

## **BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"**

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**Week from 7 - 13 January 2019**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 13 January 2019, Iteka has documented at least 514 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**CDS** : *Health Center*

**CMCK** : *Kinindo Medico Surgical Center*

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

**ECOFO** : *Fundamental School*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

**OPJ** : *Judicial Police Officer*

**PMPA** : *Parties and Armed Political Movements*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**TGI** : *High Court*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 6 persons were killed all found dead, 5 person abducted, 2 tortured and 6 arbitrarily arrested.

Among the victims are 1 woman killed and 1 woman arrested arbitrarily.

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

The phenomenon of corpse found takes a worrying pace suggestive of a strategy of dissimulation of perpetrators.

Forced contributions for the 2020 elections were reported in some provinces of the country.

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 FNL party members of Agathn Rwasas's wing.

## ***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 body found in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 7, 2019 indicates that on December 30, 2018, on Gaharawe hill, Gatumba zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, a body of a widow, Margueritte Ntakiyindikiye, was found in her house. According to sources on site, the reasons and the perpetrators of this murder remain unknown.

##### **Two bodies found in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 7 January 2019 indicates that on 30 December 2018, two unidentified bodies of unidentified men were found on the shore of Lake Tanganyika, Kajaga side, in Rukaramu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province. According to sources on site, Gilbert Niyonkuru, Administrator of Isare commune, Bujumbura rural province came to take these bodies which were quickly buried under his order in Isare commune without investigations.

##### **A body found in Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province**

On January 9, 2019, the body of 60-year-old Naphal Mpawenimana was found in a cassava field on Mukoma hill, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province. According to sources on site, the victim had injuries on his body. The circumstances of his death remain unknown.

##### **A body found in Muramvya commune and province**

On the morning of 7 January 2019, on Busimba hill, Bugarama zone, Muramvya commune and province, the body of Emmanuel Mbonimpa, aged 50, was found, hanged on a tree, in a bush, next to his home. The circumstances of his death are not known.

##### **A body found in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province**

On 7 January 2019, the body of Ntsembeyeko of Kibogoye hill, Kayokwe zone and commune, Mwaro province was found in a swamp of Kayokwe River, about 1 km from Kayokwe commune. According to local sources, eight alleged perpetrators were arrested and jailed at Mwaro provincial police station cell for investigation reasons.

### ***I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING***

##### **A person reported missing in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 8, 2019 indicates that on February 18, 2016, around 4:00 pm, on the 'Boulevard du Peuple Murundi', in an office of the gas station near Novotel Hotel, Rohero zone, commune Mukaza, Bujumbura Mairie, Aime Blaise Bigirimana, policeman and ex-PMPA, son of the late Mazambo Bernard and Niyungeko Adele, residing in Nyakabiga II, Nyakabiga zone, Bujumbura Mairie, was arrested by Joseph Mathias Niyonzima alias Kazungu,

Officer of Intelligence Chief 2<sup>nd</sup> class, SNR agent who took him to an unknown location. According to sources on site, he was abducted while responding a phone call from his friend, the gas station's boss. According to the same sources, after the abduction, SNR agents accompanied by police conducted a search at his home in Nyakabiga II.

#### **A person reported missing in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 8, 2019 indicates that on December 22, 2015, Charles Majeur Mutoniwabo was abducted by Joseph Mathias Niyonzima, SNR agent at Gare du Nord, Kamenge quarter, Ntahangwa urban commune, Bujumbura Mairie. According to sources on site, he was taken by this SNR agent to an unknown destination.

#### **A person reported missing in Rumonge commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 7, 2019 indicates that on January 6, 2019, Amissi, a fisherman, disappeared mysteriously in the waters of Lake Tanganyika in Karonda, Kigwena zone, Rumonge commune and province. According to local sources, Thomas Ninteretse, captain of Karonda fishing team, Michel Sinkundiwe, Elias Bizimana and Jean Marie Nzigiympa, all working on the same fishing team were jailed on 7 January 2019 after interrogation by the police on the disappearance of one of their colleagues. This murder would be linked to the bewitching and the body of the victim remains untraceable.

#### **A person reported missing in Cankuzo province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 11 January 2019 indicates that in August 2018, Thaddée Niyindereye, a 45-year-old non-commissioned officer and trainer at Mutukura camp, Cankuzo province was reported missing at his workplace. According to sources on site, since 2015 he was suspected for having been against the 3<sup>rd</sup> term. There was an attempt of abduction before leaving for a peace keeping mission in Somalia. When he was back in August 2018, he resumed work at Mutukura camp and disappeared one week later. His family searched everywhere in vain

#### **A person reported missing in Kirundo commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 7 January 2019 indicates that in the night of 21 to 22 November 2015, Kirundo province city, Albert Dushime was arrested by Jacques Nijimbere, province police commissioner in Kirundo. According to local sources, the victim was recovered during the same night by Joseph Mathias Niyonzima alias Kazungu, SNR agent and taken to an unknown destination. According to the same sources, Albert was accused of being linked to those who carried out an armed attack in Kirundo province city.

#### **A person arrested and then reported missing in commune and province of Makamba<sup>1</sup>**

On March 30, 2016, 60-year-old Venant Nyandwi was arrested in Makamba commune center and taken to Makamba commune police cell. He was accused of communicating with rebels on his

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<sup>1</sup> Venant Nyandwi was jailed in SNR cell in Bujumbura and released one month later

phone. According to local sources, the victim was subsequently taken by an SNR vehicle to an unknown destination.

### ***1.3. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE***

#### **A person tortured in Musongati commune, Rutana province**

On 7 January 2019, around 8:00 pm, at the bar on Musagara hill, Ngoma zone, Musongati commune, Rutana province, Ventus, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, was beaten with sticks by Gérard and Joseph, both Imbonerakure accusing him of refusing to join their party. According to local sources, police officers of the locality arrested and jailed them in Musongati commune the cell.

#### **A person tortured in Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province**

On 8 January 2019, around 8:00, on Munyika hill, Kayero zone, Mpinga-Kayove commune, Rutana province, Jérôme, trader and FNL member, Agathon Rwasa's wing was beaten with sticks on the foot and kidneys by Donatien, Dieudonné and Elyphaze, all Imbonerakure, accusing him that he sold their charcoal and he did not give them money. The victim was taken to Kayero CDS but the alleged perpetrators are still free because the victim is not yet healed to file a complaint.

### ***1.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE***

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

On January 13, 2019, at around 5:00 am, on Rweya hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, policemen commanded by the commune police commissioner named Gilbert, arrested a woman called a woman nicknamed Mama Irakoze, aged 58, CNDD-DD party member, farmer, and took her to the commune police cell. According to sources on site, the woman was arrested on the behalf of her husband named François accused of illegally selling drugs. According to the same sources, before arresting her, a search for these drugs had been carried out in their household but nothing was found.

#### **Five people arrested in Burambi commune, Rumonge province**

On the morning of January 10, 2018, Emmanuel Niyonganji, teacher at ECOFO Busaga, Mélance Iramubona, Renovat Ninteretse, Pascal Ahishakiye and Jean Bosco Niyomwungere, all from Busaga hill, Murago zone, Burambi commune, Rumonge province, were arrested by Arthemon Niyonkuru alias Ntibaheke, police commissioner in Burambi and ex-PMPA. According to sources on site, they were then jailed to the police cell in Murago of Burambi commune. According to the same sources, they are accused of erasing the writings on CNDD-FDD party monument.

### ***1.5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE***

#### **A person injured in Rutana commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 7 January 2018 indicate that on January 1, 2019, on Gifunzo hill in Rutana commune and province, Bukuru, watchman, aged 45, was beaten and wounded with a

pestle by his wife, 36-year-old Jacqueline Sirabahenda, on the forehead. According to local sources, Bukuru was wounded during a dispute with his wife. According to the same sources, Bukuru was rushed to Rutana CDS for medical treatment while Jacqueline is still free.

## ***I.6. VIOLATIONS OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS***

### **Forced contributions in schools, Mwaro province**

The administrators of the communes of Mwaro province have availed to secondary school principals receipt books to force students to contribute 1000 Bif for the 2020 elections, for those who are 16 years old and over. According to sources on site, the director of Mwaro Technical High School, Etienne Bigirimana expelled the students who have not yet paid this contribution on January 10, 2019. The other directors warned the students who will not have paid the contribution until January 15, 2019 that they will be expelled.

### **Forced contribution in Butangazwa commune, Ruyigi province**

On the morning of 9 January 2018, Remy Ndaruftiye, Director of Butaganzwa Communal High School in Ruyigi province has expelled students who had not yet paid the 1000 Bif for the contribution to the 2020 elections. According to sources on site, there was no lessons because most of students were expelled to take this contribution from home.

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

### **A person injured in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

On January 8, 2019, Hermenegilde, judge at TGI Ntakangwa, was attacked and wounded by unidentified people in Kanyosha urban zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie. According to sources, he was evacuated to CMCK for treatment.

### **Sequestration of persons in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 7, 2019 indicates that residents of Kanyami hill and zone, Kiganda commune, Muramvya province, complain that a group of Imbonerakure including Clovis, Alexis, Bede led by their leader Richard mistreat them with the complicity of the hill heads and the police. According to local sources, these young people arrest and extort money and cell phones from all those they meet during night patrols and force the population to attend a bar belonging to Bede, one of these Imbonerakure. According to the same sources, on January 5, 2019, Richard, leader of this group, was caught in possession of a stolen phone. In anger, the inhabitants of this hill nearly did justice if it had not been the intervention of the police.

### **Intimidation in Matongo commune, Kayanza province**

On January 10, 2019, on Burengo hill, Matongo commune, Kayanza province, a meeting was held for the population, organized by the head of this hill, assisted by Ferdinand, provincial representative of CNDD-FDD party as well as Celestin Minani, communal representative of the same party. According to sources on site, at this meeting, Celestin Minani said that those who voted



for "NO" in the constitutional referendum of May 17, 2018 are known and most of them are teachers. He added that they will be punished seriously.

### **A grenade found in Rumonge commune and province**

On January 9, 2019, a grenade trapped at the window of the governor's office of Rumonge province, Juvenal Bigirimana, was discovered after the national flag salute. According to local sources, the police defused the grenade before it exploded.

### ***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.