

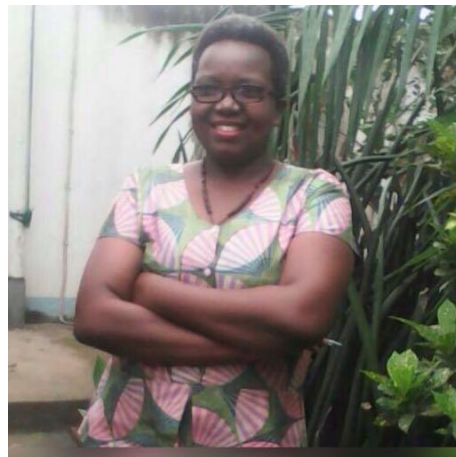
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 134 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 29 October – 4 November 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 4 November 2018, Iteka has documented at least 502 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AJC : *Africa Jeho kuki Cooperative*

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

DCE : *Communal Director of Education*

DPE : *Provincial Director of Education*

EAC : *East African Community*

ECOFO : *Ecole Fondamentale*

FNL : *National Liberation Movement*

MSD : *Movement for Solidarity and Democracy*

SIP : *Public Real Estate Company*

SIM : *Subscriber Identity Module*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

USAID : *United States Agency for International Development*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 10 people killed including 7 bodies found, 1 tortured, 42 arbitrarily arrested including 8 women and 2 GBV victims.

Young people from the Imbonerakure militia affiliated to CNDD-FDD ruling party, SNR agents, police 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.

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 IMBONERAKURE

A person killed in Vugizo commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 2 November 2018, indicates that on 28 October 2018, Sébastien Minani, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was killed near his home on Murinda hill, Vugizo commune, Makamba province. According to local sources, Charles Kabura, Gaspard Nkorotanyi and Vincent Manirisa, all members of the Imbonerakure militia, were arrested and jailed at Vugizo commune police station cell since 29 October 2018. They were accused of having participated in the assassination of Sebastien Minani.

I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A person killed in Bubanza commune and province

On October 30, 2018, at about 11:00 pm, on Mitakataka hill and zone, Bubanza commune and province, Sijewambere, aged 28, watchman in a household of a businessman and member of CNDD-FDD party was shot by unidentified gunmen at the workplace. According to sources on site, the police began investigations so that the reason of this assassination is known. According to the same sources, this victim was a leader of the Red Cross youth section on Mitakataka hill, Mitakataka zone in Bubanza commune and province.

Two bodies found in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On November 2, 2018, two bodies were found in Kigobe quarter, Gihosha urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie, one in front of the MSF hospital and the other in front of SIP houses. According to local sources, one of the victims is Alexis Bigirimana, aged 28, from Muheka hill, Songa commune, Bururi province. According to the same sources, these bodies were brought and dumped by people in a vehicle during the night of 1 November 2018.

A person killed in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on October 29, 2018, indicates that on October 28, 2018, at about 6:00 pm, on the 14th street, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, an unidentified biker was shot by unidentified gunmen. According to local sources, police officers from Maramvya zone position intervened and the perpetrators fled. According to the same sources, the motorcycle and the victim's ID were recovered by these police officers.

Four bodies found in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On November 4, 2018, at Nyamitanga hill, Ndava zone, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, four bodies were seen floating on Rusizi River. According to local sources, these bodies were seen by residents of Nyamitanga hill.

A body found in Buyengero commune, Rumonge province

On 30 October 2018, on Kirama hill, Buyengero commune, Rumonge province, a body of an unidentified man was found hanged on an oil palm. According to sources on site, the body of the victim was undressed and showed traces of beatings. The alleged perpetrators of this murder remain unknown.

1.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On 31 October 2018, on Cunyu hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, 25-year-old Charles Gahungu, FNL member of Agathon Rwaswa wing, a farmer, was beaten by Imbonerakure of the area and was injured in the left leg. According to sources on site, Charles Gahungu was accused of refusing to participate in the night patrols.

1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND POLICE

A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On 30 October 2018, on Kigoma hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, Jimmy Ndayizeye, hill councilor and MSD party member was arrested and taken to province police station cell by the SNR provincial officer. According to sources on site, he was accused of stealing a SIM card belonging to an Imbonerakure, Lumitel's agent in Karuzi, but the reason for his arrest is linked to his political affiliation. According to the same sources, he was released on November 2, 2018. According to ten same sources, he was released on 2 November 2018

Ten people arrested in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

On October 31, 2018, around 5:00 pm, ten people, including eight women, Caritas Niyonzima, Gonzague Bukuru, Rwaswa, Liliane, Rose Rwamoya, Francoise, Libérate Niyongere, Odette Magunira and 2 drivers Mudarasine and Mirererwe, members of the Entrepreneur Women Association, funded by USAID, were arrested with their vehicles at Gasenyi border by Olivier, SNR agent in Kirundo, and were jailed in Kirundo Prosecutor's office cell. According to local sources, they were accused of attending a meeting organized by EAC in Nyamata, Rwanda. They were released on November 1, 2018 and were forbidden to return there.

Thirty people arrested in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 29 October 2018 indicates that on 21 October 2018, thirty persons including two FNL members of Agathon Rwaswa's wing, Zacharie and Thomas, teachers in Vumbi, were arrested in bar called "Chez Butoyi" in Gasura, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province by Imbonerakure commanded by their communal leader named Muhizi on the order of the commune administrator, Jean Baptiste Kwizera. According to local sources, these people were jailed at Vumbi

commune cell on the order of the Prosecutor at Ngozi Court of Appeal and were accused of holding an illegal meeting of FNL party members of Agathon. Rwasa's wing. According to the same sources, these people participated in a meeting organized by their association called AJC Burundi. These people were released on October 23, 2018 after the payment of 20,000 Bif each.

A person arrested in Bweru commune, Ruyigi province

On November 2, 2018, Sylvain Munda, a teacher at Nyakayi Communal High School, FNL representative of Agathon Rwasa's wing, resident at Kayongozi hill, Caga hill, Bweru commune, Ruyigi province, was arrested at his home by two police officers on the orders of the Governor of Ruyigi. According to sources on site, he was taken to Ruyigi province police station cell. According to the same sources, he was accused of holding clandestine meetings on behalf of his party.

I.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

An alleged perpetrator of several unpunished sexual crimes in Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province

On November 1, 2018, around 8:00 pm, Wilson Ndikumana nicknamed Songa, nurse at Kinyinya hospital, Kinyinya zone head, leader of the demobilized in Ruyigi province, head of the Imbonerakure in Kinyinya commune and in charge of party propaganda CNDD-FDD in this commune, tried to violate B., local beverage seller at Kiyovu market in Kinyinya commune. According to sources on site, Wilson Ndikumana attacked the police who intervened on behalf of this woman. These policemen managed to control him and took him to the commune cell but he was released the next morning. According to the same sources, Wilson Ndikumana was cited as the author of other cases of sexual crimes namely the rape of a mentally disabled patient a few months ago and the attempted rape of a pregnant woman on October 30, 2018. Wilson Ndikumana still enjoys impunity because he is protected by his party CNDD-FDD.

A person raped in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province

On October 29, 2018, at approximately 7:00 pm, at Bucuzi hill, Murwi commune and zone, Cibitoke province, C. B, 17, student at ECOFO in Bucuzi, was raped by a man aged thirty years when she came back from a water well. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to Murwi commune cell by Imbonerakure. The victim was taken to Cibitoke for medical treatment.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A person injured with a grenade in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province

On November 3, 2018, on Mugina hill, Buseruko zone, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, Marie Manirakiza, a sixty-year-old farmer, was seriously injured by a grenade thrown by unidentified people. According to sources on site, she was accused of sorcery. He was taken to Cibitoke Hospital and transferred to one of the hospitals in Bujumbura Mairie.

Attempted assassination of the administrator of Busoni commune, Kirundo province

On 29 October 2018, on Kigoma hill, Gatara zone, Busoni commune, Kirundo province, near a roadblock by Imbonerakure, an ambush was held against Marie Claudine Hashazinka, administrator of Busoni commune. According to local sources, a police officer in charge of the administrator's safety was injured in the neck. According to the same sources, this communal authority wrote a letter to Mutwenzi camp commander asking for a guard of the military but this commander suggested to her to go to the Governor. The administrator spent a week without appearing at the office for fear of being killed especially since no investigation was conducted to identify the perpetrators of this assassination attempt.

Weapons found in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province

On 1 November 2018, on Butembe hill, Butanuka zone, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, an AK 47 registered UA 3115 BI PNB rifle and two Chinese grenades were found hidden in a hole, next to the bed in the home of Samuel Kwizerimana, aged 38, member of CNDD-FDD party. According to local sources, he was arrested by Imbonerakure in collaboration with police officers and jailed at Mpanda police station cell. According to the same sources, he was transferred to Bubanza prison.

Intimidation of non-CNDD-FDD teachers in Karuzi province

As of 31 October 2018, since 12:00 am, in all the communes of Karuzi province, meetings for all teachers have been organized by DCEs on the order of the DPE, Stanislas Manirakiza and at the same time provincial representative of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, during these meetings, the agenda was the sensitization of teachers not members of the ruling party to join CNDD-FDD party immediately. According to the same sources, Stanislas Manirakiza threatened these teachers that anyone who is not the party member must search where to exile.

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.

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.