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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 116 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 25 – 1 July 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 1 July 2018, Iteka has documented at least 494 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. PEOPLE KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE</i>	5
<i>I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE</i>	5
<i>I.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE</i>	6
<i>I.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS</i>	7
<i>II. SECURITY FACTS</i>	8
<i>III. CONCLUSION</i>	9

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADG : *Chief Executive Officer*

CDS : *Health Center*

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

DCE : *Communal Education Direction*

DPAE : *Provincial Direction for Agriculture and Livestock*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

OPJ : *Judicial Police Officer*

PJ : *Judiciary Police*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

SOBUGEA : *Gender Based Violence*

UPRONA : *Union for National Progress*

0. INTRODUCTION

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 8 people killed, including 3 body found, 3 tortured and 8 arbitrarily arrested.

Young people from the Imbonerakure militia affiliated to CNDD-FDD ruling party, police, SNR agents and administrative officials are singled out as the perpetrators of most of these human rights violations.

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

Para military training are also reported in this bulletin

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 IMBONERAKURE

A person killed in Cendajuru commune, Cankuzo province

On June 29, 2018, at around 10:00 pm, on Misugi hill in Twinkwavu zone, Cendajuru commune, Cankuzo province, Sévérin Ndabemeye was beaten to death by two young Imbonerakure from CNDD-FDD party. They fled to Tanzania. The reason for his assassination is not known.

I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

One person killed in Kirundo commune and province

Information received by Iteka League on June 25, 2018 indicates that on June 24, 2018, at around 7:00 pm, on Yaranda hill, Kirundo commune and province, a grenade was thrown through the window to Gasasira alias Nyaribaba, FNL party member, killing Gloria Irangabiye, a two-year-old child and injuring his father on the arms and his wife. The latter were taken to Kanyinya Hospital. According to sources on site, François Bitababaje, CNDD-FDD party member, was jailed at PJ Kirundo for investigation reasons. According to the same sources, the arrested person had land disputes with the victims but the neighbors say the hill authorities accused him of voting for "NO" in the constitutional referendum of 17 May 2018.

A person killed in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Iteka League on 25 June 2018 indicates that on 24 June 2018, at about 11:00 pm, on Kabwira hill, Masabo zone, Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province, Libere Ntirandekura, 44 years old, was killed with clubs by unidentified people. According to sources on site, Ntirandekura was under threat from some people of Rusamaza hill Gihogazi commune, Karuzi province accusing him of sorcery. Two men, named Pascal and his father Gabriel, from Rusamaza hill, near the crime scene, were arrested by the police and taken to Bugenyuzi commune police cell on 25 June 2018 for investigation.

A person killed in Muyinga commune and province

On June 26, 2018, at around 10:00 pm, in Kibogoye quarter, Muyinga commune and province, Jean Pierre Mumputu, DPAE Muyinga official was gunned by unidentified people. According to sources on site, Mumputu was attacked when he returned and arrived near his home. According to the same sources, the victim was Charles Nditije UPRONA's wing member. Police said investigations started.

A person killed in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On the night of June 30 to July 1, 2018, at around 2:00 am, on Rukambura hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Come Barutwanayo, a member of Charles Nditije's winged UPRONA party, was killed in his house by unidentified people.. He had a small business on this hill and the reasons for this murder are unknown.

Three bodies found in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

On 29 June 2018, on Nyarwumba hill, Masango zone, Bukinanyana commune, three decomposing bodies of unidentified men tied with ropes were found by residents who were going to Ndora market. According to sources on site, these bodies were hurriedly buried by the population without investigation of the orders of Bukinanyana commune administrator, Jean Bosco Hategekimana.

1.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province

On 1 July 2018, on Rubungu hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Richard Kamwenubusa, Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing member, was beaten by 3 Imbonerakure including Symphorien and a nicknamed Rupfu led by Gikomero zone head named Innocent. They beat him with bike chains and broke his arm. He went to seek treatment at Gasivya CDS in Mutaho commune of Gitega province. According to sources on site, the zone head Innocent prohibited him from being treated in Rango commune if he did not, he would accuse him of having insulted the head of the State. The same sources add that he accused him for having been an observer of the opposition during the referendum elections.

A person tortured in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province

On June 25, 2018, Cornalie working in a restaurant, from Nkonyovu hill, Mushikamo zone, Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, was beaten at Buye market by an Imbonerakure, Mélance Bazubwenge, Rutegama commune accounting assistant. According to local sources, she was accused of urinating outside the toilet. The victim was taken to Musave Health Center before being transferred to Kiganda Hospital the following day. One of her relatives accompanied her, on June 27, 2018, to the Kibimba hospital in Giheta commune of Gitega province for an X-ray. The alleged author was not worried

A person tortured in Kirundo commune and province

Information received by Iteka League on June 25 indicates that on June 20, 2018, on Yaranda hill, Kirundo commune and province, Sezirahiga alias Ndenderi, FNL party member was beaten by two Imbonerakure, Muhitira and Bavumiragiye accusing him for voting "NO" in the constitutional referendum of May 2018. According to sources on site, Sezirahiga complained to the hill authorities

with his witness named Gasasira and were not listened to. Gasasira and Sezirahiga were terrified of being killed by these Imbonerakure in case they are summoned by the OPJ.

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

A person arrested in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city

On June 29, 2018, around 6:00 am, SNR agents arrested Amissi Hakizimana, SOBUGEA Staff Union representative, at his home at No. 4, No. 7, Cibitoke Urban zone, Ntakangwa commune. Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, he was taken to the SNR cell in Rohero urban zone. He was arrested after his ADG, Brigadier General Telesphore Irambona gave him a sanction of a 15-day layoff and since then Amissi had become the target of the SNR who was looking for him. His arrest is linked to the demands of SOBUGEA staff.

A person arrested in Bubanza commune and province

Information received by Iteka League on June 25, 2018, indicates that on the night of June 24, 2018, around 10:00 pm, in Gisovu, in Bubanza downtown, Bubanza commune and province, Adélar Niyikiza, 31 years old was arrested without a warrant at his home by police from Bubanza police station. According to sources on site, he was jailed in Bubanza police station cell. According to the same sources, the reason for this arrest was a throwing of stones by strangers on the house of his neighbor, Angélu Manirakiza, teacher at Bubanza High School.

Four people arrested in Ryansoro commune, Gitega province

On June 28, 2018, Jean Bosco Butoyi, Fulgence Bizimana, Prosper Ngirimbere and Emile Niyomwungere, all teachers at Ryansoro communal high school, Gitega province were arrested on the orders of the administrator of this commune, Seconde Ndayisenga CNDD-FDD party member. According to sources on site, these four teachers are victims of a letter to the provincial inspector of education to denounce the school mismanagement by Leonidas Junjika, the school head, CNDD-FDD party member. They were taken to Ndava zone cell. According to the same sources, on 27 June 2018, these teachers wrote a letter to the police commissioner in Ryansoro denouncing the threats of the administrator and the director.

A person arrested in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province

On June 28, 2018, Thérance Ndikumana, teacher at Lycée Mwaro and UPRONA party member, was arrested by SNR official in Mwaro province and taken to PJ Mwaro cell. According to sources on site, he was accused of exceeding his plot limits. After a day of detention without a record, he was released on the Governor's orders. According to the same sources, he is a victim of belonging to the "Amizero

y'Abarundi" coalition. The same sources add that the victim had respected his plot limits during the construction of his house.

A person arrested in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On June 29, 2018, at about 7:00 pm, on Mparambo I, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, 24-year-old Abdoul Ndayishimiye, hairdresser, member of the "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition, was arrested by Imbonerakure accompanied by police officers. According to sources on site, he is accused of refusing to join the group of young Imbonerakure of this hill. He was taken to Rugombo commune police station cell.

II. SECURITY FACTS

An outgoing governor manhandled in Bubanza province

On June 25, 2018, during the handover between the outgoing governor, Tharcisse Niyongabo and the new governor, Therence Nobis Butoyi of Bubanza province, the Imbonerakure humiliated the outgoing governor. According to local sources, the ruling party youth removed the key contact from the governor's driver who was about to open the door of the outgoing governor's vehicle. These Imbonerakure even refused him to take his things that were still in the vehicle. The youth leader Imbonerakure drove the province's vehicle to wander for a few hours with other Imbonerakure on board. The governor's socio-cultural advisor intervention and the vehicle was returned to the province. This incident was due to the tense situation between the outgoing governor and the CNDD-FDD party provincial leader.

A person injured by a grenade in Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province

On 28 June 2018, at about 8:00 pm, on Ngarama hill, Kayero zone, Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province, Bukuru was wounded at home with a grenade thrown by unidentified people. According to sources on site, he was accused by his neighbors of being a sorcery and he was quickly taken to Gitega hospital for treatment.

Paramilitary training in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

Information received on June 25, 2018 indicates that since June 15, 2018, Imbonerakure from Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces are heading to Murehe Nature Reserve, Busoni commune, Kirundo province to train Imbonerakure of Kirundo province. According to local sources, there are departures of Imbonerakure Kirundo communes to this place.

Theft of a weapon in Makamba commune and province

On the night of June 26 to 27, 2018, around midnight, unidentified people stole a Kalashnikov-type gun from one of the two guards of Makamba commune administrator. According to sources on site, these

bandits entered the plot of this authority and tied up this policeman with a mosquito net that he used at night in the barza of the house of this administrator. The owner of this rifle was arrested and taken to Makamba Brigade.

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

Paramilitary training are a source of threat to the population

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