

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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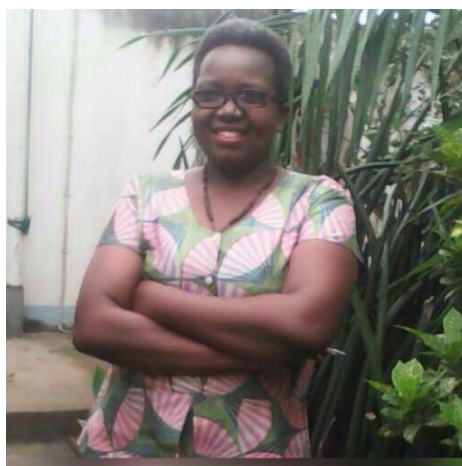
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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°201 of the Burundian League of Human Rights
"ITEKA"*

Week from 10 to 16 February 2020



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 16 February 2017, Iteka has documented at least 547 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS

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

CNL : *National Congress for Liberty*

COSSESSONA : *Special Coalition of Teachers' Unions for National Solidarity*

DPEFTP : *Provincial Direction of Education, Technical and Vocational Training*

DPEFTP : *Communal Direction of Education, Technical and Vocational Training*

JRR : *Rwagasore Revolutionary Youth*

UPRONA : *Union for National Progress*

0. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

Over the reporting period, Ligue Iteka has noted cases of intimidation, destruction of a party office, dismissal of hill leaders and interference by the Imbonerakure in the administration.

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 member of CNDD-FDD party killed in Muruta commune, Kayanza province

On February 12, 2020, around 5:00 a.m., on Myugariro hill, Muruta commune, Kayanza province, a body of Albin Nyandwi, 47 years old, member of CNDD-FDD party, residing on the same hill, was killed by unidentified people. According to local sources, the victim was heading to his fields for irrigation activities when he was stabbed. According to the same sources, eight people, including five CNL party members were arrested by the police and jailed in the provincial police station cell in Kayanza for investigation reasons.

A body found in Muramvya commune and province

On February 15, 2020, around 7:00 p.m., a body of Omar Nimubona, 35 years old, married, from Kavya hill, Bugarama zone, commune and Muramvya province, was found in Mubarazi River separating Burambana hills of Muramvya zone and Busimba hills of Bugarama zone. Local sources say the last time he was seen by his family is February 8, 2020.

I.2. PEOPLE ARRESTED BY POLICE AND IMBONERAKURE

A member of CNL party arrested in Rugazi commune, Bubanza province

On February 10, 2020, on Kibuye hill, Stany Sindayikengera, member of CNL party, was arrested by police from Kibuye position, Rugazi zone and commune, Bubanza province. According to sources on site, the victim was taken to Muzinda zone cell before being transferred to the provincial police station cell in Bubanza. According to the same sources, Stany Sindayikengera was a member of CNDD-FDD party before joining CNL party and his arrest is linked to political reasons.

A person arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, rural Bujumbura province

On February 10, 2020, on Nyabunyegeri hill, Rubirizi zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Pontien Bavakure, son of Barumwete and Bamvugire, residing on this same hill, was arrested by Imbonerakure led by Nepomuscene Dusengumuremyi, head of Imbonerakure in Mutimbuzi commune. According to local sources, the victim was accused of having refused to join CNDD-FDD party. According to the same sources, this victim was jailed in the police station cell of Rubirizi zone before being taken on February 11, 2020 to the cell of the prosecutor's office in Kabezi and transferred a few days later to Mpimba central prison.

Two members of UPRONA party arrested in Gitega commune and province

As of February 12, 2020, at Kungoma bar in Gitega downtown, at the former Gitega market, Amédée Habimana, advisor in charge of communication at the first vice-presidency and Evode Bihizi, staff of Mutuelle of civil service and provincial head of JRR in Gitega, both members of UPRONA party, were arrested by police when they were sharing a drink. According to sources on site, they were taken to the cell of the provincial police station in Gitega. According to the same sources, their arrest is linked to their positioning on the list of candidates for legislative elections.

II. SACURITY FACTS

Dismissal of nine hill heads in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province

As of February 13, 2020, nine heads of Gihinga, Gitunga, Ruramba, Musama, Nyakibari, Kibenga-Migende, Rwankangoma, Nyagitongati and Ruvumu hills from Kayokwe commune were dismissed by the commune administrator François Nkundwa. According to local sources, 8 hill heads are members of CNL party and another of Gihinga is member of UPRONA party. In a letter to them, it is said that they failed eradicate the sale and consumption of the prohibited drink called "umudiringi" and that they failed to set up a committee of 50 people to assist them. They were forced to hand over with their next assistants. According to the same sources, Prosper Kazungu, Communal Police Commissioner in Kayokwe who was an accomplice with the manufacturers of this drink, was transferred to Makamba province.

Interference of Imbonerakure in the administration in Kirundo commune and province

On February 10, 2020, Musavyi, communal secretary of CNL party in Kirundo was refused authorization to hold meetings of his party by Jeannette Kangoro, administrator of Kirundo commune. According to sources on site, the aforementioned communal secretary was informed by the administrator that these meetings, which were to be held on 12 February in Kirundo zone, 13 February 2020 in rural Kirundo and February 14, 2020 in Gikuyo zone, are authorized after approval of Minani, communal head of Imbonerakure. According to the same sources, these CNL party meetings were scheduled for the choice of representatives to attend the congress to elect their candidate for the presidential elections.

Destruction of a CNL party office in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 10, 2020 indicates that on the night of 4 to 5 February 2020, on the hill and Nyaruhinda zone, Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, a CNL party office located on this hill was destroyed while doors and windows were burned by unidentified people. According to local sources, on the evening of February 4, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., on this same hill, Manasse Bazishaka, Nyaruhinda zone head and Imbonerakure from Rwizingwe, Kinyota, Gasasa, Gahashi and Nyaruhinda hills had gathered at the market of Kabarimyi to plan the destruction of this office. According to the same sources, Melchior Ntahorumereye, communal representative of CNL party in Gitaramuka, complained to the Governor and the Provincial Police Commissioner against this zone head, but the latter was not worried.

Intimidation of teachers in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On February 12, 2020, at Karuzi center, Stany Manirakiza, DPEFTP Karuzi, held in his office a meeting of all the teachers members of CNDD-FDD party where they dealt with two points namely the contribution of 20% of the salary for the 2020 elections and the membership of teachers in COSSESSONA union coalition. According to local sources, the teachers present were intimidated and forced to join this coalition by force and that any member of CNDD-FDD party must accept these conditions since this coalition is a project of the state. According to the same sources, as of February 13, 2020, all of the CNDD-FDD party teachers who were absent from the meeting were summoned to the DCEFTP office, but what was discussed has not been revealed.

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, abductions, torture, targeted arbitrary and illegal arrests against opponents and alleged opponents to CNDD-FDD party regime are reported.

Cases of arbitrary killings and arrests continue to be reported in some areas across the country.

Cases of intimidation and political intolerance have been observed 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.