

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

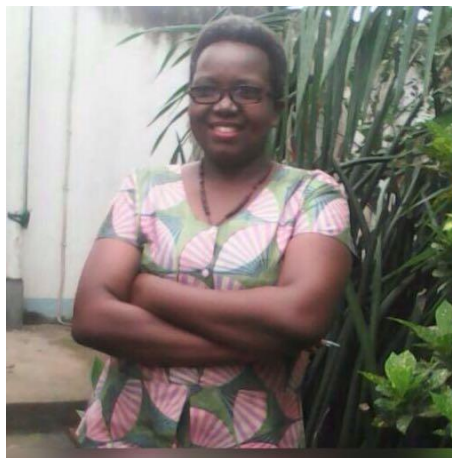
Approved by Ministerial Order n ° 530/0273 of 10 November 1994 revising Order No. 550 /029 of 6 February 1991



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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°70 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 31 July to 06 August 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 06 August 2017, Iteka has documented at least 439 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

ETS: *Technical Secondary School*

FAB: *Burundi Armed Forces*

MSD: *Movement for Solidarity and Democracy*

SNR: *National Intelligence Service*

VBG: *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 7 persons killed including 2 corpses, 1 tortured, 5 arbitrarily arrested as well as 2 victims of GBV.

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 killings, abductions, torture and arbitrary arrests.

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 OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RIGHT TO LIFE

1.1.1. CORPSES FOUND IN RIVER OR BUSH

A corpse found in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

As of 31 July 2017, around 11:00 am, a corpse of Kibwa, a farmer and MSD member was found on Busokoza hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province. According to on-site sources, perpetrators were not identified

A dead body found in Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province

On August 4, 2017, around 2:00 pm, a dead body of a 5-year-old child named Kenny, son of Havyarimana from Muyange hill, zone and commune Bugenyuzi was found packed in a loincloth in Ndurumu marshlands on Rwingoma hill, zone and commune Buhiga, Karusi province. According to sources on the spot, Kenny's body was burned and his right foot amputated.

1.1.2. PERSONS KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTling OF ACCOUNTS

One person killed, Gihosha zone in Bujumbura town hall

As of July 31, 2017, around 8:00 pm, an Imbonerakure named Donatien was killed in Gihosha urban zone, Bujumbura city. Sources on site indicate a group of imbonerakure entered a bar in the same quarter called mu Gatutu belonging to Nzeyimana on the road to ETS Kamenge. After having a drink in this bar, the same sources indicate that two Imbonerakure would have refused to pay the bill, the origin of clashes between them and the people who were in this bar. Our sources on the spot add that the Imbonerakure Donatien died straightaway following blows on the head. This group of Imbonerakure was arguing with the bar owner named Nzeyimana and the nicknamed Mwarabu who were in this bar. The inhabitants of Gihosha zone are concerned about their security because the

Imbonerakure, quartered to Christian's, head of Imbonerakure in Taba quarter, mistreat them during night patrols, armed with clubs and grenades, asking forcibly money from the population.

One person killed in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

On August 2, 2017, at around 10:00 pm on Mushikamo hill, Nyamitwenzi zone, Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, Nathanael Irutingabo, a 23-year-old merchant, was killed by his friends Claver Habonimana and Joseph, both traders, using a small hoe. They removed his eyes and tongue and cut off his genitals. His corpse was found in a banana plantation the next day on August 3, 2017. They accused him of having more customers than them. They were jailed in Muramvya prison on 4 August 2017. They are Hutus.

A person killed in Gitega province

As of 1 August 2017, Acqueline Ntahokari, aged 52, was killed in the evening on Bwoga hill, commune and Province Gitega. On-site sources indicate that the old woman Acqueline Ntahokari was killed by two girls Louise Tatu and Claudine Nduwimana while trying to rescue her daughter being beaten by the same girls. Acqueline's daughter may have accused Louise Tatu and Claudine Nduwimana of sorcery.

Two persons killed in Muyinga commune and province

Information received by Iteka League on 31 July 2017 indicates that as of 30 July 2017 two unidentified children were killed in a grenade explosion in a house on Nyamarumba hill, commune and Muyinga province. According to Bernard Nzinahora, Munagano zone head, the criminal forced in the window to throw the grenade inside the house. The reason of this crime would be linked to sorcery accusations.

1.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY SNR AGENTS

One person tortured in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

On 31 July 2017, on the Nkonyovu hill, Mushikamo zone, Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, Buyoya was beaten by Anicet, SNR head in Rutegama commune and Leonidas Nzoyihiki, head of Rutegama police station. According to sources on site, they accused him of not having participated in inauguration ceremonies of CNDD-FDD party office in Rutegama. His body is covered with wounds.

1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE AND POLICEMEN

Two persons arrested in Kabarore commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Iteka League on 31 July 2017 indicates that on July 28, 2017, on Rukere hill, Kabarore commune, Kayanza province, Mvuyekure from Caratsi hill, Kabarore commune, Kayanza province, was arrested by a policeman nicknamed Mapepe. According to sources on site, he accused him of buying a mattress from Rwanda. His son, who went to see him to inquire on the situation was

also arrested and tied up by CNDD-FDD party representative on this hill named Serges, accompanied by two Imbonerakure, Japhet and Nzoyisaba. Mvuyekure and his son are jailed in the commune cell.

Three persons arrested in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

On August 4, 2017, Irambona and Sirabahenda, Pauline's sons, aged 60, were arrested by police in Buheka hill, Kazirabageni zone, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province. According to sources on the spot, Silas Hatungimana and Charles Nduwayo, Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD party came to Pauline's home to arrest Mr Irambona. These two brothers resisted and the two Imbonerakure were wounded in the clashes and rushed to Nyanza-Lac hospital. Pauline and her two sons are jailed at Nyanza-Lac commune police station.

II. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Gitaramuka commune, Karusi province

On August 5, 2017, a young girl named B.M, aged 14, was raped by an Imbonerakure named Elie Mugisha on the hill, zone and commune Gitaramuka, Karusi province. According to sources on the spot, Elie Mugisha has managed to run away. The same source said the girl was taken to Buhiga hospital for care.

A girl raped in commune and province Bubanza

As of 1 August 2017, around 11:00 am, in Gisovu quarter of Bubanza downtown hill, zone, commune and Bubanza province, a 9-year-old girl known as C.I was raped by a 16-year-old boy nicknamed Kaposho residing in the same area. According to our sources, the victim went to Seruka center on August 3, 2017 for suitable care. The alleged perpetrator is jailed in Bubanza province police station cell.

III. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

One person injured in commune and province Rumonge

On August 3, 2017, twenty one persons were wounded in clashes between prisoners in Rumonge prisons. Among the wounded was Colonel Adrien Kadende, ex- FAB, was shot and wounded on kidneys by a policeman nicknamed Mayaya in Rumonge central prison during clashes between detainees pro and anti CNDD- FDD. According to sources on the spot, this fight was due to bad distribution of food. Jailed in Rumonge Central Prison from September 2016, Colonel Kadende is accused of breaking internal security of state and was not among those who were fighting. Being in critical condition, he was transferred to Kamenge military hospital for treatment but was directly taken to Mpimba central prison.

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.

Killings, torture, targeted arbitrary and illegal arrests are reported in this bulletin as well as the phenomenon of corpses.

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 authors