

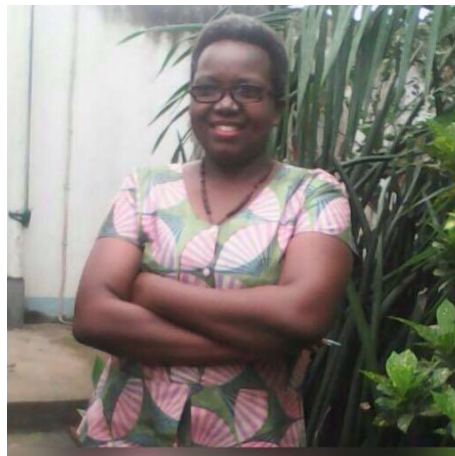
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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°76 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 11-17 September 2017**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 17 September 2017, Iteka has documented at least 445 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## ***ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS***

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

***ECOFO:*** *ECOFO: Fundamental School/Ecole Fondamentale*

***FAB:*** *Burundi Armed Forces*

***FNL:*** *National Liberation Front*

***IUSSDC:*** *Health Science and Community Development Institute*

***OHCDH:*** *United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*

***ONG:*** *Non-Governmental Organization*

***PSG:*** *Protection and Security*

***SNR:*** *National Intelligence Service*

***TGI:*** *High Court*

***ULB:*** *Bujumbura Light University*

***UPD:*** *Union for Peace and Development*

***VBG:*** *Gender Based Violence*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 16 persons killed including 9 corpses, 7 tortured, 16 arbitrarily arrested, 2 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 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 3<sup>rd</sup> term opponents.

Members of the opposition parties, namely those of the FNL wing of Agathon Rwaso and those of UPD Zigamibanga 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 BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

#### **Four people killed and two wounded in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City**

On the night of September 11, 2017, around 8:00 pm, in Mubone quarter, Buterere urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city, on the border of Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, four people including Jeanine Ntakarutimana, Gérard Habimana, Havyarimana and Thierry Ntakarutimanana were killed by unidentified gunmen. According to our sources, the victims were preparing prohibited drinks. The same sources indicate that two others were wounded during the attack.

### **Two people killed and two wounded in Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province**

On September 17, 2017, on the hill and Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province, a 73-year-old Damas Bangurambona and his wife, Marie Nahishakiye, aged 53 years, were savagely killed. Two children of the deceased couple were injured, Francine Kankindi, aged 21 and Estella Nzobakenga, 19 years old. According to Mwakiro commune administrator, Sylvie Muhimpundu, the victims were accused of sorcery.

### **One person killed in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province**

On 17 September 2017, on Kigoganya hill, Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province, Léonie Mbikemunda was killed decapitated. The reasons for the crime are unknown.

### ***1.1.2. BODIES FOUND IN BUSH AND/OR IN RIVER***

#### **A body found in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

On 12 September 2017, a body of an unidentified man was found in Nyakabanda River on Kabizi hill, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province. The victim was naked and had many wounds on the head.

#### **A body found in Musaga urban zone, Bujumbura City**

As of September 11, 2017, a body of a nicknamed Movit was found tied up under Kamesa River Bridge, Musaga urban zone, Bujumbura City. According to sources on site, the victim was a mason and FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing.

#### **A body found in Rumonge commune and province**

On the night of 12-13 September 2017, a body of a nicknamed Rupepo, 62 years old was found in his house on Mutambara hill, Rumonge commune and province. According to sources on site, the victim was killed by unidentified persons and took his bike he used to sell milk. The same sources add that Rupepo refused to participate in the parades of bicycle taxis during the festivities organized by CNDD-FDD party.

#### **A body found in Makamba commune and province**

As of 13 September 2017, a body of an infant named Bellard Icikunze, aged eight months, was found in a septic tank in Makamba II quarter in Makamba commune and province.

### **A body found in Nyabiraba commune, Bujumbura province**

As of September 12, 2017, a body of an unidentified girl was found on Kinyami hill, Nyabiraba commune, Bujumbura province. The hill head Agapithe Nihonankwa confirmed this and said the girl had mental disorders and added she had just spent 4 days in a church to be delivered. Three people including the head of this church located on Kinyami hill were arrested for investigation reasons.

### **A corpse found in Muruta commune, Kayanza province**

On September 16, 2017, in the morning, the body of Aloys was found in Muruta commune, Kayanza province. According to sources on site, the victim was a cloth seller at Kayanza market.

### **Two bodies found in Gitega commune and province**

As of September 14, 2017, a body of Déogratias Uwisezerano, native of Nyamugari quarter in Gitega town, was found on Songa hill, Gitega commune and province. On-site sources indicate that he was killed strangled by unidentified persons.

The same day another corpse of a woman named Suavis Ntahondereye, aged 31, from Rutegama hill, Gitega province was found hanging on a rope in her home. Jeremie Hatungimana, head of Rutegama hill, said the victim would have committed suicide because the cohabitation with her husband was not good.

### **A body found in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province**

As of 14 September 2017, a body of an unidentified person was found in a field, on Masazi hill, Biyorwa zone, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province. According to sources on site, the owner of the field in which the corpse was found informed the head of Biyorwa zone and Butaganzwa commune administrator. The latter ordered the burial of this corpse without any investigation.

## ***1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING***

### **A person abducted in Gihosha urban zone, Bujumbura City**

As of 12 September 2017, around 7:00 am, Leopold Habarugira, UPD-Zigamibanga party treasurer was abducted by three unidentified armed persons in a vehicle near the IUSSDC located down the ULB in Gihosha urban zone, Bujumbura City. According to sources on site, Leopold was jogging with his wife when he was abducted. Police spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye said he was unaware of the abduction.

### **One person abducted and reported missing in Bujumbura City**

On September 15, 2017, a young man named Olivier Ndayikunda from Nyamugari hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karusi province was abducted by unidentified people in Bujumbura city where he worked. According to his family sources in Karusi province, no news of him since then.

### ***1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND POLICEMEN***

#### **Four people tortured in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

As of September 12, 2017, Lin Niyomukiza, demobilized ex-FAB, Ildephonse owner of a bar attacked by young Imbonerakure from Rubimba hill, Tresor Nkunuzumwe and Thierry, both students at ECOFO Kibago were tortured by Kibago police station head, Jean Bosco Hatungimana. They have injuries but have so far not been allowed to go for treatment. According to sources on site, among the 10 people arrested in the fighting on 9 September 2017, six were released on 12 September 2017, while the above mentioned four continue being tortured in the cell they are jailed.

#### **A person tortured in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke Province**

On the night of September 13, 2017, around 8:00 pm on Kagazi hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Evariste Ndayishimiye, a 23-year-old member of CNDD-FDD party, was beaten up by Imbonerakure youth of this area. According to our sources, the alleged perpetrators were not prosecuted.

#### **A person tortured in Gihogazi commune, Karusi province**

On 12 September 2017, on Rutegama hill, Munanira zone, Gihogazi commune, Karusi province, a man named Jean Marie Simukirana was beaten up by two Imbonerakure, Principe Ntakarutimana and Sylvestre. According to sources on site, they accused him of insurrections.

#### **A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province**

As of September 15, 2017, Prime Mugimbi, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was beaten up by Imbonerakure, Minani and Kamwenubusa on Nyarusange hill, Rango commune, Kayanza

province, accusing him of listening to Humura. He complained to the zone head and he told him that he only receives complaints from those who attended the 2015 elections.

#### ***1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS***

##### **Ten people arrested in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On September 9, 2017, Leonard Harushingoro, retired ex-FAB, Lin Niyomukiza, demobilized ex-FAB, Jérôme Kabura, Franck, Ildefonse, Thierry, Boris, Nshimirimana a soldier on leave and two others unidentified were arrested by Kibago post head Jean Bosco Hatungimana before being beaten up by a group of young Imbonerakure. They were arrested after a fight with Imbonerakure accompanied by Kibago zone head Phenias Kabura. According to sources on site, this group of Imbonerakure attacked people to Ildefonse's bar. They were accused of holding an illegal meeting. These Imbonerakure come from Rubimba hill to regularly impose a curfew in Kibago.

##### **A person jailed in Rumonge commune and province**

On September 13, 2017, Léopold Mugabaranoga, a teacher at Iteba Lycee and FNL member of Agathon Rwaswa's wing, was released by Rumonge TGI on the charges weighing on him of attempted rape of a pupil of this school but surprisingly he has not been released from Rumonge prison where he has been jailed since June 2017.

Rumonge prosecutor's office appealed, but the principle is that he should be released and then appear free, said his lawyer who said he was surprised and disappointed.

Sources on site say the governor of Rumonge province interferes in this affair because the director of this Iteba Lycee who has imprisoned this teacher is the wife of the Governor of Rumonge province. This teacher remains in prison despite the court decision.

##### **One person arrested in Musaga urban zone , Bujumbura City**

On 16 September 2017, Mélance Mugisha, UPD-Zigamibanga party member was arrested between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue by police from Musaga urban zone position, Muha commune, Bujumbura City. According to sources on site, these police officers took his phone and his purse before embarking him. The reason for this arrest is not known. According to his relatives, he was reportedly taken to the SNR cell nearby Regina Mundi Cathedral.



### **One person arrested in Busoni commune, Kirundo province**

As of September 11, 2017, 22-year-old Eric, Imbonerakure, was arrested on Gisenyi hill, Busoni commune, Kirundo province, by his Imbonerakure colleagues accompanied by Gisenyi zone head named Célestin Rurasuzugura before being taken to Gisenyi zone cell. According to sources on site, Sinzinkayo Eric was arrested because he had refused the Imbonerakure to divert aid from the Pentecostal Church for the vulnerable. Eric distributed this assistance to beneficiaries.

### **A soldier arrested in Buhiga commune, Karusi province**

As of September 11, 2017, around 7:00 pm, on the hill, Buhiga zone and commune, the household of a soldier named Gérard, a driver at the 4<sup>th</sup> Military Region of Muyinga, was searched by soldiers from Kamahoro Camp in Karusi province. According to sources on site, a military dungaree was found there. According to the same sources, the soldier was dismissed, accused by his commander that he would have transported brooms of a trader from Kayanza into Rwanda but in reality his commander was seeking at all costs to get rid of this ex-FAB driver, suspected as his ex-FAB colleagues of being in contact with rebel movements. After this decision, he decided to go and complain to the General Staff in Bujumbura and instead of hearing him and restoring his rights, he was arrested and taken to one of the military police cells in Bujumbura.

### **Two people arrested in Nyabikere commune, Karusi province**

As of September 11, 2017, on Rwandagaro hill, Maramvya zone, Nyabikere commune, two Rwandan electricians were arrested by the commune administrator Claver Nakumuryango who accused them of being suspicious of trouble makers and were taken to Nyabikere commune police cell. According to local sources, they went there to repair Nyabikere dam being rehabilitated.

### **A person arrested in Nyabikere commune, Karusi province**

On 15 September 2017, on Butamenwa hill, Rugwiza zone, Nyabikere commune, Karusi province, a man named Ibrahim was arrested by police and then taken to Nyabikere commune police cell. He was accused of sorcery.

## ***1.5. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE***

### **A girl raped in Makamba commune and province**

Information dated 11 September 2017 indicates that as of 6 September 2017 Erisha Rukoto, elected to Makamba II quarter and member of Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD party youth league in Makamba commune and province, who raped a girl named K was arrested and released under

the cover of Makamba commune administrator Japhet Ntungwanayo. The alleged rapist would be HIV/AIDS positive.

## ***II. INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS***

### **Night patrols by Imbonerakure in Rutana province**

As of 12 September 2017, around 3:00 am on Munyika hill, Kayero zone, Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province, the Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD party of that area night patrolled chanting party slogans and insults against the opposition parties they consider as rebels.

### **Demonstration of the Imbonerakure in Bujumbura City**

On 16 September 2017, around 10:00 am, the CNDD-FDD party demonstrated in Bujumbura city. In this event, there were police pick-up vehicles without plates and SNR ones with CNDD-FDD party flags. A double cabin vehicle with loudspeakers sounded songs like "*Genda Niyombare warahemutse*" (go Niyombare you were dishonest). The demonstrators brandished slogans like "*turuzuye 2020 ntimukorako*" (we are strong in numbers 2020 we cannot be defeated). During these demonstrations, all activities and traffic were paralyzed (people passing nearby them were forced to leave and the Imbonerakure remained in the avenues to guide pedestrians and vehicle traffic. In his speech, the party's General Secretary, Evariste Ndayishimiye, urged these activists to stand up, fear nothing, have a hard heart, love their country and be ready to die for the nation because the baby they waited a long time will soon be born.

### **Forced contributions to the Province of Rutana**

As of 13 September 2017, on Mungwa, Musagara and Munywero hills of Ngoma zone, Musongati commune, Rutana province, the population of these hills was forced by CNDD-FDD ruling party representatives on these hills to contribute 2000 Bif each to build this party office but the population laments saying this is not a contribution. It is forced recovery as a contribution is voluntary.

### **Participation by fear in provincial ceremonies in Cankuzo**

As of September 13, 2017, the torch of peace ceremonies in Cankuzo took place from Ruvubu River separating Cankuzo and Musinga to Ruru Bridge separating Cankuzo and Ruyigi. According to local sources, forced mobilization was observed at all levels of the hill, commune and province. All those responsible at all levels, whether of the ruling CNDD-FDD party or not were present, including those in charge of security, defense, justice, traders, private sector employees, etc. All government vehicles and NGOs were mobilized.

### **Paramilitary training of the Imbonerakure in Kirundo province**

Information received by Iteka League on 17 September 2017 indicates that in Murehe Nature Reserve near the Rwandan border, a movement of the Imbonerakure has resumed since the rumors on the social networks of a list of authorities would be incriminated by the ICC. According to sources on site, this movement had ceased for lack of supply. This movement is supported by Salvator Muvunyi who is CNDD-FDD party commissioner in Busoni commune and transports them in his probox vehicle under the orders of the MP Jean Baptiste Nzigamasabo alias Gihaha.

### **Extortion of administration in Bururi province**

Information received by Iteka League on 17 September 2017 indicates that from 7 September 2017 to date, more than 400 ha of eucalyptus plantation in Vyanda commune, 300 ha in Bururi commune and 250 ha in Rutovu commune were burned down in view of local officials. According to sources on site, the administrators of the above-mentioned communes take advantage to fine to enrich themselves instead of sensitizing to halt these malpractices that damage environment.

### **People manhandled by Imbonerakure in Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province**

On September 11, 2017, around 3:00 pm, on Nyagoba hill, in Bugenyuzi commune and commune, Karusi province, the ruling party representative on this hill named Blaise Riyazimana ordered the Imbonerakure to enter all the married illegally households and fine them in case of resistance, after the hill head knew it and asked to stop this upheaval. A conflict between two responsible occurred. The bashingantahe intervened and fined 20,000 Bif this ruling party chair.

### **Arrests and torture by Imbonerakure in Bururi province**

Information received by the Iteka League on 16 September 2017 indicates that in Bururi province Imbonerakure beat and arrest people and then take them to the police cell. According to sources on the spot, since the beginning of September 2017, three people, Dieudonné Nimubona, Eric Havyarimana and the nicknamed Sete of Gatohe sub-hill, Mugozi hill, Bururi zone were beaten by the Imbonerakure and Dieudonné Nimubona was taken at Bururi hospital for treatment. The same incident occurred in Musebeyi area where two people were beaten by accusing them of selling a local beverage known as "Igiti". According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure are sent by CNDD-FDD party leaders and if they succeed in arresting them, they earn 20 000 Bif at the rate of 10 000 Bif before leaving to search for the people to be arrested and 10 000 Bif after

bringing these people. The Imbonerakure involved in these despicable acts are Diomedes, Gitara, Aimable, Minani and others. The majority of these Imbonerakure are domestic workers.

### ***III. OTHER REPORTED FACTS***

#### **Attack on OHCHR offices in Rohero urban zone , Bujumbura City**

As of 13 September 2017, an armed group broke into OHCHR offices in Burundi before hijacking PSG security agents in INSS quarter, Makamba Avenue, Rohero urban zone, Bujumbura City. According to sources on site, the perpetrators had prefabricated keys and the damage is not yet known. Police spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye said police were not informed of the attack while General Prosecutor Sylvestre Nyandwi confirmed the attack was carried out by six people, including one armed on September 14, 2017. He added that investigations are ongoing.

#### **Fire in Gitega province**

As of September 16, 2017, a fire devastated Giheta market in Gitega province. Half of the market went up in smoke and the other was saved by a fire truck. The origin of the fire is unknown but sources on site say the fire came from a kiosk near the market.

#### **Weapons found in Mugamba commune, Bururi province**

As of 15 September 2017, on Gakaranka and Mukike hills, in Nyagasasa zone of Mugamba, Bururi province, three Kalashnikov-type rifles, three grenades, 255 rounds of ammunition, one bayonet and military pants were seized by soldiers on patrol in an afforestation. According to sources, the military reportedly received information that paramilitary training was taking place in the area, but no one was arrested. The same sources add that a rifle was discovered on 14 September 2017 on Kiroha hill, Gisarenda zone, Matana commune. According to the population of Mugamba and Matana communes, it is a setup to arrest people without just cause.

#### **Attack on a household in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On the night of September 14, 2017, around 11:00 pm, in the quarter called Darfur, on Maramvya hill 15<sup>th</sup> street, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, an old man named Pierre Rurakengereza was attacked by a group of Imbonerakure headed by Nshimirimana alias Shimwe. According to our sources, the victim had sold his plot and these Imbonerakure stole all the amount from the sale of this plot. These Imbonerakure ordered this old man to say nothing or risk execution. The next morning, Pierre Rurakengereza complained to the Maramvya zone head named Moise Bucumi but these Imbonerakure were not prosecuted.

#### ***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 UPD-Zigamibanga are also reported.

The phenomenon of corpses is also reported in this bulletin.

Armed attacks by unidentified gunmen are reported in this bulletin and are source of insecurity.

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;