

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

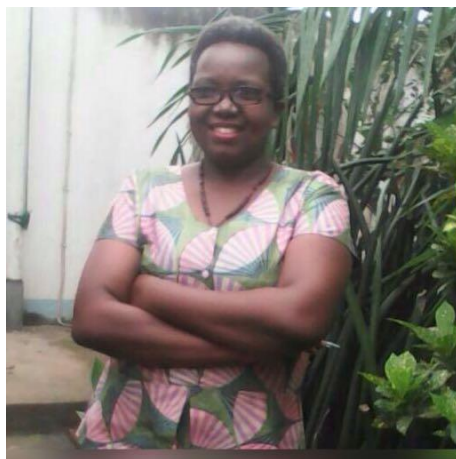
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***Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°65 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"***

**Week from June to 2 July 2017**



***In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 2 July 2017, Iteka has documented at least 424 cases of enforced disappearances.***

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**AT:** *Transmitting Agent*

**BRB:** *Bank of the Republic of Burundi*

**CNI:** *National Identity Card*

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

**FAB:** *Burundi Armed Forces*

**CDS:** *Health Centre*

**FNL:** *National Liberation Front*

**SNR:** *National Intelligence Service*

**UPD:** *Union for Peace and Development*

**RDC:** *Democratic Republic of Congo*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 8 persons killed including 5 corpse, 7 tortured as well as 6 arbitrarily arrested.

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

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

The bulletin also rejects intimidation by Imbonerakure youth and administration officials as well as the impunity granted to pro-CNDD-FDD party.

Security context is characterized by cases of killings, arbitrary arrests and torture committed against alleged opponents to the regime.

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 IMBONERAKURE AND POLICEMEN***

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

On the night of June 27, 2017, Oscar Ndizeye alias Topima, detained in Karusi province police station cell, died of torture. On-site sources indicate that Oscar Ndizeye and two other detainees were arrested and taken to the police station, suspected of stealing a motorcycle in Karusi town. These sources say the victim and his fellow prisoners were removed from the cell between 9:00 pm and 10:00 pm on 27 June 2017 and taken to Nkoronko hill by the operations officer S3 Nazaire Mbazumutima accompanied by his AT, the 'De Corps' Juste Cishahayo to hand them over to Imbonerakure youth among them Maboss, Buyondo, Eric and Sinzo. According to our sources, these detainees were beaten and tortured by these Imbonerakure. When they returned to the police station, the same sources say that Oscar Ndizeye was already in critical condition. He hence died due to torture suffered. Oscar Ndizeye was trader and at the same time biker in Buhiga commune, Karusi province.

#### ***1.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **One person killed in Musigati commune, Bubanza province**

On the night of June 26, 2017, a police officer named Cyprien Ngendakuriyo was killed beheaded with a machete by unidentified men in Musigati commune, Bubanza province. On-site sources indicate that this policeman was guarding Musigati post office. The perpetrators stole his weapon before fleeing.

#### ***1.1.3. CORPSES FOUND IN BUSH OR RIVERS***

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

As of June 27, 2017, a dead body of an unidentified person was found on Mwiruzi hill, Mishiha Commune, Cankuzo Province. According to sources on the spot, this corpse showed traces of wounds and was buried after police report.

##### **A dead body found in Muyinga commune and province**

In the afternoon of June 27, 2017, at about 3:00 pm, a dead body of 16-year-old Emelyne Tuyisenge was found in a bush on Ruhiga sub-hill, Cibari hill, commune and Muyinga province. According to sources on the spot, the victim was sexually abused and then strangled by her aggressor.

##### **A dead body found in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province.**

On the morning of July 1, 2017, on Rukana hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, an unidentified female body was found in RUGOFARM fields.

### **A corpse found in Songa commune, Bururi province**

On the morning of June 29, 2017, the corpse of Bernard Havyarimana was found on Mutsinda hill, Kiryama zone, Songa commune, Bururi province. According to sources on the spot, the perpetrators of this dreadful act remain unknown. According to information from the community, Bernard may have been killed by Imbonerakure of the area who were patrolling at night with weapons in the eyes of the authorities. According to police and administrative sources, settlement of accounts linked to land conflicts may be the cause of this incident. Two alleged perpetrators of the murder were arrested by Songa commune police.

### **One person killed in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province**

On the night of 29 June 2017, Florence Nduwimana was killed in Gihanga commune of Bubanza Province. Sources on the spot indicate that her body was found on the morning of June 30, 2017. His body had wounds on her belly. The same sources say she was stabbed.

### ***1.1.4. PERSONS KILLED FOLLOWING MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS***

#### **One person killed and one wounded in Ndava commune, Mwaro province**

On 27 June 2017, around 6:00 pm, Marie Ntimpirangeza, aged 62 and her 22-year-old son, Mertus, were beaten up by Gervais Ndimurwanko, aged 41, Marie's son and Merthus' brother on Nkingu subhill, Butazi hill, commune Ndava, province Mwaro. On-site sources indicate that Marie Ntimpirangeza died on the spot while Merthus was rushed to the hospital in critical condition. According to police sources, Ndimurwanko used a truncheon and family conflicts were in the heart of this incident. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and found guilty and was sentenced to 25 years.

### ***1.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND SNR AGENTS***

#### **One person arrested and tortured in Mugamba commune, Bururi province**

As of June 27, 2017 in the morning, Apollinaire Manirakiza, a 40-year-old soldier and father of five children, was arrested arbitrarily by police officers from Mugamba commune under a warrant signed by the commune administrator. He was handcuffed after kicks from police, sources said. The reason of his arrest remains unknown.

#### **A person arrested and tortured in Cibitoke urban zone, Bujumbura City**

Information received by our office on 26 June 2017 indicates that on 20 June 2017 Eber Bahinganji was arrested by SNR agents and taken to one of unrecognized cells. The latter tortured him with stings. On 24 June 2017 he was released upon payment of a ransom and SNR agents kept his passport and CNI. After his release, a double-cab van with tinted windows without registration number would have made shuttles at the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and very close to the bar "Chez Damas" in search of this victim.

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

On June 29, 2017, Emmanuel Nizigiyimana, a bar owner, was beaten up by Imbonerakure upon complaint from a customer, Mutwazi hill, Mabanda commune, Makamba province. The victim had to return to the client an amount of 4200 Bif. As the victim did not have this sum, the client complained to the Imbonerakure. The latter tied up and beat up Mr. Emmanuel Nizigiyimana. He was treated for 2 days at CDS Mabanda.

### **A person tortured in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by our office on June 26, 2017 indicates that on June 18, 2017, in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province, a policeman named Nshimirimana was ambushed and beaten up by Imbonerakure when he returned from a bar. The next day, eight Imbonerakure including Amedee Nshimirimana and Désiré were arrested for investigation. They were quickly released after defending themselves that they were not the perpetrators of this crime but that Nshimirimana would have fallen on the ground.

### **One person arrested and tortured in Kabarore commune, Kayanza province**

On 24 June 2017, Nduwimana from Rukere hill, Kabarore Commune, Kayanza Province was arrested and beaten up by Imbonerakure while working in his field. After a search carried out at his house by Imbonerakure, they found coffee he had peeled himself. They took him to the commune cell accusing him of wanting to sell the coffee into Rwanda.

### **Two people tortured by an Imbonerakure in Karusi province**

As of June 27, 2017, on Ngugo hill in Maramvya zone of Nyabikere commune, Karusi province, two teachers Salvator and Révérien were beaten by an Imbonerakure named Floribert in charge of CNDD-FDD party communal intelligence. He accused them of being ruling party opponents. Even those who were around were beaten up.

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

### **People arrested in Buhiga commune, Karusi province**

As of June 27, 2017, on the hill, zone and commune of Buhiga, Karusi province, a young man named Habiyakare, nicknamed 'bebe' was arrested and imprisoned with his comrades while on karate training by Gilbert, the head of Buhiga police station. He accused them of forming a rebel gang that will disrupt public order. He released them the following day under the orders of the regional commissioner.

### **One person arrested in Musaga urban zone, Bujumbura City**

As of June 29, 2017, at about 5:00 pm, Augustin Ndayitwayeko alias Mangope, an international referee and BRB staff, was arrested by SNR agents in Kinanira quarter, 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Musaga urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura City. Accused of participating in armed groups, he is imprisoned in SNR cell.

### **A person arrested in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province**

On June 30, 2017, Bonaventure, who used to be a bus driver in Musaga urban zone, native of Shombo commune, Muramvya province, was arrested by Rénovat, SNR head in Mwaro, at Gikebuka in Rusaka commune where he had found refuge during President Pierre Nkurunziza third term protests. He may be accused of possessing grenades and guns but nothing compromising was found at his home. According to sources on the spot, he was arrested because he participated in the demonstrations. He was taken to Mwaro province cell.

## ***II. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBRES***

### **A person intimidated by young Imbonerakure**

As of June 26, 2017 on Rutegama hill, Munanira zone, Gihogazi commune, Karusi province, a woman named Ndereyimana Concilie was fined 30,000 Bif by Imbonerakure youths of this hill accusing her of spreading rumors on a neighbor.

### **Threats against ex-FAB soldiers in Rumonge**

Retired soldiers from Burambi commune, Rumonge province are threatened and intimidated by some local authorities and CNDD-FDD party youth. These retirees are suspected of illegal possession of weapons and of training rebels who may be hidden in this commune.

In a security meeting on 27 June 2017 held on Gisenyi hill in Maramvya zone of Burambi commune in Rumonge province, the head of Maramvya zone accused the pensioners of being behind the June 16, 2017 attack on the same Gisenyi hill which killed a woman of the area.

These retirees say they have already sought intervention from administrative and security officials to ensure their safety.

## ***III. OTHER FACTS REPORTED***

### **A bar closed in commune and province Makamba**

Information received by our office on June 26, 2017 indicates that on June 24, 2017, a bar belonging to Bosco was closed by the governor of Makamba Gad Niyukuri accusing him of serving people of the Tutsi social component he described as from Musaga.

### **Summon of UPD members in commune and province Makamba**

On 27 June 2017, Elias, Fidèle and Chako, UPD Zigamibanga party representatives, were summoned to the office of the Governor of Makamba. They were questioned in the presence of the SNR representative and CNDD-FDD party chairman in Makamba province. Chako was threatened by Governor Gad Niyukuri accusing him of destabilizing the province. He promised he would expel him to the DRC his

country of origin. Security officers of the provincial commissioner said they will carry out looting once Rwanda could attack Burundi.

#### **A person intimidated in Bujumbura City**

The wife and children of Jean BIGIRIMANA, a journalist for the IWACU newspaper, who disappeared on 22 July 2016, are insecure after a leaflet containing intimidation and death threats was found. The leaflet was signed by a person named commissioner. She is accused of having testified before the United Nations experts in Rwanda. She is also called to join CNDD-FDD party and deny her remarks on the disappearance of her husband otherwise that she would suffer the same fate as him. It is not the first time she is threatened for in March 2017, she found blood graffiti with words such as "Keba" at the bottom of the window where she was practicing of small business. She confided to the Kamenge zone head who would have advised her to leave the quarter.

#### **A police officer disarmed in Bushaza quarter, Kirundo province**

Information received by our office on June 26, 2017 indicates that as of June 24, 2017, a policeman guarding CNDD-FDD party chairman at the province level named Nsezeye was disarmed by a person not yet identified in Bushaza quarter. According to sources on the spot, the attacker was driving a motorcycle and then threw the gun at Kirundo high school.

### ***IV. 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.

Ambushes by unidentified armed men continue to reported in different parts of the country.

Torture, targeted arbitrary and illegal arrests aimed at members of the political opponents are also reported.

Intimidations by Imbonerakure youth and administration officials are source of threat to anyone nonmember of the ruling party.

The phenomenon of mob justice is a consequence of impunity observed with regard to young Imbonerakure.

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;