidentified people when they returned to their home. According to the same sources, after the death of these persons, angry residents of the locality revenged, killing another person of Kiyabu hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province.

A body found in Gisozi commune, Mwaro province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 15, 2019 indicates that on the morning of January 13, 2019, a body of Nyabaraha, aged 36, was found in Rweza Valley, near the road, on Rweza hill,

Gisozi commune, Mwaro province. According to sources on site, he was returning from a mourning party on the same hill and on his return he went to a bar of banana wine. According to the same sources, his family found him dead the next day.

A body found in Busiga commune, Ngozi province

On January 20, 2019 at around 6:00 am, on Mparamirundi hill, Busiga commune, province Ngozi, the corpse of Emery Ntiharizwa, aged 26, bar man, living in Vyegwa center, Gitasi hill, Mwumba commune, Ngozi province was found. According to sources on site, he had been abducted on 14 January 2019 at his workplace in Vyegwa. According to the same sources, the victim's body had been roped and had traces of injuries showing that he had been strangled.

A body found in Bukemba commune, Rutana province

On January 15, 2019, on Bugiga hill, Butare zone, in Bukemba commune, province Rutana, an unidentified body was found in a rice plantation in Bugiga. According to sources on site, the body has traces showing that he had been roped before being killed. According to the same sources, the communal administration and the police took this corpse to the mortuary of Gihofi Hospital.

1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING

A person abducted in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On January 16, 2019, on Maramvya 13th street hill, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Jean Claude Nsengiyumva, 21 years old, carpenter, son of Ndinzemenshi and Nyabenda, from Gasarara hill, Nyabiraba commune, Bujumbura rural province, was arrested by an Imbonerakure Darius Ntamavukito alias Muswi. According to sources on site, Jean Claude Nsengiyumva was handed over to the OPJ named Tinya, who jailed him in Maramvya zone cell. On January 17, 2019, the head of SNR in Mutimbuzi commune, Jotasse came to take him and handed him over to Gérard Ndayisenga, head of SNR in rural Bujumbura province. According to the same sources, Gérard Ndayisenga took Jean Claude Nsengiyumva to an unknown destination. The family has sought in all the cells in vain.

A person abducted in Shombo commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 15, 2019 indicates that since January 6, 2019, a young boy named Ernest, aged 18, a shopkeeper in Gitega, has been missing on Kiyange hill, Nyarurambi zone, Shombo commune, Karuzi province. According to sources on site, unidentified people arrested him near his home in Kiyange and took him to an unknown location.

A person reported missing in Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 15, 2019 indicates that since January 12, 2019, a girl named Claudine, aged 12, from Mazita hill, Gatonde zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, has not been found. According to local sources, she was abducted near her home by a woman named Nahimana, aged 45, a member of CNDD-FDD Women's League, accusing her of

stealing a goat. According to the same sources, Nahimana was not worried and the communal administration seized by the victim's family said he was still investigating.

A person reported missing in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 18, 2019 indicates that on December 22, 2015, Pascal Ndimurukundo was abducted by Joseph Mathias Niyonzima alias Kazungu, SNR agent, at Gare du Nord, Kamenge zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie. According to local sources, this victim was taken by this SNR agent to an unknown destination.

A person arrested and reported missing on Gitwa hill, Makamba province¹

On January 14, 2016, Salvator Niyonsaba, a resident of Makamba, Makamba commune, Gitwa hill, was abducted and reported missing. According to his wife, Salvator was arrested by SNR Makamba agents. His wife went to the administrator of Makamba commune to inquire on her husband's situation but was told to let the SNR do its work.

A person arrested by the police and reported missing, in Kigwena zone, Rumonge commune and province²

An ex-combatant of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing named Marius Mperabanyanka has been missing since June 2, 2016. He was arrested by police on Mayengo hill in Kigwena zone, Rumonge commune and province. According to sources on site, the victim was handed over to the head of SNR in Rumonge province, then was taken to Bujumbura. His family searched in different cells of Bujumbura Mairie but in vain.

1.3. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province

On 16 January 2019, on Mirombero hill, Murwi zone and commune, Cibitoke province, 25-year-old Balthazar Nzeyimana, a farmer and member of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing, was beaten by Imbonerakure led by Emmanuel Bukuru. According to sources on site, Balthazar Nzeyimana was accused of having said that President Nkurunziza will leave as Joseph Kabila, the DRC president.

A person tortured in Giharo commune, Rutana province

The information received by Ligue Iteka dated January 18, 2019 indicates that on Nkurye hill, Giharo commune, Rutana province, Minani was beaten up and ransomed by Imbonerakure. According to local sources, Imbonerakure led by Gervais Bigirimana removed Minani out of his

¹ The case was reported by Ligue Iteka in the abductees and/or reported missing persons in the monthly report of January 2016. As of 15 January 2019, Ligue Iteka has been informed that Salvator Niyonsaba has been found jailed in Mpimba central prison.

² The case was reported by Ligue Iteka in the abductees and/or reported missing persons in the monthly report of June 2016. As of 15 January 2019, Ligue Iteka has been informed that Marius Mperabanyanka is currently free after being jailed at Mpimba.

residence, took him to a swamp and beat him up saying that they were going to kill him if he did not give them 200,000 Bif. His wife had to bring this amount of money to be released.

A person tortured in Giharo commune, Rutana province

The information received by Ligue Iteka on January 14, 2019 indicates that as of 6 January 2019, on Gisito sub-hill, Muzye hill and zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province, Nzeyimana, member of Amizero y'Abarundi, was beaten up and seriously injured in the throat by Daniel Kubwimana, representative of Imbonerakure in this zone and Director of ECOFO Murehe. According to sources on site, the victim complained but Daniel was not worried.

A person tortured in Kayanza commune and province

The information received by Ligue Iteka on January 14, 2019 indicates that on January 12, 2019, on Kavumu hill, Kayanza commune and province, Jean Manirambona, student at ECOFO Ruganza I in 9th form, living Kabarore commune, was beaten up and fractured on ribs by two Imbonerakure both named Gervais while on his way to school. They accused him of not attending community works. He spent a few days in a coma and was admitted to Kayanza Hospital. The perpetrators are jailed at police station in Kayanza.

1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE

Seven people arrested in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On January 20, 2019, seven people were arrested by police during a search from the 10th to 14th avenue of Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke zone, Bujumbura Mairie. According to local sources, they were released after giving a ransom ranging from 2,000 Bif to 10,000 Bif. According to the same sources, these people were arrested after a grenade explosion launched by a stranger early in the morning of the same day

A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On January 15, 2019, at about 6:00 am, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Hyacinte Nkurunziza, aged 45, nurse at Buhiga hospital, was arrested and taken to the police cell in Buhiga, then transferred to Karuzi province police station, by police led by Phocas Sindaruhuka, Buhiga zone head and communal representative of CNDD-FDD party. According to local sources, police searched Alexis' house and found 8 drums that were used by the FNL party, Agathon Rwasa's wing, during propaganda for the 2010 elections. According to the same sources, released on January 18, 2019 by François Harerimana, prosecutor of Karuzi, this victim who was accused of confiscating the State property, is the wife of Alexis Ndabazi alias Ngozi, exiled and Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing party former provincial committee member.

I.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCES

A person killed in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 14 January 2019 indicates that on 11 November 2018, on Kiyonza hill, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province, Denise Nyabenda, aged 30, was slaughtered with a knife by her husband Emmanuel Rambaramba. According to sources on site, the neighbors found the victim's body in his house and the alleged perpetrator was arrested and jailed in the courtroom of the Kirundo prosecutor's office cell. According to the same sources, the reason for this assassination was not known.

A person raped in Muramvya commune and province

As of January 15, 2019, on Muramvya hill, commune and province, Y. N., 16 years old, from Masango hill, Muramvya zone and commune, was raped by Joachim Ndayikengurukiye, police officer of Muramvya police station, assigned to Muramvya prison. The alleged perpetrator was caught in flagrante delicto in a property belonging to Muramvya High School. According to sources on site, he was arrested and jailed in Muramvya police station cell on 15 January 2019 before being transferred to Muramvya prison on January 16, 2019.

A person raped in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province

On 14 January 2019, around 7:00 pm, on Muyange hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, O. N., aged 33, was raped by his neighbor Dieudonné Nsavyimana, 40 years old was raped when she returned from a bar of this hill. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrator had a machete that he used to terrorize the victim. According to the same sources, the latter cried and the neighbors are intervened. They then arrested the alleged perpetrator and took him to Bugenyuzi commune police station cell.

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

On January 14, 2019, at 8:00 am, the Director of Mpumbu Communal High School, Makamba, Rusaka commune, Mwaro province, has expelled the students of this school who had not yet paid 1000 Bif to contribute to the 2020 elections. According to sources on site, he expelled those who were 18 years old and over.

II. SECURITY FACTS

Two people killed in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On January 20, 2019, around 1:00 am, a grenade was thrown to the 12th avenue, number 87, Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke zone, Bujumbura Mairie by unidentified people. According to sources on site, two people died including a policeman, APC Etienne Nduwamungu and Cyriaque Musuku alias Musiri, a civilian. According to the same sources, on the morning of January 20, 2019, the police conducted a search from the 10th to the 14th avenue of Mutakura quarter.

A person killed in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On January 17, 2019, Yves Munezero, mentally ill, living in Bwiza, was beaten to death by two guards suspecting him of being a thief in Mutanga Sud quarter, Rohero urban zone, Bujumbura Mairie. According to sources on site, these two guards were arrested for investigation reason.

A person killed in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province

On January 16, 2019, on Kiyabu hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province, Nicolas Nduwimana was attacked at his home and killed with clubs by the angry people. According to sources on site, they accused him of being the perpetrator of the double murder committed against Method Gishatsi and his son. Two people were arrested on January 18, 2019 and jailed in Muriza zone police cell in the same commune for investigation reasons.

Forced contributions in Ruyigi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 14, 2019 indicates that all teachers of the DPE Ruyigi were forced to pay 2000 Bif for the 2020 elections in addition to 5000 Bif retained each month from source on their salaries, 2000 Bif that each household must pay, 1000 Bif for stadium construction, 2000 Bif for the ruling party and 1000 Bif for high school students for those who have it. According to local sources, all the money collected will be sent directly to the DPE, who in turn will deposit it to the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Vocational Education. According to the same sources, this ministry will deposit the amount collected to the BRB as a contribution to the 2020 elections.

Forced contribution in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

On January 20, 2019, since 6:00 am, on all the hills of Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, Imbonerakure raised roadblocks to stops all passersby and forcibly collect the 2000 Bif dues for the construction of Karuzi modern stadium. According to sources on site, no one passed without showing proof of payment or paid on the spot.

Forced contributions in commune and province Makamba

On January 18, 2019, the governor of Makamba province, Gad Niyukuri, demanded the heads of different departments of this province to contribute from 5,000 Bif to 20,000 Bif for the construction of the provincial office. According to local sources, during a meeting held in the communal hall of Makamba, he brought them a basket to deposit their contributions while this activity was not on the agenda. According to the same sources, he prepared a piece of paper so that those who did not have the money to pay on the spot should confirm the amount to be paid later.

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.

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.