

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

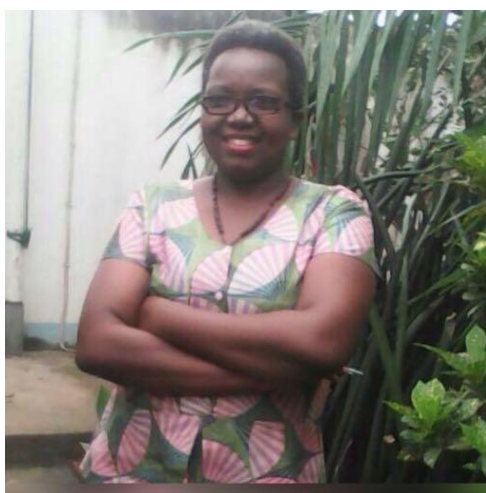
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Monthly report « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

February 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 28 February 2018, Iteka has documented at least 470 cases of enforced disappearances.

CONTENTS	PAGES
<i>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</i>	3
<i>0. INTRODUCTION</i>	4
<i>I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS</i>	5
<i>I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE</i>	5
<i>I.1.1 PERSONS KILLED BY POLICE AND THE IMBONERAKURE MILICIA</i>	5
<i>I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING</i>	5
<i>I.3. PERSONS TORTURED</i>	5
<i>I.4. PEOPLE ARBITRARILY ARRESTED</i>	6
<i>II. SECURITY FACTS</i>	7
<i>II.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE</i>	7
<i>II.2. OTHER FACTS REPORTED</i>	7
<i>III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	9

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS : *Health Centre*

AU : *African Union*

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

EAC : *East African Community*

EU : *European Union*

ECOFO : *Fundamentals School*

ICC : *International Criminal Court*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

FRODEBU : *Front for Democracy in Burundi*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

UPD : *Union for Peace and Democracy*

UPRONA : *Union for National Progress*

WFP : *World Food Programme*

0. INTRODUCTION

This monthly report for February 2018 is a summary of the weekly bulletins number 96, 97, 98 and 99 as well as other data received by Iteka League after the bulletin No 99 was published.

In this report, major trends observed including cases of alleged violations of the right to life, cases of torture, a case of abduction and enforced disappearances, cases of arbitrary arrests and detentions and other facts reported.

Over the reporting period, allegations of violations and violations of human rights were recorded: at least 22 people were killed including 15 corpses, 1 reported missing, 15 tortured and 257 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.

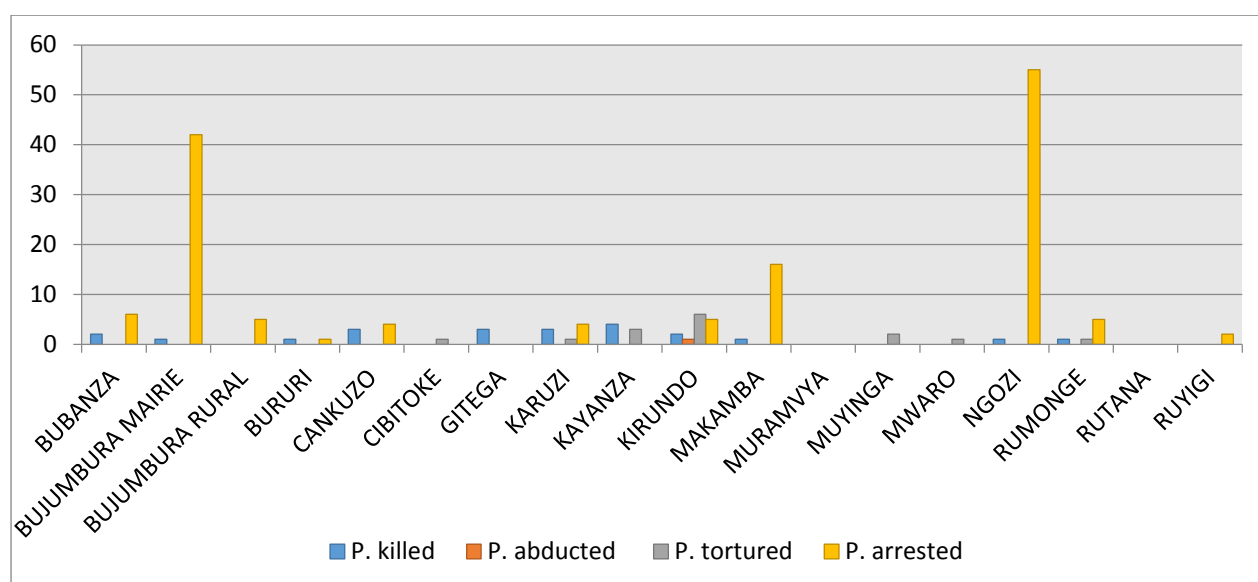
The alleged perpetrators of these allegations of human rights violations are CNDD-FDD ruling party Imbonerakure youth, SNR agents, police and administration officials.

Acts of intimidation, paramilitary training and forced contributions are mentioned in this report.

The most targeted people are the alleged opponents of President Pierre Nkurunziza 3rd term in general and in particular the members of the opposition political parties among others FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing, UPD and FRODEBU.

This report makes recommendations to all those who may influence on the change of precarious situation of human rights in the country.

Fig 1: Chart illustrating major allegations of human rights violations and violations committed in Burundi in February 2018



In this February 2018 report, the main violations reported by Ligue Iteka include cases of killings, abductions, torture and arbitrary arrests. Ngozi province tops the list with 55 cases of arbitrary arrests followed with Bujumbura city with 42 cases. Most of arbitrary arrests are linked to the enlistment to the referendum for the constitution.

High figures of those killed are located in Kayanza province with 4 cases followed by the provinces of Karuzi, Gitega, and Cankuzo with 3 cases each.

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 THE IMBONERAKURE MILICIA

In this report, figures of people killed were located in Kayanza and Kirundo provinces with 1 case each. In these provinces, the alleged perpetrators are Imbonerakure.

Two bodies found in Busoni commune, Kirundo Province¹

On 25 February 2018, on Cimbogo sub-hill, Gatete hill, Gatere zone, Busoni commune, Kirundo province, a body of René Pacifique Ntwari, son of Hanyagimfura and Ndere, displaced from Kabanga site since 1993 and another unidentified, were found just off Rwanda border. According to local sources, Imbonerakure had arrested Rene Pacific Ntwari the day before from the Mahama camp. Since he did not have a pass, he preferred to go through a clandestine way and met Imbonerakure who gave him a phone and call his family to tell them to send money to save him. By the time his family was looking for ways to transfer the money, they learnt he had been murdered. René Pacifique Ntwari was killed by Imbonerakure stationed in Murehe Nature Reserve where they perform paramilitary training. These Imbonerakure come from communes of Busoni, Gitobe and Bwambarangwe. The same sources add that these Imbonerakure stationed in this reserve of Murehe are illegally supplied with food by ECOFO directors. This food is donated by the WFP in partnership with Action Agro-Allemande to the school feeding program.

I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING

Over this month of February 2018, Iteka League reported 1 case of a person abducted then reported missing in Kirundo province. The alleged perpetrators are members of the Imbonerakure militia.

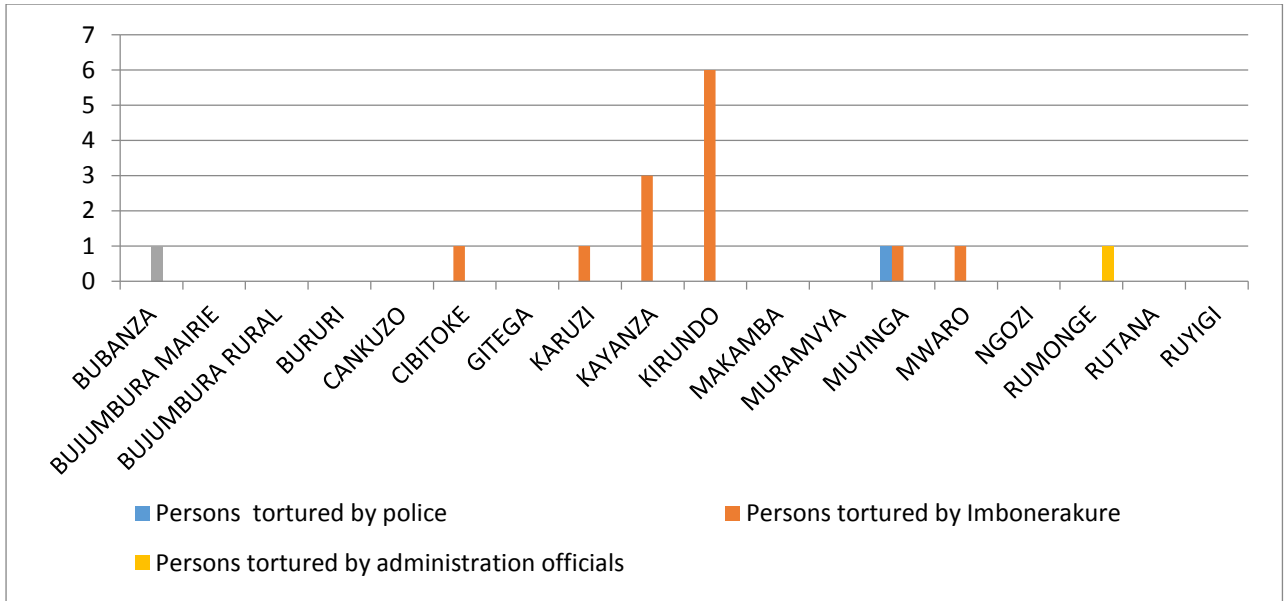
I.3. PERSONS TORTURED

During this month of February 2018, 15 case of torture were recorded by Iteka League. The provinces of Kirundo and Kayanza top the list with 6 cases and 3 cases.

The most targeted victims are FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing and the most alleged perpetrators are members of the Imbonerakure militia, as per the following chart:

¹ Information received after the bulletin No 99 was published

Fig II: Chart of persons tortured



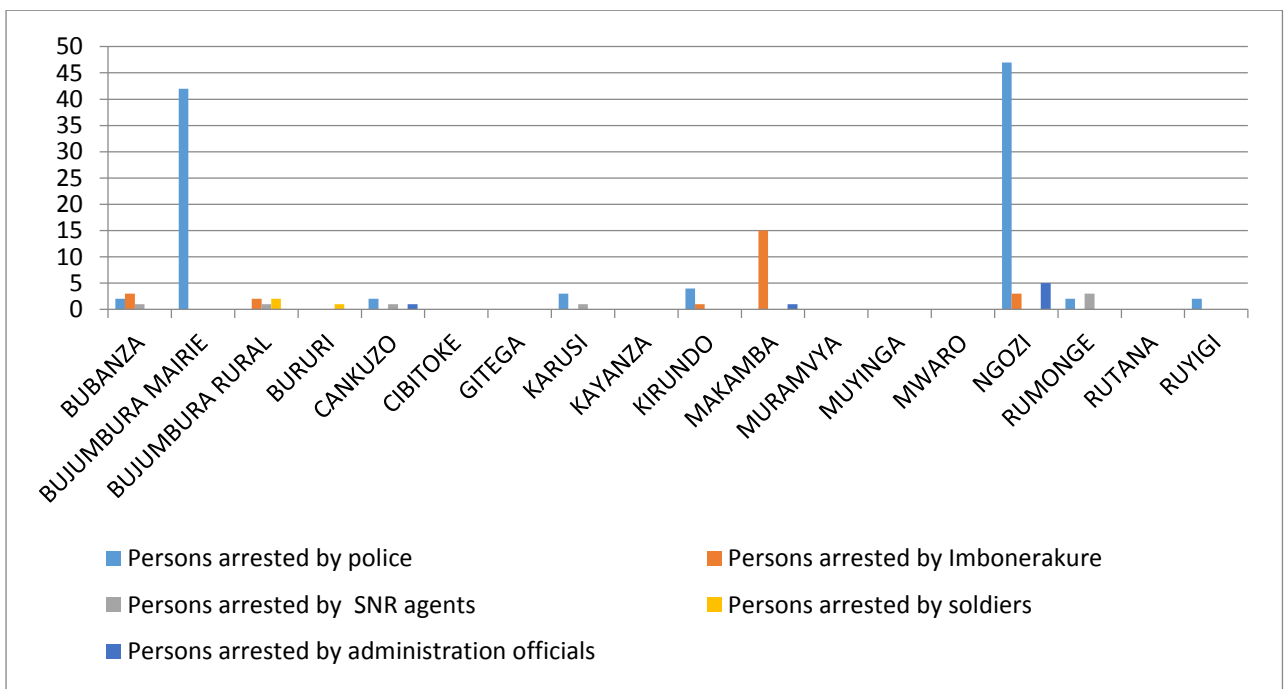
1.4. PEOPLE ARBITRARILY ARRESTED

During this month of February 2018, Iteka League recorded 145 cases of arbitrary arrests across the country. The perpetrators of most of these arrests are police officers, members of the Imbonerakure militia, administration officials, SNR agents and soldiers.

Ngozi province recorded most of cases of these arrests with 55 cases followed by Bujumbura city with 42 cases.

Iteka League noted that persons are arbitrarily following the registration to the referendum of the constitution.

Fig III: Chart of arrested persons



II. SECURITY FACTS

In this report, cases of persons killed by unidentified persons, guns and grenades found, intimidation, paramilitary training and other recorded facts are reported.

II.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

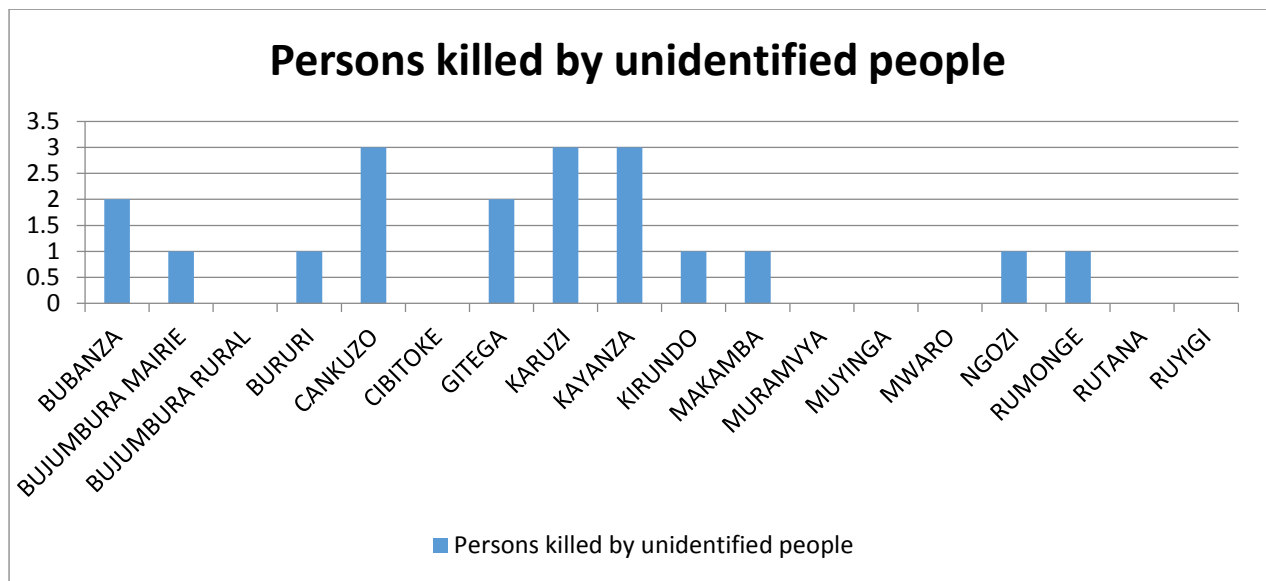
During this month of February 2018, nineteen cases of killings by unidentified people were recorded. Among those killed were 15 corpses found in bush and in other places. Some victims had signs they were killed.

The most targeted provinces are Cankuzo, Karuzi and Kayanza with 3 cases followed by Gitega and Bubanza with 2 cases each.

A person killed in Cankuzo province²

On February 27, 2018, at about 8:00 pm, Philippe Nteziriba, from Murehe hill, Minyare zone, Cankuzo commune and province, was killed by unidentified people with a machete and knives when he returned home. According to the OPJ Cankuzo and the prosecutor, Leonard Sindayigaya, the cause of this assassination remains unknown.

Fig IV: Persons killed by unidentified people



II.2. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

In this report of February 2018, Iteka League noted small arms and light weapons are proliferating among the population and continue to wreak havoc.

In Mukike commune, Bujumbura rural province, a grenade exploded at an Imbonerakure, Léon Akizanye. After a search carried out in this house, 4 guns and 2 grenades were found there. He was taken to Mayuyu police post but was released on the orders of Major Marius Gahomera alias Gakoryo.

During this month of February 2018, a wave of intimidation on the basis of checks of receipts for enlisting in the constitutional referendum was observed in various public services of the country.

² Information received after the bulletin No 99 was published

The rights to health, to education, to the free movement of people were conditioned by the presentation of enrollment receipts at the next constitutional referendum and the 2020 elections.

Forced contributions linked to the constitutional referendum and the 2020 elections were observed in some provinces of the country. State officials, especially those in the Ministries of Education and Health are forced by their superiors to pay additional contributions in addition to payroll deductions.

This report highlights cases of paramilitary training by the Imbonerakure militia in different parts of the country.

Meetings of associations of CNDD-FDD party members whose members are exclusively only Hutu have been held in various parts of the country.

III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Allegations and violations of human rights following the deterioration of political context since the beginning of President Pierre Nkurunziza's protested 3rd term continue to be recorded in various parts of the country.

Killings, abduction and enforced disappearances, torture, targeted arbitrary and illegal arrests to opponents in general and members of opposition parties namely FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing, UPD, FRODEBU are also reported.

The phenomenon of corpses is reported across the country.

Intimidation and forced contributions linked to the referendum on the change of the constitution and the 2020 elections were noted in this report.

Given the continuously serious situation of human rights situation in Burundi, Iteka League recommends the following:

A) To the Government of Burundi

- To dismantle and disarm the Imbonerakure militia which spread terror in the country and which has replaced security corps
- To enforce the CCP for cases of arrests currently being dealt with persons who are not competent to do so;
- To punish policemen, soldiers, soldiers, Imbonerakure militia youth, SNR and administrative agents involved in human rights violations and intimidation of the population

B) To the AU

- Implement its decision to send a military force to protect the Burundian population in distress.

C) To the EU

- Use its power as Burundi's first financial partner to force the Bujumbura regime return to the negotiating table;

D) To the United Nations Security Council

- Take all resolutions likely to restore peace in the country and guarantee the protection of human rights;
- Implement the decision to send a protection force for Burundians in distress.

E) To the Mediation

- Not to minimize the damage caused by the violation of the Constitution and the Arusha Accords, including the thousands of people killed, exiled, arbitrarily imprisoned and

hundreds of tortured and reported missing person as well as hundreds of women and girls raped;

- Knowing that political conflict requires a political solution.
- Take into account the inclusivity of all the antagonistic parties in the Burundian conflict in order to guarantee a good success of the negotiations between Burundians

F) To the EAC

- Take sanctions if the Burundian government continues to decline the offer of the Mediation.
- Reinforce the mediation team to ensure a successful conclusion of the negotiation process

G) To the population

- To stay united and not yield to the demands and divisive teachings or any demand to violence;
- To denounce any act likely to spread or maintain insecurity

H) To the ICC:

- To speed up the inquiries and carry out necessary indictments.