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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°81 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 16-22 October 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 22 October 2017, Iteka has documented at least 456 cases of enforced disappearances.

CONTENTS

PAGES

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS3

0. INTRODUCTION4

I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS4

I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RIGHT TO LIFE4

I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY POLICEMEN4

I.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS4

I.1.3. BODIES FOUND IN THE BUSH AND/OR IN THE RIVER5

I.2. PEOPLE ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING5

I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS5

I.4 PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICE, SOLDIERS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS5

I.5. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE7

I.6 INTIMIDATIONS BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS8

II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED8

III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS10

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS : *Health Center*

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

ECOFO : *Fundamental School/Ecole Fondamentale*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

ONG : *Non Governmental Organisation*

ONU-Femmes: *UN-Women*

PAFE : *Immigration Authority*

PJ : *Judicial Police*

PNB : *National Police of Burundi*

RBP+ : *Network of Persons Living with HIV*

RDC : *Democratic Republic of Congo*

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 4 corpses, 2 reported missing, 1 tortured, 9 arbitrarily arrested 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, abduction, 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.

1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF RIGHT TO LIFE

1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY POLICEMEN

A person killed in Rumonge commune and province

On 21 October 2017, Moussa Ibrahimu Nduwayo was shot dead by a police officer guarding Rumonge police cell. This victim lived on Rutumo hill, Minago zone, Rumonge commune and province. He was charged with robbery. Police sources say he was shot dead during an escape attempt, but his family says there are grey areas surrounding this so-called escape. Another detainee would have committed suicide in the same cell in early September 2017. A policeman named Domitien Nyabenda who was being prosecuted for an assassination attempt against the public prosecutor in Rumonge while other sources say he was killed.

1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

One person killed and five wounded in Mugina commune Cibitoke province

On 16 October 2017, at around 9:00 pm, Josiane Inamahoro, a 15-year girl was killed and 5 others from the same family were seriously injured by a grenade thrown at Rugajo hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province. According to sources on site, a group of unidentified men armed with grenades and threw a grenade into the household of a 52-year-old CNDD-FDD farmer, Ismael Ntacobita, when all family members were having supper. The same sources add that some of the victims were

taken to Cibitoke hospital for intensive care while others were transferred to Bujumbura. Two people have already been arrested by the police for investigation reasons.

A person killed in Gitega commune and province

On the night of 17-18 October 2017, around 2:00 am, on Bwoga hill, Gitega commune and province, Charles Ndaruzaniye, aged 62, was killed. He was married and father of five children and was the watchman of a shop belonging to a merchant named Salvator Ndikumana, alias Kabosi. Sources on site report that a group of bandits attacked the watchman at his workplace and strangled him and then left without stealing anything. The same sources add that the neighbors quickly intervened but the victim was already in critical condition and died at 3:00 am at hospital where he had been rushed.

1.1.3. BODIES FOUND IN THE BUSH AND/OR IN THE RIVER

A body found in Bururi commune and province

On October 17, 2017, a body of a woman named Julie Niyokwizigira, aged 35, was found stabbed in her home on Rushemeza hill, Bururi commune and province. According to sources on site, the woman was found in her house located on this hill. Two people were arrested for investigation reasons. On-site sources say the victim has been reported missing since October 14, 2017.

A body found in Matongo commune, Kayanza province

On 17 October 2017, a body of Aline Nijimbere was seen by the population in Nyawisesera River on Burarana hill, Matongo commune, Kayanza province. Police reports say the girl drowned in the river.

A body found in Songa commune, Bururi province

Information received by Iteka Ligue on October 16, 2017 indicates that on October 15, 2017, a corpse of a woman named Frédiane Kankindi was found in Jiji River, according to sources on site. Her husband, a soldier, is blamed for killing her. He was arrested and then taken to Bururi police station cell for investigation purposes.

A body found in Bururi commune and province

Information received by Iteka Ligue on 16 October 2017 indicates that on 15 October 2017, in the morning, a corpse of Concilie, a lady in her twenties, mother of two children, was found on Kagwa hill, Bamba zone, commune and Bururi province, according to local sources.

1.2. PEOPLE ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING

A person abducted and reported missing in Gitega commune and province

Information received by Iteka Ligue on 22 October 2017 indicates that Fabrice Niyomwungere, an Imbonerakure from Mwayi sub hill, Rutegama hill, Gitega commune and province was reported missing three weeks ago. According to sources on site, Fabrice got on the bike of two Imbonerakure from Bujumbura and he was not seen again. His friends searched but did not find him.

A person reported missing in Muramvya commune and province

A non-commissioned officer named Gaston Cishahayo, originating from Mabanda commune, Makamba province, attached to Muramvya police station was reported missing since 19 October 2017 at around 5:00 am. According to sources on site, Gaston went to Bujumbura the same day and returned to Muramvya in the afternoon. He left home around 2:00 pm and has not been seen ever since. The same source indicates that Gaston Cishahayo was a veteran of FNL movement before joining the national defense and security forces.

1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person tortured in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province

On 16 October 2017, Lewis Nyandwi, alias Wakenya, a disabled man and watchman at Mukungu fishing port was tortured by Audace Nduwayo, Mukungu zone head, along with police officers from the local position in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province. The zone head accused him of collaborating with Yakutumba rebel movement working in eastern DRC.

1.4 PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS, POLICE, SOLDIERS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On October 18, 2017, Muntunibanga, from Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province was arrested at Mutimbuzi commune office on the order of Mutimbuzi communal council head Jérôme Nzokirantevye. According to our sources, the communal council head told Muntunibanga that he no longer wants to see him at Mutimbuzi commune office because he left CNDD-FDD party. The victim was jailed in Mutimbuzi commune police cell.

A person arrested in Mbuye commune, Muramvya province

On 16 October 2017, Rogatienne Niyonzima from Mbuye IDP site, more than 40 years old was arrested in the evening by SNR agents and jailed in Muramvya police cell. Sources on site indicate that she was arrested when she was in one of the bars of the site. The same sources say she was taken aboard a vehicle with tinted windows and taken to Muramvya judicial police cell. Rogatienne

Niyonzima would be accused of facilitating some displaced people from Kibumbu site to flee into Rwanda. His family members fear for his security.

A person arrested in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Iteka Ligue on 22 October 2017 indicates that on 12 October 2017, a 32-year-old driver, Aaron, was arrested at Gasenyi-Nemba border, Bishisha hill, Gisenyi zone, Busoni commune, province Kirundo. According to sources on site, Aaron was accused of leaking secret to returnees from Rwanda to hide their money and not to tell the PAFE that they come from Mahama refugee camp so that their property are not looted by police and Imbonerakure. The PNB province commissioner arrested him and took him to PJ Kirundo cell.

A person arrested in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province

On 16 October 2017, Jean Claude Bihumugani, living on Bugorora hill, Rusaka commune, Mwaro province, teacher at ECOFO Bugorora was arrested and taken to PJ Mwaro cell by the police. According to sources on site, he was accused of possessing a grenade in his house, something he categorically denies. According to Jean Claude, he is in conflict with an Imbonerakure of the same hill which would be at the origin of his arrest. The arrest took place without any evidence as was no search was carried out.

Five people arrested in Rutana commune and province

On the afternoon of October 21, 2017, five people were arrested by Rutana commune administrator Isidora Nkundizanye with young Imbonerakure including Désiré Nduwimana, Isidore Sindabakira and Sinzumunsi of CNDD-FDD ruling party on Jomati hill, Rutana commune and province. According to sources on site, they were accused of holding an illegal meeting with Godeberte Hatungimana, MP from AMIZERO Y'ABARUNDI coalition. According to sources on site, the latter was beaten up by these Imbonerakure. FNL members of Agathon RWASA's wing in Rutana province denounce the intimidation suffered by the members of this party.

1.5. CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Bubanza commune and province

Information received by Iteka Ligue on October 16, 2017 indicates that during the night of 9-10 October 2017, on Bubanza city center, Bubanza commune, a 13-year-old N.G girl was raped by Leonidas Bigirimana, 17 years old. According to our sources, the victim was accompanied and followed up by RBP + while the perpetrator was arrested and taken to Bubanza province police station and transferred to Bubanza central prison.

I.6 INTIMIDATIONS BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS

Police uniforms found at Imbonerakure in Gahombo commune, Kayanza province

On October 19, 2017, at Ruzingati hill in Gahombo Commune, Kayanza Province, police seized prohibited drinks sold by Imbonerakure Roger and Gerard and also found two police uniforms and boots. These Imbonerakure fled and were not found.

Attack at the home of a civil society member in Matongo commune, Kayanza province

On 18 October 2017, on Ruganza-Bandaga hill, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, at about 1:00 am, Spès-Caritas Inarukundo was attacked at home by Imbonerakure, including Amédée, armed with machetes. A police officer intervened and disarmed an Imbonerakure and all fled. This policeman stayed to guard Spès-Caritas Inarukundo's house on the orders of the province Governor. She is accused of making politics that would incite people not to vote for the ruling party in 2020 through associations she leads, funded by UN-Women. Spès-Caritas Inarukundo works at CDS Matongo and is a civil society activist in Matongo.

A person intimidated in Gitega commune and province

On October 19, 2017, around 9:00 am, a FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, living in Magarama quarter at the place commonly known as Place close to Gitega Court of Appeal, was arrested and searched without a warrant at his home by a man named Onésime, SNR agent in Gitega accompanied by Audace nicknamed Makado, Police Logistics officer in Gitega and a policeman armed with a Kalashnikov.

Jules was released following the intervention of Honorable Thérance elected in Gitega in Amizero y'abarundi coalition.

II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

Destruction of a tomb in Kirundo province

On the night of 18 October 2017, the grave of administrator Stany Misago buried on 12 October 2017 was destroyed by men not yet identified according to sources on site. His family is terrified and wonders who can do this vile act while the Imbonerakure do night patrols.

A prisoner caught with a gun in Bubanza commune and province

On October 22, 2017, in Bubanza commune and province, Samuel Ndikumana nicknamed General, jailed at Bubanza central prison was caught with a pistol-type gun when he was close to 'Amis du savoir' hotel in Bubanza. According to our sources, Samuel Ndikumana was jailed in Bubanza prison for murder. He was then taken to Bubanza police cell.

Attempted assassination in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On October 18, 2017, in Rubirizi zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura Rural province, a policeman named Salvator Kinuma shot and wounded his wife Jeannette Niyongere. The policeman fled to Kamenge urban zone but he was arrested and taken to Rubirizi zone police cell.

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, abduction, torture, arbitrary and illegal arrests, targeted to CNDD-FDD regime opponents are also reported.

The phenomenon of corpses is also reported in this bulletin.

GBV are also reported in this bulletin.

Intimidation, night patrols and forced contributions by CNDD-FDD Imbonerakure youth in complicity with administration officials 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;