

## **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°67 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 10 to 16 July 2017**



*In memory of Madame Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 16 July 2017, Iteka has documented at least 438 cases of enforced disappearances.*

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGES</b>
<i>ACRONYMS AND ET ABREVIATIONS</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 UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE</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. PERSON ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING BY IMBONERAKURE</i> .....	6
<i>I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN</i> .....	6
<i>I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN AND SOLDIERS</i> ..	7
<i>II. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE</i> .....	9
<i>III. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTIY MEMBERS</i> .....	9
<i>IV. OTHER FACTS REPORTED</i> .....	10
<i>V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</i> .....	11

## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**ACAT:** *Action by Christians for the abolition of torture*

**BAE:** *Anti-Riot Police*

**BSR:** *Special Investigation Bureau*

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

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

**FNL:** *National Liberation Front*

**GMIR:** *Rapid Intervention Police*

**PJ:** *Judicial Police*

**RPA:** *African Public Radio*

**SNR:** *National Intelligence Service*

**VBG :** *Gender Based Violence*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 9 persons killed including 2 corpses, 1 reported missing, 6 tortured, 108 arbitrarily arrested as well as 1 victim of GBV.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> term opponents.

Members of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing were a privileged target of CNDD-FDD regime.

The bulletin also rejects intimidation by Imbonerakure youth as well as forced contributions supported by 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

## ***1.ALLEGATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS***

### ***1.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE***

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

#### **One person killed and four people wounded in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province**

On July 13, 2017, a grenade was thrown at Francois Bitariho's home living on Ruhehe hill, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province, and injured 5 people. According to sources on the spot, a child and Bitariho's wife were seriously wounded and were taken to Kirundo hospital and later transferred to Ngozi hospital. Bitariho's wife succumbed to her wounds. Police has already arrested the alleged author named Mbera, Bino's son. According to local sources, land conflicts are the root of this incident.

### **One person killed in Ngagara urban zone, Bujumbura city**

On July 12, 2017, Rénovat Nizigiyimana, a motorcyclist was killed by his client with a pistol in quarter VII, Ngagara urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city near the Red Cross office. The victim was not identified and the perpetrator took off with the motorcycle.

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

Information dated 10 July 2017 indicates that on the night of 9 July 2017, Joséphine Nakobamfitiye was killed by unidentified people on Gabiro-Ruvyagira hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province. According to our sources, the victim may be accused of sorcery.

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

In the night of 12-13 July 2017, on Munyika I hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Wilson Sahinkuye was shot dead by a man in military uniform, according to our sources.

## ***1.1.2. CORPSES FOUND IN BUSH***

On July 14, 2017, a dead body of an unidentified man was discovered in Rumonge nature reserve precisely in Nkayamba, near Rumonge town. According to sources on the spot, the victim was tied on a tree with a rope on the neck. She had wounds and started decomposing. The same sources add that this person was killed and taken to this place to simulate suicide.

### **A corpse found in commune and province Karusi**

On July 16, 2017, on Rubimba hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karusi province, a dead body of an unidentified man amputated of his genitals and a leg and decapitated was found. Ephrasie Ntakarutimana, commune administrator, ordered to bury him without any inquiry.

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

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

On July 10, 2017, Eric Ndagijimana was stabbed to death by his neighbor Diomede, who accused him of robbing him money in Swahili quarter of Ngozi commune and province. According to sources on the spot, Eric Ndagijimana was a small trader in Ngozi town. The same source said the alleged perpetrator was arrested the same day and then taken to PJ Ngozi cell.

## **Two people killed in Ndava commune, Mwaro province**

On the night of 12-13 July 2017 around 1:00 am, 4 thieves entered Pascal Ntibagengeza's enclosure on Nyabugugu sub hill, Bugera hill, Buziracanda zone and stole two cows. According to sources on the spot, neighboring residents rushed to rescue and managed to catch two of those thieves who had knives and ropes and were killed straightaway. The persons killed are Dieudonné son of Sasmin and Liberata and the other is Theresphore, son of Dominique and Genevieve of Buziracanda hill, according to police sources.

## ***1.2. PERSON ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING BY IMBONERAKURE***

### **One person kidnapped and reported missing in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

Information received by our office on 15 July 2017 indicates that since the night of 9 July 2017, Jean Marie Ngabirano, aged 15, was abducted and reported missing on Butare hill in Kayogoro commune. According to sources on the spot, the head of Imbonerakure in this commune known as 'Americain', Nitereka and Charles are pointed by the family members of Ngabirano. They allegedly arrested the boy and revealed that he was part of a group of thieves and Jean Marie Ngabirano was not handed over to the police.

## ***1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN***

### **Two persons tortured in Ntega commune, Kirundo province**

Information dated 16 July 2017 indicates that as of June 29, 2017 Juvenal Siniragiye and his brother-in-law Emmanuel Nduwimana all FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing were beaten up by Imbonerakure led by their chair Alphonse Ntereke in collaboration with the administrator of Ntega commune named Murovyi. According to sources on the spot, they were accused, without any evidence, of sensitizing mob massive uprisings against the regime,.

### **A person tortured in Bururi province**

On 13 July 2017, Jean Bosco Nkurikiye, director of ECOFO in Mugamba commune who had been arbitrarily arrested on 17 June 2017 by SNR in Bururi province in collaboration with soldiers of Tora position was released after 3 weeks of illegal detention at SNR cell in Bujumbura. According to sources on the spot, his health is not good due to torture he suffered. He had been accused of illegal possession of weapons.

### **A person arrested and tortured in Bujumbura city**

On July 14, 2017, Emmanuel, a pupil at the regional paramedical school located close to BSR was arrested by BSR commander. According to sources on the spot, this pupil has difficulty to walk following bodily harm by the Imbonerakure. He is from Mukike commune and lived in Buyenzi urban zone, commune Mukaza, Bujumbura city.

### **A person tortured in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On July 11, 2017, Alexis Ndayisaba was beaten up by Imbonerakure led by Jean Marie Ngabire. On-site sources indicate that Alexis was arrested and beaten up while returning home to Kirwati II. He was obliged to pay an amount of 10,000 Bif to be released. The same source indicates that these Imbonerakure left with a bicycle to a military position on Kirwati II hill. Alexis had to pay an amount of 50 000 Bif to get his bike. All this is a consequence of the watchword given by the CNDD-FDD party representative in Bujumbura rural province, Emmanuel Nkunzimana, who called on Imbonerakure youth to be vigilant, to arrest any unknown person, to solve couple conflicts by a ransom of 50 000 Bif to share among them and to enforce curfew from 8:00 pm.

### **A person tortured in Ruyigi commune and province**

Information received by Iteka League on 15 July 2017 indicates that on 26 June 2017 about 10:00 pm, Floris Igiraneza, 25 years old, saw Imbonerakure youth group led by Elioud Ntakarutimana, head of Imbonerakure in Sanzu III quarter. The latter were armed with long knives. According to sources on the spot, these Imbonerakure tied him up and took him to an unknown location but was lucky to be released and managed to leave the area on 12 July 2017 after spending a few days underground. He had quarreled on June 23, 2017 with his cousin Elioud Ntakarutimana who is chair of Imbonerakure in the same quarter, add the same sources.

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

### **Ninety three people arrested in Bujumbura downtown.**

On 14 July 2017, around 1:00 pm, police officers of GMIR and those of BAE have arrested 93 people in Bujumbura downtown. They were taken to BSR, some were released upon payment of 20,000 Bif and others were released afterwards.

### **Four people arrested in Kirundo province**

On July 14, 2017, around 7:00 am, four people, including two taxi drivers, Kagara and Gilbert from Gasenyi, were arrested by SNR agents. According to sources on the spot, the other two people were

not identified. They were accused of transporting people who do not have identification documents. Kagara was taken to SNR office while Gilbert escaped and fled to Rwanda.

### **Five people arrested in Kirundo province**

On 11 and 12 July 2017, Anatole Karorero, Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing youth representative in Kirundo province, Salomon Nkurikiye, representative of this youth in Kirundo commune, Ezechiel Nduwayo and Deo Ndayizeye, province committee members, Elie Niyozima, representative of this party in Ntega commune were arrested by Kirundo prosecutor's office. Three of them were arrested by police on Yaranda hill, commune and Kirundo province. Two others were arrested while they were appearing before the prosecutor. According to sources on the spot, they are accused of wiring information to Humura and Inzamba programmes but in reality, according to the same sources, they were prosecuted because they prevented their members from keep contributing two kilos of beans as well as 2000 Bif per household to pay the Imbonerakure as well as 500 Bif to build CNDD-FDD office. According to the same sources, FNL party members of Ntega commune are threatened to death by the head of Imbonerakure Ntereke Alphonse as well as the administrator of the same commune. The five arrested persons are all imprisoned in Kirundo prosecutor's office cell.

### **One person arrested in Ngagara urban zone, Bujumbura city**

On July 13, 2017, Germain Rukuki, a former ACAT-Burundi employee and legal representative of 'NJABUTSA TUJANE association, was arrested at his home by Joseph Niyonzima alias Kazungu with policemen in quarter VI, block 10, Ngagara urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city. According to police spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye, Germain is accused of breaching internal security of the state. His computer and his working documents were seized. He was taken to SNR cell, said the same source.

### **One person arrested in commune and Rumonge province**

On 13 July 2017, Espérance Ndiwenumuryango alias Kinigi, a local elected at Minago zone, commune and Rumonge province was arrested at Minago hill by police in Minago zone. She was taken to the zone cell until she was transferred to police cell in Rumonge. She is accused by Minago zone administrative authorities for holding illegal meeting she was arrested for the third time since 2015. However, her relatives claimed she had gathered other women to talk on reproductive health.

The same sources say that Esperance Ndiwenumuryango plays the role of community leader in health field in Rumonge commune. Some inhabitants of Minago zone declare she is victim of her membership to 'Amizero y'Abarundi' coalition as pro-Agathon Rwasa FNL member. She was released on 15 July 2017.



### **One person arrested in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province**

On 13 July 2017, Marc Hatungimana, a member of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing, from Rubira hill, on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Mpanda Commune, Bubanza Province, was arrested by Imbonerakure from Buringa zone, Gihanga commune of same province. According to our sources, he was first held in a secret cell at Ndomboro's, located in Buringa, belonging to a former SNR agent. On the morning of July 14, 2017, he was taken to Gihanga police cell. The victim is accused of organizing clandestine meetings according to the same sources.

### **Two persons arrested in Mabanda commune, Makamba province**

On July 11, 2017, Savin Musugi and Jean D'amour Girenga, all Rwandan nationals were arrested in Mabanda commune, Makamba province, by police officers while on their way to the United Republic of Tanzania. The reason for their arrest was that they were in possession of small Burundian flags and were embarked by the SNR head in Makamba province.

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

### **One person raped in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province**

On July 12, 2017, on Ruvumu hill in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province, Egide, a 48-year-old farmer, has raped a student of ECOFO Rubumba named A.

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

### **Demonstration of the Imbonerakure in Muramvya province**

On July 15, 2017, the Imbonerakure from all communes of Muramvya province met the province town to publicly protest against opponents to the regime. They chanted songs denigrating the opponents and also songs to the glory of CNDD-FDD party and their President Nkurunziza chanting that he must run for a 4<sup>th</sup> term. On their banner, it was written "*Twebwe Imbonerakure zo muri komine Muramvya, haduga, hamanuka, hanyerera kirazira kurekura ico wafashe*" (We the Imbonerakure of Muramvya commune, we will never give up power whatever happen).

### **Imbonerakure threats to the population in Rango commune, Kayanza province.**

Information dated on 10 July indicates that on July 8, 2017, on the hill and Rango commune, province Kayanza, Patrice Mpawenimana, the head of Imbonerakure of this hill, accompanied by CNDD-FDD party representatives of this commune held a meeting for the population of the area. They warned them that anyone who will be caught listening to Humura of RPA Radio will have to pay a fine of 50,000 Bif.

### **People mistreated by Imbonerakure in Makamba province**

Information received by our office on July 16, 2017 indicates that girls and women suspected of being prostitutes were mistreated by young people from CNDD-FDD party in Makamba commune and province. The kick-off was given on 12 July 2017 by Japhet Ntungwanayo, administrator of Makamba commune. He ordered the Imbonerakure to carry out searches. During this search, these CNDD-FDD youth arrested 14 women and about thirty young boys. The Imbonerakure beat up any woman or girl alleged to be a prostitute. The leaders of this group of Imbonerakure are Fwadi, Shabani and Murisho nicknamed of Kimura.

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

#### **Three policemen wounded in grenade attack in Bwiza, Bujumbura city.**

On the night of July 11, 2017, unknown persons aboard a pickup threw a grenade in Bwiza quarter of Mukaza commune in Bujumbura city according to sources on the spot.

Immediately after the attack, the police spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye said that terrorists aboard a van launched a grenade near Bwiza zone around 9:00 pm wounding three policemen. The perpetrators of this attack were not identified.

#### **At least ten people injured in Bwiza urban zone, Bujumbura city**

On July 16, 2017, a grenade was thrown into a bar commonly known as "Kubajandarume" located at the 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue in Bwiza urban zone, Bujumbura City, wounding seven persons including one serious case. Police spokesperson Pierre Nkurikiye confirms the facts and indicates that investigations are under way.

#### **Nine households burned in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province**

Information received by Iteka League on 15 July 2017 indicates that since 7 July 2017 nine households were burnt on the hill and Ndava zone, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province. The owners of the burnt houses are Elias Ndabarushimana, Yacine Nkorerimana, Jean Claude Nitanga, Nibaruta, Anatole Minani, Fidele Nizigiyimana, Isaac Hatungimana, Kangoye and Joseph Iritonda. According to our sources, a person named Christophe is imprisoned in Buganda Brigade for investigation purposes.

#### **Two persons expelled in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

On July 11, 2017, Henri Ntanyungu alias Masharubu and Jean Bosco were expelled by Paul Rwajekera, Bigina hill head and Apollinaire Habonimana, Gasenga hill head, in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province. There are cascading expels of people in Gatwe in Bigina zone. In less than a month and a half, the Bigina hill head has totaled 6 expelled people. All the expelled persons are not allowed to take their belongings. Paul Rwajekera said in a public meeting this Thursday, July 13, 2017 that these assets will be in the hands of the government. Four women had been expelled in similar circumstances and had not even had time to take their children.

## **Tensions between residents and returnees in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province**

Hot tensions are observed between residents and returnees following land disputes in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province. These tensions provoked clashes between these two camps on Kiderege hill, Kazirabageni zone of this commune. A bridge on Mukengerezi River leading to this hill was burned as of July 11, 2017 during these clashes. Nine people from both sides were arrested and jailed at Nyanza-Lac 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, torture, targeted arbitrary and illegal arrests aimed at members of the political opposition parties such as members of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing 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;
- Protect GBV victims and punish the perpetrators in accordance with the law.