

***BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"***

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***Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 50 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"***

**Week from 13 to 19 March 2017**



***In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to March 2017, Iteka has documented at least 404 cases of enforced disappearances.***

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## **ACRONYMS**

**CMCK** : Kinindo Medical and Surgical Center

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

**CNI** : National Identity Card

**CPI** : International Criminal Court (ICC)

**CPP** : Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP)

**DDH** : Human Rights Defenders

**EAC**: East African Community

**ECOFO**: Fundamental School/Ecole Fondamentale

**ENS** : Higher School

**FAB**: Burundi Armed Forces

**FDN** : Nationale Défense Force

**FNL** : National Liberation Front

**MSD**: Movement for Solidarity and Democracy

**OMP** : Prosecution Officier

**PAFE** : Immigration Police

**PBA**: Participation to Armed gangs

**PJ** : Judicial Police

**SNR**: National Intelligence Service

**TGI**: High Court

**UA**: African Union

**UB**: University of Burundi

**UE**: European Union

**VBG**: Gender Based Violences (GBV)

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 7 persons killed, 1 reported missing, 3 tortured, 46 arbitrarily arrested and 1 person was a GBV victim.

Policemen, SNR agents, the Imbonerakure, the CNDD-FDD ruling party's youth are blamed as the perpetrators of most of human rights violations.

The phenomenon of corpses is reported in this bulletin. At least 9 corpses were registered by Iteka League during this reporting period.

This bulletin reports cases of arbitrary arrests of alleged opponents to President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term.

Members of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing, ex-FAB soldiers have always been a privileged target of the repression organized by President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime.

This bulletin protests against the impunity of crimes granted to those close to CNDD-FDD party. Members of this party involved in various crimes enjoy impunity with the complicity of the government.

It addresses the right to education that is threatened in Burundi following the crisis in the country.

The security context is characterized by cases of assassination, arbitrary arrests and torture, continuing acts of terrorism organized by the Imbonerakure youth against alleged opponents to the regime.

This bulletin makes recommendations to various partners likely to influence on the change in the precarious human rights situation in the country.

## ***I. ALLEGATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS***

### ***I.1 . CASES OF ALLEGATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE***

#### **One person who died due to torture in Bukemba commune, Rutana province**

An SNR agent in Bukemba and Rutana communes, a 34-year-old teacher at ECOFO Bukemba named Zachée Niyomwungere died in Gitega hospital on 14 March 2017 due to torture from his boss, the SNR head in Rutana province named Jovin Cishahayo.

Information collected from the population of Rutana province city indicates that Zachée Niyomwungere was summoned on 10 March 2017 by Jovin Cishahayo, a summons which Zachée Niyomwungere did not respond to. According to the same sources, this angered the SNR head in Rutana who went to arrest him himself. After arresting him and beating him

seriously, he locked him in his office for a few days. Realizing that Zachée Niyomwungere is in a critical situation, this officer tried to transfer the victim to the police but they refused to receive him because he was in critical condition. He was taken to the hospital in Rutana for a few days before being transferred to Gitega hospital where he finally died due to torture he suffered.

The sources add that the reason of his arrest remains hitherto unknown. Zachée Niyomwungere died five days after he was beaten up by this SNR official in Rutana, in complicity with his two bodyguards Gordien Nzeyimana, aged 40 and Bosco Kwizera, aged 39.

## ***I.2. CASES OF ARREST AND ABDUCTION FOLLOWED BY ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES***

### **One person abducted and three others arrested in Bubanza Province**

On 14 March 2017, on Ninga hill, village IV, 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue, between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> transverse in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province two persons, Félix Ndayizigiye and Célestin Barekensabe, nicknamed Kigongo were arrested by unknown armed men who opened fire on them. According to our sources, these armed men first shot on the tires of the vehicle of probox mark in which were Félix Ndayizigiye and Célestin Barekensabe who managed to escape. Felix Ndayizigiye was abducted. These armed men headed to Rukoko forest. Félix Ndayizigiye was the commissioner of plots, according to the same sources.

This abduction was followed by arrests and imprisonments on 15 March 2017 of Célestin Barekensabe and Emelyne Nibigira and Chantal Kwizera, two cousins of Félix Ndayizigiye residing in Buringa commune Gihanga in Bubanza province. The latter were taken to Gihanga commune police station cell. The information that reached our office indicates that Emelyne Nibigira and Chantal Kwizera were released while Celestin Barekensabe was transferred to Mpimba central prison.

## ***I.3. CASES OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT***

### **One person tortured in Buhiga commune, Karusi province**

On March 17, 2017, Jean Marie Bigirimana, from Buhiga hill, Karusi Province was tortured by two policemen from the position of Buhiga zone. According to sources, Jean Marie Bigirimana was taken out of his cell where he was detained by two policemen from the position in Buhiga zone who tortured him before returning him to the cell.

### **One person tortured in Buhiga commune, Karusi province**

On March 17, 2017, Mushederi, an Imbonerakure from Mayenzi hill, Rutonganikwa zone, Buhiga Commune, Karusi Province was beaten and wounded by his Imbonerakure colleagues who accused him of non-respect for their leader. The latter beat him up as a correction, according to our source.

### **A woman tortured in Mabanda commune, Makamba province**

On March 14, 2017, a policeman ranked Brigadier named Bahati beat up a young mother named Thérèse Niyongabo. The latter was wounded and attempted to lodge a complaint but the PJ of Mabanda police station did not receive her.

### ***I.4. CASES OF ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND ILLEGAL DETENTION***

#### **Five representatives of students arrested in Bujumbura mayorship**

Three representatives of the UB students and two representing the ENS were arrested on 16 March 2017. It is Dieudonné Bugirindavyi, Prosper Niyoyitungira and Patience Mbonabuca of the UB as well as Eric Niyirera and Epipode Niyongabo of ENS. Information from the UB and ENS indicates that the first three of the UB were summoned to Mukaza public prosecutor's office for Wednesday morning in office number 26 for trial.

The same sources indicate that when they went to the public prosecutor's office, they met two others from ENS, also for trial. They were accompanied by two authorities from that institution. Suddenly, the same sources added, three SNR vans arrived and took manu militari the five student representatives to one of the SNR cells in Bujumbura mayorship.

Sources from Mutanga campus indicate they may be accused of preparing insurgent movements to protest against the new law on pre-scholarship and scholarships. University authorities accuse them of collecting strike contributions. Courses were then suspended on March 16, 2017 afternoon. While some HRDs feared for their security, these students were released on the same evening after 4 hours of interrogation at the SNR office.

#### **An ex-FAB soldier arrested by police in Mabanda commune, Makamba province**

On March 14, 2017, Lambert, a soldier in duty and ex-FAB was arrested and detained at Mabanda police station by policemen on patrol. He was released on 16 March 2017. He had been arrested without a warrant and he was not informed of the reason for his arrest until his release.

#### **An Econet-Leo agent arrested in commune and province Rumonge**

On 15 March 2017, around 5:00 p.m., Daniel Nsengiyumva alias "to do" was arrested by the SNR official in Rumonge. This young person is an employee of a private partner exploiting a point of service called "Franchise" by Econet-Leo.

Sources on the spot indicate that he was arrested at his office at Rumonge car park. The SNR official in this province accused him of facilitating money transfers from abroad. He was handcuffed and put in SNR cell in Rumonge. Sources close to Econet-Leo branch in Rumonge indicate that the private point of service operators of this company sell all products including the Ecocash service, the sale of Econet-Leo sim cards, portable telephones and money transfer service called "Wordremit".

Thanks to this service, subscribers and non-subscribers of this business can receive or send money to family members who are abroad.

This young man is a native of Rukinga hill in commune and province Rumonge, his family and Econet-Leo agents in Rumonge request that he be released.

### **Two persons arrested in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province**

Two persons, Divine Kaneza and Jean de Dieu Ndiwokubwayo were arrested by security agents of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the Republic Gaston Sindimwo on Nyarumanga hill, Mayuyu zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province during his visit to Mukike commune on March 14-16, 2017. According to our sources, these young people are pupils at Mukike College in Mayuyu zone and are accused of lamenting on the First Vice-President's speech. These young people were taken to an unknown place.

### **Two young people arrested by Imbonerakure in Mubimbi commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On 14 March 2017, around 4:00 p.m. on the hill, zone and commune Mubimbi, Bujumbura rural province, Eddy Nkuzimana and Niyonkuru were arrested by Imbonerakure from that area. According to our sources, the victims are accused of destroying a CNDD-FDD party monument under construction. These young people are detained in CNDD-FDD party office of the area near to the police station. According to the same sources, these young people were beaten. Each must pay a fine of 50,000 Bif to be released.

### **A soldier arrested in Cibitoke urban zone, Bujumbura mayorship**

Information received by our office on March 13, 2017 indicates that a soldier named Claude, living on the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue No. 81 was arrested at home by policemen from the police station located in Cibitoke urban zone, led by the "De Corps" Daniel Gadi. According to a source, Claude was on leave because he is still on a peacekeeping mission in Somalia. He was taken to the zone cell where he spent the night before paying a ransom of 230,000 Bif to be released.

### **Twenty-three people arrested in Mutakura quarter, Bujumbura mayorship**

On March 16, 2017, police and soldiers arrested 23 people during a search and control of households records operated from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mayorship. They were taken to the zone where they were released after payment of a ransom.

Information received by Iteka League on 17 March 2017 indicates that three FNL members are held in Muramvya commune cell. Among them is the local representative of FNL named Celestin Sindayigaya.

### **Three FNL militants of Agathon Rwasa's wing arrested in Muramvya province**

They are accused of preparing an armed attack in which one person was wounded on Kayange hill on the night of 13-14 March 2017, according to police and local authorities. According to Fabien Nzeyimana, the FNL party secretary of Agathon Rwasa's wing in Muramvya, it is a setup against their members. In November 2016, the same activists spent nearly a week in Muramvya police station cell. They had been suspected of "maintaining a parallel

administration". Justice had cleared them. The FNL leader in Muramvya demand the immediate release of the three men.

### **MSD member arrested in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On March 18, 2017, Emmanuel Ntakirutima, MSD member and retired ex-FAB was arrested at home on Mbizi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province. He had been released in February 2017 during the presidential pardon. This military retiree was arrested and imprisoned late 2015. He was accused of illegal possession of weapons and participation to armed movements.

### **One person imprisoned in Muramvya province**

On 13 March 2017, Apollinaire Nkeshimana of Gikonge hill, Bukeye commune, Muramvya province was imprisoned, accused of having insulted as a "dog" Apollinaire Ntahimpera, an elected deputy from that commune.

### **Two judges of the Court of Appeal and a trader arrested in Ngozi province**

Hatungimana Joseph and Christophe were arrested on the order of the Prosecutor of the Republic who arrived personally to Ngozi province city. They would be accused of corruption, according to the judicial services in Ngozi.

In the beginning, seven men all from Kabarore commune province Kayanza had been sentenced by the TGI Kayanza to various sentences. It was on 13 January 2017 after they had been arrested by the police while trying very early in the morning to cross the border to sell to Rwanda 1070 kilograms of Colombo tantalite minerals (Coltan) they were carrying on the head.

After this conviction by TGI Kayanza, all appealed. The public hearing had taken place and one of them called Bampanze was acquitted, which worried the judicial services as this man had been sentenced to twenty years imprisonment and 15 million fine because he was responsible. This resembled a corruption case.

Following these facts, the two aforementioned judges as well as a tradesman from Ngozi city, all suspected of being involved in this case were arrested on the order of the General Prosecutor of the Republic and they were quickly transferred to Mpimba Central Prison in Bujumbura.

## ***1.5. RIGHT TO FAIR JUSTICE***

### **Perpetuity against three soldiers in Gitega province**

Five persons including three soldiers and two civilians appeared on 15 March 2017 before the Muha TGI on roaming in Gitega city. The 3 soldiers are accused by the OMP of attempted murder of Lieutenant General Prime Niyongabo, FDN Chief of Staff on the morning of 11 September 2015, illegal possession of weapons and attempted overthrow of the Republic institutions. The two civilians are accused of complicity. They were guarding a house in Ngagara where the alleged perpetrators might have retreated after the operation. All the



accused rejected the charges against them. They in turn raised several irregularities which have enameled this trial in particular the cases of torture they were victims at SNR. The deputy prosecutor in Gitega requested a life sentence for the 3 soldiers and 20 years of imprisonment against the 2 civilians. Civilians have revealed that they have been tortured, the reason why they have accepted things they have not done. The defense requested that all the accused be released. The case was placed under consideration and the verdict is expected in 1 month. However, the PMO has not yet said nothing on the perpetrators of the assassination of the former Chief of Staff of the army, Colonel Jean Bikomagu, killed outside his home on 15 August 2015 in Kabondo.

### **Eight people acquitted still in Mpimba Central Prison**

On 14 March 2017, eight people acquitted by the court in Bujumbura in early February continued languishing in Mpimba Central Prison, Bujumbura mayorship. Accused of illegal possession of weapons, PBA and attack on the internal security of the State, the magistrates had held that these offenses were not established. Despite the judgment, the prison authorities refused them the release ticket. These persons had been arrested on 28 July 2016 on three transport buses in Rumonge. According to a judicial source, the decision to keep them in prison came from the SNR.

### **Nine people detained illegally in Muyinga province**

On 15 March 2017, nine persons from Muyinga province appeared before the Ngozi Court of Appeal. Arrested in June 2015 accused of PBA, they had been acquitted by Muyinga TGI on 15 February 2017. They hoped to obtain their release in accordance with the law, but the public prosecutor in Muyinga ordered their transfer to Ngozi prison. He should have first released them and then appeal. It is a violation of the law in its article 127 of the Burundian CPP which stipulates that:

*"During the appeal period and in the case of an appeal until the judgement, the accused shall remain in the state in which the judge's order placed him, as long as the period of validity of this order has not expired. If the judge has detained him, the accused shall be released provisionally from the expiry of the time limit for appeal. "*

## ***1.6. RIGHT TO EDUCATION***

### **Strike of teachers in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

As of March 13, 2017, the teachers of Gitwa ECOFO, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province stopped courses. According to sources on the spot, these teachers are claiming for the strengthening of their security after a group of young people armed with machetes have entered the classrooms. These youths threatened to kill a teacher who had punished an offending student. The police had to intervene but the perpetrators arrested were released afterwards. Several educators claim to have suffered death threats from these students and asked for a meeting to find a solution to this problem but in vain.

## ***1.7. RIGHT TO HEALTH***

### **A record case of malaria in Karusi province**

According to figures provided by the health province in Karusi, a small decrease in malaria cases is observed for March but the situation still deserves special attention.

Indeed, the provincial doctor explained that in December and January, twenty thousand cases of malaria were received every week. Since early March 2017, the figures have decreased to fourteen thousands but the fact is that 80% of those coming to seek treatment suffer from malaria. Laboratory tests confirm this.

Despite this small drop, the authorities and the administration are strengthening and refining malaria awareness and prevention strategies through sensitization meetings and the distribution of inputs and deployment of health providers. Karusi province still tops the list among the provinces threatened by malaria.

### ***1.8. RIGHT TO PROPERTY***

#### **Spoliation of land in Kirwena zone, Rumonge province**

The population of Kigwena zone in commune and province Rumonge denounces the spoliation of their land by provincial authorities. A project to build a village of peace in the plots belonging to these inhabitants is being developed. Individuals who claim to be owners require compensation.

It all began in September 2016 when the inhabitants of Cabara and Mayengo hills of Kigwena zone learned that a peace village was to be built by the administration of this zone in their lands. They denounce a spoliation of their plots by the administration with at the head the Governor of province Rumonge, Juvenal Bigirimana.

"We learned that the Governor wants to plunder our lands. Recently, he has sent a delegation accompanied by the Ombudsman and some elected representatives of this area. They said that a study will be done on these lands to determine to whom they belong. The results of this study showed that these lands belong to the population, even the Ombudsman Edouard Nduwimana, confirmed the result of this study," says one of the owners of these lands.

On 18 March 2017, community work was carried out there. The Governor announced after the works that no one of the ten owners of the land had the right to work in the fields.

"The Governor told us that we are not allowed to field work or any other work in these fields, while the Ombudsman's delegation that confirmed that these lands were ours was not there. He warned us that our crops will soon be pulled," complains the resident.

The population of Kigwena zone accuse the Governor of Rumonge Province of wanting to despoil their lands without compensation. "The objective of this project is to grab our land without giving us any compensation. The study proved that these lands belong to us, and we have been the ones who have been exploiting these lands for a long time. We will file a complaint with the jurisdictions," the same source said.

#### **Fear for further expulsions in Bujumbura mayorship**

The inhabitants of the neighboring plots of the future presidential palace under construction in Gasenyi zone of north of Bujumbura city are pleading to stay in their plots. They assert that

they have nowhere else to go and hope that they will not be removed in case of extension of works. These inhabitants who have plots near the place where the presidency of the republic is being built and the related infrastructures say that there may be a plan of extension of this palace up to 60 hectares.

The inhabitants concerned by this design plan are divided into three categories. There are those who have had plots of land for a long time, purchasers of plots, and those who have received compensation after insertion, proceeding to the construction of lifetime houses a little distant from the site of the palace.

In the last category, many have raised debts from commercial banks to build their homes, and are afraid of falling into non-repayment with all consequences if they are again dislodged in case of extension.

These three categories no longer know where to stand, when they learn that there will be no new compensation for all those who will be moved.

They ask the government to take their situation into account and leave them in their plots because they fear to be in the street if the extension of the site of the palace is confirmed

## ***I.9. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE***

### **A VBG victim in Gitega province**

As of March 14, 2017, young girls accompanied by their parents came to besiege Michel Nsabimana's home, Director of Kirimbi High School, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, because he is accused by the students' parents to sexually abuse the students. N.M, one of his victims had a child from him because of his abuses. N.M went to the DCE for help but there was no result. Michel Nsabimana told the DCE that he last saw N.M the day she went to see the test results. She went to see the Director on 13 March 2017 and she ran away. The victim asks that he be punished according to the law and that he recognize the child. A warrant was issued. Michel Nsabimana is in his forties and is married and has children.

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

### ***II.1. THE PHENOMENON OF CORPSES SOME UNIDENTIFIED***

#### **A dead body found in Gitega province**

As of March 13, 2017, a dead body was found in Gitega town in the outskirts of Yoba. The body was not identified but according to Eric Manirakiza, deputy head of Yoba quarter, the body had many wounds. According to this official, he was beaten by the inhabitants of the Rukoba quarter near Yoba. The same inhabitants would have thrown the body where he was found. The body was taken to the morgue of Gitega regional hospital. He was buried without identification what shocked many people.

### **A dead body found in Ruyigi province**

A rotting body was found on Kigamba hill, commune and Ruyigi province. No one could identify the corpse that was found littered on a rock and was in white underwear only, according to sources on the spot.

He was buried on 14 March 2017 on the initiative of Ruyigi Red Cross. Following the state in which this corpse was, it was buried in a canvas because it was impossible to put it in a coffin and was buried at the very place it was discovered. The son of Raphael Mbazirow discovered this corpse while keeping cows.

### **A corpse found on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in Kajaga, Bujumbura mayorship**

On 13 March 2017 around 6:00 p.m., an unidentified corpse, one leg cut off, was pushed by Lake Tanganyika by Lake Tanganyika near Kajaga Beach. According to our sources, the corpse was buried on the morning of 14 March 2017 by the local population on the orders of the local administration of Kajaga.

### **Two corpses found in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On 16 March 2017 morning, on Vugizo hill, Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, two bodies were found, including Jimmy, head of the Imbonerakure of the area and Elie Nyandwi, his deputy. According to our sources, they were shot by armed men in military and police uniforms.

### **Two dead bodies found in Siguvyaye River, Bururi province**

As of March 13, 2017, two dead bodies, including a 40-year-old man and a 4-year-old child, were found between Mugozi and Mudahandwa hills, zone, commune and Bururi province, 4 km from the province urban center. According to sources on the spot, the corpse of this child is that of a boy disappeared on February 12, 2017. The latter is of the Batwa community of the area. The body of this 40-year old man was not been identified. According to the same sources, the two bodies did not show traces of wounds. They were taken by Bururi police to the hospital to be identified, precise our source.

### **A dead body found in Ndava commune, Mwaro province**

On March 15, 2017, the dead body of a 40-year-old Leonidas Nibogora, the father of two children, was found on Bugera hill, Buziracanda zone, Ndava commune, Mwaro province near the road.

### **A dead body found in Bugarama commune, Muramvya province**

On March 19, 2017, a dead body of an unidentified man was found on Mpehe hill, Bugarama zone, commune and Muramvya province. According to our source, the corpse had a wound on its head. This corpse was taken to Muramvya morgue.

## ***II.2. ARMED ATTACKS***

### **One person wounded in Kayanza province**

As of March 14, 2017, Salvator Nzobonimpa, a resident of Nyabibuye hill commune of Butaganzwa, Kayanza province was attacked on 14 March 2017. He was a member of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing. He was beaten several times with a machete. Wounded in the head and arm, Nzobonimpa was admitted to a health center.

## ***II.3. OTHER FACTS REPORTED***

### **A person victim of mob justice in Gitega province**

The information reached our office indicates that as of March 10, 2017, an unidentified person was victim of mob justice in Masanganzira, commune and province Gitega. According to sources on the spot, it all began when Alberic Bavumiragiye was in a pub Gitega town outskirts, commonly called "Ku masangazira" as he was heading to toilet, a person armed with a machete came behind him to decapitate him. He did not succeed because Alberic's friend named Ciza intervened. Alberic's friends beat this man to death. Alberic had opposed that he was beaten. The next day the police came to arrest him accusing him of killing a person.

### **Mob justice in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

On March 13, 2017, Devenge Bitangimana violently beat his wife on Butaramuka hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province. According to our sources, she allegedly accused her husband of adultery and misuse of family property for other women. The neighbors intervened to correct the husband. Had it not been police intervention, Devenge Bitangimana would have been lynched, according to the same sources.

### **One person killed in Isare commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On March 15, 2017, in Kibuye zone of Isare commune, Bujumbura rural province, Ntugwanayo killed his wife, Domine because she was from a CNDD-FDD party meeting. According to our sources, the man is FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing. The victim leaves 3 children and the man has ran away.

### **A woman killed by her husband in Vugizo commune, Makamba province**

On 17 March 2017, Gaspard Ndayirata killed his wife, Daphrose Nzeyimana, on Karonge hill, Vugizo commune, Makamba province. The husband had just returned from Tanzania where he had exiled in late 2015. The reasons for the murder were not yet known and the alleged perpetrator was still unnoticeable.

### **Attempted murder in province Rutana**

As of March 13, 2017, Protais Kwizera, a 37-year-old teacher at ECOFO Gitanga and a MSD party member, narrowly escaped shots by a policeman from Gitanga police station while he was in a pub. According to our source on the spot, this policeman was not worried.

### **A newborn buried alive on Rusara hill, Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province**

On March 15, 2017, a young girl gave birth and immediately buried her newborn on Rusara hill, Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province. This baby was dug out after almost 6 hours and he was still alive. The administrator of Bwambarangwe commune had recovered the baby.

### **Two children burned in Musaga zone, Bujumbura Mayorship**

As of March 19, 2017, OPP1 Jean-Marie Nahimana, head of Kanyosha police station, living near Musaga Catholic Church wanted to hit his wife who later managed to escape. He burnt his two children by burning the mattress on which they were sleeping. They were taken to CMCK for treatment. Gunshots were used to arrest him, according to our source on the spot.

### **Two groups of Imbonerakure in night patrol clash with machetes**

In the night of 12 to 13 March 2017, in Bujumbura rural province, Mubimbi commune, Matryazo zone, Imbonerakure from this zone of Matryazo, commanded by Jacques and Jérémie, fought with Imbonerakure from the area of Kugwavu. Muyange hill at the border of the commune Mubimbi and Mutimbuzi. According to our sources, these Imbonerakure had spears, machetes, knives and bludgeons. Two Imbonerakure, including Karegeya and Sindimwo were seriously injured and taken to Matryazo CDS. Sindimwo's arm was broken. The fight took place in the presence of Emmanuel, the head of Kigunga hill of Mubimbi commune. According to the same sources, the reason for this fight is the misunderstanding in the sharing of the money collected from the sellers of prohibited drinks in this area.

## ***III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS***

Allegations and violations of human rights following the deterioration of political context since the beginning of President Pierre Nkurunziza's protested 3<sup>rd</sup> term continue to be recorded in various parts of the country.

The obsession of an imminent rebellion fighting President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime is the source of many cases of murder, torture, abduction, illegal arbitrary arrest and illegal imprisonment.

The phenomenon of corpses, some of which are unidentified once again demonstrates a human rights situation that is likely to degenerate if measures are not taken to force the country to put an end to these unpunished crimes.

The fear of seeing the crimes against the alleged opponents widespread is great following the withdrawal of Burundi from the ICC and the minimization of any kind of foreign pressure by President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime.

Given the continuously serious situation of human rights situation in Burundi, Iteka League recommends:

### **A) To Government of Burundi**

- To put immediately an end to state violence and human rights violations by ensuring the security and protection of the population without discrimination;
- To dismantle and disarm the militia of the Imbonerakure youth league which spread terror in the country and which has replaced the administration and security corps instead of seeking to legalize it;
- Not to set the blaze by highlighting ways of violence in resolving the ongoing political conflict in the country;
- To ensure compliance with the CCP and the military code for cases of arrests currently being committed and/or dealt with by persons who are not competent to do so;
- To renounce the withdrawal project from ICC, which aims only to increase violence and human rights violations;
- To put an end to the injustice and politics of terror, the source of all the evils experienced by the Burundian people since its independence.
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### **B) To the AU**

- Implement its decision to send a military force to protect the Burundian population in distress.

### **C) To the EU**

- Use its power as Burundi's first financial partner to force the Bujumbura regime return to the negotiating table;
- To carefully review its payment system for the Burundian soldiers in peace mission so as not to continue funding a government responsible for serious human rights violations.

### **D) To the United Nations Security Council**

- Take all resolutions likely to restore peace in the country and guarantee the protection of human rights;
- Implement the decision to send a protection force for Burundians

**E) To the mediation**

- Not to neglect the damage caused by the violation of the Constitution and the Arusha Accords, including the thousands of people killed, exiled, arbitrarily imprisoned and hundreds of tortured and reported missing persons as well as hundreds of women and girls raped;
- Knowing that political conflict requires a political solution.

**F) To the EAC**

- Bring President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime to a negotiation table for an inclusive and sincere dialogue in order to find a lasting political solution to the crisis;
- Take sanctions if the Burundian government continues to decline the offer of the mediation.

**G) To the population**

- To stay united and not yield to the demands and divisive teachings or any demand to violence;
- To denounce any act likely to spread or maintain insecurity

**H) To the ICC**

- To speed up the procedures for the analysis of the cases submitted and to carry out necessary indictments.