

## BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°210 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights  
"ITEKA"*

**Week from 13 to 19 April 2020**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 19 April 2020, Iteka has documented at least 551 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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**ACRONYMS**

<b>AJAP</b>	: <i>Association for Progressive African Youth</i>
<b>CNDD-FDD</b>	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
<b>CNL</b>	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
<b>DPEPTP</b>	: <i>Provincial Direction of Education, Technical and Professional Training</i>
<b>FAB</b>	: <i>Burundi Armed Forces</i>
<b>FRODEBU</b>	: <i>Front for Democracy in Burundi</i>
<b>INSP</b>	: <i>National Public Health Institute</i>
<b>MSD</b>	: <i>Movement for Solidarity and Democracy</i>
<b>OMS</b>	: <i>World Health Organization</i>
<b>OPC</b>	: <i>Chief Police Officer</i>
<b>OPJ</b>	: <i>Judicial Police officer</i>
<b>SNR</b>	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>

***0. INTRODUCTION***

Over the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded as follows: at least 4 people killed, including 3 extrajudicial executions and 1 corpse, 1 tortured and 22 arbitrarily arrested.

Among the victims identified are 1 women tortured and 1 woman arrested arbitrarily.

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

Among the victims recorded are members of CNL, MSD and Sahwanya FRODEBU parties.

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

Over the reporting period, Ligue Iteka noted cases of intimidation, attempted murder, management of the coronavirus pandemic and CNDD-FDD party meetings to track down members of CNL party in certain provinces of the country. .

## ***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 POLICE***

##### **Three people killed in Matana commune, Bururi province**

On April 15, 2020, around morning, on Rubanga hill, Matana commune, Bururi province, three people, Pascal Ninganza alias Kaburimbo, ex-FAB and his house workers, Désiré Ciza and Riyazimana were assassinated at their home by police officers commanded by OPC1 Thaddée Birutegusa. According to sources on site, this assassination took place after a meeting held in the night of April 14, 2020 by the regional commissioner, OPC1 Thaddée Birutegusa in Rutovu commune attended by some policemen from the south regional police station participated and those of Bururi provincial police station. According to the same sources, the same night, the latter then went to Ninganza's home in Matana and they surrounded his house. At around 6:00 a.m., they broke into his home and one of the police officers shot the two house workers. Pascal Ninganza alias Kaburimbo, who came down from the ceiling where he was hiding, was shot in his living room by OPC1 Commissioner Thaddée Birutegusa using a pistol. All these people were put directly into a probox-type vehicle belonging a police station head in Matana and then taken to a mass grave which they had dug in the locality. We should point out that this assassination took place after Révérien Ndikuriyo, speaker of the Senate declared several times in meetings including that of September 11, 2019 in Marangara commune, Ngozi province that he who would bring the head of Pascal Ninganza alias Kaburimbo alive or dead will have 5 million Bif as reward.

#### ***I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **A body found in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

On April 16, 2020, around 5:00 a.m., in Kiyange I quarter, Buterere zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, a body of Célestin, probox type taxi driver registered JA 8371, father of one child , living in Kanyosha urban zone , was found not far from residential houses and a police station. According to sources on site, a big stone was placed on her chest and the victim had wounds showing that he had been strangled. According to the same sources, the victim's body was retrieved by police by a police ambulance and taken to Roi Khaled hospital mortuary. Six guards watching over construction sites of houses under construction in the area were arrested by the police for investigation reasons.

#### ***I.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE***

##### **A woman member of CNL party tortured in Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province**

On April 17, 2020, around 5:00 p.m., on Kagombe hill, Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province, Emelyne Mukeshimana, member of CNL party, was beaten and seriously injured in the right eye by Révérien Buregeya, head of Imbonerakure on Mwakiro hill, accompanied by Amisi Mayunga, Déo Hasabamagara and Mbombogoro, all Imbonerakure. Local sources say the victim was returning from the market when she was arrested on the street, accused of opponent.

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

#### **A woman member of MSD party arrested in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province**

On April 19, 2020, around 9:00 a.m., on Buringa hill and zone, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, Anne Sinzumusi, provincial representative of MSD party in Bubanza, residing at the 5<sup>th</sup> avenue in Buringa, was arrested by Eric Bintunimana, head of police station located at the bridge of Mpanda river, separating Gihanga commune of Bubanza province and Mutimbuzi commune of Bujumbura rural province. According to local sources, Anne was called by the police station head on the phone telling her that the provincial police commissioner in Bubanza needs her. According to the same sources, when she arrived at this police station, she was embarked and taken to the communal police station cell by Philippe Manirambona, communal police commissioner in Gihanga. The political reason is the basis of this arrest.

#### **A member of CNL party arrested in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province**

On April 19, 2020, around noon, Augustin Matata, member of CNL party and responsible for security at CNL party in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, was arrested by Eric Bintunimana, head of police station at the bridge of Mpanda river, separating Gihanga commune, of Bubanza province and Mutimbuzi commune of Bujumbura rural province. According to sources on site, Matata was called by the police station head on the phone saying that he is wanted by the provincial police commissioner in Bubanza. According to the same sources, he arrived at this police station and was taken to Gihanga communal police station cell by Philippe Manirambona, communal police commissioner in Gihanga. The political reason is the basis of this arrest.

#### **A member of CNL party arrested in Musigati commune, Bubanza province**

On April 15, 2020, around 11:00 a.m., on Kayange hill, Musigati commune, Bubanza province, Joseph Manariyo, communal representative of CNL party in Musigati, was arrested by police from Musigati commune police station. According to local sources, Joseph was accused of rebellion. The victim was taken to the provincial police station cell in Bubanza.

#### **A member of CNL party arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, rural Bujumbura province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 13, 2020 indicates that on April 9, 2020, on the 15<sup>th</sup> street hill Maramvya, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Thierry Ntabangana, member of CNL party, was arrested by Gaston Singora, head of Maramvya zone, at the same time zonal head of Imbonarakure. According to sources on site, Thierry Ntabangana was accused by this zone head of not joining CNDD-FDD party. The victim was jailed in police station cell of the same zone. On April 14, 2020, this zone head brought Thierry Ntabangana out of the cell and embarked him on a motorbike with an Imbonerakure Nshimirimana alias Shimwe towards Mutimbuzi commune office. According to the same sources, Thierry was handed over to Joe Dassin Nkezabahizi, SNR head in Mutimbuzi who took him aboard a vehicle with a registration number from the DRC to Bujumbura rural prosecutor's office cell in Kabezi.

### **Five CNL party members arrested in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 13, 2020 indicates that on April 4, 2020, on Mayange hill, Bigina zone, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, Jérôme Nsanzurwimo, Salvator Nzeyimana, Richard Manirambona, Berchimas Bizindavyi and Gilbert Ngomirakiza, all members of CNL party, were arrested by Imbonerakure on the orders of Paul Rwajekera, head of Bigina zone. According to sources on site, they were taken to the communal police station cell in Kayogoro and they were accused of collecting contributions on behalf of their party.

### **Four CNL party members arrested in Mbuye commune, Muramvya province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 13, 2020 indicates that on April 5, 2020, on Murehe hill, Mbuye commune, Muramvya province, Oswald Ndayisenga, Aaron Baranyizigiye, Tharcisse Nizigiyimana and Jean Claude Nduwimana, all members of CNL party, from the same hill, were arrested by Imbonerakure of the joint security committee. According to sources on site, these victims were accused of having held a clandestine meeting the day before, around 8:00 pm, to Innocent Niyonderetse's who was in possession of a list CNL party agents for the 2020 elections. According to the same sources, on 10 April 2020, they were taken to Muramvya prison after being detained at Mbuye communal police station.

### **A member of CNL party arrested in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province**

On April 13, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., on Gitaramuka hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Tite Cewusi, zonal representative of CNL party, was arrested at his home and taken to the commune cell by Manassé Bazishaka alias Ruhombo, zone head and communal representative of CNDD-FDD party, accompanied by Longin Ntakirutimana, Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, Tite Cewusi was accused of having held an illegal meeting. According to the same sources, on April 15, 2020, he was transferred to the provincial police station before being released on April 17, 2020.

### **Two people arrested in commune and Gitega province**

On April 15, 2020, in Gitega center, Médard Kazungu, native of Karago hill, Rweza zone, Ryansoro commune, Gitega province, was arrested by SNR provincial head in Gitega and taken to the provincial police station cell in this same province. According to sources on site, Médard Kazungu had come to participate in a meeting organized by AJAP and sent a telephone message to Eric Niyomwungere, agent of BRAGITA Gitega, neighbor of his native hill to inform him that he had a bag of food from his family. According to the same sources, Eric was already arrested and the message from Médard reached the head of SNR who had his cell phone.

### **Four CNL party members arrested in Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province**

As of April 16, 2020, on Buhogo hill, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province, Viateur Ciza, Prosper Ndayisenga, Jean Bosco Manirakiza and Emmanuel, all members of CNL party on this hill were arrested by Imbonerakure from Buhogo hill, accompanied by those from Miterama hill. According to sources on site, these four persons were taken to the communal police cell in Nyabihanga, accused of holding a clandestine meeting. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure attacked, arrested and led to the police cell at Nyabihanga these CNL party

activists who were in a meeting on Buhogo hill. After one night in detention, they were released on April 17, 2020.

**Two members of Sahwanya FRODEBU party arrested in Muhuta commune, Rumonge province**

On April 16, 2020, on Kazayanga hill, Matongo zone, Muhuta commune, Rumonge province, Ferdinand Nibigira, member of Sahwanya FRODEBU party and the zonal representative of the said party were arrested by the police and jailed in the police cell in Gitaza. According to local sources, they were accused of having anticipated the electoral campaign by distributing electoral cards of this party to the members of this party on the same hill.

**II. SECURITY FACTS**

**Attempted murder of a member of CNL party in Giharo commune, Rutana province**

On April 16, 2020, on Rutana-Makamba road, Rémy Hakizimana, representative of CNL party youth in Giharo commune, Rutana province, was abducted, glued the mouth and was injected substances to make him lose consciousness. According to sources on site, he went to Rutana and when he returned to Giharo, he asked for a ride from a passing vehicle which instead of stopping at Bugiga in Bukemba commune high speeded road to Kayogoro, Makamba province. Finding that he was refused to get out of the vehicle at the agreed place, he wrote a message to his friends who alerted on social media. According to the same sources, he was found by his family the next morning with a bandage on his mouth at Gihofi-Muzye junction, Bukemba commune, Rutana province and was taken to Gihofi Hospital for medical treatment. When he left the hospital on the evening of April 17, 2020, Rémy was arrested by the police and detained in Bukemba police station cell for investigation reasons.

**Two CNL party members manhandled in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province**

On April 13, 2020, around 10:00 a.m., at the trading center, on Muyange hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, Gérard Nkezubumwe and Pie Ciza, members of CNL party, were surrounded, manhandled and ransomed by a group Imbonerakure led by Moïse Sunzuguru, Célestin Cewusi and Philbert Nimbona from Gashanga hill in the same commune. According to sources on site, Gérard and Célestin were respectively accused of having tarnished the image of the presidential party, insulting Imbonerakure during the disputes of the day before for the first and of having denigrated the hill elections which took place in the month of March 2020. They were forced to pay an amount of 23,000 fbu on the spot in order to release them.

**Intimidation of a lawyer in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On April 16, 2020, around 2:00 p.m., in Karuzi downtown, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, Emmanuel Nahishakiye, lawyer for three members of CNL party arrested on April 12, 2020 in Muyange, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province was intimidated by Donatien, provincial police commissioner. According to sources on site, the lawyer was at the prosecutor's office to follow up on his clients' files when the commissioner came by and told him that he could suffer the same fate or even be eliminated if he did not stop caring for files of CNL party members.

### **Intimidation of displaced persons in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 13, 2020 indicates that on April 6, 2020, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, communal and provincial officials of CNDD-FDD party including Stanislas Manirakiza, provincial representative of the said party at the same time DPEFTP organized a meeting in the camp for the displaced in Buhiga where they threatened the displaced that if CNDD-FDD party does not win the elections in this camp, all will be driven out but if the party wins in the camp, they will stay. According to sources on site, during his speech, the provincial representative of this party told them that whether they voting for CNDD-FDD or not, this party must win the elections.

### **Intimidation against members of CNL party in Gashoho commune, Muyinga province**

On the night of April 16, 2020, in the quarter called Carrière, Cihonda hill, Gashoho commune, Muyinga province, Imbonerakure from this hill threw stones at the roofs of the houses of CNL party members. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure wanted to destroy a house rented to serve as a hill office to open officially on April 19, 2020. According to the same sources, Désiré Bigirimana, administrator of Gashoho commune and Ernest Citeretse, communal head of Imbonerakure have prohibited members of CNL party from opening their office, which should take place on April 19, 2020.

### **A CNDD-FDD party meeting to track down CNL party agents in Mutimbuzi commune, rural Bujumbura province**

On April 13, 2020, at the CNDD-FDD party communal office, located in Kajaga, very close to Miami Beach bar, in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Elysée Nindorera, communal secretary of CNDD-FDD party in Mutimbuzi, held a meeting with representatives of Imbonerakure and veterans of that party in Mutimbuzi. According to sources on site, the agenda included a single item which is the hunt for CNL party agents before the elections of May 20, 2020. Elysée Nindorera ordered the participants to continue hunting down these agents of CNL party at Mutimbuzi and said that once the latter are killed, abducted, arrested and imprisoned, CNDD-FDD party in Mutimbuzi commune will have many votes in the elections of May 20, 2020.

### **Hunt for CNL party members on lists of communal councils in rural Bujumbura province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka indicates that in March 2020, Nathanaël Nimbona, president of CEPI Bujumbura rural, disclosed lists of CNL party members registered as candidates for communal council elections in Bujumbura rural province to hunt them down. According to local sources, only the lists of CNL party candidates were secretly given to Emmanuel Nkeshimana, provincial secretary of CNDD-FDD party. The latter distributed them to SNR communal officials, communal secretaries of CNDD-FDD party and communal officials of the Imbonerakure in Bujumbura rural province. According to the same sources, these distributed lists will allow to identify these candidates so as to either killing them, abducting them or arresting them before the elections of May 20, 2020. Recall that on March 16, 2020, around 9:00 pm, on Migera hill, Kabezi commune, rural Bujumbura province, Methuselah Nahishakiye, leader of CNL party and being on the list of candidates for communal councilors, was assassinated by young people from Imbonerakure militia.

## **Management of the coronavirus pandemic in Burundi**

Since coronavirus cases were confirmed, Burundi has recorded 1 case of death as of April 11, 2020 out of a total of 5 infected. According to local sources, the WHO recommendation of “multiplying tests, at least for people who have been in contact with known cases” is far from being followed in Burundi where only the INSP is the only center recognized by the Burundian authorities with the resources and skills to diagnose the COVID-19 virus. Until now, the preventive measures announced by the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS are hand washing with clean water and soap or chlorinated water. The government has also closed Melchior Ndadaye international airport, but traffic throughout the country is observable, as is the organization of public events.

### ***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, extrajudicial executions, torture and arbitrary arrests continue to be reported across the country.

Cases of intimidation and political intolerance have been observed in certain provinces of the country.

The questioning management of the coronavirus pandemic has drawn the attention of Ligue Iteka.

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.