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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 105 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 2 - 8 April 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 8 April 2018, Iteka has documented at least 477 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS : *Health Center*

CMCK : *Medico Surgery Centre of Kinindo*

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

ECOFO : *Fundamental School*

EP : *Primary School*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

OBR : *Burundi Revenue Authority*

RN : *National Road*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

UCODE : *Union for Cooperative and Development*

UPG : *Polytechnic University of Gitega*

UPRONA : *Union for National Progress*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

During the period covered by this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 13 people killed, including 8 bodies found, 3 abducted and then missing, 3 tortured, 3 arbitrarily arrested and 1 victim of gender-based violence.

Imbonerakure youths affiliated with the ruling CNDD-FDD party, police officers, and SNR agents are singled out as the perpetrators of most of these human rights violations.

The phenomenon of dead bodies found continues to be observed.

This bulletin notes cases of killings, abductions, torture and arbitrary arrests of opponents and alleged opponents of the regime of President Pierre Nkurunziza.

Acts of intimidation linked to the constitutional referendum and forced contributions are reported in this bulletin.

Ligue Iteka protests against the impunity of crimes granted to CNDD-FDD party. Members of this party involved in various crimes enjoy impunity with a complicity displayed by public authorities.

I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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

I.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

A body found in Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province

On 2 April 2018, a body of Mamerte Irakoze was found in a rice field on Kirungu hill, Nyabitsinda commune, Ruyigi province. On-site sources indicate that the victim, a mother of five, was attacked by unknown people who found her in her rice field on this hill.

A body found in Ruyigi commune and province

On April 5, 2018, around 4:00 pm, a body of Domitian Hakizimana, a mason from Ruhwago hill, commune and Ruyigi province, was found in Sanzu River. According to sources on site, he disappeared in the night of April 4 to 5, 2018, leaving the house, his wife thought he went to wash outside and his body was found by someone who had gone to bathe in this river.

A person killed in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On 7 April 2018, at around 8:00 pm, on Nkango hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Thierry Ntakarutimana, a merchant on this hill and a member of Charles Nditije's UPRONA wing, was killed about 200 meters from his home by unidentified people. The reason for this murder remains unknown.

Two bodies found in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province

On 4 April 2018, at about 7:00 am, in Ngonga locality, Kibezi hill, Gakere zone, Kiremba commune, Ngozi province, the body of a girl aged about 20 was found. According to local sources, the body had rib wounds and also had a rope around the neck. The victim has not been identified.

That same morning, the body of the named Miburo, a fisherman in Buyongwe River, was found floating on this river.

Two bodies found in Mwumba commune, Ngozi province

On April 3, 2018, at around 7:00 pm, at Cahu hill, Mwumba Commune, Ngozi Province, a 48-year-old man and his 5-year-old son were burned when their little straw house caught fire. According to sources on site, the neighbors intervened late and could not save the victims. The origin of the fire has not been known.

Two people killed in Gitega commune and province

On 2 April 2018, around 8:00 pm, on Rugari-Gitamo hill, Gitega commune and province, two young people Imbonerakure, Nzohabonayo, student of UPG and Thierry, student of Saint Luc high school were killed during an attack with the grenade thrown at a bar owned by Helmenegilde Niyungeko alias Gafyiri. During this attack, 9 wounded were transported to Gitega Regional Hospital. Two people were arrested for investigation.

A body found in Cibitoke urban zone , Bujumbura Mairie

On April 3, 2018, a body of Gaddi, a mason, from Rumonge commune and resident on the 3rd avenue of Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city, was discovered between 8th and 9th avenue of Mutakura quarter. The perpetrators and the reason behind his assassination remain unknown.

1.2. PEOPLE ABDUCTED AND REPORTED MISSING

Two people abducted and reported missing in Cankuzo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 6 April 2018 indicates that on Mburi hill, Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province, Mbonwanayo and Paul who were imprisoned at Gisagara commune police station but since 23 March 2018 were embarked by Boniface Niyonkuru, head of SNR in Cankuzo, to an unknown location.

A person reported missing in Matongo commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 2 April 2018 indicates that since 28 March 2018, Giselle Habonimana, UCODE staff member in Matongo commune, Kayanza province, has been reported missing. She had gone to work at UCODE in Butaganzwa because she had just had a transfer and since then her track was lost. She lived on Bandaga hill in Matongo commune.

1.3. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province

On April 7, 2018, at Nyarusange hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Philippe Nkanira was beaten up by 3 Imbonerakure, Philbert Bigirimana, Runahi and Marc. According to sources on site, his arm was broken. They accused him of saying he will not go to the elections for the referendum of the new constitution.

Two people tortured in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province

On April 4, 2018, around 8:00 pm, at a bar in Rwibaga center, Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province, two Imbonerakure Thérance Manirakiza alias Fyiri and Liévin Manirakiza alias Togo, all of Rwibaga hill, Mugongo-Manga commune, beat two brick makers from Kayanza province, Désire Hakizimana and Elvis Irambona. The soldiers on patrol intervened to release them. According to our sources, they were accused of not registering for the vote of the referendum for the change of the Burundian constitution.

1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE AND IMBONERAKURE

A person arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city

On 5 April 2018, a young man named Fulgence Banzubaze, from Rutovu commune, Bururi province, was arrested by police at his work place at CMCK where he was laboratory clerk. Sources on site say that the reason for his arrest as well as his destination remain hitherto unknown.

Two people arrested in Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province

On April 6, 2018, at about 5:00 pm, Michel Macumi, Agathon Rwasas' FNL wing leader on Gasave hill and Dismas Uwitonze, who was in charge of the same party on Kimeza hill, were arrested by young Imbonerakure on Gasave hill, Kimeza zone, Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province. Local sources say they came across a group of Imbonerakure from Kimeza zone, including Ndayisenga, Emmanuel, Rwasas and Nzeyimana, who began assaulting the two FNL members accusing them of raising awareness to vote for "NO" for the constitutional referendum. They were stripped of their property, a sum of 20,000 Bif then tied up and taken to Yusufu Nsegiumva, Kimeza zone head. The same sources indicate that both victims were transferred to Bwambarangwe commune police station cell.

1.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Gitanga commune, Rutana province

On April 2, 2018, on Nyakuguma and zone, Gitanga commune, Rutana province, B., 8th form student at ECOFO Nyakuguma was raped by her professors Gerard and Leonce. The victim was taken to Gitanga CDS for treatment while the alleged perpetrators are jailed at Gitanga police station.

II. OTHER FACTS REPORTED

II.1. A PERSON KILLED DUE TO SETTLING OF SCORES

A person killed in Rutana commune and province

On 4 April 2018, at about 4:00 pm, on Buta hill, Gitaba zone, Rutana commune and province, Nibaruta was murdered by his brother Karegeya with a stick. According to sources on site, the cause is the land dispute. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to Rutana police station.

III. SECURITY FACTS

A person killed in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province

On March 23, 2018, on Rushubi hill, Mubogora zone, Muhanga commune, Kayanza province, Jeanine killed her one-month-old infant and threw her dead body into Ruvubu River. The neighbors asked her where the child was and she said that she had killed him because he was not from her husband.

A person killed in Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province

On April 3, 2018, on Murunga hill, Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura Rural province, Annick Iradukunda, aged 18, student at ECOFO Gihisi, was found dead at the edge of Nyagashanga River, murdered stabbed by her paternal uncle Gaspard Nahimana in complicity with his servant. According to our sources, the girl was murdered on 1 April 2018. The communal administration and Rwibaga post police quickly arrested the alleged perpetrator and his accomplice. The two alleged perpetrators were jailed at Rwibaga police station in Gitwe, according to the same sources.

A person injured in Muha commune in Bujumbura city

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 2 April 2018 indicates that on 1 April 2018, at around 8:00 pm, in Kanyosha quarter, Kanyosha zone, Muha commune in Bujumbura city, Shadrac Niyokwizigira was shot and wounded. According to local sources, Shadrac was bickering with another person and a police officer intervened. Shadrac then turned against the policeman and he shot him.

Grenade attack in Kinama urban zone, Bujumbura city

On April 3, 2018, around 7:00 pm, unidentified men threw a grenade into a bar commonly known as "Ku Nkende" Carama quarter, Kinama urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura city. Five people were injured, 2 seriously.

Armed attack in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

The information received by Iteka League of April 2, 2018 indicates that on April 1, 2018, at about 7:00 pm, between the 7th and the 8th street, on RN5 Bujumbura-Cibitoke, in Gihanga commune locality, Bubanza province, a Congolese registered vehicle was the target of an armed attack by unidentified people. According to our sources, one person was slightly injured by the bullet. The driver continued to Bujumbura because the damage was minimal, according to the same sources.

IV. INTIMIDATION ACTS

Forced contributions in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

Since 6 April 2018, in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, forced contributions have been made for the preparation of the CNDD-FDD party women's party "Abakenyerarugamba" but no one knows which party will be held. The Director of EP Kaniga, Imelde, is among those who collect these forced contributions. Teachers were forced to contribute 1000 Bif and 2000 Bif for traders.

A person threatened with death in Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province

On 3 April 2018, on Ngugo hill, Maramvya zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, a man named Nkeshimana was publicly threatened to be killed by an Imbonerakure named Gashatsi, accusing him of being a of FNL party member of Agathon Rwasa's wing. According to sources on site, he told him publicly that he will cut off his head and throw it in a toilet. Nkeshimana, having panicked, did not say anything and went straight home.

Night sports in Matana commune, Bururi province

Since the end of March 2018, youths of Imbonerakure militia armed with clubs, do sports during the night on public roads in Matana commune, Bururi province. According to sources on site, the latter intimidate people who are not CNDD-FDD party members. Bururi Province Governor Christian Nkurunziza banned the night sport in a correspondence to the administrators on April 2, 2018.

Intimidation in Ntega commune, Kirundo province

On April 3, 2018, on Mugendo, Mariza, Ntambo and Kinyovu hills of the Mugendo zone, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, the inhabitants of these hills found, in the morning, inscribed on the doors of their houses the words "EGO and "OYA" (YES and NO). According to sources on site, the word OYA was inscribed on the doors of the Amizero y'Abarundi coalition members, and EGO on the doors of CNDD-FDD party members. The same sources add that these inscriptions were made by Imbonerakure who patrol at night.

V. CONCLUSION

Violations of human rights and allegations of violations following the deterioration of the political context since the beginning of the challenge of the 3rd term of President Pierre Nkurunziza continue to be recorded in various parts of the country.

Cases of killings, abductions, torture, arbitrary and illegal arrests targeted of opponents and alleged opponents to CNDD-FDD party regime are reported.

A case of gender based violence was reported.

Intimidation linked to the constitutional referendum and forced contributions are a source of threats to the population.