

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

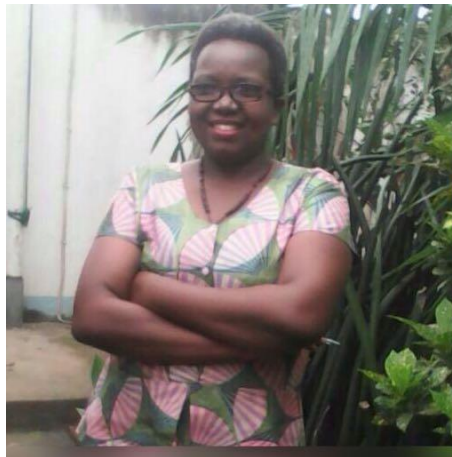
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°66 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 3 to 9 July 2017



In memory of Madame Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 9 July 2017, Iteka has documented at least 437 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 UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>I.1.2. CORPSES FOUND IN BUSH.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I.1.3. PERSONS KILLED FOLLOWING MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLING OF ACCOUNTS.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>I.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN AND SOLDIERS..</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>II. CASES OF GENDER BASEDVIOLENCE.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>III. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTIY MEMBERS.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>IV. OTHER FACTS REPORTED.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</i>	<i>10</i>

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS: *Health Centre*

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

CNTB: *Burundi's National Land Commission*

FAB: *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL: *National Liberation Front*

MSD: *Movement for Solidarity and Development*

RDC: *Democratic Republic of Congo*

SNR: *National Intelligence Service*

SOGESTAL: *Washing Station Management Board*

TGI: *High Court*

VBG: *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 14 persons killed including 2 corpses, 4 tortured, 56 arbitrarily arrested as well as 2 GBV victims.

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 arrests of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3rd term opponents.

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

The bulletin also rejects intimidation by Imbonerakure youth as well as forced contributions supported by and administration officials.

The phenomenon of rape and mob justice is also reported 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 UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

Eight people killed in Gatara commune, Kayanza province

On 9 July 2017, around 6:00 pm, eight people were killed in a grenade attack by an unidentified person on Shinya hill, Gatara commune, Kayanza province. Four people died on the spot and four others succumbed to their injuries at Musema hospital. Forty others were injured, including 31 rushed to Musema hospital and 9 to Gahombo hospital. According to sources on the spot, this attack targeted Kayanza SOGESTAL General Director, Claude Nzambimana, native from this hill who was sharing a drink with the Bagumyabanga of this area.

One person killed in Rohero urban zone , Bujumbura City

On 3 July 2017, Franco de Simoné, aged 65, a surgeon of Italian nationality and former Kira hospital employee, was found dead at home in Kiriri quarter of Rohero, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city.

According to police source, the victim was stabbed to death. A young woman named Diane Ciza was arrested for investigation reasons.

1.1.2. CORPSES FOUND IN BUSH

A dead body found in Matana commune, Bururi province.

On July 2, 2017, a dead body of an unidentified man was found on Mugerere hill, Matana commune, Bururi province. An on-site source said no one had disappeared in this area and that the man was murdered elsewhere and dropped on this hill. The administrator and the Red Cross, accompanied by civil protection police officers, decided to bury the decomposed body, the source said.

A dead body found in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

On July 3, 2017, a dead body of an 80-year-old woman named Koko was found decapitated in her house on Gatabo hill, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province. Two young Imbonerakure, Eliaquim Bavumiragiye, known as Njishi and Misago, are blamed by the inhabitants of this area as the perpetrators of this crime. The police reported that arrest warrants were issued against the alleged perpetrators, but none of them were harassed.

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

One person killed in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On July 4, 2017, François Nduwayo of Rugeregere hill, Rugombo Commune, Cibitoke Province was killed with machetes, accused of robbery, sources said. The same sources add that he was murdered while robing on Kiramira hill of the same commune. The head of Rugeregere hill says the man had his arm cut off and had injuries to the head and leg. The victim had left the family saying he was heading to Cibitoke. Laurent Ntuyahaga, the head of Rugeregere hill, asks the population not to do justice and refer to authorized organs if needed.

One person killed in Makamba commune and province

On the night of 6-7 July 2017, Radjab Nkeshimana, known as Mushasha, was stabbed to death by Emelyne Mugisha, aged 24, in his room in commune and Makamba province. In the afternoon of July 7, 2017, Emelyne Mugisha was tried for assassination by Makamba TGI and was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

One person killed in Giharo commune, Rutana province

On July 4, 2017, around 7:00 pm, on Nyamateke hill, Giharo commune, Rutana province, Baranyikwa, aged 39, was killed with a machete by Pierre Manirakiza, aged 50 years. Land conflicts would be behind this crime. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to Giharo police station cell.

1.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Kayanza province

Information received by Iteka League on 3 July 2017 indicates that on 29 June 2017, on Nyabigoyi hill in Rango commune of Kayanza province, Sicaire Minani working for Pie Ntavyohanyuma as a shepherd, was arrested and beaten up by the Imbonerakure of this area. His spinal column was fractured. He had just spent a few days in Bujumbura and the Imbonerakure accused him of belonging to an armed gang of his former boss. He was hospitalized at Musema hospital in Kayanza province.

Two people tortured in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

As of 3 July 2017, around 6:00 am on Musema hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Désiré Niyonkuru and Stany Kubwayo, all MSD party members were beaten by Imbonerakure, including Claude alias "Zirye zose", Aimable, Jean Marie and Salvator. They accused them of not taking part in the festivities of the commemoration of the 55th Burundi Independence Day. They were hospitalized at Musema hospital in Kayanza province.

A person tortured in Musongati commune, Rutana province

Information received by Iteka League on 3 July 2017 indicates that about 11:00 am on 1 July 2017, on Ngoma hill, Musongati commune, Rutana province, Deo Gahungu, aged 37 was beaten by the young Imbonerakure in complicity with the deputy of the hill head named Terence. According to sources on the spot, Déo Gahungu was accused of not paying taxes on small livestock (goats). He was taken to Musongati CDS for treatment. The alleged perpetrators were not harassed.

1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN AND SOLDIERS

Two people arrested in Ngozi province

On July 7, 2017, Charles Bizimana and Claude alias Magenge, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, were arrested by police in Nyamurenza, Ngozi province. Both are teachers at Kinyovu Communal High School of the same commune. According to sources on the spot, they were arrested while from drink after the final deliberation at the Lycee. The place of their detention remains unknown.

Five people arrested in Cibitoke urban zones, Bujumbura City

On July 7, 2017, five people were arrested by soldiers and policemen during a search of Mutakura quarter, from 13th to 15th Avenue, in Cibitoke urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City. One of them was accused of trading hemp. Others had household notebooks without the signature of

the quarter head or were not registered. They were released upon a ransom ranging between 2,000 and 5,000 Bif.

One person arrested in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province

On July 6, 2017, Ntirampeba, a returnee from Buheka hill, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province, was arrested by police on order of the province governor Gad Niyukuri. He was imprisoned in Nyanza-Lac police cell. He is accused of not respecting the agreements signed with the residents since he returned in 1991. The inhabitants of the commune demand that the agreements signed under CNTB supervision be not reviewed.

A person arrested in Buyenzi urban zone , Bujumbura city

On 4 July 2017, Joseph Bananeno, Maria Burundi radio journalist, was arrested by SNR agents at home in Buyenzi commune Mukaza, Bujumbura city, and taken to the zone cell. According to sources on the spot, the journalist reported to the police a person who had a pistol when he was covering the Mass of July 2, 2017 at Saint Augustin's Church. This armed person wanted to kill the Archbishop of Bujumbura, Bishop Evariste Ngoyagoye, adds our source. A crowd of people ran to arrest the suspect but he was embarked in a police pickup waiting for him. After interrogation by a magistrate of Mukaza TGI prosecutor's office, the journalist was released on 6 July 2017 after payment of a fine of 50,000 Bif and must continue appearing as free. According to the police spokesman, Pierre Nkurikiye, he was prosecuted for disrupting public order.

Three people arrested in Kibago commune, Makamba province

On July 6, 2017, three house workers were arrested by police during a search to Jimbi hill, Kibago Commune, Makamba Province. According to sources on the spot, these people arrested were in possession of a pair of boots. The inhabitants of this area denounce almost daily searches targeting ex-FAB retirees.

Forty-four people arrested in Makamba commune and province

On July 5, 2017, forty-six people, including 30 minors and 14 women were arrested by Imbonerakure on order of the administrator, Japhet Ntungwanayo in commune and Makamba province. These women would be accused of prostitution. According to administrative sources, these women will be expelled after identification.

II. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Bukeye commune, Muramvya province

On July 7, 2017, on Gahaga hill in Bukeye commune, Muramvya province, a 32-year old Anicet raped an 8-year-old girl named A.

A person raped in commune and province Bubanza

Information received by Iteka League on 3 July 2017 indicates that on 1 July 2017 around 1:00 pm, down town, zone, commune and province of Bubanza, a policeman named Côme of Bubanza police station raped Dévote Ciza, aged 38, after handcuffing her.

III. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTIY MEMBERS

Forced contributions in Musongati commune, Rutana province

On July 4, 2017, forced contributions were reported on Ngoma hill, Musongati commune, Rutana Province. According to sources on the spot, the head of CNDD-FDD party in Ngoma zone named Gérard Nibigira in collaboration with Imbonerakure youth is collecting an amount of 3 000 Bif per household and per kiosk. According to the same source, this amount will be used for a CNDD-FDD party feast without specifying what feast it will be.

Paramilitary training reported in Makamba province.

On July 8, 2017, on Nyabutare and Kabo hills of Nyanza-Lac commune, two young Imbonerakure platoons walked in this area with binoculars. According to some officials, trainers are from Cibitoke province. These officials said the training intensified after security meetings held in Nyanza-Lac reporting the presence of rebels in the United Republic of Tanzania and the DRC, ready to attack the country.

The leading communes are Makamba and Nyanza-Lac. On Gatabo hill in Kayogoro commune, paramilitary training is carried out every Saturday morning. As of July 8, 2017, dozens of young Imbonerakure have walked the whole zone chanting slogans hostile to the opposition in these words: "*Petero Nkurunziza tuzogutora twongere tugutore. Niyombare! Niyombare muduhe tumurye!*" (Pierre Nkurunziza, we will vote and re-vote for you, trouble-makers who are not voting for you, we'll show them what we showed to Niyombare!) Give us Niyombare to kill him!

Forced contributions to the province of Makamba

July 2017 is a hard time for public workers in this province following the collection of forced contributions to community development. The month of June was characterized by a broad awareness of a forced monthly contribution of 5000 Bif for all public and private civil servants and this will continue until December 2018. Currently, school principals who implement this collection are circulating the list of contributions in all communes.

On July 5, 2017, the provincial advisor, Gérard Hakizimana, made a visit to assess the work in Nyanza-Lac commune. Currently, school principals who implement this collection are circulating the list of contributions in all communes. At the communal Lycée, which has many teachers, 4 out of 35 would have already implemented this decision, the secretary of the Lycée said.

IV. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

Search in commune and province Rumonge

On the evening of July 4, 2017, a search was carried out by police in Mugomere quarter in Rumonge city to Etienne Bizimungu's. The latter is an ex-FAB soldier ranked corporal, battalion of the 510th brigade in Buyengero commune. Police pushed in the door of his house and came out with 4 grenades without any neutral witness. This soldier denounces a pure setup aimed at harming him because he was not in good terms with the Imbonerakure of the quarter. He appeared on 5 July 2017 with his brigade commander. He was released but investigations continue.

One person wounded in Musongati commune, Rutana province

On July 2, 2017, around 4:00 pm, on Nyabigozi hill, Musongati commune, Rutana province, a 31-year-old Léonard was beaten up by the local population, accusing him of theft. He was rescued by the police that intervened and was taken to Musongati CDS for treatment. The alleged perpetrators were not harassed.

Two people injured in Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province

On the night of July 4, 2017, in Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province, a group of unidentified people armed with a Kalashnikov and a machete, have ambushed three people from Kabuyenge market between Kabuyenge and Kavumwe hills in Ruyigi province. According to sources on the spot, two of three people who were aboard a motorcycle were wounded shot. The 3rd person was a money exchanger and escaped but was robbed of an amount of 11 million Bif. The defense and security forces, local government and the population said they were pursuing those perpetrators who had withdrawn into the United Republic of Tanzania.

Land disputes in Vugizo commune, Makamba province

On July 3, 2017, Paul Nkeshimana was violently beaten by his neighbor named Nshirimbere following land disputes on Mazuru hill, Mpinga zone, Vugizo commune, Makamba province. This incident occurred after the administrator of Nyanza-Lac commune gave two different messages on CNTB's decisions. As of June 13, 2017, the Administrator said that returnees and residents will continue occupying their lands as before without considering the CNTB's measures to safeguard peace. Two days later, he changed up his mind to the same audience saying that CNTB decisions will be implemented as soon as the measure is issued.

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 political opposition parties such as FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing and MSD members are also reported.

Intimidations by Imbonerakure youth and administration officials as well as forced contributions are reported in the bulletin.

The settlement of accounts is a consequence of impunity, the population opts to handle justice instead of recouring to competent jurisdictions.

The phenomenon of 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 enforce 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;
- Halt forced contributions set by administration and collected by Imbonerakure.