

## BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

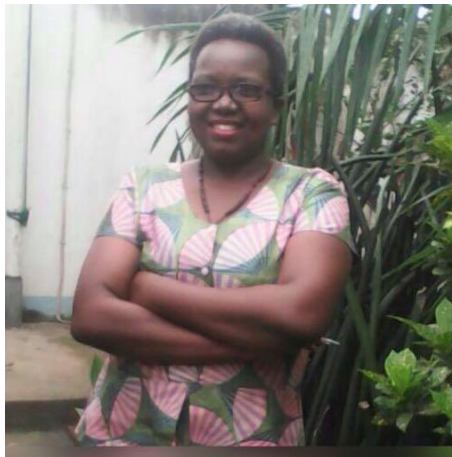
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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 147 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 28 January – 3 February 2019**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 3 February 2019, Iteka has documented at least 521 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**BANCOBU** : *Commercial Bank of Burundi*

**CDS** : *Health Center*

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

**ECOFO** : *Fundamental School*

**FNL** : *National Liberation Front*

**MPS** : *Moceniga Pesca Services*

**OPC** : *Chief Police Officer*

**OPJ** : *Judicial Police Officer*

**RDC** : *Democratic Republic of Congo*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**VBG** : *Gender Based Violence*

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 8 persons were killed including 5 corpses found, 2 tortured, 6 arbitrarily arrested and 2 GBV victims.

Among the victims are 2 women killed.

The phenomenon of corpses is still observed across the country and is worrying for its increasing number.

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

Grenade attacks and intimidation acts are reported throughout the country.

The bulletin also notes cases of killings, torture and arbitrary arrest of opponents and alleged opponents of President Pierre Nkurunziza's regime particularly FNL party members of Agathn Rwasa'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***

##### **Four bodies found in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province**

On January 30, 2019, at the 6<sup>th</sup> street on Kaburantwa hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, four dead bodies of unidentified men were found. According to sources on site, these bodies were carried by the waters of Rusizi River.

##### **A body found in Giheta commune, Gitega province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 28, 2019 indicates that as of January 27, 2019, in the evening, on Gasunu hill and zone, Giheta commune, Gitega province, a body of an unidentified man was found in Ruvyironza River near the hydroelectric plant of the same hill. According to local sources, the body of the victim had wounds and blood in the nostrils. According to the same sources, the victim was killed elsewhere and dumped into this river. The body was buried the next day by residents of this hill.

#### ***I.2. PEOPLE TORTURED BY SNR IMBONERAKURE, POLICE AND SNR AGENTS***

##### **A person tortured in secret jail in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 28, 2019 indicates that on January 26, 2019, on Muyange hill, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province, Mathieu, 28 years old, from Nyabutare hill, Muyange zone, Nyanza-Lac commune, was jailed in a clandestine cell in the same zone. According to sources on site, on January 28, 2019, the victim was released from the cell and beaten by Mélance, head of police station of the communal police station in complicity with Augustin, SNR agent in the communes Nyanza-Lac, Mabanda and Vugizo and Serges, zonal youth representative of the Imbonerakure. He was beaten because he could not give them a ransom demanded from the family. After shouting from the population, the victim was taken to Nyanza-Lac police station by the police station head, accompanied by a police officer and the SNR official, on a SNR motorcycle. The victim is accused of embezzling 4 million Bif belonging to a local association on Nyabutare hill.

##### **A person tortured in Muyinga commune and province**

On January 29, 2019, in Swahili quarter of Muyinga City, Yusuf, a gas station attendant at the MPS petrol station, was publicly beaten up by the provincial police commissioner OPC 1 Jérôme Ntibibogora before jailing him for 4 hours. According to sources on site, this commissioner accused the victim of keeping fuel in the pits instead of serving it to motorists.

#### ***I.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE AND SNR AGENTS***

##### **Three people arrested in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province**

On January 30, 2019, on Buhayira hill, Murwi commune, Cibitoke province, three members of Amizero y'Abarundi coalition, Jacques Ndayiragije, Alain Sindimwo, 25 years old, farmer and Jonathan Ndikumwenayo, 23 years old, farmer, were arrested, tied up by Imbonerakure and boarded

a vehicle of the SNR head in Cibitoke province, Venant Miburo. According to local sources, they were accused of organizing to join armed groups in the DRC. According to the same sources, they were accused of refusing to join CNDD-FDD party.

### **Three people arrested in Rutana province**

Information received by Iteka Ligue on 28 January 2019 indicates that on 23 January 2019, on Bukeno hill, Giharo commune, Rutana province, Nicolas Nduwayo, Jean Ntegakaje and Claude Ntacimpaye, all members of "Amizero y'Abarundi" coalition were arrested and jailed at Giharo commune police station. According to sources on site, they have been accused of keeping writings causing insecurity.

## ***I.4. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE***

### **A person killed in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province**

On 28 January 2019, at about 8:00 am, Aline, a resident of Nyaruhisha hill, Ndora zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, was killed with a machete by Jules, her husband, CNDD-FDD member. According to local sources, the victim was accused of being barren. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrator was arrested by local Imbonerakure and jailed in Ndora zone.

### **A person raped in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 28 January 2019 indicates that at about 6:00 pm on 21 January 2019, at Gahwazi hill, Butanuka zone, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, a girl named N., aged 6 years old, was raped by Dieudonné, aged 28, from Muramvya province. According to sources on site, the victim was walking to ECOFO Gifurwe I when she was raped by the alleged perpetrator. According to the same sources, the latter was arrested and jailed in Mpanda commune police station while the victim was taken to Mpanda hospital for medical treatment.

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

On February 1, 2019, in Rutana province city, E. student of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the post-fundamental in Rutana high school was raped by Jean Pierre Nkwirikiye, Director of ECOFO Gifunzo who hosted her at home. According to local sources, Rutana prosecutor's office has already issued an arrest warrant but the alleged perpetrator has is on the run.

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

### **A person killed in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province**

On February 3, 2019, on Rugeregere hill, Cibitoke zone, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Manirampa Esperance, aged 52, a farmer, was killed by her son Daniel Sirabahenda. According to sources on site, Esperance was accused of sorcery. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrator went himself to Cibitoke police station.

### **A body found in Kibago commune, Makamba province**

On January 29, 2019, at about 4:00 pm, Alice Niyongendako, student in 1<sup>st</sup> year in pedagogy at Kigara Communal High School, on Nyarutuntu hill, Kiyange zone, Kibago commune, Makamba province, was found hanged on the frame of the house. According to sources on site, a message not mentioning

the reason for suicide addressed to his parents was found close to her body. According to the same sources, the reasons for this suicide have not been known.

### **A person killed in Giteranyi commune, Muyinga province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 29 January 2019 indicates that at about 9:00 pm on 27 January 2019, on Kijumbura hill, Masaka zone, Giteranyi commune, Muyinga province, Zacharie Ndayizeye, owner of a bar, was beaten to death, using a stick by his neighbor, Pascal Hagabimana. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of having love relations with Jeanine Nsengiyumva, wife of the alleged perpetrator. According to the same sources, Pascal found his wife at the bar and forced her to go home and Zacharie, owner of the bar advised her not to violate her. Afterwards, Pascal turned to Zacharie and beat him several times on the head accusing him of flirting his wife. The victim was evacuated by his clients to CDS Masaka where he died the same night. The alleged perpetrator was arrested by his neighbors who handed him over to the police the next day and taken to the zonal police cell in Ruza. His wife was also arrested for investigation and protection according to the police.

### **Grenade attack in Kirundo commune and province**

Information received by Iteka Ligue on 28 January 2019 indicates that on 25 January 2019, at about 10:00 pm, in Cewe, Kirundo commune and province, a grenade was thrown at Nkezabahizi's, 40-year-old party CNDD-FDD member by unidentified people. According to local sources, no human damage has been recorded.

### **Grenade attack in Kirundo commune and province**

On the night of January 31, 2019, a grenade was thrown at Cewe hill at Denis Nsabintore alias Mudaturura, brother of Nkezabahizi, CNDD-FDD party member, attack target by grenade on January 25, 2019. According to sources on site, the origin of this armed attack is linked to the settling of accounts between brothers.

### **A grenade launched in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province**

Information received by Iteka Ligue on 28 January 2019 indicates that on 21 January 2019, around 9:00 pm, a grenade was thrown near Gifurwe market, Musenyi zone, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province without causing any human damage. According to local sources, five people including a security guard of BANCOBU were immediately arrested. Only the latter remained jailed while the other four were later released. The authors and the reason of this attack remain unknown.

### **Paramilitary training in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province.**

On 1 February 2019, around 9:00 am, on Kiranda hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, 50 Imbonerakure of this hill, commanded by their leader named Mucopa made a military parade on the grounds of ECOFO Kiranda before Muwintore, their communal representative and at the same time social adviser to the commune administrator. According to sources on site, some Imbonerakure were in military or police uniforms. According to the same sources, after this parade, this authority held a meeting with these Imbonerakure whose purpose was to exchange news of the country and get to know each other between the old and new members of the youth Ligue as well as advise them not to listen to rumors spread on social networks.

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

On 30 January 2019, at Munywero hill, Ngoma zone, Musongati commune, Rutana province, Charles, head of this hill, was threatened by the CNDD-FDD commune representative in a security meeting preventing Imbonerakure to bludgeon people who commit offenses. According to local sources, Munywero hill head prevented the Imbonerakure from beating Felicien who was accused of impregnating his sister-in-law. According to the same sources, the head of this hill is accused of opposing the activities of these young people and if he continued, he will be punished.

### **Intimidation in Makamba commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 28 January 2019 indicates that on 22 January 2019, Madeleine, FNL member of Agathon Rwasa's wing, and teacher at ECOFO Kirama, Makamba commune and province, was threatened by Bernard Niyonkuru, Imbonerakure and deputy head of Kirama hill that she could be transferred or chased out of this school. According to local sources, this happened at this school after Madeleine had expelled all the students who did not wear uniforms and did not have any math boxes. The same sources add that Bernard's son was among the students expelled.

### **Threats and intimidation in Giharo commune, Rutana province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 28, 2019 indicates that on January 26, 2019, in a bar called "chez maman Gigi", in Giharo commune, Rutana province, Jean Simon Manishaka, owner the same bar was threatened and abused by Rénovat Hakizimana, representative of CNDD-FDD party and the OPJ of Bukemba commune post office, Patrice Ntibashirinzi. According to sources on site, this representative of CNDD-FDD party said that this bar is attended by members of Agathon Rwasa's FNL wing and pro-colonizers as well as pro-associations people whose leaders have exiled and he will follow this bar closely. According to the same sources, this party representative returned at night, with four Imbonerakure including Dieudonné, Fiacre nicknamed Muyige, Ferdinand nicknamed Wamission, the nicknamed Baby and Désiré, driver of dump vehicle of the commune and drank but they did not paid. In addition, they told him that they will kill him if he goes to Muzye at night and his bar will be closed.

### **Forced contributions in Makebuko commune, Gitega province**

According to information received by Ligue Iteka on February 2, 2019, the teachers of Makebuko commune, Gitega province complain of a contribution of 1000 Bif per civil servant and 500 Bif per household of a farmer required by the commune administrator, Cyprien Nibitegeka, to welcome the President of the Republic Pierre Nkurunziza, on February 5, 2019. According to sources on site, this contribution will be used to buy a cow and twenty baskets of food to give the President during the festivities of the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Unity Charter. According to the same sources, this contribution is added to that of the 2020 elections of which 2000 Bif per household, a sum cut each month per civil servant and 1000 Bif per person of voting age.



### ***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, torture, arbitrary and targeted illegal arrests against opponents and alleged opponents of CNDD-FDD party regime are reported.

GBV cases are reported in some parts of the country.

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.