

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

Approved by Ministerial Order n° 530/0273 of 10 November 1994 revising Order No. 550 /029 of 6 February 1991

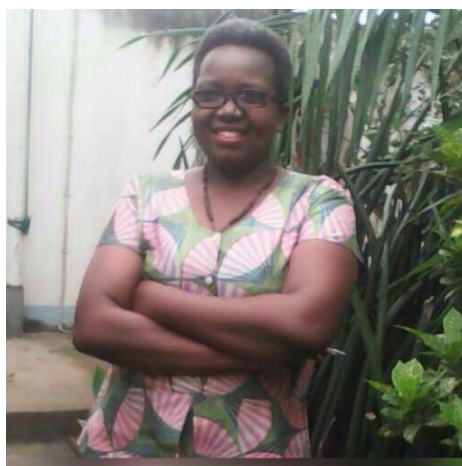
"Is a member of the Inter-African Union of Human and Peoples' Rights (UIDH), is an affiliate



member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), has observer status to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and has special consultative status to the ECOSOC"

*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°195 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights
"ITEKA"*

Week from 30 December 2019 to 5 January 2020



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 5 January 2020, Iteka has documented at least 545 cases of enforced disappearances.

<i>CONTENTS</i>	<i>PAGES</i>
<i>ACRONYMS</i>	3
<i>0. INTRODUCTION</i>	4
<i>I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS, VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS</i> .	5
<i>I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE</i>	5
<i>I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE</i>	5
<i>I.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE</i>	5
<i>I.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND IMBONERAKURE</i>	6
<i>I.4. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE</i>	7
<i>II. SECURITY FACTS</i>	7
<i>III. CONCLUSION</i>	8

ACRONYMS

BGF	: <i>Bank of Management and Funding</i>
CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judiciary Police Officer</i>
RN	: <i>National Road</i>
UPRONA	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>
VBG	: <i>Gender Based Violence</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

Over the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded as follows: at least 5 people killed, including 4 corpses, 1 VBG victim, 6 tortured and 2 arbitrarily arrested.

Among the victims identified is 1 woman tortured.

Imbonerakure affiliated to CNDD-FDD party, police, SNR agents and administration officials are singled out as alleged perpetrators of most of these human rights violations.

Among the victims recorded are members of CNL, UPRONA and CNDD-FDD parties.

This bulletin also notes cases of killings, GBV, torture, and arbitrary arrest in the country.

Over the reporting period, Ligue Iteka has noted a case of a grenade found, cases of persons attacked and wounded.

I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS, VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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

I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A body found in Kanyosha commune, rural Bujumbura province

On January 1, 2020, in the waters of Kizingwe River, a body of Patrice Nkundabanyanka, mason, originally from Nyamaboko hill, Kiyenzi zone, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura rural province, aged at least 60 years, has been found. According to sources on site, the victim was killed strangled by unknown people on the evening of December 31, 2019 and was robbed of his money, his mobile phone and a bag containing food. According to the same sources, these executioners surprised him in a palm plantation at the junction of Kizingwe and Gahongo rivers when he came home from Bujumbura Mairie where he worked.

A body of a soldier found in Gitega commune and province

As of January 1, 2020, in the morning, on Nyabututsi rural hill, Gitega commune and province, the body of Zénon Macumi, married, around 40 years old, corporal, ex FAB, from Rutovu commune, Bururi province was found tied to a tree with a military rope. Macumi was assigned to Gitega Presidential Palace before being transferred to the radio station located in Mweya, on Mugoboka hill, Gitega commune, according to local sources. The Commander of the 22nd Battalion said that he committed suicide but other sources say that the soldier was killed.

A body of a member of CNL party found in Gatara commune, Kayanza province

Information received by the Ligue Iteka on December 30, 2019 indicates that on December 23, 2019, on Gakenke hill, Gatara commune, Kayanza province, a body of Lazare Mpawenimana, farmer, member of CNL party, resident on Gakenke hill, was found at the edge of Ruvubu River.

A body found in Butaganzwa commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 5, 2020 indicates that on December 24, 2019, on Kiryama hill, in a small river separating Matongo and Butaganzwa communes in Kayanza province, the body of Liévin Ntirampeba, married and father of two children, residing on the same hill was found. According to local sources, he was returning from Bubanza province where he worked.

I.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

Two persons tortured in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On December 31, 2019, around 9:00 p.m., on Rwingoma hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, a man named Sylvestre, a pupil of Buhiga Communal High School, residing on Rwingoma hill, Gihamagara quarter and a young boy named Éric were beaten up by a group of Imbonerakure armed with knives, spears and sticks chaired by their hill head named Elysée. According to local sources, the Anglican Church had organized a New Year's night prayer at its

Buhiga Cathedral and these Imbonerakure came to hang around. According to the same sources, Sylvestre who participated in this prayer was taken by these Imbonerakure in a parish afforestation located two kilometers from the cathedral of the Anglican church of Buhiga. Eric was heading home from this prayer around 4:00 am when he was beaten up. These Imbonerakure also arrested people who came from prayer and stripped them of everything they had in their pockets, money, phones before releasing them. Thus, a young girl named Jeanine Nizigiyimana was fined 10,000 Bif after her boyfriend escaped them.

A member of CNL party tortured in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on December 31, 2019 indicates that on December 20, 2019, at night, on Gasenga hill, Bigina zone, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, Ezéchiel Nizigiyimana, member of CNL party was beaten up by three Imbonerakure, Josué Hakizimana, Mateso and Maserege, very close to the fence of his home. According to sources on site, Ezéchiel was rescued by an Imbonerakure who did not join the others and this victim was evacuated the same night to a private health center in Bigina zone. According to the same sources, this victim complained to the head of Bigina zone but the latter did not receive him and accused him of having ambushed the Imbonerakure.

A person tortured in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 2, 2020 indicates that on December 20, 2019, on Kabondo hill, Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province, Arthur Igiraneza, 17 years old, shopkeeper, was tied up, beaten up with sticks and burnt with sachets and an acid by his boss, Vincent Niyoyitungira, Imbonerakure. According to local sources, the victim was accused of having lost 300,000 Bif. According to the same sources, thanks to his political affiliation, the alleged perpetrator was arrested but he was released by the OPJ Pascal a few hours later.

1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND IMBONERAKURE

Four CNL party members arrested in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province

As of January 2, 2020, on Rusimbuko hill, Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province, Joseph Niyonkuru, Louis Hakoringingo, Rashid and Hashim Butungiro, residents on Kigoganya hill in the same commune, all members of CNL party were arrested by Imbonerakure and taken to Gasorwe commune cell. According to sources on site, they were accused of disturbing security in their locality.

Four CNL party members arrested in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province

On January 2, 2020, on Buhama hill, Musasa zone, Kiremba commune, Ngozi province, Serges Nzambimana, Désiré Nizigiyimana, Thomas and Cédric Kadafi were arrested by police accompanied by Musasa zone head Didace Manikurakure and taken to Gakere zone cell of the same commune. According to sources on site, they were accused of walking at night. According to the same sources, the victims had learned that there was a plan to destroy their office and had decided to guard.

I.4. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Mutimbuzi commune, rural Bujumbura province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 5, 2020 indicates that on December 24, 2019, on local Tenga hill, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, SN, aged 8, schoolgirl in 4th form at ECOFO St Joseph of Carama, was raped by a man named Abès, a house worker, aged 20, from Bugabira commune, Kirundo province. Local sources say the alleged perpetrator has been arrested and is currently jailed in Mpimba central prison.

A woman beaten by her husband in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province

On January 1, 2020, around 1:00 a.m., in Mwaro center, Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province, Espérance, nurse at Kibumbu Hospital, was beaten at her home in Mwaro center by her husband, Dieudonné Ndikuriyo, working at BGF Mwaro, until she lost fainted and had nosebleeds. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of not having cooked meat. The children cried for help and she was brought to the Red Cross CDS where she spent 2 days before being transferred to Bujumbura. The alleged perpetrator was arrested by the public prosecutor's office in Mwaro on January 3, 2020.

II. SECURITY FACTS

One person injured in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province

On December 30, 2019 on Kabingo hill, Kiremba zone and commune, Ngozi province, Jean Miburo, resident of the same hill, member of CNL party, was wounded by a bullet. Local sources said the victim was sharing a drink with his wife in a local bar when police came to arrest him. According to the same sources, accused of disturbing security at Kiremba center, Jean Miburo fled and the police shot on him. The victim was rescued by his neighbors who sheltered him from the police who wanted to arrest him. The same sources say that a meeting to arrest the victim was held the same day by local administration officials.

A priest manhandled by Imbonerakure, in commune and Rutana province

As of January 4, 2020, around 8:00 a.m., in Birongozi quarter, Rutana commune and province, more than 40 Imbonerakure in paramilitary exercises led by Cyrille, in charge of collecting commune taxes at Rutana modern market, abused Jean Marie Nduwamungu, priest of the Diocese of Rutana. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure blocked about 10 minutes, Jean Marie Nduwamungu who was in his vehicle. According to the same sources, they attacked him saying "this is the rascal who called us rascals".

III. CONCLUSION

Allegations of violations, human rights abuses and violations resulting from the deterioration of the political environment since the start of the protests against President Pierre Nkurunziza's third term continue to be recorded across the country.

Cases of killings, torture, GBV and arbitrary arrests continue to be reported across the country.

During this week, one injured person and a manhandled priest were reported in some provinces of the country.

Ligue Iteka protests against the impunity of crimes which is attributed to those close to CNDD-FDD party. Members of this party involved in various crimes enjoy impunity with a complicity of public authorities.