

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n° 149 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 11-17 February 2019



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 17 February 2019, Iteka has documented at least 523 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AT : *Transmission Agent*

CDS : *Health Centre*

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

CNL : *National Congress for Liberty*

FAB : *Burundi Armed Forces*

FNL : *National Liberation Front*

MSD : *Movement for Security and Democracy*

RDC : *Democratic Republic of Congo*

RTNB : *Burundi National Radio and Television*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

0. INTRODUCTION

Allegations and violations of human rights were recorded during this reporting period: at least 4 persons were killed including 2 corpses found, 1 person abducted, 1 tortured and 2 arbitrarily arrested.

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, soldiers, policemen, SNR agents, and administration officials are blamed as the alleged perpetrators of most of human rights violations.

Intimidations 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

A body found in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province

On February 13, 2019, in the morning, in Murwi commune, Cibitoke province, a decomposing body of an unidentified young man was discovered. According to sources on site, the body of the victim was tied up and roped to a tree. The same sources add that local administration officials ordered that this corpse be buried arguing that it can harm the health of the surrounding population.

A body found in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

On February 13, 2019, a body of Raphael Baryincuti, a resident of Kabizi hill, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, was found on the banks of Mutsindozi River separating Kayogoro commune and Gitanga commune of Rutana province. According to sources on site, the body of the victim was discovered after two days of disappearance and showed traces of daggers. Two alleged perpetrators, Fanuel Bucumi and Leonard Hakizimana, were arrested by the police and were jailed at the police station cell in Kayogoro for investigation reasons. According to the same sources, land conflicts are at the origin of this assassination.

I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING

A person reported missing in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura Rural

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 15, 2019 indicates that on November 23, 2016, Appolinaire Nimbona, ex-FAB demobilized in 2005 and member of MSD party, was abducted by Joseph Mathias Niyonzima alias Kazungu, SNR agent, at the bar "La Caravane" in Kajaga, Rukaramu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province. According to sources on site, he was taken by this SNR agent to an unknown destination.

I.3. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On February 15, 2019, on Nyamitanga hill, Ndava zone, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, Marius Hakizimana, a 20-year-old, CNL member, farmer, was beaten up by young Imbonerakure headed by a nicknamed Mavubi. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of having said that there are young Imbonerakure in the DRC. The victim was taken to Ruhagarika CDS for appropriate care.

I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE

A person arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On February 13, 2019, around 2:00 pm, Pascal Butoyi, a journalist and presenter of the national television news program at the RTNB, was arrested by police when he was trying to film the scene of

police officers abusing a woman who was trading in the city center, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie. According to local sources, he was taken to the SNR cell near Regina Mundi Cathedral where he spent two hours before being released.

A person arrested in Makamba commune and province

On 16 February 2019, at about 8:00 am, on Murenge hill, Gitaba zone, Makamba commune and province, Gitaba zone head Pierre, jailed Joseph in the zone cell for two hours for having accused Elyphase, Imbonerakure, from stealing cassava in his field. According to sources on site, Joseph having responded to the summoning of the zone head, the latter did not allow these people in conflict to justify themselves.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A person killed in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On February 13, 2019, at about 8:00 pm, Ezekiel Maribicuro, an alleged thief, born in Isare commune, Bujumbura rural province, was killed by a soldier, AT of Brigadier General Audace Nduwumunsi alias Goliath, when the victim was trying to hide in Kavumu quarter, on the 5th avenue number 14, Kamenge urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie. According to sources on site, Ezekiel had just stolen from a bar commonly called "Maronkero" located in Ngagara quarter III. According to the same sources, the victim had a weapon marked BI PNB UB 5099 and had stolen 8 mobile phones as well as an unspecified sum of money.

A person killed in Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province

On February 12, 2019, Niyokindi and his wife from Mwakiro hill, zone and commune, Muyinga province were attacked by a group of unidentified people armed with knives. According to local sources, Niyokindi was killed in the attack while his wife was seriously injured and was evacuated to Kiremba Hospital.

Grenade explosion in Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura province -rural

On February 16, 2019, at about 10:00 pm, on Nyamaboko hill, Kiyenzi zone, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura-rural province, two grenades were exploded by unidentified people. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrators and the reason for these explosions remain unknown. According to the same sources, four people, Nestor Minani, François Mperumurozi, Raphael Nyandwi and Ruben Mpawenimana, all from Nyamaboko hill, were arrested and jailed in Kiyenzi zone cell for investigation.

A household attacked in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

On February 17, 2019, at about 11:0 pm, on Myave hill, Ndora zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, unidentified gunmen attacked a household of a trader, Elias Nyandwi. According to sources on site, his attackers robbed him two hundred and eighty thousand Bif and killed four goats.

Firearms discovery in Gishubi commune, Gitega province

On February 16, 2019, around 5:00 pm, a grenade was discovered by the inhabitants in a bush on Gitare sub-hill, Gatare hill, Mugaruro zone in Gishubi commune of Gitega province. A soldier, who was on leave on this hill, picked the arm and handed it over to Gishubi communal police.

Four houses destroyed in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 11, 2019 indicates that on February 9, 2019, four houses belonging to Bernard Ntakarutimana, Ferdinand Kagi, FNL members of Agathon Rwasa's wing, a member of CNDD-FDD party and another unidentified person on Gatabo hill were destroyed during community work by young Imbonerakure on the orders of Gatabo hill head Gervais Habonimana and Georges Ndikuriyo, Gatabo zone head, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province. These young Imbonerakure from the hills Gatabo, Nkaramanyenye, Buga and Rutenderi were mobilized by these two administrators to protect the monument built at the local roundabout against erosion that could destroy it.

A person injured in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

On February 13, 2019, at around 8:00 pm, on Nyaruhinda hill and zone, Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, a 28-year-old Imbonerakure stabbed his father in his belly, named Audace, 63 years old. According to sources on site, Prudence asked the victim for his property, but his father told him that it was not yet time to share and he stabbed his father. The victim was evacuated by his neighbors to CDS Nyaruhinda and the perpetrator was arrested by the police on 14 February 2019 and taken to Buhiga commune cell.

Intimidation in Rugazi commune, Bubanza province

On February 17, 2019, around 7:00 am in a mass sport by youth Imbonerakure of Rugazi hill and commune, Bubanza province commanded by a David chanted intimidating songs: "The elections are close, the opponents are unfortunate, those who will not join CNDD-FDD party will flee or be punished.

Death threat in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on 11 February 2019 indicates that on the morning of 10 February 2019, on Muyange hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, a death threat leaflet was issued against five persons accused of sorcery was found outside the door of the house of Cyprian Hategekimana, hill head. According to sources on site, the leaflet mentioned 60-year-old Salvator alias Bukoco, 27-year-old Kwizera, 27-year-old Cewusi, farmers and members of CNDD FDD party, as well as two people of Kivoga sub hill whose names have not been specified. According to the same sources, the leaflet said that 5 children of this hill died after bewitching and that once another person dies, the families of the aforementioned will be decimated. The hill head held a pacification meeting but the population who had attended overwhelmingly dared not say a word in the meeting since this same hill head is suspected of being complicit in the spread of these leaflets.

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, abduction and/or enforced disappearances, torture, arbitrary and targeted illegal arrests against opponents and alleged opponents of CNDD-FDD party regime are reported.

Acts of intimidations are also 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.