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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 125 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"
Week from 27 August – 2 September 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 2 September 2018, Iteka has documented at least 494 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BAE : *Anti-Riot Brigade*

BGF : *Bank of Management and Funding*

BICOR : *Burundi Insurance Corporation*

CDS : *Health Centre*

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

ECOFO : *Ecole Fondamentale*

FRODEBU : *Front for National Liberation*

IPA : *Applied Pedagogy Institute*

MSD : *Movement for Solidarity and Democracy*

MSF : *Doctors without Borders*

OBR : *Burundi Revenue Authority*

OPJ : *Judicial Police Officer*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 6 people killed including 3 corpses found, 2 cases of abductions and/or reported missing, 11 tortured, 1 arbitrarily arrested and 4 GBV cases.

Young people from the Imbonerakure militia affiliated to CNDD-FDD ruling party, soldiers, 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, abductions, torture and arbitrary arrests of opponents and alleged opponents of President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime.

Cases of GBV 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

A person killed in Bukinyana commune, Cibitoke province

On 29 August 2018, at around 2:00 am, Eric Nduwayezu, CNDD-FDD member of Myave hill, Ndora zone, Bukinyana commune, Cibitoke province, was clubbed and stabbed by a group of unidentified men. The reason for this assassination remains unknown.

A body found in Rumonge commune and province

On August 30, 2018, a body of fisherman Gustave Ndaramvye, aged 48, was found in Karonda village, Kigwena zone, Rumonge commune and province. The reasons of his death remain unknown.

A body found in commune and province Rumonge

On August 29, 2018, a body of a child, about 6 months old, was found near a mosque in Nkayamba quarter, in Rumonge commune and province. The reasons of his death remain unknown.

A body found in Vugizo commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 1 September 2018 indicates that on 24 August 2018, a body of Zela Nimpagaritse, aged about 50, was found in her house on Rabiho hill, Vugizo commune, Makamba province. According to local sources, the body showed signs of a person being slit. The same sources indicate that three alleged perpetrators have been arrested and jailed at Vugizo commune Commissariat for investigation.

A person killed in Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province

On August 31, 2018, at Kagoma hill, Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province, 52-year-old André Rwazanyingata was killed following a grenade explosion by unidentified individuals at his home. On-site sources indicate that this grenade was thrown through a window in the victim's bedroom. The same sources add that this grenade also wounded his wife, Immaculee Kampayano. Two alleged perpetrators, Romain Habanzimana and Eric Ndabirabe were arrested by the police.

I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING

A student abducted, tortured and reported missing in Nyakabiga urban zone, Bujumbura City¹

On September 30, 2016, IPA student Aimable Manirakiza was abducted, tortured and taken to an unknown location in a pickup truck full of heavily armed police.

¹ The case was listed in the annual report from November 2015 to November 2016. He is at Mpimba Central Prison.

The events occurred in the late afternoon on the 9th Avenue of Nyakabiga III quarter, near Mutanga campus, in Nyakabiga urban zone, Bujumbura city. Two people in civilian clothes armed with pistols approached him before shooting in the air. The victim then shouted for help and tried to flee but was already mastered. Immediately after, policemen aboard the aforementioned pick-up truck, embarked him to an unknown place.

A person reported missing in Muha commune, Bujumbura city

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 30 August 2018 indicates that on 23 August 2018, Emery Emerusenge, a 30-year-old student from Muyombwe hill 2, Butare zone, Bukemba commune, Rutana province, was reported missing in Bujumbura city. Sources on site reveal that Emery Emerusenge left the home on Rusama Avenue in Kinindo zone at 9:00 am, saying he was going to meet someone with whom he had an appointment in Bujumbura downtown. Since then, no one has seen him again. He graduated from the Faculty of Banking and Insurance at Martin Luther King University. A few weeks ago, he had just finished his training at BGF.

A person abducted in Bugendana commune, Gitega province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 27 August 2018 indicates that on 26 August 2018, Vianney Havyarimana, MSD party member, from Kibungo hill, Bitare zone, residing at Bugendana IDP site in Bugendana commune, Gitega province was abducted by the SNR head in Gitega. According to local sources, the vehicle that transported the victim did not have a plate number at the time of the abduction.

1.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, MILITARY, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND POLICE

A person tortured in Bubanza commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 30 August 2018 indicates that on 26 August 2018, at about 10:00 am, Adrien Sibomana, a detainee at Bubanza province police station cell, residing on Kibuye hill, commune Rugazi, Bubanza province, was tortured by a policeman named Leonard of Bubanza police station. According to sources on site, Leonard entered the prison where this detainee was. The victim went for treatment at Bubanza Hospital.

Four people tortured in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On August 27, 2018, three journalists of Radio Culture, Alain Majesté Barenga, Alain Mucamanza and Bella Gloria Akimana as well as their driver reporting on a land dispute between the population and the administration were assaulted and beaten by police officers in Ngagara 10 zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura city. According to sources on site, their vehicle was damaged and they were saved thanks to the intervention of the population.

A person tortured in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On 29 August 2018, at about 9:00 pm, on Kigwati II hill, Rukaramu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Jean de Dieu Nikwigize was beaten up by Major Eric Niyonzima of the 412 Battalion, Gatumba Camp, in complicity with the police brigadier assigned to the same locality.

According to sources on site, this Major is assigned to a position on Kigwati hill II, Rukaramu zone. The victim was beaten and broke his arm when he asked the Major for 80,000 Bif for the beer he had drunk in his bar. According to the same sources, Jean de Dieu Nikwigize was transported in the same night to MSF hospital in Kigobe.

Two people tortured in Gahombo commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 30 August 2018 indicates that on 24 August 2018, on Rukago hill, Gahombo commune, Kayanza province, Bulariya (Eulalia) Hatungimana and Sylvane Nsaguye were beaten up by two Imbonerakure, Roger and Sere alias Gwabisazi, on the order of the police station head of Gahombo commune. According to local sources, they were accused of walking after 7:00 pm. According to the same sources, these victims went to complain to the OPJ, who refused to receive them and insulted them. In Gahombo commune, the administration in collaboration with the police initiated a measure to ban circulation to women and children from 7:00 pm.

A person tortured in Ntega commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 28, 2018 indicates that on August 26, 2018, around 9:00 pm, Balthazar Mpitabavuma, a resident of Murama hill, Muyinga commune and province, was beaten by Imbonerakure of Gasave hill, Ntega zone and commune, Kirundo province. According to sources on site, the victim was to spend the night on Gasave hill, to his relatives. This victim was accused of sorcery because of a dental device he had on him and the head of this hill asked him a fine of 8,000 Bif for walking at night.

A person tortured in Kibago commune, Makamba province

On August 31, 2018, Augustin Ndamukunda was beaten up by Imbonerakure, including Semu Misago on the order of Seth Minani, Kiyange hill head, Kibago commune, Makamba province. According to local sources, the victim was on a field visit as part of the defense of his client in conflict with this hill chief. This Imbonerakure had recently been released on presidential pardon after he was accused of beating OBR agents who were seizing fraudulent goods at the local market.

A person tortured in Rumonge commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 27 August 2018 indicates that on 22 August 2018, Pierre Claver Nahimana alias Juma, Sahwanya FRODEBU party member, residing on Nyakuguma hill, Kigwena zone, Rumonge commune and province, was tortured by Kigwena zone head, Yollande Ntihakose. According to sources on site, this administrative officer who has land and political conflicts with the victim has ordered his children and workers to beat him. According to the same sources, the victim was beaten at the zone head's home until he lost consciousness and was evacuated to CDS Kigwena.

1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person arrested in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province

On August 28, 2018, Fabrice Niyonsaba, motorcyclist, from Kiganda hill and commune, Muramvya province was arrested by a young Imbonerakure by named Regis from Rusaka hill and commune.

According to sources on site, he was accused of insulting the administrator. This motorcyclist was first jailed in Rusaka commune police station cell, and then transferred to Mwaro province police station cell on August 30, 2018.

1.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Musigati commune, Bubanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 27, 2018 indicates that on August 22, 2018, on Nyarutore sub-hill, Kiziba hill, Musigati commune, Bubanza province, a girl named G. was raped by two unidentified people. According to local sources, the victim was treated at CDS Musigati.

A person raped in Bukeye commune, Muramvya province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 27 August 2018 indicates that on 13 August 2018, on Rweteto hill, Bukeye commune, Muramvya province, JN of Burarana hill of the same commune, was raped by Tharcisse Harerimana from Rweteto hill. According to sources on site, he was arrested and jailed in Muramvya prison.

A person raped in Bukeye commune, Muramvya province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 27 August 2018 indicates that on 14 August 2018, on Rweteto hill, Bukeye commune, Muramvya province, SM, a pupil at Kiganda High School, was raped by Pascal Ndayishimiye alias Issa in complicity with Roger who is a biker and Willy. According to sources on site, one of the alleged perpetrators, Pascal Ndayishimiye alias Issa was arrested and jailed in Muramvya Prison.

A person raped in Muramvya commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 27, 2018 indicates that on August 24, 2018, on Mubira hill, Shombo zone, Muramvya commune and province, AA, pupil at ECOFO Ruhinga in Shombo zone, was raped by Innocent Ndikumana, a hairdresser from Mubira hill. He was arrested and jailed in Muramvya police cell.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A person injured by gunfire in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura city

Information received by Ligue Iteka on August 27, 2018 indicates that on the night of August 26, 2018, a man named Eric living in Jabe quarter of Bwiza zone, driver at Burundi Red Cross and Urunani team player, was shot at the knee and ankle by a BAE officer who accused him of wanting to remove his weapon. According to sources on site, the facts occurred close to BICOR insurance company, downtown and it is an intentional act.

A person killed in Muhuta commune, Rumonge province

On August 27, 2018, Fulgence Bukuru, 52, was lynched by the population accusing him of sorcery on Kiryama sub-hill, Muhuta zone and commune, Rumonge province. According to local sources, these people accused him of bewitching a woman and her child.

A person injured in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province

On the morning of August 31, 2018, on Nyange hill, Rugongo zone, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province, Désiré Nyandwi was wounded and had his left ear amputated by his younger brother Léonard. According to sources on site, his younger brother wanted to confiscate the victim's phone so that he himself could receive the money given by "Merankabandi" project, which is 40,000 Bif in two months. This phone was given by this project "Merankabandi". According to the same sources, the perpetrator was arrested and taken to Ruyigi police station.

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

GBV cases were observed 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.