

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

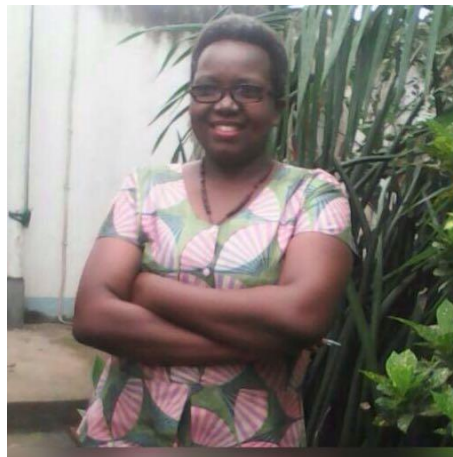
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°68 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 17 to 23 July 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 23 July 2017, Iteka has documented at least 438 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS: *Health Centre*

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

FAB : *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

OPC: *Chief Police Officer*

PAFE: *Immigration 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 4 corpses, 5 tortured, 11 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 3rd 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 paramilitary training.

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 VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE AND SOLDIERS

A dead body found in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

On July 18, 2017, a dead body of Etienne Nzosaba alias Cewusi, a soldier of the 442nd Battalion, assigned to a military position in Rukoko, was found. According to sources on the spot, Etienne Nzosaba was abducted on the night of July 17, 2017 by unidentified people in military uniform. The same sources indicate that at the time of his abduction, Etienne Nzosaba alerted his superiors and his colleagues. The next day, on the morning of July 18, 2017, he was found in Rukoko, undressed. In the afternoon around 3:00 pm, one of the officers of this battalion brought his corpse to the Khaled Hospital mortuary. On the same day, the family was informed by telephone of the death of Etienne Nzosaba. Until now, the body of the latter is not given to the family

1.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

One person killed and one wounded in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On 22 July 2017, around 9:00 pm, in Kagunuzi, on Ndava hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, a butcher Asman was killed and a driver named Jimmy was seriously injured in an ambush by unidentified gunmen on the RN 5.

1.1.3. CORPSES FOUND IN BUSH

A dead body found in commune and province Gitega

On July 17, 2017, the body of Abraham Banzubaze was found very close to Gitega town central market, just in Shatanya quarter outskirts, commune and Gitega province. The victim is from Birohe hill in Gitega commune and Province. The body of Abraham Banzubaze was taken to the mortuary of Gitega regional hospital by the civil protection police.

A dead body found in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province

As of July 20, 2017, a corpse of a man named Ibrahim Gahitira was discovered, in the bush of Muriza hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province. The sources on the spot say that this man was assassinated on the night of July 19, 2017. The perpetrators and reason of this crime remain unknown.

A dead body found in Muyinga commune and province

A dead body of an unidentified girl was found on July 23, 2017 on Kinyota hill, commune and Muyinga Province. The victim was sexually abused before being killed. According to sources on the spot, her rapists and killers put a rope around the victim's neck to simulate suicide.

1.1.4. PERSONS KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNT

One person killed in Ndava commune, Mwaro province.

On the night of 23-24 July 2017, around 1:00 am, Ezekiel Kabwa, native from Kiganda commune in Muramvya province, was savagely killed with machetes. According to sources on the spot, the incident occurred on Kabogi hill, Buziracanda zone, Ndava commune, Mwaro province. He was killed by the population accusing him of stealing some items from the local shops.

1.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN AND SOLDIERS

Two people tortured in Mpimba central prison, Bujumbura City

On July 17, 2017, two detainees in Mpimba central prison, Virpien Bigirimana, nicknamed Nzoga and Aimable Manirakiza, were tortured by their fellow inmates and security agents in the prison. The latter called generals passed near their cells and ordered them to enter their rooms leaving other detainees outside. As they were ready to do so, a group of security agents headed by Julie Manirakiza named Dume beat them up and took them to the correction cells in a critical condition, according to our sources on the spot. The same sources add that on July 18, 2017 Julien Manirakiza alias Dume went into these correction cells and he beat up these two prisoners in handcuffs and defenseless. The same sources add that the nicknamed Dume and his team were top commanded by the Director of Mpimba central prison OPC2 Deograsias Bigirimana.

A person tortured in Kabezi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On July 21, 2017, Anatole, a taxi-bicycle driver on Kibimba hill, Kabezi commune, Bujumbura rural province, was arrested after being tortured by the police station head in Kabezi commune in complicity with two SNR agents. The incident occurred near Kabezi market, Anatole was accused of insulting the President of the Republic when he was expected to arrive in Kabezi commune. He was taken to an unknown cell. His family says he does not know where he is jailed.

Two persons tortured in Nyabikere commune, Karusi province

Information received by our office dated July 17, 2017 indicates that on July 16, 2017, Moise and Anitha of Ngugo hill, Maramvya zone, Nyabikere commune, Karusi province, were tortured. According to sources on the spot, these two persons were returning home at about 9:00 pm and fell in a group of Imbonerakure on a night patrol. These Imbonerakure, of which Eric, Manirambona, Ezekiel and two other unidentified have seriously beaten them up. Anitha was wounded on the head and was treated at Nyabikere CDS while Moise is in critical condition at home where he is in bed.

1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND POLICEMEN

Four people arrested in Rutana province

On 19 July 2017, around 8:00 pm in Bwiza quarter of Gihofi city in Bukemba commune, Rutana province, four FNL members, Agathon Rwasa's wing, including Ntakarutimana, Claude, Buregeya and Ingabire, were arrested and detained at Gihofi police station cell and were accused of disrupting public order. As for them, they say that the police found them together and were suspected of being in a party meeting.

One person arrested in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On July 19, 2017, Nadine Ndayisenga was arrested by police on Ruhwa River, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke Province. Doctor Nadine Ndayisenga was arrested by the head of the Immigration Police (PAFE) position in Ruhwa and taken to Rugombo commune police cell, sources said. These sources add that she was arrested while from Rwanda where she would be accused of visiting the exiled demonstrators against President Nkurunziza's 3rd term. The head of Rugombo police station indicates that Nadine Ndayisenga was arrested for investigation reasons. Sources from Rugombo commune indicate that Nadine Ndayisenga was transferred to Bujumbura on the evening of 21 July 2017, though her destination was not specified.

Two people arrested in Songa commune, Bururi province

On July 16, 2017, Jean Claude Nizigiye and his son Constantin Nkamiciye were arrested by Imbonerakure youths of Songa commune. According to sources on the spot, they were accused of

stealing an amount of 250,000 Bif. The same sources state that the Imbonerakure carried out a search at Nizigiye's home. He and his son were taken to Songa police cell. They were released on 18 July 2017.

One person arrested in Kibago commune, Makamba province

On July 21, 2017, Samson Ndayegamiye, known as Samandari, was arrested by police in Kiyange zone, Kibago commune, Makamba province. It was upon the testimony of an Imbonerakure who accused him of raising students on holiday against participation in labor camps organized by the administration. He is jailed at Kibago commune police station.

Three prisoners transferred to Kirundo province

As of July 20, 2017, Ezechiel Nduwayo, Deo Ndayizeye and Elie Niyonzima, FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing who had been jailed since 12 July 2017 in Kirundo prosecutor's office were transferred to Ngozi central prison.

One person arrested in Bujumbura downtown

On 21 July 2017, around 3:00 pm, Richard Ukwitegetse alias Blanco was abducted by SNR agents in front of 'face à face' restaurant in Bujumbura downtown. He lived in Nyakabiga I quarter, No. 17 in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura City. Information received indicates that Richard was released the day after his arrest.

Two people arrested in Makamba commune and province

On July 20, 2017, Minani and an unidentified woman were arrested by Gad Niyukuri, Governor of the province accused of violating decency. The same source indicates that this woman was beaten by this Governor. They are jailed in Makamba police station cell.

II. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Vugizo commune, Makamba province

As of 21 July 2017, a 13-year-old girl named B. was raped by an Imbonerakure named Harerimana on hill Kiyazi in Gishiha zone, Vugizo commune, Makamba province. The alleged perpetrator is jailed in Vugizo police station cell.

III. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS

Deprivation of freedom of movement and paramilitary training in Kirundo province

Information received by our office dated 23 July 2017 indicates that since June 2017, the population of Kirundo in general, officials and traders in particular were banned from doing sport on historically known hills of Shinge and Rugero. According to sources on the spot, every weekend, the police, the Imbonerakure and the provincial authorities block all ways. The same sources point out that on these

Shinge and Rugero hills, training and grenade and gun demonstrations are carried out by Imbonerakure often at night and end the following day around 11:00 am.

One person injured in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On the night of July 20-21, 2017 Serges Nibizi was severely wounded with machetes by young Imbonerakure in night patrols on Mparambo I hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province. According to our sources, the victim was going to fetch water.

IV. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

Search in Kibago commune, Makamba province

On July 20, 2017, a search without warrant was carried out at Jean Bosco Ntakirutimana's, ex-FAB on the hill and commune Kibago, Makamba province. The police did not find anything compromising and wanted to embark by force this retiree had it not been the resistance of the neighbors. Jean Bosco had been acquitted by the Court of Appeal of Bururi for participation to armed movements.

Two persons wounded stabbed in commune and province Rumonge

On the night of 16-17 July 2017, a widow named Baratakanwa, aged 60 and her son, aged 24, were wounded stabbed by unidentified persons on Karonke hill, Minago zone commune and province Rumonge. Land disputes were at the origin of this despicable act. They were rushed to a local hospital.

Discovery of two mass graves in Makamba province

On July 20, 2017, two mass graves were discovered in Makamba province, one in Mabanda commune and the other on Karonge hill in Makamba commune. Makamba Provincial governor, Gad Niyukuri, mentioned the existence of several mass graves in his province. He added that that the one of Mabanda contained more than 100 corpses.

Attempted assassination in Gisozi commune, Mwaro province

On 23 July 2017, around 4:00 pm, Thomas Ntunzwenimana, a driver of ISUZU vehicle, loaded with charcoal was halted by a policeman named Niyonkuru, assigned to Gisozi commune police station. According to sources on the spot, the incident occurred on the RN7, Musimbwe hill, Nyakararo zone, Gisozi commune, Mwaro province. This police officer asked the driver to transport him but the driver refused because of lack of space. The driver started his vehicle and then the policeman fired on the tires and the vehicle stopped. The provincial commissioner rushed in the spot to make the finding and jailed the policeman in Gisozi commune police station cell. The driver is demanding his vehicle documents seized by the commissioner, in order to continue his work, but he has not regained his rights yet.

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.

Ex-FAB soldiers on duty or retired are still targeted by the repression of the CNDD-FDD regime.

Intimidations by Imbonerakure youth and administration officials as well as paramilitary training 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;