

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

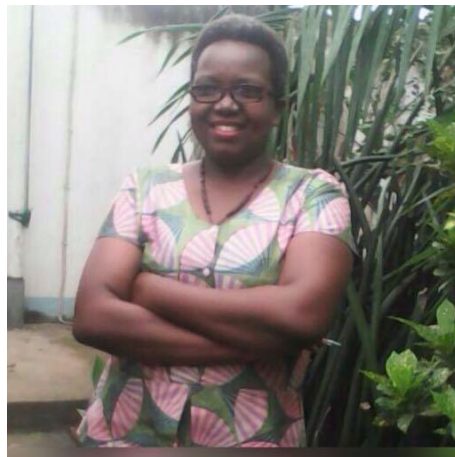
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 143 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 31 December 2018 - 6 January 2019



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 6 January 2019, Iteka has documented at least 510 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CDS : *Health Center*

CMS : *Joint Security Committee*

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

ECOFO : *Fundamental School*

FAB : *Burundi Armed Forces*

FDNB : *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

OPJ : *Judicial Police Officer*

PNB : *Burundi National Police*

RANAC : *National Rally for Change*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

UPD : *Union for Peace and Democracy*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 10 persons were killed including found, 1 person abducted, 6 tortured and 1 arbitrarily arrested.

Among the victims are 4 women killed and 1 minor killed as well as 1 minor tortured.

The Imbonerakure of CNDD-FDD ruling party's youth, policemen, administration officials and SNR agents are blamed as the alleged perpetrators of most of human rights violations.

The bulletin also notes cases of killings, abductions and/or enforced disappearances, torture and arbitrary arrest of opponents and alleged opponents of President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime particularly from political parties FNL party of Agathn Rwasa's wing, RANAC and UPD-Zigamibanga.

I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

I.1.1. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

A person killed in Kibago commune, Makamba province

On January 3, 2019, around 4:00 pm, Emile Ntahiraja, a trader, money changer and father of 4 children, was killed in an ambush by bandits on two motorbikes on Gifumbe hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, the victim was back from the market commonly called "Kwa Buhinja" located on Murambi hill of this commune on the Burundian-Tanzanian border. The alleged perpetrators took off with the money after the crime without being identified.

A person killed in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

On January 4, 2019, on Mukimba hill, Mukungu zone, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province, Désiré Nihorimbere, aged 24, laureate of the Great Lakes University, Department of Public Health, was killed by unidentified people using sticks and knives. The reason for this killing is not known.

Two people killed in Rusaka commune, Mwaro province

On January 1, 2019, Cécile Gatete, 80-year-old widow, and her 20-year-old daughter Audrey Bukeyenzeza of Namande hill, Yanza zone, Rusaka commune, Mwaro province, were killed with a machete and club by unidentified people. According to sources on site, an alleged perpetrator, their domestic worker named Liévin Akimana was arrested. The latter tried to commit suicide with poison but his family surprised him just after the act. He was taken to CDS Yanza for medical treatment. The reason for this killing remains unknown.

A body found in Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province

On January 3, 2019, at about 12:00 pm, the body of 67-year-old Tharcisse Ntahomvukiye, a member of CNDD-FDD party, of Mazita hill, Gatonde zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, was found in Gatara river separating Mazita and Ruhuma hills from the same commune. The cause and the circumstances of his death are not known.

Three bodies found in Gatara commune, Kayanza province

On December 31, 2018, on Bubogora hill, Gatara zone and commune, Kayanza province, 3 bodies of Ciza, an old woman, her nephew and her niece Ménémore in decomposition, were found in Ciza's house. According to sources on site, land conflicts were behind this killing. The alleged perpetrator, Terence Niciteretse, fled and his wife was jailed in the commune cell for investigation reasons.

A body found in Rumonge commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 6 January 2019 indicates that on 25 December 2018, 25-year-old Franck Nshimirimana was found dead in his house on Nyakuguma hill, Kigwena zone, Rumonge commune and province. According to sources on site, the victim was hanging on a rope.

Administration sources said it was suicide while the victim's neighbors say it is a suicide simulation and ask for investigations.

I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING

A person reported missing in Gitega commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 1 January 2019 indicates that on 13 December 2018, on Mubuga hill, Gitega commune and province, Antoine Banshayeko, a trader at Mubuga market of the same commune, was reported missing . According to sources on site, he had just responded to a summons from the head of Mubuga post, OPJ Amédée Manirakiza and the victim remains without trace.

A person abducted in Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province¹

Information received by Ligue Iteka on November 26, 2018 indicates that on November 25, 2018, at about 2:00 pm, on Shinge hill, Gitanga zone, Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province, Ngabonziza Arnaud, aged 21, was arrested at his home in Shinge by SNR agents and taken to Mishiha commune. According to sources on site, the victim was working in Shinge pharmacy, Shinge hill, Gitanga zone, Kigamba commune. According to the same sources, the family sought his in all the cells but in vain. However, a senator elected in the area and CNDD-FDD provincial representative in this province asked the family of the victim to bring them two million Bif for the release of the young man accused of arms trafficking and drugs with a rebellion.

Two people arrested and then reported missing in Burambi commune, Rumonge province²

On 22 February 2017, Athanase Ndayahundwa, a retired ex-FAB soldier and another unidentified person were arrested by police on Gishiha hill, Maramvya zone, Burambi commune, Rumonge province. They were handed over to SNR agents who took them to a hitherto unknown destination, according to members of their families who say they do not know the reasons for their arrest. Ndayahundwa escaped an assassination in May 2016 during an armed attack that killed three people, including two members of his family.

A person abducted in Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province³

Emmanuel Kana, Carama market commissioner and member of the FNL party, Jacques Bigirimana's wing, was abducted on June 20, 2016, around 8:00 pm, in Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province. The incident took place during an armed attack perpetrated by unidentified people in military uniforms who had targeted a bar "Chez Mama Subira" located on Muyange I hill.

¹ The case was reported in Weekly Bulletin No. 138 in the abducted persons section. According to information received by Ligue Iteka on 31 December 2018, Ngabonziza Arnaud was found and is jailed in Mpimba prison in Bujumbura.

² Athanase Ndayahundwa was released after a few weeks of detention by police in Rumonge. His family says he is at home on Gishiha hill

³ Emmanuel Kana was released some days later and is currently communal advisor in Rumonge commune

They stole an unknown sum of money, according to local sources. Two SNR agents were singled out as the perpetrators of this abduction.

1.3. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On January 3, 2019, on Rukana hill, Rugombo zone and commune, Cibitoke province, Ananias Bukuru, a 23-year-old farmer and member of CNDD-FDD party, was beaten by a group of Imbonerakure led by Bakari. According to sources on site, Ananias was accused of having expressed his joy after Tanzanian police killed an Imbonerakure of the locality, Theophile Manirakiza, who was spreading terror in Cibitoke.

Two people tortured in Kibago commune, Makamba province

On January 3, 2019, on Muhagaze sub-hill, Mbizi hill, Kibago commune, Makamba province, a septuagenarian named Ntironywa and his son Kanyoni were beaten up and threatened with being killed by Imbonerakure in the presence of Zeno Nishimwe, administrator of Kibago commune and Blaise Ngomirakiza, head of SNR in Makamba province. According to sources on site, they were accused of having participated in the murder of Emile Ntahiraja, a merchant of this locality. Ntironywa was beaten up and was evacuated to Mabanda for medical treatment while his son was arrested and taken aboard an SNR vehicle.

A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 6 January 2019 indicates that on 29 December 2018, on Gacokwe hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Sylvestre Bukuru, member of Agathon Rwaswa's FNL wing, was beaten up by Imbonerakure led by Aimable, head of Imbonerakure in this commune. He was accused of not having participated in the demonstrations against the content of the letter of the Bishops of Burundi addressed to Burundian population. He went to seek treatment at Karehe CDS in the same commune.

A person tortured in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On January 1, 2019, on Kigoma hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, Samuel Yamuremye, a 14-year-old goat keeper with Emmanuel, Imbonerakure and DAF to Karuzi reference hospital, was arrested, tortured and then taken to the provincial police station cell by Nestor alias Benurire, provincial representative of the Imbonerakure. According to local sources, the victim was accused of raping Christa, a 3-year-old daughter of Emmanuel. According to the same sources, the torture took place at CNDD-FDD provincial office and the victim was threatened to be thrown into a big pit if he did not accept the accusation.

A person tortured in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

On 6 January 2019, at about 8:00 pm, on Kigarama hill, Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province, Sixte Ntakori, communal representative of UPD-Zigamibanga party, was beaten up at his home by Imbonerakure, including Anicet alias Zirye, Ngangari alias Muzehe, Paul alias Guguna, Leonidas,

Louis and Bagaza. According to sources on site, he is accused of being opponent of the CNDD-FDD. According to the same sources, he went for treatment at Musema hospital in the same commune.

A person tortured in Rango commune, Kayanza province⁴

On December 22, 2018, at night, on Nyabibuye hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Sylvestre Kagoma, member of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing, was beaten up by a group of Imbonerakure on patrol, in police uniform, including Gedeon 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.

I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

A person arrested in Makamba commune and province

On January 2, 2019, Félix Nahimana, ex-FAB and non-commissioned officer in duty in the FDNB in the 5th Division, was arrested and taken to the commune police station cell in Makamba by policemen on the orders of Gad Niyukuri, Governor of Makamba province. According to sources on site, he was arrested on a fabrication by his wife Jacqueline Nibaruta, a nurse at CDS Gisenyi in Makamba commune and province that her husband wanted to join a rebellion that is preparing to attack Burundi from Rwanda. According to the same sources, this woman is in conflict with her husband.

I.5. VIOLATIONS OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Cases of discrimination in Ruyigi commune and province

On December 31, 2018, from 7:00 pm, Rusengo zone, Ruyigi commune and province, Imbonerakure commanded by Dieudonné, their leader and in complicity with Jean Marie Bizimana alias Citadin, Rusengo zone head, claiming to ensure the security of the eve New Year closed four bars of non-CNDD-FDD party members including Nyabuhogo. According to sources on site, only the bars of the ruling party members continued to operate until the dawn of January 1, 2019. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure wore boots like those of the police and a dress similar to that police but with the acronym CMS instead of PNB.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A body found in Matana commune, Bururi province

On December 31, 2018, on Nyagihotora sub-hill, Gitanga hill, Gasibe zone in Matana commune, Bururi province, a body of a decomposing newborn was found in a bush.

A person with a leg amputation in Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province

On 1 January 2019, at about 3:00 am, on Ruvumu hill, Gatonde zone, Nyabikere commune, Karuzi province, the 27-year-old named Bigirimana, Imbonerakure, was amputated his left leg by his

⁴ Correction in the weekly bulletin No 141: MSD party member

neighbor Nyamwero also CNDD-FDD party member. According to sources on site, Bigirimana intervened to Nyamwero's who was beating his wife and children. Nyamwero cut Bigirimana's leg with a machete. According to the same sources, the victim was taken to Karuzi hospital and the alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to the commune police cell.

Illegal possession of firearm in Muyinga commune and province.

On January 4th, 2019, in Kibogoye quarter of Muyinga city, Jérémie, Imbonerakure working at Provincial Office of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (BPEAE) in Muyinga was surprised in possession of a Kalashnikov rifle at his home. According to sources on site, the weapon was seized during a search carried out by police officers intervening after Jeremie's attempt to shoot at his concubine. Jeremy was arrested and taken to Muyinga prison.

Two people injured in Ntega commune, Kirundo province

On January 5, 2019, around 8:00 pm, on Ntega hill and commune, Kirundo province, Ferdinand Hakizimana, 48 years old and his child, aged 6, were wounded by grenade at their home. According to sources on site, this victim is brother of Ntega commune administrator, Philippe Ngabonziza.

Forced contributions in Rango commune, Kayanza province

Since 2 January 2019, Rango, Rama and Nyabibuye hills, Rango commune, Kayanza province, a forced collection campaign for contributions to the 2020 elections has been carried out door-to-door by Angelo, Rango zone head, accompanied by Philibert Bigirimana, head of Imbonerakure on Rango hill. According to sources on site, this authority has threatened that those who will have not contributed until January 15, 2019, will no longer have the right to go cultivate in their fields, to access the market and to benefit from health care.

Intimidation in Matongo commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 31, 2018 indicates that for the last few weeks, on Mikamba and Kijuri hills, Burarana zone, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, about fifteen members of opposition political parties such as RANAC and UPD Zigamibanga and civil society, including Jean Paul Rudakubana and Mapfundo, cannot leave their homes over 6:00 pm for fear of being attacked by young Imbonerakure. According to local sources, CNDD-FDD communal leader Celestin Minani has ordered the Imbonerakure youth to beat them by accusing them of being rebels who want to attack the country.

III. CONCLUSION

Human rights violations and allegations of violations following the deteriorating political context since the start of President Pierre Nkurunziza's third term challenge continue to be recorded in various parts of the country.

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

Ligue Iteka protests against the impunity of crimes that is attributed to relatives of CNDD-FDD party. Members of this party involved in various crimes enjoy impunity with a complicity displayed by public authorities.