

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

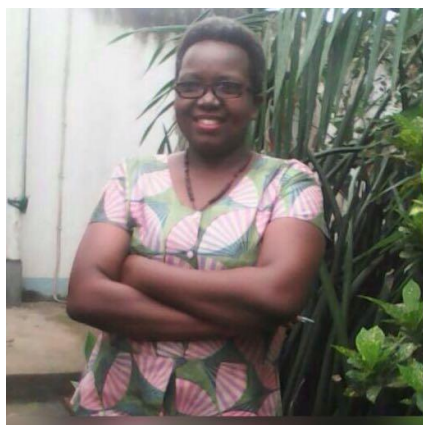
Approved by Ministerial Order n ° 530/0273 of 10 November 1994 revising Order No. 550 /029 of 6 February 1991



"Is a member of the Inter-African Union of Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), has observer status to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and has special consultative status to the ECOSOC"

Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°61 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 29 May to 4 June 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 4 June 2017, Iteka has documented at least 428 cases of enforced disappearances.

CONTENTS	PAGES
<i>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</i>	3
<i>0. INTRODUCTION</i>	4
<i>I. ALLEGATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS</i>	4
<i>I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE</i>	4
<i>I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY SNR AGENTS</i>	4
<i>I.1.2. CORPSES FOUND IN BUSH</i>	5
<i>I.1.3. PERSONS KILLED FOLLOWING MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS</i>	5
<i>I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED BY SNR AGENTS AND REPORTED MISSING</i>	5
<i>I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND SNR AGENTS</i>	5
<i>I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND POLICEMEN</i>	6
<i>II. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE</i>	8
<i>III. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS</i>	10
<i>IV. OTHER FACTS REPORTED</i>	10
<i>V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	11

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS: *Health Centre*

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

COMIBU: *Burundi Islamic Community*

DPE: *Provincial Direction of Education*

EP: *Primary school*

ETS: *Secondary Technical School*

FAB: *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL: *National Liberation Front*

ITABU: *Burundi Farming Institute*

MSD: *Movement for Solidarity and Democracy*

PNLS: *National Programme to fight against AIDS*

PRODEFI: *Commodities Development Programme*

PSR: *Special Traffic Police*

REGIDESO: *Water Supply Company*

SNR: *National Intelligence Service*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 4 persons killed including 1 corpse, 2 reported missing, 4 tortured, 31 arbitrarily arrested and 4 people were GBV victims.

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

This bulletin records cases of assassination, abduction, torture and arbitrary arrests targeting alleged president Nkurunziza 3rd term opponents.

The bulletin also rejects intimidation by Imbonerakure youth, forced contributions done by the latter and administration officials

Rape is also mentioned in this bulletin where perpetrators are unpunished as they are CNDD-FDD ruling party members.

This bulletin recommends the government to change the precarious human rights situation in the country

1. ALLEGATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY SNR AGENTS

Two people killed in Bujumbura city

As of 31 May 2017, two MSD party members, Léon Bangiricenge and Remy Ndagijimana, were killed by SNR agents in Kigobe quarter of Bujumbura mayorship. According to sources on the spot, Léon Bangiricenge was arrested on 24 May 2017 at home in Kamenge quarter and Rémy Ndagijimana was arrested on 25 May 2017 in Mutanga sud. All were arrested by Mathias Joseph Niyonzima nicknamed Kazungu, SNR officer, cited in several arrests followed by enforced disappearances. The same sources indicate that these two victims were taken to a secret cell at the bar "IWABO W'ABANTU" and then to Kajaga where they were tortured. Afterwards, they were taken to a villa in Kigobe, usually used for torture, rape and secret cell. Léon Bangiricenge and Remy Ndagijimana were savagely murdered there before being thrown into a mass grave at Ntakangwa River, according to the same sources. According to MSD party spokesman affirming the facts, their members were victims of their political affiliation and these victims are added to other MSD members who continue being subjected to Pierre Nkurunziza regime repression on the basis of their opinion.

1.1.2. CORPSES FOUND IN BUSH

A dead body found in Bururi commune and province

On May 29, 2017, in the morning, a decaying dead body of Virginie Akimana, a farmer of at least 20 years old was discovered on Munini hill in Bururi commune on the border of Makamba commune. According to his family, the victim was reported missing three days ago. The body had wounds on the neck and throat. The reason and perpetrators of this incident remain unknown. No investigation was carried out.

1.1.3. PERSONS KILLED FOLLOWING MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

One person killed in commune and province Muramvya

On 30 May 2017, on Burambana hill, commune and province Muramvya, Nzobambona was killed by his brother named Alphonse. According to sources on the spot, land conflicts are linked to this crime. According to law analyst, impunity in the country is a direct consequence of the fact that people are handling justice instead of recouring to competent jurisdictions.

1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED BY SNR AGENTS AND REPORTED MISSING

Two FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing abducted in Kabezi commune, Bujumbura rural province

As of 31 May 2017, around 6:00 pm on Gakungwe hill, Kabezi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Alexis Nshimirimana and Simeon Nkurunziza, all demobilized from FNL movement of Agathon Rwasa (now FNL political party of Agathon Rwasa's wing) were abducted by an SNR agent in Bujumbura rural province known as Salvator, accompanied by Adolphe Banyikwa former FNL party secretary, today suspended. According Aimé Magera, spokesman of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing, the victims refused to cooperate with Adolphe Banyikwa in Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing members hunting. Alexis Nshimirimana and Simeon Nkurunziza are held in secret places and are at risk of being killed, as other FNL members have been abducted and reported missing, the source said.

1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND SNR AGENTS

One person tortured in commune and province Muramvya

On the night of May 31 to June 1, 2017, Eric, a PRODEFI staff in Muramvya province was beaten up by the SNR head in Muramvya province, named Remy, and then taken to the police station cell where he spent one night. According to sources on the spot, the incident occurred in Kavyinabuhiye's bar in Muramvya province city. He was released the next day in critical

situation and the SNR officer told him "*genda uhindure*" which means go and change. Nobody understood what he intended to tell him.

One person tortured in Mabanda commune, Makamba province

On June 3, 2017, Elvis Nsabimana, a native of Nyarusange commune, Gitega province was seriously injured by young Imbonerakure in Mabanda commune, Makamba province. Back from Tanzania for field work, he was stolen an amount of 250,000 Bif by these CNDD-FDD party young members. Thinking he died, they threw him into Nyabusunzu River near the commune city. Three Imbonerakure suspected in this crime were arrested shortly before being released on order of Mabanda administrator Leatitie Niyonkuru. The tortured person was treated at CDS Mabanda.

One person tortured and one arrested in commune and province Kayanza

Information received by Iteka League on 29 May 2017 indicates that Paul Nyandwi was arrested by the hill head on 26 May 2017 on Ryirengeye hill, commune and province of Kayanza. He was accused of buying green coffee on this hill. He had only one kg with him when he was arrested and was taken to the commune police cell where he was tortured. Then, he was taken to Kayanza hospital in critical condition.

As of May 29, 2017, Paul Nyandwi's son Elie Niyonkuru was on his way to hospital to visit his father. He was arrested at Kayanza market by Imbonerakure. The latter forced him to acknowledge and pay a debt his father had contracted from a trader named Mama Sumaya. The population intervened for his release after paying a bribe of 10,000 Bif.

A person tortured in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

As of 2 June 2017, around 1:00 pm, Jonathan Habarugira, a biker from Gasenyi hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke Province was tortured while imprisoned in Gihanga commune police brigade, Bubanza province. Stick traces were visible on his back. He was accused of transporting hemp, according to our sources.

1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND POLICEMEN

Two people arrested in Rutana province

On May 30, 2017, Jonas Nduwayo and Alexandre Ndayishimiye were arrested around 6:00pm by the police at Jonas' home on Butezi hill in Giharo commune of Rutana province. They were praying and were taken to Giharo police station cell, accused of breaching the internal security of the state, according to sources on the spot. Jonas Nduwayo and Alexandre Ndayishimiye are adepts of the Church "*ABASUHUKE B'IMANA*".

One person arrested in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province

As of 31 May 2017, Gilbert Ntunzwenimana, a resident of Ruhehe hill, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province was arrested by the police in possession of an amount of one million eight hundred thousand Burundian francs (1,800,000 Bif) composed of 100 Bif notes and a sum of five hundred and forty thousand Burundian francs (540.000 fbu) made of 10 000 Bif banknotes. Gilbert Ntunzwenimana was from Rwanda and said he exchanged the money in an exchange bureau at Nyabugogo car park in Rwanda. According to sources, he was taken to Kirundo provincial police station. According to the same sources, he appeared before the public prosecutor on 1 May 2017. After interrogation, he was taken back to Kirundo province police station.

One person arrested in Buyenzi urban zone , Bujumbura mayorship

On January 30, 2017, Janvier Ncamatwi was arbitrarily arrested by the police and taken to the SNR office located in quarter 10 of Ngagara urban zone via PSR office for declaration. According to sources on the spot, Janver Ncamatwi's vehicle had banged that of the secretary-general of CNDD-FDD party, Evariste Ndayishimiye.

An Ex-FAB arrested in Mabanda commune, Makamba province

As of May 30, 2017, Sylvestre Singirankabo, a demobilized of former ex-FAB army was arrested on Musenyi hill, Mabanda commune of Makamba province by an SNR agent in Rumonge known as Never. Sources on the spot say he was accused of making defamatory statements. The population of Mabanda commune asks the administration to respect freedom of expression. An amount of 400,000 Bif would have been requested for his release.

Six people arrested in Bujumbura mayorship

On May 31, 2017, 6 people were arrested by SNR agents and police during a search to Pascal Ntirampeba's home, former CNDD-FDD member today in exile, on Kumurinzi Avenue, Gihosha quarter, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura mayorship. They are Dévote Niragira, manager of the bar "OPEN SKY" located in the same quarter, Elie Niyongabo, Eric Nshimirimana and Egide Nahimana all employees of the same bar. The police said they found two weapons, wich Pascal Ntirampeba's neighbors consider as setup and add that the same police who would have brought them for the purpose of arresting these people. During the search, SNR agents headed by Joseph Niyonzima nicknamed Kazungu arrested two other people, Agathon Nimpaye, a teacher at St Esprit Lycee at the same time responsible for MSD party and a Déo, a REGIDESO staff. He was arrested because he had a passport showing that

he often traveled to Rwanda. Sources on the spot say that he goes to Rwanda to visit his child studying there. According to the same sources, eight smartphones and four computers were seized at the home of this MSD party leader Agathon Nimpaye. Their family members are worried because they were denied any visit.

A household of a doctor named Gahongano was also searched. His container was smashed by the police who said he found military uniforms there. Gahongano's family is currently living in Canada. All those arrested were taken to SNR cell, close to Regina Mundi Cathedral in Bujumbura City.

Eighteen people arrested in Buterere urban zone , Bujumbura City

As of 31 May 2017, 18 young muslims were arrested by the police in Buterere urban zone and then taken to the zone police cell. Sources on the spot indicate that these young people are accused of wanting to disrupt the worship which took place in the mosque of Buterere I. The same sources indicate that they are also accused of having their hair done in a way not permitted by the Islamic religion. The 18 young people all spent the night in Buterere zone police cell. Our sources indicate that an SNR vehicle came to take them one by one to an unknown destination. Ramadhan Hakizimana who chaired this cult and who had them arrested would have been embarked, according to the same sources. Ramadhan Hakizimana is also COMIBU chair in Buyenzi zone. Other sources say that the 18 young muslims intend to dismiss him, which they reject totally.

A person arrested in Mukaza Commune, Bujumbura City

As of May 2, 2017, Privat Ndiokubwayo, a PNL staff was arrested by SNR agents at home in Jabe quarter of Bujumbura City. On-site sources indicate that he would be accused of traveling to Rwanda from time to time. Neighbors and his family say they do not understand the reason of his arrest arguing that he is not a member of any political party. One of his neighbors said that SNR agents entered his office to take some of his documents and his laptop.

II. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Cankuzo province

Information received by Iteka League on May 30, 2017 indicates that Anselme Barandya, director of ETS Cankuzo and former director of ITABU Kigamba in Kigamba commune, had impregnated a student named AK, according to our sources. On the evening of May 28, 2017, Desire Njiji, governor of Cankuzo province, went to the residence of this student's tutor to take her but this tutor refused, according to the same sources. Hence, on May 29, 2017, the pupil was taken to the province office to be heard by Governor Desire Njiji, Reverien Ndugi, Cankuzo DPE and the Public Prosecutor. As the student's family arrived at the governor's office, the student was then taken to the public prosecutor where she was interrogated before

being released at around 1:00 pm. Anselme Barandya was placed under arrest warrant while he was in Bujumbura, according to the same sources.

The information received by our office on 3 June 2017 indicates that the case of Anselme Barandya is becoming increasingly political. The leaders of CNDD-FDD ruling party are divided into two blocks on this issue for political reasons. According to sources from the party's officials, a meeting took place on June 2, 2017 at the party office in Cankuzo including Anselme Barandya but no consensus was reached. Some sources said that Anselm Barandya had fled but as of June 2, 2017, he returned with a team of other officials who support him and was not worried.

A person raped in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province

Information received by the League on 30 May 2017 indicates that on Mpungwe hill, Mugege zone, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province, a 16-year-old girl C.N was raped by a man named Salvator Ntirampeba on May 17, 2017. The girl had medical care at CDS Muhene. The hill head confirmed the facts in a correspondence to the CDS Muhene manager saying that the girl had been locked in a bar during the rape.

One person raped Ruyigi province

As of May 31, 2017, Wilson Ndikumana, known as Songa, an influential member of the Imbonerakure youth league, a nurse at Kinyinya hospital was arrested accused of sexually abusing a mentally ill girl. He is responsible for CNDD-FDD party in Kinyinya zone, member of elders council of the same party and also representing the demobilized of Ruyigi province. Sources in Kinyinya say he was caught in act by the population as of May 31, 2017, sexually abusing a mentally ill girl. The same sources indicate that the perpetrator had left his workplace arguing that he was going to a restaurant of the area. The population claims to have surprised him with clothes still in the hands. According to Kinyinya residents, this ruling party member Wilson Ndikumana in complicity with the Imbonerakure of Ruyigi province are often blamed by the population for raping women and girls during night patrols. The same source indicates that the victim of the rape was imprisoned despite his state of mental disease before being released on the evening of June 1, 2017.

A child raped in commune and province Bubanza

On 2 June 2017, around 2:00 pm, in Bubanza, a 29-year-old Jackson Mateganiro was arrested by Bubanza police and taken to Bubanza police station cell. He is accused of raping a 6-year-old girl as of May 28, 2017.

III. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS

A teacher confined by Imbonerakure in Butezi commune, Ruyigi province

As of May 30, 2017, Immaculée Nkurunziza, teacher at EP Rugoti, Butezi zone, Butezi commune, Ruyigi province was retained in her class by Imbonenerakure of this area. According to sources on the spot, the reason for this confinement is that her class was dirty. The police head and the administrator intervened to have the teacher released.

Forced contribution in Musaga urban zone , Bujumbura City

The Imbonerakure youth of CNDD-FDD are blamed by the population of Musaga urban zone for collecting money pretexting to build party offices. The recent case is the one observed in Gitaramuka quarter as of May 31, 2017. Sources on the spot say that these collections are directed to CNDD-FDD members and non-members. The Imbonerakure named Jackson and Paul top the list in the collection of this money, specify the same sources. These residents indicate that this money is requested from traders, shopkeepers and restaurant owners. The residents of Musaga zone reveal that they are facing poverty and do not understand this phenomenon. They protest against this act of extracting money which they describe as a theft organized by the regime.

Forced contribution in commune and province Rumonge

Information received by our office on June 2, 2017 indicates the population of Gatete zone, commune and province Rumonge protests against the measure of the authorities to contribute to the building of an administrative office. According to sources on the spot, this collection is done by Imbonerakure and part of this contribution is destined to the building of a CNDD-FDD office. Local administration officials also collect amounts of money between 5000 and 15 000 Bif.

IV. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

Grenade attack in Kinama urban zone , Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura City

On May 29, 2017, a grenade was launched by thieves in Carama I quarter, Kinama urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on the spot, a trader who was returning home was robbed two million Burundian francs and after this crime, these bandits launched a grenade to take off.

Fuel shortage in Cankuzo province

As of June 2, 2017, at Cankuzo fuel station owned by Kirosho, vehicles and motorcycles were waiting to be served with fuel. To get some, some policemen requested money from vehicle owners to be served. They also brought drums to buy fuel at pump price to resell it at the black market at 4000 Bif per liter. The example is that of Melchior Miburo, S4 at Cankuzo police station, who was responsible for the order of fuel distribution and who put in drums more than 400 liters to resell them irregularly.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

Killings, abductions, torture, targeted arbitrary and illegal arrests aimed at members of the opposition parties in particular those of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing and MSD are also reported.

Intimidations by Imbonerakure youth and forced contributions are still reported in the country.

Settlement of accounts is also a consequence of impunity, the population chooses to handle justice instead of recouring to competent jurisdictions.

The phenomenon of rape is intensified with a clear complicity by some members of CNDD-FDD ruling party.

Considering the continuously serious situation of human rights situation in Burundi, Iteka League recommends the government of Burundi the following:

- To dismantle and disarm the Imbonerakure militia which spread terror in the country and which has replaced the administration and security corps;
- To ensure compliance with the CCP for cases of arrests currently being committed dealt with by persons who are not competent to do so;
- To punish policemen, soldiers, Imbonerakure League youth and administrative agents involved in human rights violations;
- To protect GBV victims, bring to justice and punish the perpetrators in compliance with the law.