

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°69 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 24 to 30 July 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 30 July 2017, Iteka has documented at least 439 cases of enforced disappearances.

CONTENTS	PAGES
<i>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</i>	3
<i>0. INTRODUCTION</i>	4
<i>I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN LIFE</i>	4
<i>I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RITGHT TO LIFE</i>	4
<i>I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE AND SOLDIERS</i>	4
<i>I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDNTIFIED PEOPLE</i>	5
<i>I.1.3. CORPSES FOUND IN RIVER AND/OR IN BUSH</i>	5
<i>I.1.4. PERSONS KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS</i>	5
<i>I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING</i>	5
<i>I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND POLICEMEN</i>	6
<i>I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND POLICEMEN</i>	6
<i>II. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE</i>	8
<i>III. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS</i>	8
<i>IV. OTHER FACTS REPORTED</i>	10
<i>V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMEN.DATIONS</i>	11

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS: *Health Center*

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

CONAPES: *National Council of Secondary Education Personnel*

ECOFO: *Fundamental School/Ecole Fondamentale*

FAB: *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL: *National Liberation Front*

FRODEBU: *Front for Democracy in Burundi*

MJP: *Young Patriots Movement*

MSD: *Movement for Solidarity and Democracy*

PJ : *Judicial Police*

SNR: *National Intelligence Service*

VBG: *Gender Based Violence*

VOA: *Voice Of America*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 7 persons killed including 2 corpses, 1 reported missing, 4 tortured, 15 arbitrarily arrested as well as 2 victims 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, abductions, torture and arbitrary arrests of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3rd term opponents.

Members of political parties namely Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing, MSD and SAHWANYA FRODEBU 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

I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN LIFE

I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RIGHT TO LIFE

I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE AND SOLDIERS

One person killed in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province

On 23 July 2017, Gabriel from Gashibuka hill, Muhanga commune, Kayanza province, was beaten to death on Rushenza hill by Imbonerakure, including Ndayisenga and Salvator for not paying lemonade he had drunk in Salvator's bar. Other unidentified Imbonerakure have fled.

One person killed in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province

On July 30, 2017, Amani, Buryindeke's grandson from Gitanga hill, Gisagara zone and commune was killed with sticks by Imbonerakure youths on the orders of the technical adviser in charge of administrative and social affairs named Déogratias Wasiwasi. The victim was accused of robbery in a household of the area. According to sources on the spot, Amani tried to escape running but he fell into a hole where it was killed in the presence of the adviser of Gisagara commune administrator.

1.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

One person killed in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province

On the night of July 24, 2017, Vianney aged 30, was killed by unidentified men Niganza on Mahande hill, Murwi Commune, Cibitoke Province.

One person killed in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province

As of July 30, 2017, Claver Ndarusigire from Nyakibari hill, Muyebe zone, Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province was stabbed around 10:00 am by unidentified people. According to sources on the spot, he came from the bar on the same hill to Banci's. The victim was rushed to Kibumbu hospital but died en route.

1.1.3. CORPSES FOUND IN RIVER AND/OR IN BUSH

A corpse found in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On July 28, 2017, on the banks of Kaburantwa River, Buganda Commune, Cibitoke Province, a corpse of Immaculée Ngendakumana was discovered. According to our sources, the victim had left for field.

A corpse found in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On July 19, 2017, on Kiryama hill, in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, around 3:00 pm, a corpse of an unidentified man was found. He had wounds on his head and was undressed.

1.1.4. PERSONS KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS

A person killed in Cankuzo province

On July 23, 2017, an old man named Jean Masato from Buyongwe hill, Mugeru zone, Mishiha commune, was killed at home. According to sources on the spot, he was killed by his son for land conflicts. Three people, including his son were arrested and jailed in Cankuzo police station cell for investigation.

1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING

A person reported missing in Nyabikere commune, Karusi province

Information received by our office on 23 July 2017 indicates that on the hill and Maramvya zone, Nyabikere commune, Karusi province, a man named Ngarukiyinka was reported missing since 21 July 2017. According to family sources, no news from him.

1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND POLICEMEN

Two persons arrested and tortured in Mukaza and Ntakangwa in Bujumbura City

On 25 July 2017 at around 3:00 pm, Idi Bizimana, known as Thierry, living on the 3rd Avenue in Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City, was arrested by police and SNR agents on the orders of Joseph Mathias Niyonzima alias Kazungu, in a pick-up vehicle. Sources on the spot indicate that in this pick-up was a young man named Gilbert Ngendakuriyo arrested in Jabe quarter, Bwiza urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city. Sources from their families say they were tortured before being taken. Police sources said they were jailed in one of SNR cells.

A person arrested and tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province

On July 23, 2017, on Kiramahira hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province Nestolla Nzeyimana was arrested by Imbonerakure of this hill. The latter beat her because she had denounced, at a meeting, corruption among the hill leaders.

A person tortured in Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province

On July 24, 2017, on Muyange hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karusi province, Muhayimana was beaten, burned on arms with plastics by Imbonerakure of the area, accompanied by the deputy head of the hill named Sunzuguru. Due to lack of means to get to the CDS he is bedridden at home.

1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND POLICEMEN

A person arrested in commune and province Rumonge

On July 25, 2017, Balthazar Barutwanayo alias Sogo, a teacher at ECOFO Gatwe and FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested by Louis Kamwenubusa, Kizuka zone head in Rumonge commune and province. Accused of contempt of the head of state, he is jailed in Buruhukiro zone cell. Information received indicates that he was released around 3:00 pm after paying a ransom of 250.00 Bif to Kizuka zone head.

Three people arrested in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

On 27 July 2017, two FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing Gérard Nsabimana, Theodore Nsegiyumva and a member of MSD party named Aimable Nibaruta were arrested in Buringa zone, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, were arrested by police. Their relatives say they do not know the reason for their arrest one week after they were acquitted by Bubanza High Court. They were released on 20 July 2017 after a year in prison in Bubanza Central Prison. Police accused them of

possessing military equipment, in this case the motolora. Charges the court found unjustified and released them. Local sources say their release would not have pleased Bubanza province authorities who would be behind their new arrest. Police sources said the decision to release them would be irregular, the reason why they were arrested again. Families of these people are very surprised of the interference of province authorities in justice affairs. They indicate they were arrested without a warrant. No family member was informed of the reason or place of their detention. They claim that the three people were embarked on board a vehicle of the Governor of Bubanza province Tharcisse Niyongabo to an unknown destination.

One person arrested in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province

On July 15, 2017, in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province, Niriho, teacher in Rwanda and native of that commune was arrested by Imbonerakure and taken to police while he was at a party. They accused him of bringing from Rwanda traveling fees for young people wanting to go to Rwanda to be enlisted in rebellion. SNR agents came to take him the following day, July 16, 2017, and took him to an unknown destination. Information received indicates that he was released afterwards.

One person arrested in Rango commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Iteka League on 23 July 2017 indicates that on July 16, 2017, in Rango commune, Kayanza province, Floris Bigirimana, FNL member was arrested by Imbonerakure and taken to a police position while returning from a party. They accused him of coming from a secret meeting.

One person arrested in Rango commune, Kayanza province

On July 25, 2017, on Nyabibuye hill in Rango commune, Kayanza province, two Imbonerakure with policemen in civil dress arrested Félicien Nindorera, MSD member. They accused him of participating in demonstrations against Pierre Nkurunziza's 3rd term. The latter was returning from Rwanda. He is imprisoned in the commune cell.

Three people arrested in Ngozi commune and province

On July 25, 2017, three FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing Charles Bizimana, chairman of MJP, Jérémie Ndoriyobija, member of MJP committee and Christian Citegetse, were arrested in Ngozi province by commissioner. They were taken to PJ Ngozi cell. The reason for their arrest was not known.

One person arrested in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

On July 28, 2017, Léonidas Niyukuri, SAHWANYA FRODEBU party member was arrested on Kabondo hill, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province, while replacing his party flag at the commune office. An Imbonerakure named Juma informed the police who subsequently arrested him. He was taken to Nyanza-Lac police station before being released on 31 July 2017 after questioning. Sources on the spot indicate that this FRODEBU activist Léonidas Niyukuri was accused of raising SAHWANYA FRODEBU party flag while high personalities were passing.

II. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in commune and Province Bubanza

On July 28, 2017, at about 10:30 am, B.D, aged 3 years and 11 months was raped by a 10-year-old boy named Kelly Vyizigiro on Giko hill, in the zone, commune and Bubanza province. According to our sources, the victim's parents were advised by Bubanza community health agent to take the child to Seruka clinic for medical care.

A girl raped in commune and province Muyinga

Information received by Iteka League on 23 July 2017 indicates that as of 11 July 2017, in Mukoni quarter of commune and Muyinga province, a girl named C. was sexually abused twice in the marital home by his tutor named Emmanuel Nkezahahizi, teacher at ECOFO Cumba. According to source on the spot, the victim attends the 7th form at ECOFO Saint André. The alleged rapist has now fled his home.

III. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS

Two persons injured in Kanyosha urban zone, Bujumbura City

On 23 July 2017, around 11:00 pm, Tharcisse Bangirinama, SAHWANYA FRODEBU party member was attacked by a group of Imbonerakure armed with machetes and clubs in Kanyosha urban zone , Muha commune, Bujumbura city. Alexis Habonimana and Jean Claude Nsengiyumva were wounded on the arms and heads while attempting to defend themselves. These Imbonerakure were searching Chadrack Niyonkuru, brother of Jean Claude and Alexis. These two young wounded were rushed to one of Bujumbura hospitals while Tharcisse Bigirimana was arrested and taken to Mpimba Central Prison. The latter is accused of having accompanied his son in Rwanda and participated in demonstrations against President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3rd term.

A person injured in Kanyosha urban zone , Bujumbura City

On the night of July 26, 2017, around 9:00 pm, a nicknamed NONE, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was found lying on the ground bleeding in Busoro quarter, Kanyosha urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city. On-site sources indicate that NONE was injured by people wearing long coats armed with machetes and clubs. Imbonerakura youths from Busoro quarter are singled out by locals as the authors of these burrs. The same inhabitants add that these Imbonerakure do night patrols to steal or rape all passing people.

Intimidations by police in Kirundo province

Information received by Iteka League on 30 July 2017 indicates that passersby are tortured by police on a road in Bushaza quarter of Kirundo province, where CNDD-FDD party chair and the prosecutor live. According to sources on the spot, every night, these policemen guarding these two authorities stop and beat up all the passersby telling them that they are spying on them and come back to attack them with rebels.

On July 5, 2017, Niyongabo and Ndizeye, all drivers were arrested and traumatized while they had just dropped their colleague to Mutwenzi. An amount of 18,000 Bif was stolen by these policemen in the presence of CNDD-FDD party chair. Every time, the population hears noises of unidentified people arrested because people are afraid to go out.

Intimidation by local authority in Cankuzo

On 22 July 2017 at Cankuzo stadium, after community development work, Christophe Nyamiye, Cankuzo zone head, intimidated people who did not participate in the work, saying he will correct them in these words : "*nukubakorerako*". According to sources on the spot, the low participation is due to the fact that these community works are confused with those of CNDD-FDD ruling party. All officials of this party including young Imbonerakure had organized an opening of the party office on the hill and zone Shinge, Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province before continuing their journey to Rujungu hill of the same zone border with Tanzania where they demonstrated in support to President Pierre Nkurunziza for visiting Tanzania on 20 July 2017. According to sources on the spot, Imbonerakure from all the communes were present on this hill.

Intimidation by Imbonerakure in Cankuzo province

On July 27, 2017, a motorcyclist named Igiraneza alias Kiwi, was intimidated by Anicet, the provincial head of Imbonerakure, accusing him of transporting enemies of the country. According to sources on the spot, this motorcyclist has transport from Cankuzo province city to communes, two VOA women journalists in search of information.

Paramilitary training of imbonerakure in Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province

Paramilitary training of young imbonerakure is organized on 3 hills of zone and Mwakiro commune in Muyinga province in the north of the country. They are supervised by Mwakiro zone head, the surrounding inhabitants say they fear for their security. Kimbwigwa, Muyange and Mutombwe are the three hills where these trainings take place, according to sources in Mwakiro. The population claims it began observing the presence of Imbonerakure in the afforestation of eucalyptus on Wednesday 26 July 2017 in daytime. These trainings are led by the area chief Mwakiro nicknamed Kajisho. This worries the inhabitants of the area because last month a man was killed around and 2 Imbonerakure were arrested. No investigation was carried out. The inhabitants of the three hills demand the cessation of these paramilitary training.

IV. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

A person wounded in Muha commune, Bujumbura City

On the night of 23 to 24 July 2017, Egide Niyonsaba alias Mutegetsu, CONAPES union representative in Rumonge province and teacher at Lycee Iteba in Rumonge, was wounded with machetes by unidentified persons near his home in Kanyosha urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city. On July 28, 2017, CONAPES union member teachers had a general assembly and asked for investigations to clarify the attempt to assassinate Egide Niyonsaba.

Attempted assassination in Kirundo province

In the night of 27 July 2017, an unidentified group threw a grenade to Ruvugou's, aged 45, CNDD-FDD party member of Kibonde hill, Gisenyi zone, Kirundo province. According to sources on the spot, he was accused of sorcery. The same sources indicate that two cohabitants all named Butera were jailed in Busoni commune cell, province Kirundo for investigation reasons.

A grenade found in commune and province Cankuzo

As of July 22, 2017, on Karago hill, Minyare zone, commune and Cankuzo province, a grenade was found in bush, according to Toyi Gabriel, provincial officer of the national commission on small arms and light weapons. This information was confirmed by the prosecutor Leonard Sindayigaya in a meeting of the heads of services to the Governor's office.

A person wounded in Bukirasazi commune, Gitega province

On the night of July 29 to July 30, 2017, around 1:00 am on Kibuye hill in Bukirasazi commune, Gitega province, a grenade was thrown into a family of an ex FAB, Gahungu Pascal alias Kiroso by a group of criminals, according to information on the spot. In this attack, the head of the household was

injured and was admitted to Kibuye hospital for first aid. The reasons of this attack are not yet known and no one of these criminals was arrested.

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, MSD and SAHWANYA FRODEBU are also reported.

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;