

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

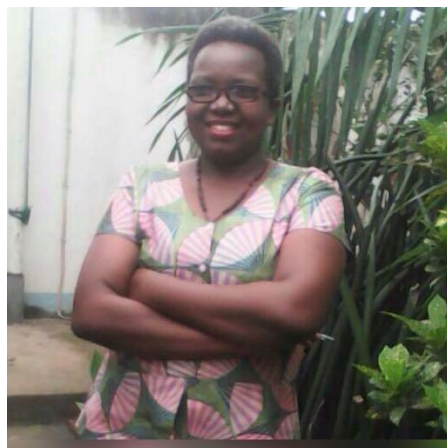
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 141 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 17-23 December 2018



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 23 December 2018, Iteka has documented at least 513 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS : *Health Center*

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

DAF : *Administrative and Financial Director*

DPE : *Provincial Director of Education*

ECOFO : *Ecole Fondamentale*

FNL : *National Liberation Movement*

MSD : *Movement for Solidarity and Democracy*

PAM : *World Health Organization*

PARENA : *Party for National Revival*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

SOCABU : *Burundi Insurance Company*

VBG : *Gender Based Violence*

0. INTRODUCTION

During the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded: at least 8 people killed including 1 body found, 2 abducted and/or reported missing, 2 tortured, 5 arbitrarily arrested and 1 GBV victim.

Among the victims are 2 women and 1 minor killed.

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

The bulletin also notes cases of killings, kidnappings and/or enforced disappearances, torture and arbitrary arrest 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 Vumbi commune, Kirundo province

On December 21, 2018, at about 11:00 pm, on Gasura hill, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province, Nkurunziza, mother of 3 children, was killed by a nicknamed Zigote, Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, the victim was raped near her house before being killed by Zigote. He was arrested and jailed in Vumbi commune cell.

I.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A person killed in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province

On December 18, 2018, at about 10:00 pm, on Nyamabere hill, at the 11th street, Musenyi zone, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, Abraham Kibereke was beheaded by unidentified people who broke into his house and took away his head. According to sources on site, two people including Edouard Habonimana were arrested by police and jailed in Mpanda police station cell for investigation reasons.

Four people killed in Kirundo commune and province

On 19 December 2018 around 9:00 pm, 3 children and their mother, all of Jean Claude Ruberintwari's family were killed by grenades. According to sources on site, the perpetrators threw two grenades into their house on Kavomo hill, Kirundo zone, commune and province. According to the administrator of Kirundo commune, Jean Claude Miburo, the cause of this assassination is linked to sorcery.

A body found in Rumonge commune and province

On December 23, 2018, a corpse of a man was found in Kanyenkoko quarter, in Rumonge commune and province. According to local sources, the body of the victim was not identified and was taken to Rumonge hospital morgue by Red Cross volunteers living in the same quarter. The cause of his death is not known.

I.3. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING

Two people abducted in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 17, 2018 indicates, on December 12, 2015, around 4:00 am, at Gisagara Avenue, Musaga zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie, two young men, sons of the late Havyarimana Patrice and Esperance Nahimana, 27-year-old Aime Hakizimana and 18-year-old Patrick Hakizimana, 9th form student, were abducted by soldiers and police who took them to an unknown destination. According to local sources, after attacks on military camps, soldiers and policemen circulated in Musaga zone, capturing or killing anyone they met. On the morning of December 12, 2015, police came to the homes of these two young men and told their mother that her son Aimé Havyarimana was killed and that she could go take the body on the road to Mpimba prison

and that Patrick Havyarimana was arrested with other young people. They said so to the family, threatening her with disdain. Their mother ran to the spot on the Mpimba road, but police stopped her at the small market "kukasoko" and ordered her to return home. Since that day, their mother has neither seen the bodies of these young people nor received any news.

1.4. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Gatara commune, Kayanza province

On 20 December 2018, at about 8:00 pm, on Gisyo hill, Ngoro zone, Gatara commune, Kayanza province, Audace Sibomana, Vice-president of MSD party in Gatara commune and teacher at ECOFO Gisyo, was beaten home by Remy Nsengiyumva, head of Imbonerakure on this hill. He was accused of being an opponent and Remy was not worried.

A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province

On December 22, 2018, at night, on Nyabibuye hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Sylvestre Kagoma, member of FNL of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was beaten by a group of Imbonerakure on patrol, wearing police uniforms. Gideon and Karorero alias Muvuba, accusing him of shouting. According to sources on site, Sylvestre Kagoma had gone outside and he saw this group and then he shouted. According to the same sources, the victim is being treated at Gasenyi CDS in Rango commune.

1.5. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, SNR AGENTS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On 18 December 2018, Etienne Munyankindi, SOCABU agent, was arrested by SNR agents at his workplace at the Avenue de l'Amitié, in Rohero urban zone, Mukaza commune, and taken to SNR cell in Bujumbura Mairie. According to sources on site, the victim was arrested after two days of his return from Rwanda where he had gone a month ago to seek treatment. The reason for his arrest remains unknown.

A person arrested in Cendajuru commune, Cankuzo province

On 21 December 2018, Oscar Hatungimana, provincial leader of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing was arrested in Cendajuru commune, Cankuzo province. According to local sources, the victim was taken to Cendajuru police cell. According to the same sources, the victim was arrested when he attended a teachers' union meeting.

A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 18, 2018 indicates, on December 15, 2018, on Rwingoma hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Ezekiel Nsanzurwimo, aged 23, Imbonerakure and motorcycle taxi driver, was arrested at his home, beaten up and then taken to the provincial police station cell in Karuzi by the communal commissar named Gilbert. According to sources on site, this arrest was ordered by Gérard Ninziza, resource manager in DPE Karuzi and member of CNDD-FDD party provincial committee, who accused him of insulting the institutions.

According to the same sources, Ezekiel had refused to give Gerard free fuel that he sells per bottle in case of shortage. In addition, the Commissioner brought a few grains of hemp into his hands and said he had just found them in the victim's house.

A person arrested in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

On December 23, 2018, around noon, on Gitaramuka hill, zone and commune, 35-year-old Alexander Ngendakumana was arrested at his home and taken to the zone cell by Claver Nkuzimana, Gitaramuka zone head. According to sources on site, he was accused by Liévin Ndayiziga and Evariste Sindayigaya alias SIDORO, all Imbonerakure, for being absent at the night patrol of December 21, 2018.

A person arrested in Rumonge commune and province

On December 17, 2018, on Kizuka hill, Rumonge commune and province, Avit Nshimirimana, member of PARENA party was arrested after a search at his home by Michel, provincial head of SNR in Rumonge. According to sources on site, no compromising objects were found during this search and Avit was still jailed in police cell in Rumonge on December 23, 2018. The reason for this arrest remains unknown.

1.6. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On December 18, 2018, at about 8:00 pm, on Karurama hill, Cibitoke zone, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, C.B, a 40-year-old farmer from the 8th street in Cibitoke, was raped by two unidentified men. According to local sources, the victim was returning from Cibitoke market where she was selling grilled corn. According to the same sources, she was taken to Cibitoke Hospital for medical treatment.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A person killed in Gitega commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 17, 2018 indicates, on December 8, 2018, at about 10:00 pm, on Ryonaba sub-hill, Songa hill, Gitega commune and province, Benoît, from Gasagara hill, commune Makebuko, entered Alexis' house, son of Gaspard and trader in Bujumbura. According to local sources, he threatened the girls with a knife. One of them, Divine Munezero, shouted at him. According to the same sources, the neighbors intervened and beat Benoit to death. The corpse was buried the next day and nobody was worried.

Gunshots in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

On December 19, 2018, on Kamenge sub-hill, Nyagisozi hill, Busoni commune, Kirundo province, police officers accompanied by Marie-Claudine Hashazinka, Busoni commune administrator opened fire on the population digging the grave of the late Salvator Muvunyi, Imbonerakure and commissioner of CNDD-FDD party in Busoni commune. According to sources on site, that same day, around 10:00 am, at the center commonly called Kamenge, on Ruheha hill, Nyagisozi zone, Busoni commune, the

administrator had just quarreled with Mukashaka, soldier and daughter of the deceased. According to the same sources, Mukashaka accused the administrator of being responsible for her father's death.

Intimidation in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On December 19, 2018, at about 4:00 pm, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, at CNDD-FDD party office, a meeting of the Imbonerakure was held by Nestor Bashingwanubusa, DAF of Karuzi DPE and member Imbonerakure provincial committee. According to sources on site, he urged them to reinforce night patrols, from 8:00 pm, to arrest all passers-by, to identify members of the opposition, to tie them up and bring them to the zone office.

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.

Members of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing have been particularly targeted of these violations.

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.