

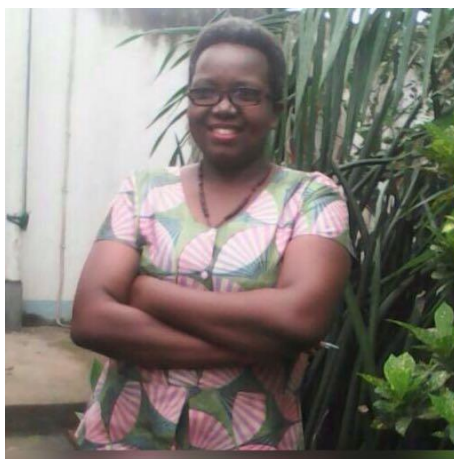
Approved by Ministerial Order n ° 530/0273 of 10 November 1994 revising Order No. 550 /029 of 6 February 1991



"Is a member of the Inter-African Union of Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), has observer status to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and has special consultative status to the ECOSOC"

Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°78 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 25 September - 1 October 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 1 October 2017, Iteka has documented at least 447 cases of enforced disappearances.

CONTENTS

PAGES

0. INTRODUCTION.....4

I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS4

I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RIGHT TO LIFE.....4

I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE.....4

I.1.2. BODIES FOUND IN BUSH5

I.1.3. PERSONS KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLING OF SCORES5

I.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE.....4

I.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICEMEN, SOLDIERS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS6

I.4 INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS8

II. OTHER REPORTED FACTS.....8

III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....10

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ASBL: *Non-profit Organization*

CDS: *Health Center*

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

FAB: *Burundi armed forces*

FM: *Frequency modulation*

LC: *Communal Lycee*

SOSUMO: *Moso Sugar Plant*

SNR: *National Intelligence Service*

UNDP: *United Nations Development Programme*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 8 persons killed including 4 corpses, 1 tortured and 40 arbitrarily arrested.

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 and arbitrary arrests of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3rd term opponents.

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 IMBONERAKURE

One person killed in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On the night of 26-27 September 2017, at the Seventh Avenue on Cibitoke hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Célestin Nzobaratumye, 64 years old, farmer, CNDD-FDD party member, was killed by Imbonerakure youths from this area. According to our sources, they beat him to death by accusing him of having bewitched a young man. Célestin Nzobaratumye died at Cibitoke province police station.

One person killed in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province

Information received by Iteka League on September 25, 2017 indicates that on September 24, 2017, around 3:00 pm, on Sigi hill, Ruzibazi zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province, Misago of the Twa social component was beaten to death by Imbonerakure including Bahezayo. According to our sources, the victim succumbed to his injuries before arriving at the hospital.

1.1.2. BODIES FOUND IN BUSH

A body found in Burambi commune, Rumonge province

On September 25, 2017, around 3:00 pm, a corpse of 54-year-old Emmanuel Habonimana, was found in afforestation in mid-day on Gitaramuka hill, Murago zone, Burambi commune, Rumonge province. According to sources on site, Emmanuel Habonimana was killed from a bar by unidentified gunmen.

A body found in Giheta commune, Gitega province

As of September 27, 2017, a dead body of an unidentified person was found on Masasu hill, Giheta commune, Gitega province. The sources on site indicate the victim's body, stabbed, was in a pit on a rubble site. The victim was buried in rush.

A body found in Ryansoro commune, Gitega province

As of September 27, 2017, a body of an old man named Pontien Niragira, aged 75, was found on Kamenzi hill, Ryansoro commune, Gitega Province. On-site sources indicate the his body was found hanging on a rope and the perpetrators of the crime were not identified.

A corpse found in Ryansoro commune, Gitega province

Information received by Iteka League on 25 September 2017 indicates that on 21 September 2017 the body of an unidentified man was found in a valley below the Rusaga hill, Rweza zone, Ryansoro, Gitega province. This man lived on the same hill.

1.1.3. PERSONS KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE AND/OR SETTLING OF SCORES

One person killed in Makamba commune and province

On September 29, 2017, a young man named Fabrice died stabbed by his colleague named Gushima. According to sources on site, the latter stabbed him as he tried to intervene in a dispute between him and his father.

One person killed in Bukirasazi commune, Gitega province

As of the evening of 29 September 2017, Valentin Nzeyimana, aged 52, from Rwinyana hill, Bukirasazi commune, Gitega province, was burnt alive on the same hill by the local population, who caught him possession of stolen pig and cassava, according to Bukirasazi police. Two people were arrested for investigation reasons

1.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Kirundo commune and province

As of September 30, 2017, Ciza Jean of Rambo hill, Kirundo commune, Kirundo province was beaten up by policemen of the position at Bene Bernadette Sisters near Kanyinya parish accused of unknowingly passing close to their residence while there was a way long ago but barred since their arrival.

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

Twelve people arrested in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City

As of September 29, 2017, a search was carried out by soldiers and policemen accompanied by Mutakura quarter head Adelin Ndikumasabo on the 13th, 14th and 15th avenues, Cibitoke urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city. Twelve people were arrested, including seven men and five women and taken to Cibitoke urban zone police station . The reason for this arrest was that their notebooks did not have the zone stamp. They were released after paying a ransom ranging from 1000 Bif to 5000 Bif.

Six people arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura City

As of September 27, 2017, a search and control of household notebooks was carried out by police and soldiers in Jabe III quarter, Bwiza urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, six house workers were arrested including Nsabiyumva Emmanuel, Nyandwi Violette, Chanique and three others unidentified for lack of house workers service cards. They released after paying a ransom ranging between 2000 Bif and 5000 Bif.

Three people arrested in Matana commune, Bururi province

Information dated 25 September 2017 indicates that on 25 September 2017, 3 people including Hakizimana Pascal, Nduwamungu and Marc Karorero are jailed in Matana commune police cell. According to sources on site, the reason for these arrests remains unknown. According to information from the community, the three people were arrested for political reasons.

Two people arrested in Mutambu commune, Bujumbura rural province

As of September 26, 2017, around 4:00 pm, on Gomvyi hill and zone, Mutambu commune, rural Bujumbura province, Claude Nzorubara and Eddy Nkengurutse, FNL members of Agathon

Rwasa's wing were arrested by the police accompanied by two Imbonerakure including Ruhara and Claude . According to our sources, they are accused of holding an illegal meeting and were taken to Mutambu commune police cell.

Four people arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

Information received on 25 September 2017 indicates that as of 23 September 2017, in Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Julien Nimubona, Mushasha I hill-leader, was arrested by Imbonerakure on Gaharawe hill and he was taken to Gatumba police brigade. According to our sources, Julien Nimubona was in a mourning celebration of Élysée Nihezagira, 8th form student at Gatumba LC, killed by Imbonerakure, led by a certain Dieudonné on September 19, 2017, at the place called Kukarago, near Safari's bar, on Gaharawe hill, Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province. As of September 25, 2017, police searched Mushasha I hill and three persons were arrested including Jimmy Rukundo, Roger Ndayishimiye and Lazare Hatungimana. Julien Nimubona and these three people were taken to Bujumbura. According to the same sources, Julien Nimubona is accused of collaborating and hiding rebels. Their families have sought the place where they are jailed in vain.

Twelve persons arrested in Butihinda commune, Muyinga province

As of September 30, 2017, twelve persons, Desire Habiyakare, Jamborito Logatien, Cyprien Banyiyezako, Laurent Ntawuyamara, Diomede Niyonsaba, Ntahokagiye, Libert Buzoya, Nsabimbona, Leonard Kaziri, Jules Ntahorutaba and Ngabo were arrested by SNR agents in collaboration with security guards and province authorities on Mugongwa hill in Butihinda commune, Muyinga province. According to our source in Butihinda, these people would be followers of a church not recognized by the law. They were arrested by the province governor, Aline Manirabarusha and the SNR head in that province while they were in prayer and then taken to a hitherto unknown place. The same source confirms that the population fears for their safety because no one was informed of their place of detention.

A person arrested in Makamba commune and province

As of 1 October 2017, around 11:00 am, Serges Sindyigaya, a teacher and Bonesha FM correspondent was arrested by police officers on instructions from Makamba province governor. He was later taken to Makamba police station. According to sources on site, this governor accused him of continuing working as journalist while Bonesha FM was closed. He was released on Sunday night but his telephone sets were handed over to him after copying contacts and data.

1.4 INTIMIDATION BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS

Night patrols of Imbonerakure in Mutaho commune, Gitega province

As of September 20, 2017, a group of young Imbonerakure on night patrols on Mutaho hill, zone and commune, Gitega province prevented 6 people from traveling to Tanzania. According to sources on site, it was around 5:00 am when these young Imbonerakure barred the way and beat up these people.

II. OTHER REPORTED FACTS

Attack of gunmen in Gitega

As of September 27, 2017, a group of gunmen attacked the prosecutor's home in Gitega province, Thérèse Niyongabo in Nyabututsi quarter of Gitega city. Sources on site say these criminals on board an unregistered black vehicle broke into Therese Niyongabo's house and ordered them to give them money. They also stole a laptop, a radio set, two cell phones and various service documents. Apart from the stolen material, this information says no one was killed or wounded by these perpetrators.

Child trafficking in Rutana province

As of September 27, 2017, on Mabawe hill, Shanga zone, Musongati commune, Rutana province, 8 children were abducted and caught in Bukemba commune when they were heading to Tanzania, according to sources on site. They say that Abel, 37aged, told them they were going to look for work in Tanzania. Abel was arrested by Musongati police station police and taken to Musongati police station cell.

As of September 28, 2017, in Musongati zone, Musongati commune, Rutana province, there were more than 10 children who were caught in Bukemba commune when they were heading to Tanzania for work search.

Forced repatriation in Cankuzo province

On 27 September 2017, in a meeting of heads of services, Jothan Nikora, deputy commissioner for migration office in Cankuzo province, reported that out of the 118 Burundians repatriated to Burundi via Gasenyi II migration office, Mburi hill, Camazi zone, Gisagara commune, only 65 individuals who do not have or go are left. Most of them are children and their mothers, others have left one by one, no one knows if they have returned home or returned to Tanzania or have requested accommodation in households of Gasenyi small center, to ask province authority to facilitate the remaining 65 to return home. The Governor, Desire Njiji, with a harsh tone, uttered these hate

words: *"You must hit them hard, what did they flee? How did they arrive in the country? They should be beaten up, whoever wants can go back home or to Tanzania."* The deputy commissioner added: *"These people were whipped in Tanzania side and were loaded into trucks by force. Many participants criticized these comments with hatred towards these returnees.*

Explosion of grenade in Bururi commune and province

On September 26, 2017 at 5:00 pm, a grenade exploded near Kabuye stadium in Bururi commune. According to sources on site, no human and material damage was recorded. The same source indicates that there is a proliferation of small arms light weapons and may be the distribution of weapons in Bururi province by SNR services.

Discovery of three guns in Bururi commune and province

In the morning of October 27, 2017, on Burunda hill, Bururi commune, and province, 3 Kalashnikov rifles were found hidden. Information from administration says criminals would have hidden them to attack at night.

Appearance of 18 ex-FAB soldiers at Ngozi Court of Appeal

As of 29 September 2017, 18 soldiers were prosecuted in the case of the attack on Mukoni military camp in Musinga in January 2017, appeared before Ngozi Court of Appeal, assisted by their lawyers and supported by the Legal Aid Project of the Ministry of Justice and UNDP. After a short hearing, the case was postponed to October 12, 2017.

Suspension of the activities of an ASBL in the commune and province Rumonge

As of September 30, 2017, Rumonge province governor, Juvénal Bigirimana, suspended the activities of "NIHAGACIRO" association composed of 2,700 women, mostly widows and the divorced. The latter prepared meals for fishermen and had just received funding from the French Embassy in Burundi. This suspension would be linked to the speech of the French ambassador to Burundi, Laurent Delahousse at the official launch of the project saying their funding no longer passes through the government but directly to the beneficiaries.

III. 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 alleged opponents to CNDD-FDD regime 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 and night patrols 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 Imbonerakure League youth, policemen, soldiers and administrative agents involved in human rights violations and intimidation of the population.