

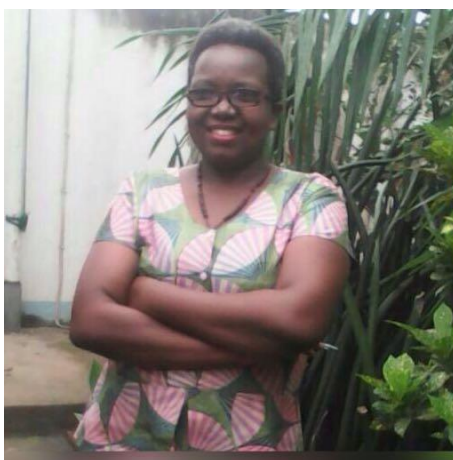
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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 89 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 11-17 December 2017**



*In memory of Madame Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 17 December 2017, Iteka has documented at least 471 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

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

**ICC** : *International Criminal Court*

**DPE** : *Provincial Direction of Education*

**FAB** : *Burundi Armed Forces*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

**PMPA** : *Parties and Armed Political Movements*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**UPRONA** : *Union for National Progress*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 16 persons killed including 7 corpses, 4 reported missing, 1 tortured and 23 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.

The phenomenon of mob justice is reported in different parts of the country.

This bulletin reports cases of killings, torture, and arbitrary arrests of the alleged President Pierre Nkurunziza's 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 is reported in this bulletin

This bulletin recommends the government to change the precarious human rights situation in the country.

## ***I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS***

### ***I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE***

#### ***I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY POLICE AND/OR IMBONERAKURE***

##### **Two persons killed in Musigati commune, Bubanza province**

On December 14, 2017, about 4:00 am, at Mpishi hill, Musigati commune, Bubanza province, two men named Boniface and Monasse were killed by the police in a search by Musigati police station, supported by Bubanza provincial police commissariat. According to sources on site, a Kalashnikov gun was found during this search. Two people named Ezekiel Girukwishaka and Salvator Nsavyimana were arrested and jailed at Musigati commune police station.

##### **A person killed in Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province**

Information dated December 17, 2017 indicates that on December 10, 2017, Imbonerakure youths beat to death a person from Gihoma hill, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province. According to sources on site, the victim was charged with stealing from a tomato field in the swamps between Gihoma and Kivomwa hills. Police arrested Bukuru, Kivomwa hill head, accusing him of denouncing the alleged perpetrators of the crime.

### ***1.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED DUE TO MOB JUSTICE***

#### **A person killed in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

On December 13, 2017, in Nkenga-Busoro quarter, Kanyosha zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city, a person named Etienne alias Mipanga was killed by people patrolling at night, accused of theft. Sources on site indicate that people in patrol have suspected him and have pursued him until arresting him. After finding that the suspect had a machete, our source indicates that it angered those people in night patrol who subsequently whipped him to death. Some of them were also injured by this alleged thief, says our source.

The same sources add that this crime was committed after a few days that Kanyosha zone head Jean Pierre Niyonkuru held a security meeting supported by the police head in this zone where it was decided that the inhabitants of the locality must ensure their security by patrolling.

### ***1.1.3. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

#### **Two people killed in Muha commune, Bujumbura city**

On December 13, 2017, in Nkenga-Busoro quarter, Kanyosha zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city, two unidentified people were killed by unidentified men, according to sources on site. On the morning of December 14, 2017, police conducted a search.

#### **A person killed in Matongo commune, Kayanza province**

The information received on December 17, 2017 indicates that on December 10, 2017, at about 1:00 am, on Munyinya hill, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, an unidentified person was killed by unidentified persons. According to sources on site, this person is from Kabarore commune and may be a thief.

#### **One person killed and another wounded in Gitaramuka commune, Karusi province**

On 17 December 2017, at around 5:00 am, on Nyarutovu hill, Gitaramuka zone and commune, Karusi Province, Karadoga's household was attacked by unidentified gunmen. They killed his wife Ngendakumana and Karadoga was seriously injured on the neck. According to sources on site, they took a sum of 150,000 Bif that Karadoga had received from the sale of his bike. He was taken to Karusi hospital and the police say investigations are ongoing.

### ***1.1.4. BODIES FOUND IN RIVER, IN BUSH OR OTHER PLACES***

#### **A body found in Giharo commune, Rutana province**

On the morning of December 12, 2017, on Buyaga hill, Muzye zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province, Kaburungu, CNDD-FDD member and Muzye sub hill head, was found dead near Muzye-Giharo Road. He was buried on December 13, 2017. According to sources on site, he had a wound in the throat. The reason and alleged perpetrators are not known.

### **A body found in Mugamba commune, Bururi province**

On December 11, 2017, the body of Josiane Nikundana, student at Kinindo Light Secondary School, living in Kibenga neighborhood, Kinindo urban zone, Bujumbura city was found in Rwingwe, Mugamba commune, Bururi province, according to sources on site. According to Josiane's relatives, she was missing on December 8, 2017. According to the public prosecutor in Bururi, investigations are under way to find out the perpetrators for the crime. The body was taken to Matana Hospital mortuary, specify the same sources.

### **Three bodies found in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province**

On December 12, 2017, on Rusizi River, at the 5<sup>th</sup> street Gasenyi, in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, three unidentified bodies were found. According to sources on site, these three bodies were quickly buried without any investigation.

### **A body found in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province**

On December 14, 2017, an unidentified body was found in the forest in Ngoma zone, Murwi commune, Cibitoke province. According to sources on site, the body was roped.

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

On December 17, 2017, at around 10:00 am, Bubanza urban center, Bubanza commune and province, Venant Ngirabeza, director of Bubanza paramedic school, was found dead in his office. According to sources on site, his body was hanging on a rope.

## ***1.2. PERSONS REPORTED MISSING***

### **Four people abducted in Ntampangwa commune, Bujumbura city**

On December 13, 2017, policemen aboard a pickup truck registered A262A PN, attached to Buterere police station, took out and embarked 4 young men from the zone cell to an unknown destination. The identity of these young people is not yet known because the police intimidated anyone who tried to identify them while they were embarked.

## ***1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

### **A person tortured in Makamba commune and province**

On December 15, 2017, Frédéric Ntakirutimana, shopkeeper, was beaten by the number 2 of elected officials of Makamba II hill, Hamissi Kabura accompanied by the CNDD-FDD representative on this hill named Claude. They beat him pretexting that he had stolen a phone battery. According to sources on site, this shopkeeper is a victim of what he has said to his client that he will vote NO in the next referendum, which did not please him and he went to tell it to these two ruling party activists. The victim has eye injuries.

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

##### **A person arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province**

On December 13, 2017, on the 12<sup>th</sup> street, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura Rural Province, Manassé Kadigi was arrested by Jeremie, SNR responsible in Mutimbuzi commune. According to sources on site, Manassé Kadigi was accused of not denouncing the people who passed close to his plot at night. He was jailed at Maramvya zone police station.

##### **Three people arrested in Ruhororo commune, Ngozi province**

On December 11, 2017, three people named Salvator, Léonard and Majambere, all FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing were arrested by police on Giturwe hill, Ruhororo commune, Ngozi province.

Sources on site indicate that the three people arrested along with other FNL wing members of Agathon Rwasa's wing were accused of throwing a grenade into a household of a young Imbonerakure named Samuel from Giturwe hill, Mubanga zone. The same sources add that they were arrested after a search carried out by police in some households of FNL party members of Mubanga zone, Ruhororo commune, Ngozi province, during which three new boots were seized from Léonard's house.

##### **Fifteen people arrested in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City**

On December 11, 2017, soldiers blocked the 0 to 2 streets of Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke urban zone, Bujumbura city, to allow the police to search the households. According to local sources, fifteen people were arrested and taken to Cibitoke urban zone. Accused of various irregularities in the household notebooks, they were all released for a ransom of up to 10,000 Bif.

##### **A person arrested in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On December 16, 2017, at Mbizi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province, Blaise Gaca was arbitrarily arrested by the Police Station head at Mbizi hill while coming from the United Republic of Tanzania for work. He was accused of participating in armed movements. He was released after intervention of the local elected officials and his family.

##### **Two people arrested in Gitaramuka and Buhiga communes, Karusi province**

On December 11, 2017, on the hill, zone and Gitaramuka commune, Karusi province, Ndayishimiye was arrested and taken to Gitaramuka commune cell by Imbonerakure on the order of the commune administrator, Jeanette Ningabiye. According to local sources, Ndayishimiye was accused of cohabiting with a widow named Nibigira, who was also arrested by Imbonerakure on 12 December 2017 in Buhiga and jailed in Buhiga commune cell. The same sources indicate that

the commune administrator of Gitaramuka ordered Ndayishimiye to give a ransom of 200,000 Bif to be released, which he could not do.

#### **A person arrested in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province**

Information received by Iteka league on December 13, 2017 indicates that Anatole Kanyenkiko, UPRONA member of Charles Nditije's wing, was arrested on December 7, 2017 by Imbonerakure of Nyamabuye hill, Kirundo province. According to sources on site, he was taken to Bugabira commune cell on December 8, 2017. According to the same sources, he was accused of telephoning his family members exiled into Mahama camp in Rwanda and collaborating with rebels.

## ***II. INTIMIDATION BY IMBONERAKURE AND/OR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

#### **Intimidation speech in Bugendana commune, Gitega province**

On December 12, 2017, in Bugendana in Gitega province, there was the launch of the national referendum campaign for the change of the constitution of the Republic. President Nkurunziza said that the revision of the Constitution only concerns Burundians and that those who participated in the failed coup of May 13, 2015 are not concerned. He added that no one is allowed to oppose the draft revision of the constitution in these terms "*uwozokwitambika imbere y'umugambi wacu azibonerako*" (whoever will dare opposing the draft revision of the constitution will suffer the results).

#### **Hate and intimidation speech in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province**

On December 14, 2017, in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, a meeting was held for CNDD-FDD leagues members in Mpanda commune office. CNDD-FDD party league coordinator Sylvestre Ndayizeye encouraged and instructed the Imbonerakure to track down anyone who could hinder the constitutional amendment, or refuse to contribute to the 2020 elections, even law enforcement agents, will have to be eliminated (*ukubakorera*). He added dividing teachings that the Hutus must rule the number of years that the Tutsis have ruled and even more.

#### **Hate and intimidation speech in Nyabikere commune, Karusi province**

On December 14, 2017, during the awareness campaign on the draft revision of the constitution of Burundi, the Minister of Education and Scientific research, in the premises of Nyabikere communal High School, Karusi Province, Janvière Ndirahisha, has meant to the population that whoever will dare voting against the new constitution will have cut off the branch on which he and his neighbors sit.

Nyabikere commune administrator, Léonidas Nakumuryango added that ropes to tie up those who will vote or who will teach to vote against are already available and that even more effective measures have been planned.



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

#### **Two guns found in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province**

On December 11, 2017, on Rukana hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, two Kalashnikov guns were found by the police in the household of an Imbonerakure named Jonas Ndayisenga. According to our sources, Jonas Ndayisenga fled into the DRC.

#### **Right to a fair trial**

Information received by Iteka league on December 17, 2017 indicates that on December 8, 2017, an Imbonerakure named Mayoya from Kavogero hill, Kirundo commune and province, guard of water source in Kavogero was beaten up by his companions including Madora and Bitaruka. According to sources on site, he was accused of having demanded an amount of 300 Bif per can to their wives like any other citizen but these ladies refused saying that they should be free because of their husbands Imbonerakure. Back home without water, their husbands Imbonerakure decided to beat Mayoya. He was hospitalized and forced to sell his only land to pay for health care costs. He filed a complaint in vain.

#### **A person injured in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province**

On December 16, 2017, at around 9:00 pm, on Musema hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Libere Nzigendako, a farmer and member of Charles Nditije's winged UPRONA party, was stabbed by young Imbonerakura including Claude Niyiragira and Janvier Ndayizeye. According to sources on site, Anatole has land disputes with his family. He receives care at Musema hospital.

#### **Three people injured in a grenade attack in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city**

Information received by Iteka league on December 15, 2017, indicates that on the night of December 10, 2017, three persons were wounded in a grenade attack at "ku Micopo" bar located at the 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue number 43, in Bwiza zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city, according to police spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye.

Local sources indicate that one of the wounded was taken to one of the hospitals of Bujumbura City for treatment. The perpetrators of this attack remain unknown, according to the same sources. The phenomenon of throwing grenades has become commonplace in Bujumbura city.

#### **A person injured in Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province**

On the night of 11-12 December 2017, at Kimeza position, Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province, an ex-FAB policeman, Pascal Nizigiyimana, was shot in the head, legs and arms by his ex-PMPA colleague from CNDD-FDD. He was taken to Ngozi Hospital for treatment. Fébronie Ningabire, administrator of Bwambarangwe commune hid the author in her house and was not arrested.

### **A person killed in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province**

On December 17, 2017, on Mahonda hill, Rusaka zone, Mwaro province, Aline Nizgiyimana, 30 years old, gave birth to a child and then killed him, according to local sources. The hill head alerted the police, who later arrested him and took him to Rusaka commune prison. The investigations are in progress.

### **A grenade found in Kayanza commune and province**

Information received by Iteka league on December 13, 2017 indicates that on December 10, 2017, in Kayanza commune and province, an unexploded grenade was found at Passos hotel. According to sources on site, two people were arrested for investigation reasons.

### **A grenade found in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province**

On December 13, 2017, on Rutsindu hill, Munzenze zone, Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province, a grenade was found in a termite by the population, according to local sources.

### **Mistreated people in Matongo commune, Kayanza province**

On December 14, 2017, in Matongo commune, Kayanza province, at a meeting of the communal council, the deputy Gélase Ndabirabe ordered that from now on no farmer has the right to harvest his corn fields without notifying the local administration to store half of his crop in communal warehouses. As a result of this decision, the farmers bring machetes to harvest.

#### ***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, 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 by CNDD-FDD officials is a source of threats against any non-member 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, SNR agents and administrative agents involved in human rights violations and intimidation of the population;
- To cooperate fully with ICC to punish the perpetrators of crimes committed in Burundi