

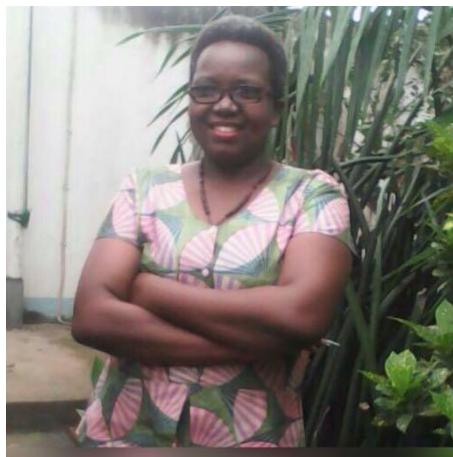
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°82 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 23-29 October 2017



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 29 October 2017, Iteka has documented at least 459 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADISCO	: <i>Support to Integral Development</i>
CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
ICC	: <i>International Criminal Court</i>
EAC	: <i>East African Community</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School/Ecole Fondamentale</i>
EP	: <i>Primary School</i>
FNL	: <i>National Liberation Front</i>
FVS-AMADE	: <i>Family to Win AIDS</i>
OPC	: <i>Chief Police Officer</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
ONG	: <i>Non Governmental Organization</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>
SOBUGEA	: <i>Burundi Airport Authority</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 12 persons killed including 8 corpses, 3 reported missing, 4 tortured and 63 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 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.

Intimidation during meetings with administration officials especially in demonstrations attended by high ranked officials of the country is reported in this bulletin.

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

A person killed in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On October 26, 2017, around 1:00 am, on Gatobo hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Claude Nzoyisaba was slaughtered at home by unidentified people, according to local sources. He sold alcohol in that commune.

A person killed in Matongo commune, Kayanza province

On the night of October 24 to 25, 2017, at around 1:00 am on Kijuri hill, Bugarama zone, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, Antoinette Ntaconishimiye, aged 63, was killed. Sources on site indicate she was slaughtered by unidentified people in front of her home when she was out at night. The reason for her assassination remains unknown. The local administration and the police proceeded to order the burial of the body of the victim without an inquiry to know the reason and the perpetrators of the crime.

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

A body found in Vugizo commune, Makamba province

On 23 October 2017, at around 10:00 pm, a body of Zachée Wakana was found on Gasaka sub-hill, Kagege hill, Mpinga zone, Vugizo commune, Makamba province.

A body found in Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province

On October 26, 2017, on Mbuye hill, Kiguhu zone, Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province, a body of a man named Thierry Irakoze was found in the bush. The perpetrators were unidentified. The police have already started investigations.

A body found in Bugendana commune, Gitega province

On 26 October 2017, in the morning, on Rwingiri hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, a body of Thérence Niyonzima was found hanged on an avocado tree. According to the neighbors, Thérence Niyonzima was a pupil at Kayanza commune High School in second class. He was kicked out of this school because he owned a cell phone and had to report to school with a parent. According to Bugendana commune administrator, the reasons for this assassination are unknown.

A body found in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province

On 23 October 2017, a body of Emmanuel Rwaswa was found on Nyamivuma hill, Bukuba zone, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province. Sources on site indicate this body was seen close to Nzeyimana's home.

A body found in Mukike commune, Bujumbura Rural province

On October 24, 2017, a body of Léonce Ntanguranwa, 58 years old, was found on Ruce sub-hill, Rurandira hill, Mukike commune, Bujumbura Rural province. Sources on site indicate that Léonce Ntanguranwa was attacked by unknown people as he was returning home on Rurandira hill. The same sources add that the victim was slaughtered.

A body found in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On the night of October 26, 2017, in the quarter called Darfur, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura Rural Province, the body of Muzungu was found in Kivogero River. According to our sources, Muzungu was strangled into water by two Imbonerakure from Maramvya zone including Ibrahim Bizimana alias Mafyeri and Shimirimana alias Shimwe. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure strangled him after stripping him of his money. They later forced the hill head named Nzitunga to say Muzungu had epilepsy.

A body found in Bururi commune and province

As of October 28, 2017, in the morning, a body of an unidentified man, about 20 years old, slaughtered and showing signs of torture as he had wounds all over his body was found close to FVS-AMADE Bururi offices, Bururi-Rumonge road, Mugozi hill, Bururi commune and province. According to sources on site, the person would have been killed elsewhere and his body dumped on this road. Police drove the body to Bururi hospital morgue for identification. The perpetrators of this despicable act remain unknown.

A body found in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On 26 October 2017, a body of Odette Sinzobakirana, aged at least 30, was found in the morning on Nyamugari hill, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province. On-site sources indicate that this body was tied up. He was seen by children collecting firewood near Nyamugari secondary school. The same sources add that the corpse was picked by International Committee of the Red Cross agents and took it to Karuzi Hospital morgue. Two people were arrested for investigation reasons.

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

A person killed in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province

On 27 October 2017, on Kibuye hill, Kiremba commune, Ngozi province, Léocadie Ngenzirabona, aged 83, was killed with a machete. The alleged perpetrators, Frederic Macumi, were arrested by the neighbors. According to our sources on site, Frédéric Macumi is a mentally disabled. The neighbors wanted to handle justice and beat him up, then the police intervened. Frederic Macumi was first taken to Kiremba Hospital for health care.

A person killed in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

On 26 October 2017, Innocent Mugabonihera, aged 29, was killed in Busoni commune, Kirundo province. Sources on site indicate he was beaten to death by Charles Bukuru and Pascal Kanyarigabo. The same sources add that the two alleged perpetrators were arrested by the police for investigation reasons.

1.2. PEOPLE ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING

A person of Muramvya province reported missing

On 23 October 2017, Justin Nsabimana, married and father of 3 children, employee of ADISCO association in Bubanza Province, was reported missing. According to our sources, on 20 October 2017, Justin Nsabimana went to Muramvya to see his family. On October 23, 2017, he left Muramvya to Bubanza, but the next day his family learned that theirs did not arrive at the workplace.

Two people abducted in Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province

On October 25, 2017, about 3:00 pm, on Kanyunya hill, Rukina zone, Mukike commune, Bujumbura Rural Province, three Imbonerakure youths led by Claude abducted two people, Nyarwayo and Macumi of the Twa social component. According to our sources on site, they were taken to an unknown destination.

1.3. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

Tortured person in Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province

On 23 October 2017, Jacques Twizere, a teacher at ECOFO Kajaga, was tortured by the CNDD-FDD ruling party youth on Kajaga hill, Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province. In solidarity and to fight against impunity, teachers of the school stopped working. On 25 October 2017, the OPJ in Nyamurenza, Elias Akimana, summoned the two parties for reconciliation.

A person tortured in Giharo commune, Rutana province

On 25 October 2017, at Kabingo hill, Butezi zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province, Gilbert Nyandwi, who used to be an influential member of the CNDD-FDD party, was publicly abused by an Imbonerakure and provincial responsible of the party, accusing him of traitor.

A person tortured in Rango commune, provance Kayanza

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 29 October 2017 indicates that on 13 October 2017, on Nyabibuye hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Francois Haramategeko, a member of Charles Nditije's winged UPRONA party, was beaten up by an Imbonerakure named Philbert Bigirimana. During this beating, he vomited blood. Philbert accused him of not having contributed for the construction of CNDD-FDD party office on Nyabibuye hill.

A person tortured in Kibago commune, Makamba province

Information received dated 23 October 2017 indicates that on 21 October 2017, around 10:00 pm, Janvier, CNDD-FDD Imbonerakure of hill and Kibago commune, was attacked at his home. He was beaten up and his arm broken by alleged Imbonerakure people. The latter would be the victim of having revealed their secret after the attack perpetrated on this hill, in September 2017, by his colleagues from Rubimba hill. These attackers told him, "N'akanwa karica!" (You are a victim of the secret revealed), before escaping. And that would have happened after a meeting held by this youth a day before this attack.

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

Forty-two people arrested in Rumonge commune and province

On October 28, 2017, forty-two people including foreigners were arrested in a police raid organized by the police in Rumonge city. As of October 29, 2017, twenty-two people were still at Rumonge police station including fourteen men and eight women. According to local sources, most of those arrested were in hotels and hostels. Some were arrested with valid travel documents.

Eleven people arrested in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

Information dated October 23, 2017 indicates that eleven people from Muhanda and Mutambara hills of Rumonge commune, aboard a transport bus, were arrested by police and taken to Nyanza-Lac post office cell. According to sources on site, these people were accused of going to be enlisted in armed groups. They are still jailed in Nyanza-Lac police station.

A person arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On October 28, 2017, on Nyabunyegeri hill, Rubirizi zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura Rural Province, Jean Habarugira was arrested on the order of the chief of the Imbonerakure in Mutimbuzi commune named Népomuscène Dusengumuremyi. According to our sources, Jean Habarugira refused to join CNDD-FDD party, which this Imbonerakure leader often asked him to do. He was taken to Rubirizi zone police station by Pastor Jérémie, SNR head in Mutimbuzi commune. According to the same sources, in Rubirizi zone the police cell, Japhet, SOBUGEA company employee, was called to accuse Jean Habarugira of collaborating with rebels.

Eight people arrested in Matana commune, Bururi province

Since 21 October 2017, eight miners including Jean Marie Iradukunda, 15 years old from Muyange hill, Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province, son of Frédéric Sindayikengera and Vestine Ninganza; Amas Irankunda, 15 years old from Tema-Rushomyo hill, Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province, son of Libere Nkeshimana and Spès Hakizimana; Innocent Ndayikengurukiye, 15 years old from Gahombo-Kibande hill, Gihogazi commune, Karusi province, son of Gabriel Hakizimana and Virginie Igiraneza; Faithful Ndayizeye, 15, of Bonero-Bugenyuzi hill, Karusi province, son of Frédéric Ntahonavutse and Candide Nzeyimana; Lionel Nkurunziza aged 14 from Gahumba-Karambi, Gihogazi commune, Karusi province, son of Frédéric Sindayikengera and Vestine Ninganza; Richard Bigirimana, 13 years old from Bikingi hill, Nyarusange commune, Gitega province, son of Antoine Budodoye and Juliette; Destin Ngabonziza, 13 years old from Muyange hill, Fukwe sub-hill, Bururi commune and province, son of Frédéric Sindayigaya and Ninganza; Elvis Irakoze 15-year-old from Sakinyonga hill, Mazege sub-hill, Matana commune, Bururi province, son of Pascal Kayoya and Claudine Muhorakeye, were arrested by Matana police station head, Moise Arakaza alias Nyiganga and were imprisoned at Matana police cell. According to sources on site,

they were accused of being irregular. These eight children were released on October 25, 2017 after intervention by FVS-Amade Bururi and were taken to their home communes and handed over to the administrators.

A person arrested in Bururi commune and province

On the morning of October 26, 2017, Marie Goreth Ndayishimiye, aged 38, from Mugozi hill, Taba sub hill, Bururi commune, was arrested by a police officer named Antoine Sabushimike from Bururi police station and taken to Bururi cell and she is without a case record. The information received from the population says that land conflicts were the cause of his arrest.

1.5. INTIMIDATIONS BY CNDD-FDD PARTY MEMBERS

A meeting to arrest an opponent in Kibago commune, Makamba province

Information dated on October 23, 2017 indicates that on October 22, 2017, at about 7:00 pm, at Kibago hill head home, Laurent Ayubu, a meeting was held between this person, the communal secretary of CNDD-FDD party and Imbonerakure youth representative of this same party. The purpose was to arrest Enock, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing. Enock has since been in hiding.

Intimidation to NGOs in Cankuzo province

On October 24, 2017, in Cankuzo province, at the meeting of the technical and financial partners (PTF), provincial and communal public services and associations that took place at "Agora Hotel" in Cankuzo, Governor Désire Njiji introduced the meeting with words of intimidation starting with an individual call of NGOs present, specifying that he will make written and urgent decisions to the absentees, according to sources on site. He warned them for the very last time that some NGOs and associations that transmit reports on human rights violations and other situations to Geneva, they expose themselves because for security reports are reserved only for the administration. He repeated it on October 25, 2017 in a meeting of the heads of departments in his office. He added that henceforth any NGO must budget for institutional support for the province, that the equipment that the NGOs use in the province will stay there at the end of the project (vehicles, motorcycles, computers and other). According to the same sources, he said that recruitment into NGOs and existing staff, constitutional balances will have to be taken into consideration.

Demonstration to protests against ICC in the country

On 28 October 2017, demonstrations were held in all provinces of the country to celebrate Burundi's effective withdrawal from the ICC.

As an illustration:

- In Mwaro province, from 9:00 am, the population from the six communes of this province made a rally at the fiftieth anniversary monument to demonstrate against the ICC deemed

biased and Western powers tool to destabilize African countries and support to the Burundian authorities who took the initiative to withdraw Burundi from the ICC. According to local sources, students from schools close to this meeting place were forced to join other demonstrators, including those from Mwaro High School and Mwaro Communal High School. Shopkeepers at Mwaro city center were forced to close until 11:00 am and participate in these events. The police helped in this work to close shops, specify the same sources.

- In Gitega province, demonstrations to celebrate the withdrawal of Burundi from the ICC were organized. Present were Interior Minister Pascal Barandagiye, National Defense and Veterans Affairs Minister Emmanuel Ntahomvukiye and EAC MP Isabelle Nahayo. Demonstrators danced and sang slogans "Bye bye ICC, instrument of the West". The governor of Gitega province, Venant Manirambona, spoke on the ten lies that Westerners say on Burundi as the genocide of the Tutsi, the squandering of the country's wealth by the head of state, the failure to respect Arusha agreement and the constitution, etc.
- In Cankuzo province, after the community works, a demonstration of Burundi withdrawal from the ICC was made and the demonstrators were singing, saying: "Bye bye ICC, goodbye Louis Michel". Words of protest against Louis Michel and the ICC were delivered by MPs, senators and other native executives working in Bujumbura, Gitega or elsewhere, according to local sources. Also present were the public prosecutor in Cankuzo and SNR officials, commune administrators and one of these had come with hill leaders and the population they represent. In the morning, the administrator of Cankuzo commune, Innocent Nyandwi with an Imbonerakure Gabriel Toyi, aboard the Cankuzo paramedic school vehicle, crisscrossed quarters of Cankuzo city center calling people by name to force them attending community work, according to the same sources. The chief adviser to the governor, Pierre Claver Nakumuryango, closed the demonstration by reading the speech from the Interior Ministry.
- In Bujumbura city, CNDD-FDD party militants, bicycle taxis, motorcycle taxis and some state officials such as the Ministry of Interior spokesman, Thérance Ntahiraja, Bujumbura city Mayor, Freddy Mbonimpa, the Ombudsman, Edouard Nduwimana, ministers and MPs gathered at the United Nations roundabout in Ngagara urban zone. They headed to the city center through the Murundi people's boulevard to the Independence Square, to celebrate Burundi's withdrawal from the ICC. The slogan of the day was "Farewell ICC! ". In the words of circumstance we could hear: *"Burundi has just been the champion to withdraw from the ICC,"* according to the city Mayor, *"it will be written in history that our country withdrew first from the ICC and we will pray that many other African countries will follow us,"* Ntahiraja said.

Night patrols in Kanyosha urban zone, Bujumbura city

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 27 October 2017 indicates that since the beginning of October 2017, a group of Imbonerakure youths with machetes have been conducting night patrols in all quarters of Kanyosha urban zone where people are victims of theft or intimidation. Some of these Imbonerakure have been identified as Gasongo and Mwarabu living in Gisyo neighborhood, Kidumu of Musama IV.

II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

Attempted robbery in Kibago commune, Makamba province

On October 27, 2017, two policemen, including the position head on Kibago hill and commune, Makamba province, arrested two traders from the market. They beat them up before stripping them of their money. This money was returned after other traders resisted.

A grenade found in Gashikanwa commune, Ngozi province

On October 23, 2017, at about 8:00 am, on Cihonda hill, Gashikanwa commune, Ngozi province, a defensive grenade in good condition was found by the population in Nduwimana Jean Paul's fields, aged 38 years. This grenade was given to the policemen of Gashikanwa Co.Co police station.

A person died at Rumonge central prison

On the night of October 23, 2017, a 56-year-old Michel Haringanji, native of Muramvya province, died suddenly in Rumonge central prison following an unidentified illness, according to Rumonge prison director, OPC1 Jean Claude Ntirandekura. According to sources on site, detainees in Rumonge prison have difficulties to seek treatment and to have permission to consult doctors at Rumonge Hospital located 5 km from Rumonge town. He was convicted of robbery and was serving a 10-year sentence. This inmate is the second to die in this prison in similar and strange circumstances.

Two people injured in armed attacks in Cankuzo province

On the night of October 24 to 25, 2017, on Rusigabangazi sub hill, Bumba hill border with Tanzania, Camazi zone, Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province, Bernard Nzeyimana was attacked at his home by a group of unidentified armed persons with machetes and knives. He was seriously injured in the head and arms. He was bedridden at CDS Rusigabangazi.

In the night of October 22 to 23, 2017, on the same hill, another unidentified person was attacked under the same circumstances, with machetes and knives, seriously injured, transferred that same night to CDS Rusigabangazi, then to Murore Hospital, then in one of the hospitals of Gitega province.

A person injured in Musongati commune, Rutana province

On the night of 25 October 2017, around 1:00 am, on Gatakazi hill, Musongati zone and commune, Rutana province, Adrien Sindimwo was attacked by unidentified armed persons. According to sources on site, he was stabbed in the head. He was later taken to Musongati Hospital for treatment. The police have already started investigations.

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.

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. Demonstrations supervised by high ranked officials of the country are also reported.

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;