

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

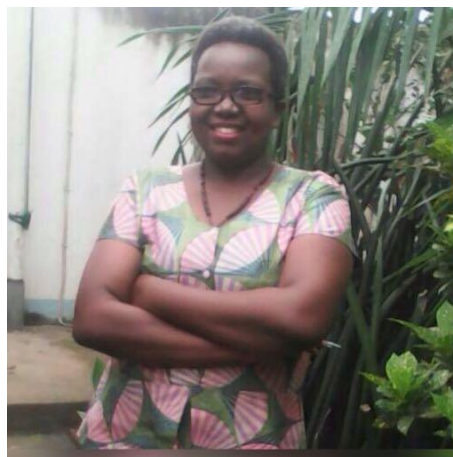
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°62 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 5 to 11 June 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 11 June 2017, Iteka has documented at least 432 cases of enforced disappearances.

CONTENTS	PAGES
<i>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>0. INTRODUCTION.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>I. ALLEGATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY POLICEMEN.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I.1.3. CORPSES FOUND IN BUSH AND/OR RIVERS.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I.1.4. PERSONS KILLED IN MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED BY SNR AGENTS AND IMBONERAKURE THEN REPORTED MISSING.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN AND/OR SOLDIERS.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN AND/OR SOLDIERS.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>II. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>III. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>IV. OTHER FACTS REPORTED.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</i>	<i>12</i>

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADC: *Democratic Alliance for Change*

API: *Support to Protection of Institutions*

AT: *Transmitting Agent*

CDS: *Health Centre*

CFP: *Professional Training Centre*

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

DPE: *Provincial Direction of Education*

ECOFO: *Fundamental School/Ecole Fondamentale*

EP: *Primary School*

FAB : *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

FRODEBU: *Front for Democracy in Burundi*

MSD: *Movement for Solidarity and Democracy*

OPJ : *Judicial Police Officer*

OPP : *Principal Police Officer*

PJ : *Judicial Police*

SNR: *National Intelligence Service*

UPRONA : *Union for National Progress*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 9 persons killed, 4 reported missing, 12 tortured, 84 arbitrarily arrested and 3 people were GBV victims.

The phenomenon of corpses is worrying. At least 5 corpses were recorded in this reporting period.

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 reports cases of killings, abductions followed by enforced disappearances, torture and arbitrary arrest of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3rd term opponents.

Members of the opposition parties, namely the FNL wing of Agathon Rwasa, MSD, FRODEBU Nyakuri, UPRONA wing of Charles Nditije and the ex-FAB soldiers were a privileged target of CNDD-FDD.

The bulletin also rejects intimidation by Imbonerakure youth, forced contributions by administration officials

Rape is also mentioned in this bulletin.

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

I. ALLEGATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY POLICEMEN

Police officer killed in Musaga urban zone , Bujumbura City

On June 9, 2017, OPP1 Philippe Minani was shot by one of his colleagues in Gasekebuye quarter, Musaga urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura City. According to police deputy spokesman Moise Nkurunziza, five people including four policemen and one civilian were arrested and detained in PJ cells in Jabe neighborhood for the murder of a police officer. Among these police officers, one said to have shot at the officer.

I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN

A person killed in Kayanza province

The information received by our office on 5 June 2017 indicates that on 3 June 2017 at about 10:00 pm, on Gatabo hill in Butaganzwa commune of Kayanza province, Salvator Ndayisaba, a trader and member of FRODEBU Nyakuri party was killed by unidentified men.

One person killed in Mpika-Kayove commune, Rutana province

On 6 June 2017, around 10:00 pm on Kibanda hill in Mpinga-Kayove commune of Rutana province, a 48-year-old Ngenzirabona was killed by a grenade in his home by unidentified persons.

I.1.3. CORPSES FOUND IN BUSH AND/OR RIVERS

Two dead bodies found on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, Rumonge province

As of June 8, 2017, two dead bodies tied up together were found on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in Magara, Bugarama commune, Rumonge province. Sources on the spot indicate that the two people were brothers. One is Ntunzwenimana, aged 20 and his little brother whose name is unknown would be 18 years old. All are from Magara zone, Bugarama commune of Rumonge province. The same sources indicate that the two boys had disappeared as of June 2, 2017.

A corpse found in Kayanza province

On June 5, 2017, on Gishunzi hill in Gahombo commune, Kayanza province, a dead body of a woman named Niyonyishu was found at her home. She was killed by unidentified people.

A corpse found in Gitega province

On the evening of June 6, 2017, a dead body of Pierre Gahungu, 53, from Jenda hill, Bugendana commune was discovered in Ruvyironza River near Bugendana commune, Gitega province. The local source says the victim was working at "OLYMPIA" bar located in Gitega province city. He was allegedly killed on the evening of 5 June 2017 when he returned from Gitega province city.

Eighteen people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura City

As of June 6, 2017, eighteen people were arrested by policemen and soldiers during a search in Cibitoke urban zone from 6th to 8th Avenue. Accused of not appearing in household notebooks, they were taken to Cibitoke urban zone office . They were released later.

1.1.4. PERSONS KILLED IN MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS

One person killed in Giharo commune, Rutana province

On June 6, 2017, around 2:00 pm, on Nkurye hill, commune Giharo, Rutana province, a person named Ruzobavako, 69 years old was killed by his son Lambert Ngezumugongo aged 31, with a knife accusing him of poisoning his grandson, Lambert Ngezumugongo's child. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to Giharo police station cell.

1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED BY SNR AGENTS AND IMBONERAKURE THEN REPORTED MISSING

One person abducted in Kamenge quarter, Bujumbura City

On June 5, 2017, Dieudonné Nsabimana, nicknamed Banga, a member of MSD was abducted in Kamenge zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura City by SNR agents. He was in charge of mobilization in Bujumbura city. Sources on the spot indicate that he was phoned by a friend while he was at home in Mirango quarter of Kamenge zone. Arriving outside, these sources say that he was boarded in non-registered T.I-mark vehicle with tinted windows that waited for him. The same sources add that he went shouting for help because he suffered blows of slaps and feet. Dieudonné Nsabimana was taken to an unknown destination. According to his family members, they searched him in all the cells in vain. His home has been under surveillance of the Imbonerakure since his abduction.

A person arrested and reported missing in Matana commune of province Bururi

As of June 5, 2017, a person named Yaya, a veteran of FNL movement from Bitezi hill, Gasibe sub hill, Matana commune, Bururi province was arrested by the position head Arakaza Moise with his AT and the Imbonerakure. He was taken to an unknown place so far. His family is panic-stricken and thinks theirs would be killed.

One person abducted in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On June 5, 2017, at around 6:00 pm, in Nasagarare area, on the 7th avenue in Cibitoke, Rugombo commune, in Cibitoke province city, Jumapili Karenzo was abducted and taken aboard a non-registered TI-branded vehicle with tinted windows. According to our sources, young Imbonerakure were in this vehicle headed by Jesus Mary, responsible for Karurama trades center. Jumapili's neighbors and family indicate that they sought in Cibitoke province cells without success.

One person abducted by the SNR in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On June 6, 2017, on Nyabunyegeri hill, Rubirizi zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura Rural province, Alexis Buhungu mobilizer of FNL wing of Agathon Rwasa in Kirekura was abducted by a

group of Imbonerakure accompanied by police officers at his home in Nyabunyegeri. He was taken to an unknown destination, according to our sources.

I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN AND/OR SOLDIERS

A person injured by Imbonerakure in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province

Information received by Iteka League on 5 June 2017 indicates that at about 00:00 on 31 May 2017, at Musenyi hill, Mpanda Commune, Bubanza Province, Ndagijimana was the victim of serious body harm using a machete on the head by two Imbonerakure Floribert Ndikumana and Ferdinand Nduwimana who were guarding the office of Musenyi sector head. According to our sources, the perpetrators were taken to Bubanza province police station cell on 31 May 2017.

Two persons tortured, Bukirasazi commune, Gitega province

On 4 June 2017, Célestin Mvuyekure, an ex-FAB demobilized and Thierry all from Kiryama were tortured by Bukirasazi zone head Pascal Hakizimana, accompanied by the police head of the area and one Imbonerakure named Faustin. According to our source, these two people were beaten up until they lost consciousness. The same sources add that on June 5, 2017, the victims' families sought the OPJ of Bukirasazi commune but the latter interrogated the perpetrators and let them go.

A person tortured in commune and province Rumonge

As of June 8, 2017, Buregeya was tortured and his home destroyed by people including youth Imbonerakure on Karagara hill, Buruhukiro zone, Rumonge commune and province. The victim was accused of being a sorcerer and poisoned a young hairdresser on the hill, according to administration sources. Other sources indicate that Buregeya, a returnee, is the victim of a land dispute with a residents' family. Buregeya agonized following the injuries by her torturers.

A person tortured in Kayanza province

Information received by our office on 5 June 2017 indicates that on 29 May 2017, on Manga hill, Kabarore commune, Kayanza province, Oswald was beaten by soldiers of Manga hill position. He was accused of transporting food and coffee into Rwanda.

One person tortured in Muramvya province

The information received by our office on June 5, 2017 indicates that on June 3, 2017, Richard, a teacher at ECOFO Camamandu in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, was beaten up by Imbonerakure, including Rémy Bimenyimana. He had gone to pay the rental of the house he lived in. This house belonged to Rémy. The latter asked him for his CNI and he replied he did not have it.

One person tortured in Muramvya province

Information received by our office on 5 June 2017 indicates that as of 30 May 2017 an SNR officer in Rutegama commune in Muramvya province, known as Anicet, beat up Gilbert in Rutegama commune police cell. According to sources on the spot, this SNR head has the habit of beating detainees at night.

1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN AND/OR SOLDIERS

An ex FAB arrested in commune and province Bubanza

The information received by the Iteka League on 5 June 2017 indicates that at about 10:00 pm on 4 June 2017, on Gisovu sub-hill, commune and Bubanza province, Major Christian Nkurikiye, a Tutsi ex-FAB, soldier of Muzinda camp on mission in Somalia but on leave, was arrested by young Imbonerakure and police officers accompanied by the executive secretary of CNDD-FDD party in this commune named Marcel. According to our sources, Major Christian Nkurikiye returned home from a bar in civilian dress. The victim had a pistol and would be accused of wanting to assassinate this party executive secretary. The victim said it was a setup because he did not make any attempt to kill, according to the same sources.

Two people arrested, tortured in Kirundo province

As of June 6, 2017, Issa Ndagijimana, a CNDD-FDD party member who is also a discipline supervisor for the Imbonerakure in Kirundo province and Abdoul, an Imbonerakure working for Issa's studio, were arrested in Kirundo urban center by Gérard Ndayisenga, SNR responsible in Muyinga province. According to sources on the spot, the two men were violated by Gérard Ndayisenga's guards. The two people were taken to Muyinga Central Prison.

Forty people imprisoned at Reconciliation Center, Kirundo Province

On June 8, 2017, ninety-one Burundians were expelled by Rwanda and were received at Gasenyi-Nemba border, Busoni commune. According to sources on the spot, forty or so were imprisoned at the reconciliation center in Kirundo province. Among them, 3 were released after a request for their release by their families by signing a commitment act on what may happen further. These returnees go to Rwanda for work to survive because of the famine threatening the country and Kirundo province in particular.

One person arrested in Matana commune, Bururi province

As of June 9, 2017, Bernard Gatore, FNL president, wing of Agathon Rwasa in Matana commune and treasurer at the provincial level was arrested at the EP located in zone and commune Matana. According to sources on the spot, he was arrested by the SNR head in Bururi province. Bernard Gatore was arrested in a case of weapons seized for a month in Gasibe zone of the same commune, the same sources said. He was taken directly to the SNR cell located close to Regina Mundi Cathedral. According to sources from his family, this case has been politicized, Bernard Gatore has a land dispute with Gabin Ndiokubwayo, a close-to-regime UPRONA member who lost the trial for Bernard Gatore be absent on the day of execution of the judgment.

A person arrested and tortured in Nyabikere commune, Karusi province

On June 6, 2017, on Ruhuma hill, Gatonde zone, Nyabikere commune, Karusi province, Ndiokubwayo, son of Jordin and Angeline, was arrested by Imbonerakure of this area who tied and beat him. Sources on the spot say he is accused by these Imbonerakure of intending to kill his parents.

Two people arrested in Gitega province

Two members of the coalition "AMIZERO Y'ABARUNDI", loyal to Agathon Rwasa, were arrested on 8 June 2017, by the SNR in Gitega province city. It is Jean Paul arrested in Bwoga quarter and Edouard known as Koka. The latter was in a hairdressing salon when he was arrested. Both were arrested without a warrant.

Two people arrested and tortured in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province

On 7 June 2017, around 8:00 am, Vénérand Habonimana, a teacher at ECOFO Gisarwe and Méthode Banama, all MSD party members residing in Rwibaga, Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province, were arrested by two Imbonerakure Franck Bigirimana and Parfait Nzeyimana of Rwibaga. According to our sources, they are accused of insulting police officers Masabo and Sakubu. The latter tortured, beaten and imprisoned them at Rwibaga police station in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province. Vénérand was released the evening of the same day and Methodode Banama remained imprisoned.

Eighteen people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura City

As of June 6, 2017, eighteen people were arrested by police and soldiers during a search in Cibitoke urban zone from 6th to 8th Avenue. Accused of not appearing in household notebooks, they were taken to Cibitoke urban zone office . They were later released.

Six people arrested in Musaga urban zone, Bujumbura City

As of 9 June 2017, around 11:00 pm, six young people, including two brothers were arrested by API agents accompanied by Kinanira II quarter head Eric Uwitonze. They were in a household on Kavumu Avenue in Musaga urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura City. They were accused of breaching internal security of the state. They were released on the afternoon of 10 June 2017.

A registrar arrested in Kibago commune, Makamba province

On June 7, 2017, Joséphine Nyandwi, a registrar in Kibago commune, Makamba province was arrested by the police. She is detained in Kibago commune police station. Josephine went to the province for medical check of her adopted child who had been raped. According to sources on the spot, her arrest would be linked to this rape.

Nine pupils of Gatete CPF arrested in commune and province Rumonge

As of June 8, 2017, nine students, including eight boys and one girl were arrested while participating in a demonstration against the CPF opaque financial mismanagement. After each student's contribution of 21,000 Bif, these students denounced the purchase of a generator that could not remedy the power shortage during practical work, while each pupil had paid 21,000 Bif. They are also claiming for internship fees which the direction did not give to finalists at the end of their internships at the rate of 35,000 Bif each. They ask the Rumonge DPE to handle all these questions. They are detained in a school uniform at Rumonge police station. They were released on 9 June 2017.

II. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A schoolgirl raped by her tutor in Ruyigi province

The information received by Iteka League on 10 June 2017 indicates that a 13-year-old F.N, a 3rd form schoolgirl at EP Kigamba in Ruyigi province, was impregnated by her tutor named Dieudonné alias Papa Muco. According to sources on-site, the schoolgirl had discomfort in class. She was expelled from school on May 3, 2017 after a positive pregnancy test. The alleged perpetrator was arrested on June 9, 2017 and was imprisoned in the police station cell in Ruyigi, according to the same sources.

Attempted rape in Rutana province

On June 6, 2017, at around 11:00 am, on Nyagahara hill, Giharo commune, Rutana province, a nurse named Gérard Ndayitwayeko of the CDS of that hill was caught attempting to rape a pregnant woman named Sylvana Ngeriminwe who came for a prenatal consultation. The alleged perpetrator was imprisoned in Giharo police station cell.

A girl raped in commune and province Bubanza

Information received by Iteka League on 5 June 2017 indicates that at about 3:00 pm on 31 May 2017, on Gisovu sub-hill, on downtown hill, commune and province Bubanza, Jean Marie Kwizera raped a six-year-old girl. According to our sources, the child went to visit him with her comrades. The author was arrested on 4 June 2017 at about 10:00 am and held in Bubanza province police station cell.

III. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS

Confrontation of young Imbonerakure with other young people in Rutana province

As of June 6, 2017 around 9:00 pm, young Imbonerakure from Gicaca hill, Bukemba commune Rutana province clashed with other non-party youths in Swahili quarter of Gihofi hill. According to sources on the spot, the incident occurred when these young Imbonerakure from Gicaca on patrol arrested traders and consumers of prohibited drinks in Swahili quarter. Two young Imbonerakure were injured during the clashes. After this incident, some of these young people from Swahili quarter are threatened. These night patrols by young Imbonerakure in Bukemba commune scare the population who does not understand why this task that was intended for defense and security corps was ceded to these young Imbonerakure.

Forced membership to the Imbonerakure youth league in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

On 3 and 9 June 2017, the Director of ECOFO Gatabo II, Célestin Ndikuriyo, held two meetings for the students of this institution in order to force them to join the Imbonerakure youth league of the CNDD-FDD party. Students who try to oppose it are threatened with disciplinary sanctions.

IV. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

Forced membership to the Imbonerakure youth league in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

On 3 and 9 June 2017, the Director of ECOFO Gatabo II, Célestin Ndikuriyo, held two meetings for the students of this institution in order to force them to join the Imbonerakure youth league of the CNDD-FDD party. Students who try to oppose it are threatened with disciplinary sanctions.

Search in Kibago commune, Makamba province

As of June 8, 2017, fifteen households of UPRONA party members, Charles Nditije's wing and ex-FAB retirees were the target of a search in Kibago commune in Jimbi. According to sources on the spot, this police search was considered as a kind of intimidation to opposition members and ex-FAB retirees.

Forced collection in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

A campaign of forced collection of funds has started in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province for the construction of a building in Makamba province. Since early May 2017, meetings have been held by the governor, provincial advisors, accompanied by advisors in DPE Makamba for teachers. Principals are relaying the instruction of the provincial administration to pay a monthly amount of 5000 Bif per teacher. According to these directors, roadblocks will soon be erected on the roads to workplaces as part of this collection. The last meeting was held at ECOFO Dunga on 8 June 2017. Administrative documents will not be given to teachers who will not pay this contribution.

Closing of shops and bars in Musaga urban zone, Bujumbura City

On 7 and 8 June 2017, the commander of Muha camp Pascal, known as Mababa, closed the shops and bars at Musaga gas station for non-compliance with the sale of beverages. The owners of these shops and bars denounce the injustice because the bar belonging to the MP Lewis Niyongabo was not closed while it remains open all the time. They were fined up to 50,000 Bif.

Attempted assassination in Rutana province.

On 5 June 2017 around 8:00 pm, on Cunda hill, Gitanga commune, Rutana province, a group of four people, including Fanuel, Gilbert, Marc and Bankuwunguka had prepared a crime to Nibigira's family for land conflicts. The prosecution has taken on the case and arrested the alleged perpetrators before taking them to Rutana police station cell.

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, MSD, FRODEBU Nyakuri, and UPRONA of Charles Nditije's wing are also reported.

Repression of ex-FAB soldiers in duty or retired are still recorded.

Intimidations by Imbonerakure youth and forced contributions were reported.

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

Rape is also reported in this bulletin.

Hate speech and incitement to violence by some senior officials in the country are also a source of insecurity.

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 and punish the perpetrators in compliance with the law.
- Stop hate speeches and incitement to violence