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***Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 118 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"***

**Week from 9-15 July 2018**



***In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 15 July 2018, Iteka has documented at least 495 cases of enforced disappearances.***

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

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

**ENS** : *High School*

**DPE** : *Provincial Education Direction*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

**FRODEBU** : *Front for Democracy in Burundi*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

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

**VBG** : *Gender Based Violence*

## **0. INTRODUCTION**

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 4 people killed, 1 abducted, 1 tortured, 6 arbitrarily arrested and 1 GBV victim.

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

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

Forced contributions for 2020 elections and intimidation are 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. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **Two people killed in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province**

On 9 July 2018, at Rwisuri trading center, Bukuba zone, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province, Emmanuel Rwasa and another unidentified person were killed by unidentified gunmen. According to sources on site, the victims were in Ngarama's shop during the attack and two other people were injured. Some 50,000 Bif and other items were stolen.

##### **A person killed in Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province**

On July 11, 2018, at about 7:00 pm, on Nyamunazi hill, Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province, one person was killed and 9 others wounded by a grenade thrown by unidentified people. Sources on site say that the grenade was launched to the home of Jean Bizimana, CNDD-FDD member of this hill, killing one of his children straightaway. The same sources add that this grenade injured nine other people in this family including the head of household and his wife. Injured people were taken to Ruyigi hospital for treatment and afterwards were transferred to Kibuye hospital in Gitega province.

##### **A person killed in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

On July 9, 2018, at around 8:00 pm, at Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, Emérique Hakizimana, CNDD-FDD member, was shot dead while bathing. According to sources on site, the victim is a returnee from a refugee camp in Tanzania, she had returned to Burundi since 2005. She had a land dispute with a group of about 10 households including that of Colonel Marius Gahomera alias Gakoryo and she had lost the lawsuit in Makamba High Court and won the lawsuit in 2014 in a judgment rendered by the National Commission of Lands and Other Property. According to the same sources, a retired soldier, member of Sahwanya FRODEBU party, a member of UPRONA pro Charles Nditije and a driver were arrested and jailed at Kayogoro commune.

#### ***I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING***

##### **A person abducted in Muha commune, Bujumbura city**

On July 13, 2018, at around 7:00 pm, Alexis Sindagije alias Beбето, head of Musama quarter and member of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing, was abducted by an SNR agent at "Chez Janvier" bar in Kanyosha zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, Alexis was waiting for a friend at the bar, and the agent took him in a vehicle with tinted windows to an unknown destination. The same sources say that Alexis had already been threatened and intimidated by CNDD-FDD officials in Muha commune.

### **A person abducted in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city<sup>1</sup>**

On July 4, 2018, Léonard Niyonkuru, a student of Bac II at ENS, a native of Bigina hill, Kayogoro commune and member of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing, was abducted by SNR agents at his home in Gikizi quarter, Kamenge urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, the SNR agents carried out a search, seized his mobile phone and took him to an unknown destination. According to the same sources, he is accused of working for Rwanda.

### **A person abducted and reported missing in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province<sup>2</sup>**

Information received on July 15, 2017 indicates that since the night of July 9, 2017, 15-year-old Jean Marie Ngabirano has been abducted and reported missing on Butare hill in Kayogoro commune. According to sources on site, the head of Imbonerakure in this commune nicknamed Americain, Nitereka and Charles are singled out by members of Ngabirano's family. They reportedly arrested the boy and revealed that he was part of a group of robbers and Jean Marie Ngabirano was not handed over to the police.

### ***1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE***

#### **Three people tortured in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province**

On 9 July 2018, at about 11:00 am, on Kigarama hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Marianne Niyonkuru and her two children, David Bigirimana and Irene Nduwayezu were beaten up at their home by 3 Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, the victims were beaten on the orders of the zone head, Jeanne Nizigiyimana who accused them of having bought a plot already sold to another person. The victims went for treatment at Musema hospital. Their executioners were arrested and taken to Butaganzwa commune cell but their backer was not worried.

#### **A person tortured in Gishubi commune, Gitega province**

On 9 July 2018, at about 1:00 am, Imbonerakure of the Joint Security Committee on Rukiga hill, Mugaruro zone, Gishubi commune, Gitega province, arrested and tortured Emmanuel, a resident of that hill. According to sources on site, these young people of the ruling party went to take him home and accused him of stealing beans from a field in the locality. They tied him up next to their gate and whipped him all morning. They released him around 2:00 pm thanks to the intervention of Mugaruro zone head. These young people of the ruling party were not worried.

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<sup>1</sup> This person was reported to the abducted and reported missing persons section by SNR but was found at Mpimba prison on 12 July 2018. The victim had signs of torture.

<sup>2</sup> This person had been reported in the abducted and missing persons section by SNR. According to information received by Iteka League on July 14, 2018 indicates the victim was found by his family.

#### ***I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

##### **Two people arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On July 10, 2018, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Gatama, Kigwati-Rugogwe quarter head and his visitor named Pierre, a mason, from Bujumbura rural province, were arrested and taken to Buhiga zone cell by police accompanied by an Imbonerakure named Ishmael. According to sources on site, this arrest was preceded by a search to Gatama's house, accused of housing a criminal. During this search, these police stole a sum of 80,000 Bif that Pierre had as pocket money. According to the same sources, Pierre had come to look for work in Karuzi. On July 13, 2018, the head of the quarter was released and Pierre was embarked by the head of police station in Buhiga named Gilbert on Memento bus agency to return home.

##### **Three people arrested in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province**

On July 11, 2018, three youths, including Kelvin and Wasafi, were arrested by police at CNDD-FDD party headquarters in Muhanga commune, Kayanza province. According to sources on site, they were accused by members of the ruling party gathered in this office to take photos on behalf of Rwanda, which would seek to attack Burundi. They were released on July 13, 2018, after the payment of a ransom of 60,000 Bif, which was shared by the head of the communal office, the communal leader of the ruling party and the secretary of this party. This arrest has created tension on this hill because two of the three youths are Tutsi.

#### ***I.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE***

##### **A person raped in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province**

On July 15, 2018, at Bubogora hill, Murwi zone and commune, Cibitoke province, a woman named N., aged 28, was attacked and raped at her home by a 40-year-old named Miburo. He was arrested and the victim is being treated.

#### ***II. SECURITY FACTS***

##### **Two people injured in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province**

Information received by Iteka League on July 10, 2018 indicates that about midnight on July 7, 2018, on Kiyege hill, Rusaka zone and commune, a group of 3 unidentified persons threw a grenade injuring Elvis Ndikumana and Rémy Nkengurutse. According to sources on site, the police intervened but this group had already gone. Elvis Ndikumana is hospitalized at Ijenda Hospital.

### **Forced contributions for the 2020 elections in Bururi province**

Information received by Iteka League on July 13, 2018 indicates that since July 6, 2018, Nestor Nijimbere, the new Governor of Bururi province no longer issues administrative documents without the presentation of a receipt attesting the contribution to the 2020 elections. According to the same sources, even in Bururi commune, the commune administrator no longer signs administrative documents in his commune. He requires the presentation of a receipt attesting the contribution to the 2020 elections.

### **Forced contributions in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province**

Gisagara commune administrator in Cankuzo province asked hill elected and cell leaders to collect a amount of 2000 Bif per household as a contribution to the 2020 elections. According to sources on site, this commune authority threatened saying that the measure concerns all the inhabitants including the vulnerable and that he who will not execute will have to leave the commune and to move to Ndeke village in Tanzania. This authority said so in the meeting with these local administrative staff on July 9, 2018.

### **Intimidation and forced contributions in Ntega commune, Kirundo province**

On July 12, 2018, Ntega commune administrator Philippe Ngabonziza organized a meeting in which all residents of the three zones of Ntega commune, Kirundo province, attended. In his message, he said that whoever will not contribute for the 2020 elections will not have a place on Burundian soil and the receipt will replace the national identity card from July 16, 2018.

### **Forced contributions in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province**

CNDD-FDD party members and Bugabira commune administration in Kirundo province went out in the field on 12 July 2018 on the hills of this commune to announce the start of the collection of contributions for the 2020 elections. They set an amount of 2000 Bif for any adult and not per household contrary to the release of the Government of Burundi, which set for each household an amount of 2000 Bif and 1000 Bif for a student, unemployed or student of voting age.

### **Intimidation linked to forced contributions in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province**

On 14 July 2018, in the morning, the CNDD-FDD party leader in Mpanda commune and the administrator of the same commune, Bubanza province, ordered the local administrative officials to raise awareness and mobilize inhabitants to contribute for the communal day celebration. The local administrators whose inhabitants have not paid their contributions will be punished, as will the recalcitrant population.

### **A weapon and magazines found in Muha commune, Bujumbura city**

On July 10, 2018, in the morning, a gun and four magazines were found outside the home of Celestin Bibura, Ntwarante Avenue, Kinindo zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site,



Celestin discovered the weapon and alerted the nearby police station head. Police officers who came to pick up the weapon searched Celestin's home and took him with his family for interrogation.

**Leaflets found in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city**

On July 9, 2018, in the morning, leaflets were found on the walls of the University of Burundi, at Mutanga campus. According to sources on site, these leaflets were found in front of residences nicknamed Tropicana I, II and some pavilions. They contained threats and intimidation against students of opposition political parties at Campus Mutanga and praised the deeds, that they are endorsed and supported by the authority to silent these students. The same sources add that these leaflets were linked to the arrest of two students from Agathon Rwasa's FNL party of the same campus.

### ***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 3<sup>rd</sup> term of President Pierre Nkurunziza continue to be recorded in various parts of the country.

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

Forced contributions for the 2020 elections and intimidations were reported in this week.

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.