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***Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 119 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"***

**Week from 16-22 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 498 cases of enforced disappearances.***

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**BRARUDI** : *Brewery of Burundi*

**BSR** : *Special Bureau of Investigation*

**CDS** : *Health Center*

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

**DCE** : *Communal Education Direction*

**ECOFO** : *fundamental School*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

**ONG** : *Non-Governmental Organization*

**OPJ** : *Front for Democracy in Burundi*

**PN** : *National Police*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 5 people killed including 4 corpses found, 4 abducted, 7 tortured and 12 arbitrarily arrested.

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 POLICE***

##### **A person killed in Bururi commune and province**

On July 18, 2018, Kwasa of the Twa social component was shot by a policeman on Burarana hill, Bururi commune and province when he tried to resist his arrest. Administrative sources in Bururi indicate the victim had stolen 50 kg of beans from Mudahandwa hill. Local sources in Burarana add that other Batwa of Mibira revenged by seriously wounding Mathias Ndikumana, a 26-year-old member of the security joint committee from Mutaho commune, Gitega province.

#### ***I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **A body found in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura City**

On July 16, 2018, in the morning, on the Imprimerie Avenue near University of Burundi, Mutanga Campus and ECOFO of Public Garden of Nyakabiga, a body of Gelase Nzeyimana, aged 31 years old, driver, was found by the population. According to local sources, the victim, the son of Rubin Gitwanganya and Yvonne Sinigirira, is a native of Gitanga hill, Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province and resided in Rohero zone in Mukaza commune. According to police sources in Nyakabiga urban zone, he was strangled and brought to this place, in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura City. The perpetrators and reasons of this assassination remain unknown.

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

On July 18, 2018, a body of Pierre Kazobavako, a 43-year-old trader from Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province, was discovered in Cogo, Vyuya zone, Mugamba commune, Bururi province. The perpetrators as well as the reason of the crime remain unknown.

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

On 21 July 2018, in the morning, on Muyombwe hill, Butare zone, Bukemba commune, Rutana province, Vital Muhitira, 60 years old, was found dead at his home. According to local sources, Vital was killed at night by individuals who broke into his home. The victim was stabbed. The local administration says that investigations are already under way to know the perpetrators as well as the reason for this crime.

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

On July 21, 2018, on Maramvya hill, Kinzanza zone, Gitanga commune, Rutana province, a body of a boy named Ntirampeba, aged 7, was found in Mugonera Valley. According to sources on site, he was

slaughtered and the perpetrators are unknown as well as the reason. The police and the administration have already begun investigations.

## ***1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING***

### **Four people abducted in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura City**

On July 18, 2018, at about 5:00 pm, 4 young men who not identified were abducted by 6 police officers in a pick-up vehicle registered A273A PN, on Mission Avenue in downtown, Rohero urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura City. According to sources on site, the police halted near these young people and then forcefully loaded them and placed them under the rear seats by beating them so that they do not raise their head to be seen and headed to Asian quarter.

### **A person abducted in Muha commune, Bujumbura City<sup>1</sup>**

On July 13, 2018, at around 7:00 pm, Alexis Sindagije alias Bebeto, head of Musama quarter and FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was abducted by an SNR agent at "Chez Janvier" bar in Kanyosha zone. Muha commune, Bujumbura Town Hall. According to sources on the scene, 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.

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

### **A person tortured in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province**

On July 19, 2018, on Kivoga hill, Kiremba commune, Ngozi province, Japhet Riyazimana, FNL party member, Agathon Rwasa wing, was beaten by Mvukiye and Schadrack, young Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD party led by Viator Rivuzimana, deputy representative of this party at this hill. According to sources on site, the victim was returning home and was accused of voting against the change of the constitution during the referendum elections. His health was in critical condition.

### **Two people tortured in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province**

On 20 July 2018, on Kivoga hill, Kiremba commune, Ngozi province, Déo Nsengimana and Josias Bararunyeretse, FNL party members, Agathon Rwasa wing, were beaten by Imbonerakure Mvukiye, Schadrack and Viateur Rivuzimana. According to sources on site, they went to see their friend beaten up a day before by these Imbonerakure who accused him of having voted against the change of the constitution. According to the same sources, Deo Nsengimana and Josias Bararunyeretse were tied up and beaten by these Imbonerakure before being taken to Kiremba police cell.

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<sup>1</sup> This person had been reported to the section of abductees and reported missing persons by SNR in Weekly Bulletin Iteka n'ijambo number 118 but was found jailed in SNR cell in Bujumbura.

### **A person tortured in Gahombo commune, Kayanza province**

The information received by Iteka League on July 17, 2018 indicates that on July 14, 2018, on Rukago hill, Gahombo commune, Kayanza province, Nathanael, FNL party member of Agathon Rwas's wing, was beaten up by Imbonerakure. They accused him of throwing a stone to Jean Bosco Niyonzima alias Nyangoma, DCE in Gahombo commune. He was jailed in the commune cell before being released after paying a fine.

### **A person tortured in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On July 21, 2018, in Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, 25-year-old Chadrack Niyonkuru was beaten up by the OPJ of Buhiga commune in the jail. According to sources on site, he had been arrested after nearly killing his father who asked him why he had demolished a family kiosk and taken all the money, on Ruyaga hill, Rutonganikwa zone, Buhiga commune.

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

On 22 July 2018, at about 10:00 pm, on Rugoma hill, Ninga zone, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Paul Nzoyisaba was beaten by CNDD-FDD youth Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, he was accused of not having contributed to the ruling party for the 2020 elections.

### **A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province**

On the evening of July 21, 2018, at Nyarusange hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Renatus Ndayisaba, FNL member of Agathon Rwas's wing, was beaten by two Imbonerakure, Saïdi alias Niga and Mutoni. They accused him of not wanting to contribute for the 2020 elections. They hit him on the head with a stick and his ear was torn. He went to seek treatment at Gasenyi CDS in that same commune.

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

### **A person arrested in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City**

On 17 July 2018, at around 2:00 pm, a man named Dieudonné, resident of Gasenyi quarter, Gihosha urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura City, was arrested by police while he was having lunch at his home. According to sources on site, police officers aboard double-cabin vehicle entered his home and drove him to BSR cell. Dieudonné had just spent a few days from Belgium where he was doing his PH D studies in Biology. The reason for his arrest remains unknown so far, but he was released on July 18, 2018 after payment of an unrevealed sum of money.

### **Three people arrested in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura City**

On July 20, 2018, police and soldiers carried out a search for the control of household notebooks and irregulars, from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> avenue of Mutakura quarter, Cibitoke urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura City. According to local sources, three people were arrested on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and were released en route to the zone office after giving a ransom of 5,000 to 10,000 Bif.

### **Four people arrested in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura City**

On July 16, 2018, police officers and soldiers carried out a search for the control of household notebooks and irregulars from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue from No 60 to No 90, Cibitoke urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura City. According to sources on site, four people were arrested and released after giving 2000 Bif each.

### **A person arrested in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province**

On 16 July 2018, Dastan Ciza alias Gaseke, from Buheka hill, Kazirabageni zone, Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province, was arrested and taken to Nyanza-Lac commune police station by the communal police commissioner. The sources on site reveal that the victim is accused of having dug up the bodies of people buried several years ago. According to the same sources, this young man discovered this mass grave when he made bricks in this locality.

### **Two people arrested in Gatara commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by League Iteka on July 17, 2018 indicates that on July 15, 2018, on Kibenga hill, Gatara commune, Kayanza province, Jean Pierre Ruzoza, Kibenga hill head and Jean Claude, FNL party member, wing of Agathon Rwasa and brother of Pelate Niyonkuru, Minister of Culture and Sports, were arrested and jailed in the commune cell. According to sources on site, these victims were blamed for not having prevented FNL members from going to welcome Pelate, the minister from their party. The hill head was released the next day after paying 40,000 Bif to the commune authorities while Jean Claude was taken to the province police station cell in Kayanza and was released on 17 July 2018.

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

On July 21, 2018, around 8:00 pm on Gahosha sub hill, Kirama hill, Makamba commune and province, Imbonerakure Eric, Aloys, Nahayo and Frédéric arrested a biker named Thomas when he stopped to relieve urinate accusing him of attempting to rape a woman he was carrying on his motorcycle. They took him to the police station cell where he was jailed all night before being released the next day on 22 July 2018 at 10 am after the woman's testimony.



## ***I.5. VIOLATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS***

### **Violation of the right of access to public services in Kirundo commune and province**

On July 16, 2018, all axes of Kirundo city were blocked by Imbonerakure to ask passersby to present receipts for the contribution for the 2020 elections. According to sources on site, even in quarters, the latter required a payment receipt of 2000 Bif. No person has the right to access the public service without presenting the receipt, add the same sources. As an example, on the morning of July 17, 2018, an Imbonerakure and the head of Kabagabaga sub-hill, Kavomo hill in Kirundo-rural zone, commune and Kirundo province, forbade anyone from that locality to draw water from a tap without showing the contribution receipt. Those who did not have it had to turn back.

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

### **Forced contributions in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On July 21, 2018, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Phocas Sindaruhuka, Buhiga zone head and communal representative of CNDD-FDD party, accompanied by five Imbonerakure including Gerard alias Saidi and Asmani blocked the road to Kamahoro market. According to local sources, they stopped all passers-by asking them to show contribution receipts for the 2020 elections. The same sources add that those who did not have it had to return home or pay to be able to continue their way. State officials and other employees must pay 2000 Bif per household in addition to monthly cuts from their salaries. Other citizens pay 1000 Bif per household.

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

Information received by Iteka League on 17 July 2018 indicates that since 14 July 2018, on the Kinyovu hills, Carubambo, Mariza and Makombe, Mugendo zone, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, Carubambo hill head Paul Nsabimana, Pascal Havyarimana, a teacher, and Imbonerakure Oscar Bintunimana, arrested all passers-by who did not pay the 2000 Bif contribution per person for the 2020 elections. According to sources on site, all young people from 18 years old as well as students must pay an amount of 1000 Bif each. This activity, which is supported by the commune administrator, Philippe Ngabonziza is obligatory even for the vulnerable.

### **Forced contributions in Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province**

On 20 and 21 July 2018, in the morning, CNDD-FDD party representatives of Bugonza hills in Mwakiro zone, Rusheri, Bukwanzi and Rugabano in Rugabano zone of Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province, accompanied by young Imbonerakure set four barriers to controlling and collecting contributions for the 2020 elections. Those heading to Rugano market had to comply or turn back.

### **Forced contributions in Bururi province**

On July 20, 2018, Frédéric Niyonzima, Governor of Bururi province, held a service meeting for all executives and department heads in the province. According to sources on site, one of the points on the agenda was the repair of the vehicle of this same governor. Thus, an amount of more than eight million is needed for this repair. According to the same sources, the Governor has ordered department heads throughout the province to instruct their subordinates to contribute to the restoration of this vehicle. A bank account was opened at the bank for the payment of these fees, add the same sources.

### **A person ransomed in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province**

Information received by Iteka League on July 17, 2018 indicates that on July 15, 2018, Nyenama of Musama hill, Giheta commune, Gitega province was released after paying 500,000 Bif ransom to Nzoyihiki, police station head and the communal SNR leader Evariste. According to local sources, the victim was arrested on 14 July 2018, in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, in possession of two bags of hemp. The same sources indicate that these bags of hemp were kept by both agents.

### **A person threatened in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province**

Since 16 July 2018, on the seventh street, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, the 28-year-old Ndayisenga, BRARUDI products trader and FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, lives a fear following the rumors conveyed by Ncuti also holding a deposit of BRARUDI products and young Imbonerakure to whom he had given money to accuse Ndayisenga of holding nightly meetings with FNL party youth. According to local sources, on 17 and 19 July 2018, the local police carried out two searches at Ndayisenga's house, but no compromising objects were found.

### **Incitement to mob justice in Cendajuru commune, Cankuzo province**

On July 16, 2018, during the weekly security meeting, the administrator of Cendajuru commune in Cankuzo province asked the hill heads not to mention the problem of night robbers any more. According to sources on site, this authority has emphasized that he should instead be called to show him the corpse of the thief and added that those who understand it no longer have such a problem. The meeting was attended by heads of services, representatives of community organizations and other representatives of NGOs operating in the commune. According to the same sources, the participants fear that targeted assassinations and acts of mob justice are committed following this authority's statements.

### **A gun found in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province**

On 19 July 2018, on Gasanyi sub-hill, Mburi hill, Camazi zone, Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province, a Kalashnikov rifle, 5 magazines, two of which were full of bullets, were found by children in a coffee field. According to local sources, this weapon and its magazines were taken and kept at Cankuzo police station.

## **Young Imbonerakure deployed on Burundian-Tanzanian border in Gisagara commune, Cankuzo province**

The information received by Iteka League on July 22, 2018 indicates that young Imbonerakure of Gisagara commune in Cankuzo province are placed by the commune administrator on Bunyerere hills in Gisagara zone and Bumba in Camazi zone on the border zone with Tanzania, to officially regulate security on this border. These young people of the ruling party were deployed to face, according to this authority of the commune, the gunmen who ambush to steal money and other goods from the population. These Imbonerakure also carry out searches in households of this locality.

### ***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.