

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

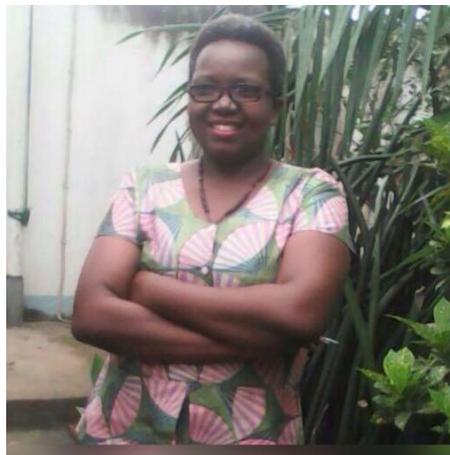
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 151 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 25 February - 3 march 2019



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 3 March 2019, Iteka has documented at least 523 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APC : *Chief Police Agent*

CDS : *Health Centre*

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

CNL : *National Congress for Liberty*

ECOFO : *Fundamental School*

EUSEBU : *Church of Unity and Holy Spirit in Burundi*

FAB : *Burundi Armed Forces*

MSF : *Doctors without Borders*

PALIPEHUTU FNL: *Party for the Liberation of Hutu people*

OPJ : *Judicial Police Officer*

PJ : *Judicial Police*

RDC : *Democratic Republic of Congo*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

TPS : *Technician for Health Promotion*

UNHCR : *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 16 persons were killed including 7 corpses found, 4 tortured, 12 arbitrarily arrested and 2 GBV victims.¹

Among the victims are 3 women killed

The phenomenon of corpses is still observed across the country and is worrying for its increasing number.

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 bulletin also notes cases of killings, torture and arbitrary arrest of opponents and alleged opponents of President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime particularly CNL party members.

¹ The 2 GBV victims were also killed after rape

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

Six people killed in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On the night of 2 March 2019, around 10:00 pm in a bar called " Bingo" on Gaharawe hill, Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, six people were killed by a police officer, APC Leopold Nizigiyimana. According to sources on site, this policeman shot on three civilians and one policeman. According to the same sources, two other people died of their wounds at Kigobe MSF hospital in Bujumbura and four people were also injured.

A person killed in Buhinyuza commune, Muyinga province

As of February 26, 2019, Jean Claude Mukeshimana alias Gacube, a policeman assigned to Kara position, on Jarama hill and zone, Buhinyuza commune, Muyinga province, shot Nimubona. According to local sources, the victim was rushed to Buhiga hospital, Karusi province where he succumbed to his injuries the following day. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrator was arrested and jailed at Buhinyuza commune police post.

I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A person killed in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On March 1, 2019, Bruno Simbavimbere alias Memba, composer, former drummer of the national orchestra "AMABANO" and president of the "Amicale des Musiciens Burundais", succumbed to his injuries at King Khaled hospital in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura mairie. According to local sources, the victim was attacked and wounded in the head by unidentified gunmen armed machetes when he returned home to Kibenga quarter on the night of 22 February 2019.

Two bodies found in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

On February 28, 2019, 500 meters from the Imbonerakure, border guards, on the banks of Rweru Lake on Sigu hill side, Nyagisozi zone, Busoni commune, Kirundo province, two unidentified bodies have been found. According to sources on site, the first body was of a naked man and the second that of a woman wearing a skirt with relaxed hair. According to the same sources, as of March 2, 2019, around 8:00 pm, these bodies were buried by Imbonerakure under the supervision of Juvenal Ndorere, Nyagisozi zone head without any investigation.

Four bodies found in Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province

On March 1, 2019, on Gafumbegeti hill, Butahana zone, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province, four bodies tied up were found by forest guards of Kibira Nature Reserve. According to sources on site, Butahana zone head ordered immediate burial of these bodies without any investigation.

1.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND POLICE

A person tortured in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province

On 25 February 2019, Mugeru zone head, Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province, accompanied by Imbonerakure from Mugeru and Munzenze zones, beat, wounded and took to the commune cell Cyrille Midagi of Kaniha hill from the same commune. According to local sources, they accused the victim of organizing an insurgency in his community. According to the same sources, the victim was released for treatment and return there.

A person tortured in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 25 February 2019 indicates that on 24 February 2019, at about 8:00 pm, on Gitanga hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Nkuzimana, a carpenter, aged 32, CNDD-FDD party member was beaten up by four Imbonerakure including Bangerageje and Nimbona. According to sources on site, the victim claimed a sum of money that Bangerageje owed him who later called his colleagues who helped him to beat up the victim. According to the same sources, they beat him until losing consciousness. Her neighbors evacuated him to Buhiga Hospital and the alleged perpetrators were arrested and taken by police to Buhiga commune cell.

A person tortured in Gitega commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 25 February 2019 indicates that on February 9, 2019, at around 17:00, on Higiro hill, commune and Gitega province, Léonidas Manirambona, teacher at ECOFO Higiro, was beaten up by 3 young Imbonerakure including Butoyi. According to sources on site, these 3 young Imbonerakure, were doing physical exercises in a classroom of that school. Leonidas Manirambona asked them why they played sports in the classroom and beat up and injured him in several parts of his body, especially his swollen face. Absent in the service of February 11 to 14, 2019 because he was ill, Leonidas had two letters of explanation from his Director, Christian Nkinzoyimana, and threatened him of transfer. According to the same sources, Leonidas complained to OPJ Philbert Minani of the prosecutor's office of Gitega against Butoyi, alleged author who refused to respond to the summons.

A person tortured in Gishubi commune, Gitega province

On February 25, 2019, at about 3:00 pm, at a bar, Imbonerakure of Cimba hill, Nyabiraba zone, Gishubi commune, Gitega province, beat and took to the cell Edouard, a young man from that locality, accusing him of not participating in community work. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure tied his hands behind his back with wire and took him to the commune cell. According to the same sources, the victim was released the next day.

1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, SNR AGENTS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On February 27, 2019, at about 10:00 am, Alain Claude Ntahorwamiye alias Dédé, member of the Department of Planning at the Ministry of Finance, focal point of the Global Environment Fund, was arrested at his workplace by Salvator Ihorihoze, SNR head in Bujumbura mairie. According to local sources, he was accused of blocking the transfer of funds from the FME to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment. According to the same sources, this SNR officer did not have a warrant for arrest and said that this staff was wanted by the SNR. His vehicle, his personal documents and his phone were seized. He was released in the afternoon of February 28, 2019, around 3:00 pm

A person arrested in Rumonge commune and province

On February 27, 2019, in Minago zone, Rumonge commune and province, Aaron Bigirimana, ex-FAB and a native of Muhuzu hill, was arrested by police as he was traveling to Minago to collect his personal belongings. He had arrested when he got off the bus. According to sources on the spot, he was arrested after two days of his return from exile from Tanzania. According to the same sources, he was first jailed in Minago zone cell, he was then boarded on a motorcycle by a SNR officer from Burambi commune to Rumonge province. Aaron Bigirimana was released on the afternoon of 1 March 2019 after the intervention of a UNHCR delegation in Rumonge commune in the morning.

A person arrested in Rango commune, Kayanza province

On March 3, 2019, in a bar on Muzumure hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Gérard Hatungimana, CNL member, from Nyabigoyi hill, Gaheta zone, in the same commune, was arrested and jailed in the communal cell by Ngeze and Aimable, both Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, they accused him of having said that Agathon Rwasa's party was approved.

A person arrested in Buhinyuza commune, Muyinga province

On February 26, 2019, at Buhinyuza police office, Muyinga province, Benjamin Ndinduruvugo, OPJ to that police station was arrested and taken by police officers to the PJ cell in Muyinga. According to sources on site, he was accused of having facilitated the escape of a person who was in the cell of that police station. According to the same sources, he is a victim of his former political affiliation with PALIPEHUTU-FNL armed movement, and suspected of supporting CNL party.

A person arrested in Muyinga commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 25, 2019 indicates that since February 15, 2019, Gaspard Nduwimana, Chairmn of the Galararo hill Miners' Cooperative, Butihinda commune, Muyinga province, named "Komezwa ibikorwa dutere imbere", is jailed at the SNR cell in Muyinga. According to sources on site, Gaspard was arrested on 10 January 2019 by SNR agents and took

him to an SNR cell in Bujumbura, then brought back to Muyinga. According to the same sources, he is the victim of a letter he wrote on January 8, 2019, to the Minister of Water, Energy and Mines, Come Manirakiza, to warn him of the disorder that could arise if the Government did not allow the members of the cooperative to exploit gold in lands taken by force by Burundi Mining Company.

Six people arrested in Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 25 February 2019 indicates that on 24 February 2019, at Kakibogo Center, Rurama hill, Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province, Eric Niyonzima, Tharcisse Nkunuzimana, Jean Marie Niyonkuru, Jean Claude Mwizero, Thomas Nisabire and Niyonkuru alias Senegalais, all from the same hill and CNL party members were arrested and taken by Imbonerakure to the commune police cell in Nyamurenza. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure were commanded by Dismas Barengayabo, teacher, head teacher of ECOFO Gasezerwa and Imbonerakure communal representative on the order of the communal administrator, Dieudonné Niyonzima.

A person arrested in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

On February 26, 2019, at around 7:00 am, Evariste Mujawayesu, trader and evangelist of EUSEBU on Gifuruzi hill, in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province, was arrested by Jean Claude Nduwimana's police guards, administrator of Nyanza Lac commune. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of organizing an unauthorized morning worship. According to the same sources on site, the administrator ordered his guard to arrest him after his morning worship if he did not pay a fine of 400,000 Bif. Evariste Mujawayesu refused to give this fine by demanding clarification on the law violated and he was released in the afternoon.

1.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person killed in Rugazi commune, Bubanza province

On 26 February 2019, at about 6:00 pm, at Rweya sub-hill, Karambira hill, Rugazi zone and commune, Bubanza province, two young men between the ages of 25 and 30 raped and murdered Emelyne Irakoze, a young girl of this locality. According to local sources, they forcibly took this student into a eucalyptus forest when she was going to borrow a notebook from her classmate. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrators were arrested and jailed at Rugazi communal cell.

A body found in Buhinyuza commune, Muyinga province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 25 February 2019 indicates that on 24 February 2019, at about 4:00 pm, on Muramba hill, Buhinyuza commune, Muyinga province, a body of Félicisme Mukantambara, 26 years old, a student at Muramba Communal High School in 2nd year post-fundamental, option social sciences and humanities, was found in the bush. According to local sources, the victim was raped and injured in her genitals with sharp objects and then strangled with a rope. Three suspects, including Roger Niyongabo, teacher at ECOFO Vyondo who was dating the girl, were arrested by police and taken to the police communal cell in Buhinyuza.

II. SECURITY FACTS

An attempted murder in Giheta commune, Gitega province

On February 26, 2019, Célestin, a farmer from Bihororo hill, Giheta zone and commune, Gitega province, was attacked at his home by Imbonerakure, accusing him of having bought 1 kg of a stolen fertilizer at 1500 bif. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure accompanied by Vincent, policeman on leave, first forced him out of his house and he refused, then they broke down the door of his house. According to the same sources, the victim was almost beheaded by machete Ndikumana, one of these Imbonerakure. The victim was evacuated to Saint Joseph Clinic Hospital.

Paramilitary training in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 27 February 2019 indicates that on Bukeye and Mugerama hills, Nyanza-Lac zone and commune, Makamba province, paramilitary trainings of eighty Imbonerakure were launched respectively by the head of Imbonerakure on Bukeye hill, Onesphore alias Rukangabana, on February 24, 2019, and Alexis Nimubona, director of ECOFO Mugerama, head of Imbonerakure on the same hill, dated February 15, 2019. According to local sources, these training sessions are provided by soldiers of the 522nd commando battalion of Nyanza-Lac camp. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure are preparing to join others in the DRC.

Two people injured in Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 25 February 2019 indicates that on February 24, 2019, at around 10:00 pm, on Rugabano hill, Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province, a grenade was thrown into Luc Nimbona's house wounding his 2 children. According to sources on site, this grenade was thrown through the window and fell near those sleeping children.

A person intimidated in Giharo commune, Rutana province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on March 3, 2019 indicates that Longin Nsengiyumva, TPS at Butezi CDS was intimidated by Hakizimana Rénovat and Sylvain, respectively communal representative and provincial representative of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, they forced him to write a letter of membership to CNDD-FDD party otherwise he will be transferred to Karuzi province. They had ordered him to prevent Agathon Rwasa's members from participating in the community health workers' activities, but he did not stop them. According to the same sources, these representatives set up a group of Imbonerakure who beat up people who oppose CNDD-FDD party ideology.

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, 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.