

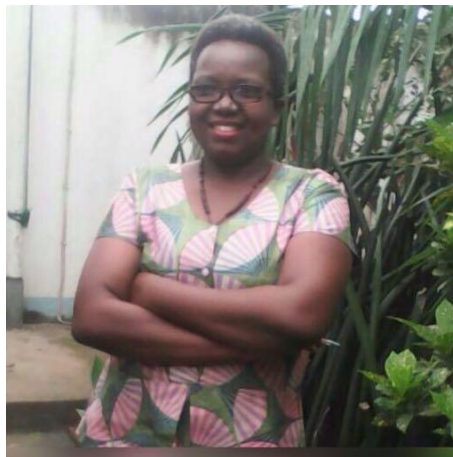
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°73 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 21-27 August 2017



In memory of Madame Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 27 August 2017, Iteka has documented at least 442 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS: *Health Center*

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

CNTB: *National Land Commission for Burundi*

CODIP: *Population Integrated Development Organizations*

FNL: *National Liberation Front*

FRODEBU: *Front for Democracy in Burundi*

ONG : *Non Governmental Organization*

RANAC: *National Gathering for Change*

SNR: *National Intelligence Service*

TGI : *High Court*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 7 persons killed including 1 corpse, 4 tortured and 114 arbitrarily arrested.

The Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD ruling party's youth, SNR agents, soldiers, policemen as well as administration officials 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 the opposition parties, namely those of the FNL wing of Agathon Rwasa, Sahwanya Frodebu and those of RANAC were a privileged target of the repression organized by President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime.

The bulletin rejects impunity of crimes that is granted to pro CNDD-FDD party. Members of this party involved in different crimes enjoy impunity from public complicity.

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. PERSONS KILLED IN BY IMBONERAKURE

One person killed in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On August 25, 2017, around 6:00 pm, on Rukana hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Bonheur Girukwishaka, a 20-year-old Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD party was killed by Pascal Nzoyisaba, also Imbonerakure, the same hill, commune and province. According to our sources, Pascal Nzoyisaba was jailed in Rugombo commune police station cell.

1.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

One person killed in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On the night of August 23-24, 2017, on Gabiro-Ruvyagira hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Joseph Karikurubu, 60 years old was killed by unidentified men. According to our sources, Joseph Karikurubu was guarding an orange plantation. A suspect was arrested and taken to Rugombo commune police station cell for investigation reasons, according to the same sources.

One person killed in Kiganda commune, province Muramvya

On the night of 20-21 August 2017, René Ntahompagaze was beheaded with a knife at home by unidentified people on Rubumba hill, Kiganda commune, Muramvya province. He left a widow and 6 children.

1.1.3. CORPSES FOUND IN BUSH

A corpse found in Mutaho commune, Gitega province

Information received by Iteka League on 21 August 2017 indicates that as of 20 August 2017, a body of Rogatien Gahungu was found on Gitongo hill, Mutaho commune, Gitega province. He worked as a bicycle taxi in this area and was stabbed to death. Four alleged perpetrators of the murder were arrested and jailed in Mutaho commune police cell.

1.1.4. PERSONS KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE OR SETTLING OF SCORES

Two persons killed in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

On August 24, 2017, Domitien Ntahomvukiye killed his nephew Cedric Nsabimana, aged 14, and seriously injured his older brother Stève Niyonkuru, aged 17, with a machete. The events occurred on Muguruka hill, Mukungu zone, commune Nyanza-Lac. According to sources on site, the perpetrator was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment for voluntary manslaughter by Makamba High Court on Saturday, August 26, 2017. Administrative sources justify various politically motivated assassinations under cover of land conflicts and sorcery.

One person killed in Songa commune, Bururi province

As of August 22, 2017, Darius died clubbed by the inhabitants of Jenda hill, Songa commune, Bururi province. According to sources on site, Darius not known in the area was caught by the population as of August 20, 2017 while trying to rob in one of the local households. The same sources add that the inhabitants began to beat him and the police took him to Ruvumvu health center located in Songa zone where he died. Local administrative officials report investigations are already under way to find out the origin of the victim and the perpetrators of his murder.

1.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICEMEN AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person arrested and beaten in Bubanza commune and province

On August 23, 2017, around 11:00 am, in Bubanza center, Nabubu quarter, commune and Bubanza province, Patrick alias Patiri, aged 35, son of Spès was beaten up and then arrested by a police officer Edouard accompanied by Imbonerakure named Dieudonné Hakiza and Cehusi. He was taken to Bubanza police station cell. According to our sources, he was accused of having participated in rebellion. This young boy had fled the Burundi crisis of 2015 into Rwanda but he was back a month earlier.

A person arrested and tortured in Busoni province, Kirundo commune

Information dated 23 august 2017 indicates that on 20 August 2017, Perre Miburo, a Hutu, 25 years old and CNDD-FDD party member, from Kididiri hill, Murore zone, Busoni commune, province Kirundo was arrested after being beaten up by Kididiri hill head in the eyes of the MP Baptiste Nzigamasabo alias Gihahé., according to sources on site. He was accused of participating in sports and night patrols of Imbonerakure. The true reason for his arrest remains unknown according to sources from his family.

Two people tortured by Imbonerakure in Rutana province

On 23 August 2017, around 7:00am on Gatongati hill in Rutana commune and province, Imbonerakure, CNDD-FDD ruling party youth members threatened and tortured two sisters, Claudine and Désidérate on order of the hill head Egide Nzambimana. According to sources on site, the heart of the problem is a goat given by the NGO HELP CHANEL as common property to three sisters orphaned from both father and mother of which one of them Jacqueline, CODIP member, association close to the regime, has usurped by taking advantage of the absence of her sisters. Wanting to know the state of this goat, Jacqueline seized the hill head who handed her two sisters over to these young people.

1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

Five people arrested in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

On 24 August 2017, Cossan Minani, Gilbert Havyarimana, David Sabushimike, Yvan Niyungeko and Emile Manirakiza, all CNDD-FDD party elected in Kiderege, were arrested and jailed in Makamba prosecutor's cell. They are accused of participating in the arson that ravaged Mukengerezi River Bridge on Kiderege hill, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province.

This incident occurred after the decision of the CNTB special court against three households in a land dispute between residents and returnees. This bridge was burned for the second time in less than two months.

Three people arrested in Mabanda commune, Makamba province

As of August 21, 2017, the post head in Mabanda Bernard Nzeyimana arrested Salvator Ndayisenga, his wife Marie Rose Gakima and their daughter on complaint of a woman named Victorie of the CNDD-FDD women's league. The latter accused them of being the perpetrators of throwing stones at her house. They were released on Friday, August 25, 2017 after intervention of neighbors who pleaded their innocence.

A person arrested in Makamba commune and province

As of August 21, 2017, Juliette Igiraneza of Gasaka hill, Makamba commune and province, died after the failure of surgery. The next day, an anesthesiologist named Thomas Harerimana who was on the guard was arrested by Governor Gad Niyukuri. Though he had not yet been tried, the governor held an emergency meeting to charge him in the eyes of the sick and his colleagues. According to sources on site, this case is being ethicized by some technicians of this hospital who work for the SNR.

A couple arrested in Makamba commune and province

As of August 21, 2017, Festus Ndayikeza and his wife were arrested by the head of Makamba post called Serges near Makamba market for no reason. They were released on Monday afternoon after paying a ream of paper without due process.

Four people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone, Bujumbura City

On August 21, 2017, police and soldiers searched and arrested four people in Cibitoke urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City, from the 8th to 10th Avenue. They were taken to the zone cell, accused of not being registered in household notebooks. They were released on the same day. A visitor at the 7th Avenue gave an amount of 10,000 francs to a policeman to escape the arrest.

Twenty-six people arrested in Cibitoke urban zone, Bujumbura City

On August 23, 2017, police searched and arrested 11 people at 4th Avenue of Cibitoke urban zone from No 90 to No 124, Ntakangwa Commune, Bujumbura City. They were taken to the zone office for not being registered in household notebooks. They were released the same day. As of August 25, 2017, another search was carried out on avenues 13 and 14 from No 90 to 124 where 15 people were

arrested and taken to the zone office accused of not being registered in the household notebooks and then released. Sources on site indicate that they have been ransomed for release.

Two people arrested in Mwaro commune and province

On 21 August 2017, Donatien Bihumugani, Frodebu party chair in the commune and Salvator Budigoma, who is politically neutral, both teachers of Rusaka commune were arrested after a security meeting at Rusaka commune that ended at 12:00 pm According to sources on site, Bikundumuhari, head of the Imbonerakure at the communal level ordered a police officer to arrest Donatien and Budigoma and to get them to an SNR vehicle and were taken to one of Mwaro province cells.

A person arrested in Musaga urban zone, Bujumbura City

On August 25, 2017, Theogene Nsengiyumva, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was arrested in Musaga the urban zone, Bujumbura City. Local sources say this young person from Kamesa quarter was arrested by police in Musaga zone while returning home. His family does not understand why he was arrested. The same sources added that he would be jailed in one of the national intelligence service cells in Bujumbura city.

Sixty people arrested in Gitega commune and province.

As of August 25, 2017, in the afternoon, in Nyabugogo quarter, Gitega city, a group of 68 young people gathered in a bar commonly called "Iwabo w'Ingoma" were arrested by the police. They are accused by the administration of organizing an illegal meeting and are jailed in Gitega police station cell.

One person arrested in Rango commune, Kayanza province

As of August 26, 2017, on Karama hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, the Imbonerakure found 3 grenades and 2 magazines filled with bullets to Oswald Nibaruta, an Imbonerakure too. But these Imbonerakure arrested Bernard Niyongabo, a FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing instead of Oswald and took him to the police cell. They accused him of bringing his grenades and magazines with his friends to Oswald.

II. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS

As of August 26, 2017, in a show of strength on different hills of Rumonge province, young Imbonerakure traveled collectively for a show of strength and to frighten opposition parties' members by singing songs glorying CNDD-FDD party. On Mutambara hill, these young Imbonerakure transformed a religious song into a song praising the ruling party. One sings in churches "yesu niwe

Mutabazi” and the Imbonerakure chant “*Yesu niwe mugumyambanga*” which means Jesus is a member of the ruling party.

A person aggressed in Rumonge commune and province

As of August 27, 2017, the RANAC party representative in Rumonge province was physically aggressed by Mibanda hill head with young Imbonerakure from Kizuka zone, commune and Rumonge province. According to sources on site, he held a meeting with party members. Things would degenerate into open conflict had it not been for the intervention of the FDN soldiers stationed at Musave hill.

III. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

One person injured in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province

Information received by Iteka League on 21 August 2017 indicates that on 20 August 2017, around 8:00 pm, back from transporting a passenger in Murunga, Bertrand Nshimirimana, a motorcyclist from Nyamugari hill Nkankina zone, Mugongo-Manga commune was wounded by machete at the hip by an Imbonerakure named Egide Nkurunziza from Murunga hill, Jenda zone, Mugongo-Manga commune. According to our sources, this Imbonerakure blocked the road with stones wanting to steal money from this biker. The latter cried out for help. The police intervened and arrested this Imbonerakure around 3:00 pm on 21 August 2017. The police arrested him and took him to Rwibaga police station cell, according to the same sources.

One person injured in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

As of 24 August 2017, at about 9 :00 pm on Munyika II hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke Belyse Niyonsaba province, aged 25 and CNDD-FDD party member, was wounded by a machete by her ex-husband Ezekiel Niyonkuru, aged 24 and member of the same party.

A house of returnees destroyed in Vugizo commune, Makamba province

On August 24, 2017, on Rurambira hill, Gishiha zone, Vugizo commune, Makamba province, Sophie and her three children found their home destroyed by strangers returning from Tanzania where they had exiled. They are for the moment hosted by neighbors where they live in hard conditions.

Robberies in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke Province

As of August 24, 2017 Pascasie Kabagema, about sixty years old, was almost killed on Mparambo hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province. Sources on site say she was beaten with a machete by a

group of 5 people who robbed all her money and her bike. The criminals were not identified because they took off after the crime, continue our sources. The victim was rushed to the hospital for treatment.

A mass grave found in Gisozi commune, Mwaro province

As of 23 August 2017, around 2:00 pm, a CVR team of Mwaro and that of Bujumbura discovered a mass grave on Nyamiyaga hill, zone and commune Gisozi, Mwaro province. According to sources on site, this mass grave may contain victims of the 1972 crisis.

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, arbitrary and illegal arrests, targeted to opponents in general and in particular opposition parties' members namely FNL Agathon Rwasa's wing and RANAC and Sahwanya Frodebu are also reported.

Intimidation by Imbonerakure youth are a source of threats to any person nonmember of the ruling party.

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 and intimidation of the population;