

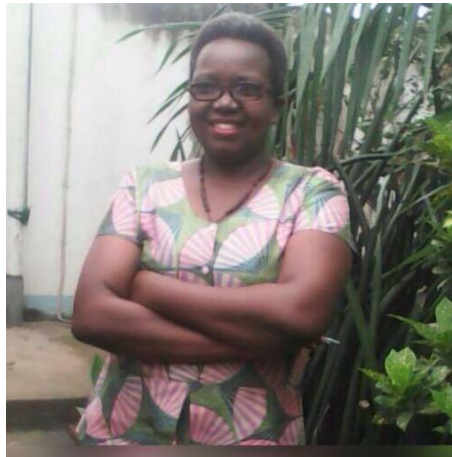
Approved by Ministerial Order n ° 530/0273 of 10 November 1994 revising Order No. 550 /029 of 6 February 1991



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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°75 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 3-4 September 2017



In memory of Madame Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 10 September 2017, Iteka has documented at least 443 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS: *Health Center*

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

CNI: *National Identity Card*

FAB: *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL: *National Liberation Front*

ITELETIQUE: *Telecommunication, Electronics and Computing Institute*

PJ: *Judicial Police*

PSI: *Internal Security Police*

RTNB: *National Radio and Television*

SNR: *National Intelligence Service*

UPRONA: *Union for National Progress*

VBG: *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 8 persons killed including 4 corpses, 6 tortured, 24 arbitrarily arrested, 1 reported missing and 1 GBV victim.

The phenomenon of corpses is still recorded in several parts of the country and no investigation is carried out, which is very worrying.

The Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD ruling party's youth, SNR agents, policemen, soldiers as well as administration officials are blamed as the perpetrators of most of human rights violations.

This bulletin reports cases of killings, torture, arbitrary arrests and abduction of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3rd term opponents.

Members of the opposition parties, namely those of the FNL wing of Agathon Rwasa and those of UPRONA 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.

I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RIGHT TO LIFE

I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED IN BY IMBONERAKURE

One person killed in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province

On the night of 5-6 September 2017, on Buseruko hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, Maforo, CNDD-FDD party member, aged 45 was beaten to death by young Imbonerakure. According to our sources, he was accused of stealing a bunch of banana. The perpetrators were not prosecuted.

I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

One person killed in commune and province Gitega

As of September 9, 2017, on Bihanga hill, Gitega commune and province, Daniel Gahungu, over 80 years of age, was tied up then killed stabbed and by unidentified criminals. This old man lived alone and was attacked at home. The reasons of this murder remain unknown. No one was arrested and this is the 3rd attack at the deceased home.

One person killed in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On 4 September 2017, around 4:00 am, on Rugoma hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Ndayizeye Claver trader and member of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing was killed by unidentified people. Three people were arrested for investigation reasons.

1.1.3. CORPSES FOUND IN BUSH AND/OR IN RIVERS

A corpse found in Ruvubu River, Kayanza province

As of September 6, 2007, an unidentified corpse, with arms tied up behind the back, was found in Ruvubu River in Muhanga commune, Kayanza Province. The administrator of commune Muhanga has indicated that this corpse may be carried by waters from neighboring communes.

A corpse found in Muruta commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Iteka League on 6 September 2017 indicates that on 3 September 2017 a corpse of 64-year-old Elizabeth Nyandwi was found in Nyagonga River on Nyamigogo hill in Muruta commune, Kayanza province.

A corpse found in Gatara commune, Kayanza province

On September 6, 2017, a corpse of 40-year-old Gérard Gishongomera was found on Kivuruga hill, Gatara commune, Kayanza Province. On-site sources indicate that the man's body showed no injuries and the police said investigations started.

1.1.4. PERSONS KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTling OF SCORES

Two people killed and another wounded Butezi commune, Ruyigi province

On the night of September 7, 2017, Sammuel Ntirampeba of, was ambushed by unidentified persons on Muyange hill, Butezi commune, Ruyigi province. According to sources on site, Samuel was heading home with his son and daughter-in-law when unidentified people armed with machete ambushed them. His daughter-in-law Josepha Iradukunda died straightaway while his son was Celestin Itangakubuntu was reported missing. The latter was also later found dead. According to the same sources, there were precursors as the population had demonstrated on September 5, 2017 on Muyange hill, Butezi commune town against Sammuel who had won land trial against the neighboring population.

1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING

One person abducted in Mugamba commune, Bururi province

On September 6, 2017, Frédéric Ngenzebuhoro, son of Barandereba, a forty-year old farmer was abducted by gunmen accompanied by a soldier named Gafuni from Tora position, on Mubira hill, Nyagasasa zone, Mugamba commune, Bururi province and taken to an unknown destination in a vehicle registered DA 3974. According to sources on site, he was accused of partaking in insurrectional movements and may be jailed in one of SNR cells in Bujumbura city. Other sources say land conflicts are at the root of this abduction.

1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICEMEN AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person tortured in Rumonge commune and province

As of September 3, 2017, Alice Niyukuri, aged 27, divorced, was beaten up by a group of 5 young Imbonerakure when she resisted to a gang rape by these young people on Gitwe hill, Buruhukiro zone, Rumonge commune and province. The victim could not stand up because of the blows with electric wires. She lodged a complaint to the police before being admitted to Rumonge hospital. Nyabenda was identified among these young Imbonerakure. The police wire was issued for these Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, all the five Imbonerakure were not prosecuted are still free and enjoy impunity.

One person tortured in Giharo commune, Rutana province

As of 2 September 2017, around 8:00 pm, on Gatonga hill, Muzye area, Giharo commune, Rutana province, a 39-year-old Muhare, was beaten up by the ruling party young when he returned from Tanzania to take his family. He is accused of recruiting rebels.

A person tortured in Musongati commune, Rutana province

As of 6 September 2017, around 11:00 am, on Shanga hill, Musongati commune, Rutana province, Claude Ndikuriyo, aged 37, mill user, was beaten up by Imbonerakure, Donatien, Niyonsaba and Gordien, CNDD-FDD ruling party youths. According to sources on site, Ndikuriyo was accused of pouring accidentally diesel into the flour. Hearing cries, two policemen Jean Marie and Kiwi intervened and were also beaten by these young people. These policemen did not bear this outrage and demanded intervention from his colleagues and arrested and jailed Donatien, the perpetrator, in Musongati police station cell.

A person tortured in Buhiga commune, Karusi province

As of September 6, 2017, around 12:00 am, a young man named Kevin, conductor at Buhiga parking, was beaten by two Imbonerakure Sadoscar and Musaba on the hill, zone and Buhiga commune, Karusi province. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure accused him of hitting Sadoscar's vehicle. They tied him up before dragging him on the ground and then beat him up. The same sources indicate that these Imbonerakure insulted him in these terms: "*Tutsi imbecile, you must return to other Mujeri in exile*".

A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province

As of September 9, 2017, Claude Nsavyimana was beaten by Gaheta zone head of Rango commune of, known as Didace, on Muzumure hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province. His arm was fractured. He accused him of having said that those who protest against the UN experts report content on violations in Burundi are wasting their time.

A person tortured in Mutambu commune, Bujumbura rural province

Information received by Iteka League on 4 September 2017 indicates that on 3 September 2017, in Gomvyi zone, Mutambu commune, Bujumbura rural province, Dederi Nzeyimana was beaten up by an Imbonerakure named Cinyo. The victim was accused of being an opponent of the regime. The victim was taken to Mutambu CDS for care.

I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

Three people arrested in Cibitoke province

Three young girls including Chantal Uwimana, Jeanne Mukandayisenga were arrested by young Imbonerakure on Ruhwa River as they left Rwanda to Musaga where they were baby sitters. They were accused of spying, according to our sources. They have just spent two weeks in Cibitoke province police cell from September 9, 2017.

Three people arrested in Ngagara urban zone , Bujumbura City

As of September 6, 2017, around 1:00 pm, Rossy, student at Saint Gabriel Central Lycée, Jean and Claude, student at ITELETIQUE, as well as Clary, student in the 1st year BAC, were arrested and taken by policemen by the north zone commander in a pickup on the road separating the II and III quarters at the place commonly known as "chez Malhonnête", in Ngagara urban zone, Ntahangwa

commune, Bujumbura city. According to local sources, they were jailed in Cibitoke urban zone cell before being released on the morning of September 7, 2017. No offense was charged.

Two people arrested in Musaga urban zone , Bujumbura City

On September 4, 2017, Emmanuel Ntahombasigiye, Kinanira I quarter head, UPRONA party member and Alexis Ntibirangenza, Gitaramuka quarter head, were arrested by police and taken to one of SNR cells. Accused of giving CNIs to young combatants against Pierre Nkurunziza regime, they were taken to Mpimba central prison on September 6, 2017.

One person arrested in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province

On September 7, 2017, on the hill, zone and commune of Rusaka, a Tutsi teacher of English named Reverien Gahungu, aged 35 years, Rusaka Communist Lycee, with no political affiliation, was arrested around 11:00 pm on a warrant of the prosecutor. According to sources on site, the arrest warrant says Gahungu is prosecuted for armed robbery with a gun. According to the same sources on site, the reason for his arrest is that he participated in the demonstrations against President Nkurunziza's 3rd term. Reverien Gahungu is still jailed in the commune police cell.

One person arrested in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

Information dated 7 September 2017 indicates that as of 2 September 2017, in Buhimba, Murore zone, Busoni commune, Kirundo province, a 62-year- old, Pascal Ndabukira, UPRONA party member was arrested by Imbonerakure youth and Buhimba hill leader. The latter accusing him of raping a young girl Sandrine Niyonkuru aged 14 years old. According to Pascal Ndabukira, he was arrested because he refused to join CNDD-FDD party and the rape is a set up. The same sources indicate that Pascal claimed innocence demanding to check the girl to prove if she was raped or not in order to prove his innocence. The medical examination was done and showed nothing of rape but the girl continues claiming she was raped. Pascal Ndabukira remains jailed at PJ Kirundo.

Two people arrested in Gitega province

Information dated on 5 September 2017 indicates that on 3 September 2017, in the morning, Ezekiel Tuyishemeze and Gylaine Munyemana, all FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing were arrested while in a meeting the administration considered as illegal. The meeting was held to Paul Ntatama's. They were thirty but some were able to escape. Both are jailed in Gitega police cell.

A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karusi province

As of September 9, 2017, Thomas, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing and studies prefect at Buhiga communal High School, Karusi province was arrested by the police. According to sources on site, about fifteen policemen commissioned by the commissioner Donatien Bizimana climbed a wall to Septime Bizimana's, the owner of the house where Thomas was a tenant, demolished the padlocks of the gates and then entered by force. They explained they were looking for Thomas. These police officers arrested him and then taken him to Karusi police station cell. Police sources say he is accused of giving lessons to non-proficient professors, but his colleagues in FNL party say he is rather victim of his political affiliation to Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing.

A person arrested in Bwiza urban zone , Bujumbura City

On September 7, 2017, Sarah Rwaka, a resident of Jabe quarter, was arrested at home by SNR agents. She was accused of holding Rwandan documents.

Seven people arrested in Rumonge commune and province

Information dated 4 September 2017 indicates that seven young people from Busenge hill, Muhuta commune, were arrested by police and young Imbonerakure in Minago, Rumonge commune and province on 27 August 2017. According to local sources, these young people were heading to Tanzania for work hunting. Accused of leaving for armed groups, they were jailed in Rumonge police cell before being released on 4 September 2017. They returned directly to their commune of Muhuta and gave up their intention to go to Tanzania.

Two people arrested in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province

As of September 4, 2017, on Rurambira hill, Mayuyu zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province, Jean claude Nkurunziza, Didier Nimubona, all members of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing were arrested by the police. According to our sources, they were accused of holding an illegal meeting. They were jailed in Mayuyu police cell and denied any visit.

One person arrested in Kibago commune, Makamba province

On September 9, 2017, Gilbert Ndikumana, Jimbi CDS manager and UPRONA member, was arrested by police in Kibago commune, Makamba province on a setup by a CNDD-FDD women's league lady accusing him of attempted rape. This manager spent one day in the cell. After he was released, he was beaten by Kibago post head after the setup failed.

1.5 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Kirundo commune and province

As of September 7, 2017, in Murama, Kirundo commune and province, Samuel, a motorcyclist was arrested in flagrante delicto with a young girl named N, aged 15, the child of a trader named Cuma of Kirundo commune and province. According to sources on site, the perpetrator was jailed in the prosecution cell but people fear he will be released because he is Imbonerakure. The same sources say that Samuel was released while he was arrested in possession of a military Motorola but was not prosecuted.

II. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS

A person aggressed in Musaga urban zone, Bujumbura City

As of 7 September 2017, around 10:00 pm, the policemen guarding General Gervais Ndirakobuca, alias Ndakugarika, physically aggressed that general's neighbor named Innocent Nduwayo, an RTNB employee, living in Kinanira IV quarter, Musaga urban zone, Bujumbura City. They ordered him to sit on earth, guns to the head and asked him to call his son to come and release him and his wife soon arrived. Threats asking them to flee like others were uttered. He was afterwards released.

Suspension of a hill elected in Bugarama commune, Rumonge province

As of September 4, 2017, Anaclet Ndimurwanko, Cashi hill leader, Bugarama commune, Rumonge province, was provisionally suspended by the commune administrator, Joachim Manirakiza for insubordination, lack of collaboration with the joint security committees and low level of mobilization of the population for development. Anaclet says he was dismissed for political reasons as he is a FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing. He has recurrently refused to join CNDD-FDD party and has opposed night patrols by young Imbonerakure of this hill. His political family denounces political intolerance and accuses the regime to monopolize the administration.

Forced contributions in Kirundo province.

Information dated September 9, 2017 indicates that since August 15, 2017, all motorcyclists in Kirundo province are obliged to pay 500 Bif per day for contribution to CDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, he who does not pay the contribution must be arrested and his motorcycle confiscated at the police station.

Motorcyclists manhandled in Kirundo province

Information received by Iteka League on 10 September 2017 indicates that as of 2 September 2017, motorcyclists were obliged by the head of Imbonerakure in the province, Ahishakiye Abel to make the procession of his friend named Sagatwa who married and the police arrested those who refused to attend this procession.

People beaten by Imbonerakure in Kibago commune, Makamba province

Information received by on 4 September 2017 indicates that on the night of 3 September 2017 a group of young Imbonerakure from Kibago hill, composed of Denis, Emmanuel and Rufyikiri from Rubimba hill, beat up bar owner of Rwahirwa sub hill in Kibago commune. The latter came to close the bars they accused of exceeding closing hours. In addition to bar owners, an Imbonerakure named Leonard who tried to prevent them from beating them without any reason was also beaten.

Two people beaten and fined in Nyabikere commune, Karusi province

On September 7, 2017, Gaëtan and Claver were beaten and fined 200,000 Bif by Imbonerakure youths on Mazita hill, Gatonde zone, Nyabikere commune, Karusi province. According to sources on site, the reason is that Gaëtan and Claver would have found a dead goat of their neighbors in the bush and shared it.

III. OTHER REPORTED FACTS

Simulation of a suicide in Rumonge police cell

On September 7, 2017, Domitien Nyabenda, police officer, service number APN 18968, was arrested after attempting to murder the public prosecutor in Rumonge, Mrs. Donathe Niyonsaba and an economic operator named Ildephonse Ntirandekura. According to the victim's family, a blur hangs over this suicide because they do not understand where the mosquito net and cans used to commit suicide came from. Furthermore, this family did not see the testament written by the victim before committing suicide as announced by Rumonge province governor in a brief speech to the population in front of the police cell. Some sources indicate that the police officer was part of a criminal network and had begun citing some of them. These sources add that Domitien was killed by the SNR to erase all traces and to prevent truth from emerging. The victim was to appear on September 7, 2017 in a flagrancy file.

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, abduction, torture, arbitrary and illegal arrests, targeted to opponents in general and in particular opposition parties' members namely FNL Agathon Rwasa's wing and UPRONA 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;