

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°200 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 9 to 13 February 2020



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 9 February 2020, Iteka has documented at least 547 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS

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

One person killed and another injured in Bugarama commune, Rumonge province

On February 9, 2020, around 4:00 p.m., in Magara center and zone, Bugarama commune, Rumonge province, Célestin Ndabashinze, aged 58, a merchant, was killed by two unidentified armed men on a motorbike. According to local sources, these armed men attacked him when he was sitting near his home near the shores of Lake Tanganyika. According to the same sources, suspicions of sorcery are behind the murder. During the attack, another person who was there was wounded on the arm. He was evacuated to Kabezi hospital in the neighboring province of Bujumbura for medical treatment.

A body found in commune and Rumonge province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 3, 2020 indicates that on January 20, 2020, in Rumonge commune and province, a body of Stanislas Ntikarahera, fisherman, was found in Lake Tanganyika. According to sources on site, the victim fell into the waters of this lake on the night of that same date.

A body found in commune and Rumonge province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 3, 2020 indicates that on January 20, 2020, on Mutambara hill, a body of an unidentified man was found floating on the waters of Murembwe River, in Rumonge commune and province. According to sources on site, this body which had a large wound on the head was buried at the edge of this same river after a report by the police.

A body found in Rumonge commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 3, 2020 indicates that on January 25, 2020, in Gitaza zone, Muhuta commune, Rumonge province, a body of Nduwayezu, a young graduate of humanities, was found at on the shore of Lake Tanganyika three days after his disappearance. According to police sources, the victim died following a drowning.

A body found in Burambi commune, Rumonge province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 3, 2020 indicates that on January 25, 2020, a body of Alexis Ngendakumana, teacher at ECOFO Muhanda II, Buruhukiro zone, Rumonge commune and province, was found floating on Dama river in Burambi commune, the reasons for his death were not known.

I.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND POLICE

Three people tortured in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On February 5, 2020, around 2:00 p.m., on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Aline Kwizera, teacher, Casimir and Ndinzirindi, both traders, were beaten up and publicly humiliated on RN 12 near Buhiga market by Masabo, OPJ of the same commune. According to sources on

site, these victims crossed the road one hour before the passage of the President of the Republic whereas the police had prohibited from crossing or staying near the road because the President of the Republic was going to pass there coming from the celebration of the unity day in Muyinga. According to the same sources, this OPJ ordered them to kneel down for five minutes by insulting them that they do not respect the head of state.

Three people tortured in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

As of February 8, 2020, three men, including Boas Nihorimbere and Jean Ndayambaje, both traders from Gatwe center, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, were beaten up by a group of Imbonerakure from Sampeke hill, led by Jean Bosco Ntakirutimana, head of the Youth Ligue Imbonerakure on this hill and brother-in-law of Zachée Misago, administrator of Kayogoro commune. According to local sources, these Imbonerakure hunted traders accusing them of using fetishism in their business. According to the same sources, these victims were taken to the communal police station cell in Kayogoro where they were jailed.

1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE AND SNR AGENTS

A member of CNL party arrested in Kabarore commune, Kayanza province

On February 3, 2020, in the morning, on Tondero hill, Rugazi zone, Kabarore commune, Kayanza province, Willy Kelvin Nsengiyumva, married, leader of CNL party in Rugazi zone, in the same commune was arrested by SNR agents. According to local sources, the night before, Imbonerakure were drinking in a room of his club and they left there a grenade and military uniform before they left late at night and Willy had not noticed it. According to the same sources, the next morning, police came to search there and found the objects. The police then called SNR agents who came to arrest him and took him to the provincial SNR office.

A member of CNL party arrested in Gatara commune, Kayanza province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 3, 2020 indicates that on February 2, 2020, on Gihororo hill, Gatara commune, Kayanza province, Serges residing on Kivuruga hill, communal leader of CNL party, was arrested and jailed at the SNR provincial office in Kayanza by SNR agents who accused him of having held an illegal meeting of this party. According to sources on site, Serges had just organized a meeting of the party at the communal office of this party for the native members of this commune. According to the same sources, this victim was released on February 4, 2020.

1.4. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A woman beaten by her husband in Giharo commune, Rutana province

On February 4, 2020, on Mura hill, Giharo zone and commune, Rutana province, Violette Barashingwa, 38 years old, was beaten with a stick by her husband Fabien Bucumi, 42 years old, accusing her flirting with other mates. According to sources on site, the victim was evacuated to CDS Giharo for treatment while her husband was arrested and jailed in Giharo police station cell.

II. SECURITY FACTS

An Imbonerakure attacked and injured in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie province

On the night of February 6, 2020, a man named Egide, head of Imbonerakure youth League in Jabe III quarter, was attacked with a machete and seriously injured by unidentified men. According to sources on site, the victim was taken to Bujumbura Mairie hospital for treatment in the intensive care unit.

A member of UPRONA party abused in Ruyigi commune and province

On February 7, 2020, in a bar belonging to Masumbuko, in Sanzu III quarter, Ruyigi commune and province, Jérôme Rwanda, Imbonerakure, toppled Venant Nyarusage, member of Uprona party, aged 66 accusing him of being a member of CNL party. According to sources on site, the victim who was on a New Year's party fell suddenly to the ground. According to the same sources, police officers who passed by did not worry the alleged perpetrator.

Plan of CNDD-FDD party to eliminate the president of the communal council of Mutimbuzi, rural Bujumbura province

On February 6, 2020, two meetings were held, one in Mageyo chaired by Emmanuel Nkeshimana, provincial leader of CNDD-FDD party, in Mubimbi commune, the other in Mutimbuzi commune in the meeting room of the commune chaired by Nadine Gacuti, Governor of Bujumbura rural province. During the meeting held in Mageyo, among the items on the agenda tackled by participants, there was the preparation of the 2020 elections in rural Bujumbura province, the problems found at Mutimbuzi communal council and the revision of the lists of CNDD-FDD party members elected at the hill level. Regarding the problems that are in Mutimbuzi communal council, Elysée Nindorera, head of CNDD-FDD party in this commune, said that the origin of the problems is the president of the communal council, Denis Nduwayezu, elected from Amizero y'Abarundi coalition. Sauda Mboneko, MP and member of Mutimbuzi Communal Council also said that the obstacle to CNDD-FDD party is this president of the communal council and if he were not eliminated, CNDD-FDD party would not win the 2020 elections in Mutimbuzi commune. According to local sources, Emmanuel Nkeshimana asked Sauda Mboneko and Elysée Nindorera to propose a solution and both said that Denis Nduwayezu should be killed. This provincial official also asked Elysée and Sauda to take the minutes of the meeting and share it as soon as possible by giving a copy to the Governor of rural Bujumbura, Nadine Gacuti.

As for the meeting held in Mutimbuzi commune, it was attended by communal advisors, commune tax collectors, agents of Mutimbuzi municipal services, hill advisors and Marcel, communal police commissioner in Mutimbuzi as well as Joe Dassin Nkezabahizi, SNR head in Mutimbuzi commune. The Provincial Governor indicated that she learned that the problem of Mutimbuzi commune administration is Denis Nduwayezu, president of Mutimbuzi communal council. She then announced that she will use soldiers, police and SNR agents to correct Denis Nduwayezu, president of Mutimbuzi commune council in a few days. We should note that on February 3, 2020, this chair of the aforesaid council sent a letter to the Home affairs Minister to request a ministerial delegation and this letter denounced the disorder observed in Mutimbuzi commune created by some authorities targeting their own interests at the expense of those of the population.

Attempt to burn the commune office of CNL party in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province

On February 5, 2020, around 1:00 a.m., unidentified people attempted to burn a communal office of CNL party in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province. According to sources on site, unidentified people entered the office of this party. The latter had brought tires and a can of petrol to burn this house. According to the same sources, CNL party members who were carrying out a night patrol around the office intervened and these criminals fled, leaving CNDD-FDD party t-shirts, tires, a mosquito net and a can of petrol.

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

Cases of grenade found, people attacked and injured have been observed in certain provinces of the country.

All the cases of people killed and corpses found were recorded in Rumonge province.

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.