

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

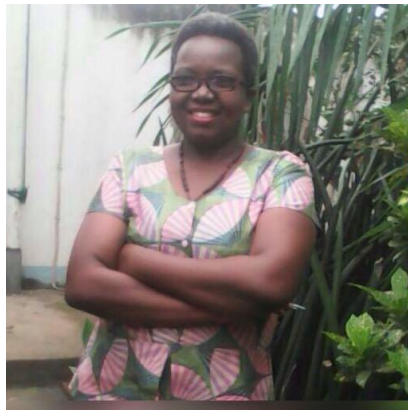
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***Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°64 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"***

**Week from 19 to 25 June 2017**



***In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 25 June 2017, Iteka has documented at least 437 cases of enforced disappearances.***

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**CDS:** *Health Center*

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

**CNI:** *National Identity Card*

**ECOFO:** *Fundamental School/Ecole Fondamentale*

**FNL :** *National Liberation Front*

**MSD:** *Movement for Solidarity and Developement*

**MSF:** *Doctors Without Borders*

**ODH:** *Human Rights Observers*

**ONG :** *Non Governmental Organization*

**PSI:** *Internal Security Police*

**RN:** *National Road*

**SNR:** *National Intelligence Service*

**VBG:** *Gender Based Violence*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 6 persons killed including 1 corpse, 3 tortured, 17 arbitrarily arrested and 1 person was a GBV victim.

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

This bulletin reports cases of killings, torture and arbitrary arrest of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> term opponents.

Members of the opposition parties, FNL Agathon Rwasa's wing and MSD were a privileged target of the CNDD-FDD regime.

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

Rape is also mentioned in this bulletin as well as mob justice.

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 UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **One person killed in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

On the night of 21 June 2017, 60-year-old Juma Ntakobakingira was killed, hit in the head by unidentified persons. According to our sources, the crime was committed at his home on Muyange hill, Mugina Commune, Cibitoke Province.

#### ***I.1.2. CORPSES FOUND IN THE STREET***

##### **A dead body found in Buyenzi urban zone , Bujumbura City**

On June 19, 2017, a dead body of 21-year-old Pascal Yamuremye, native from Kayanza was found at the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue number 30 in Buyenzi urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura City. According to sources on the spot, this person was killed by unidentified people.

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

#### **One person killed in commune and province Gitega**

On the night of 18 to 19 June 2017, Philbert Ntimpirangeza was savagely killed with clubs. The crime was committed in the locality of Ngobeke, Mubuga zone, commune and Gitega province. According to the administration, this person was reportedly killed by family members following land disputes. Three people, including her mother-in-law were arrested by the police. They are detained at Gitega police station.

#### **One person killed in Mugamba commune, Bururi province**

On 22 June 2017, in the evening, Ninteretse was killed in Kibezi zone, Mugamba commune, Bururi province. According to sources on the spot, his brother is the alleged perpetrator of the assassination. The reason remains unknown and the author is still a large.

#### **One person killed in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

On June 24, 2017, Damascene Hakizimana, a resident of Rugendo hill, Mugina Commune, Cibitoke Province was stabbed to death at home. According to sources, the victim was killed by the population. The inhabitants of this area were vexed that Damascene Hakizimana was a thief and was always released by the police every time he was arrested.

#### **One person killed in Gitobe commune, Kirundo province**

On 22 June 2017, Théoneste Buyoya was killed with machetes on Bugwana hill, Gitobe commune in Kirundo province by unidentified people. A victim's neighbor says Buyoya narrowly escaped arrow shooting two years ago. He was accused of sorcery by his neighbors.

### ***1.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND SOLDIERS***

#### **One person arrested and tortured in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On June 22, 2017, Fiacre Mweranda was beaten up by soldiers from Rukina position, Mukike commune, Bujumbura Rural province. These soldiers had arrested him on the same day in Rukina. According to our sources, Fiacre Mweranda, native from Rutozi hill, was hospitalized and then removed by these soldiers. He was taken to the military position in Sehe. According to the same sources, Fiacre Mweranda had been beaten up two months ago by soldiers who accused him of having insulted them.

### **One person tortured in Mabanda commune, Makamba province**

As of June 24, 2017, Eric Nkurunziza, a house worker from Karusi province, was seriously injured by Imbonerakure youths on Bikobe hill in Mabanda commune, Makamba province. He was beaten by three young Imbonerakure Claude, Michel and Anaclet who accused him of not cooperating with them. The victim was taken to Gahama CDS in the same commune.

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

Information received by Iteka League on 19 June 2017 indicates that on 18 June 2017, on Ruhuma hill in Rugwiza zone of Nyabikere commune, Antoine Nzoza was arrested and beaten up by the Imbonerakure of this hill accusing him of beating his wife and fined him of a can of local beer equivalent to 15,000 Bif.

## ***1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, AND POLICEMEN***

### **A person arrested in Muramvya province**

On June 23, 2017, Claver Kobako, a teacher at ECOFO Camamandu was arrested by SNR head in Rutegama commune, accompanied by the head of the police station of the area named Léonidas Nzoyihiki and the representative of the Imbonerakure in Muramvya province named Loti. He would be accused of insulting the Hutu.

### **Eight people arrested in Nyarusange commune, Gitega province**

On June 24, 2017, Sylvere Simbagije, the FNL chair of Agathon Rwasa's wing in Bukoro zone, Nyarusange commune, Gitega province was arrested by police officers at his home on Bikinga hill. On the same day, in the same commune, other FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing were arrested. They are Jean Mperabansi and his daughter Jeanne Nibogora, Damas Hakizimana, Gérard Hakizimana, J. Paul Sabiyumva, J. Claude Bigirimana and Didace. They were arrested by police officers accompanied by SNR agents, according to local sources. They were taken to Gitega central prison.

### **A person arrested in Mwaro province**

Information received by Iteka League on 25 June 2017 indicates that on 25 May 2017 Olivier Havyarimana, 18 years old, was arrested by the SNR officer in Mwaro province, named Rénovat, and then taken to Muramvya police station where he spent 9 days. According to sources on the spot, he was transferred to the SNR cell in Bujumbura City on June 3, 2017 where he spent 10 days. On June 13, 2017, he appeared at Kinindo prosecutor's office and later transferred to Mpimba Central Prison. According to the same sources, the reason for his arrest is that the SNR head in Mwaro found in Olivier Havyarimana's telephone a message sent to a friend alerting him the SNR chief was heading to Ndava commune

### **Two people arrested in Bujumbura City**

On June 23, 2017, two MSD party members, J. Claude Ndikuriyo, living in Ngagara zone and Elie Ntirampeba, living on the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue of Mutakura quarter, were arrested in Bujumbura City. According to sources on the spot, J. Claude Ndikuriyo was arrested at his home in the evening by the police station head in Ngagara zone without a warrant and without valid reason. As for Elie Ntirampeba, sources on the spot indicate that he was taken aboard a police pick-up and then taken to an unknown destination.

As of June 24, 2017, Epitace Nshimirimana, MSD party spokesman, said that he had information that these two people were held in SNR cell close to Regina Mundi Cathedral and that they had been tortured in the SNR cell.

### **One person arrested in Bugarama commune, Rumonge province**

As of June 23, 2017, Anaclet Ndiwenumuryango, Cashi hill head and FNL member, Agathon Rwsa's wing was arrested by police officers and then taken to Magara police cell in Bugarama commune, Rumonge province. He is accused of collaborating with armed groups.

### **Three people arrested in Bugarama commune, Rumonge province**

As of June 25, 2017, three demobilized persons and FNL members, Agathon Rwsa's wing, were arrested on Cashi hill, Magara zone, Bugarama commune, Rumonge province. Accused of making night patrols with weapons including machetes, they are imprisoned in Bugarama police cell. ODHs denounce Agathon Rwsa's wing FNL members' manhunt.

## ***II. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE***

### **A girl raped in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

On June 19, 2017, at about 10:00 am, on Rugajo hill in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, a one-year-and-eleven-month-old girl KI was raped by a man named Claude Bukuru, aged 21, native from Musenyi hill, Rubirizi zone, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province. According to our sources, the act occurred in the household of the victim's mother.

## ***III. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS***

### **Forced contributions in Kirundo province**

Information received by our office on June 20, 2017 indicates that roadblocks are erected in all communes of Kirundo province, controlled by Imbonerakure. The latter require each person to contribute 500 Bif for the construction of CNDD-FDD party office and 2 kg of bean which would constitute their salary, but explain to the population that it is for the strategic stock requested by the province while the population was not sensitized.

In Busoni commune, each household must give an amount of 2 000 Bif of which 1000 Bif to build Nyarunazi stadium and 1000 Bif to build the markets of Gatare and Kabanga. The population should also give 2 kg of beans.

It was also forbidden to export beans from Kirundo province other provinces but after the MP Jean Baptiste Nzigamasabo alias Gihaha had filled his stock at low prices, he authorized the sale. The population laments these contributions because the inhabitants of Marembo, Gatete and Kubanero contribute to build Gatare market located at 10 km. Those of Nyarunazi, Rusarasi and Murore contribute to build Kabanga market located at 13 km from Nyarunazi.

### **Clash between Imbonerakure and the population in Kirundo province**

As of June 19, 2017, Imbonerakure from Yaranda hill in Kirundo commune headed by their chief named Mvuyekure were beaten up by the population of the area. According to sources on the spot, these Imbonerakure imposed the population to contribute 2000 Bif. The population totally refused to give this contribution arguing that none of the authorities rescued them during scarcity and that the population received no seed from the state. The province authorities did not react after this incident because those who have beaten up these Imbonerakure are CNDD-FDD party members.

## ***IV. OTHER FACTS REPORTED***

### **An ambush in Ruyigi province**

On the evening of 20 June 2017, around 8:00 pm, along the RN 13 road, near the Save bridge between Cankuzo and Ruyigi provinces, two vehicles, including an ambulance and a Probox vehicle, were ambushed by an armed group. Big trees were cut in Ruhororo in Bweru commune to block the road. An amount of 60,000 Bif was stolen from the people who were in the ambulance and 400,000 Bif was stolen from passengers in the Probox vehicle. The passengers alerted the police in Cankuzo. According to Cankuzo PSI sub-commissioner who intervened after alert, indicated that they were bandits. This armed group was not identified.

### **One person abducted then found in Rugazi commune, Bubanza province**

Ntahomvukiye Fidèle, a CNDD-FDD party representative and the 2<sup>nd</sup> among the local elected representatives on Butavuka hill in Rugazi commune in Bubanza province, was abducted by unidentified persons on 22 June 2017. He was found tied up in the bush on the evening of June 23, 2017 in a state of unconsciousness.

### **MSF Switzerland closes in Rumonge province**

Information received by our office on June 25, 2017 indicates that as of June 15, 2017, MSF Switzerland has suspended its activities. It should support Rumonge hospital and six CDS of Rumonge health province. This NGO did not reach agreement with the Ministry of Health on the recruitment of staff and the management of medicines stores. The Ministry wanted to be associated at all costs, which



MSF Switzerland did not accept. This is a big loss for the population who demand that this contract of collaboration be renegotiated for the benefit of the population.

## ***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, 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 administration officials and forced contributions were reported in this bulletin.

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.

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.
- To stop forced contributions fixed by administration officials and collected by young Imbonerakure.