

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

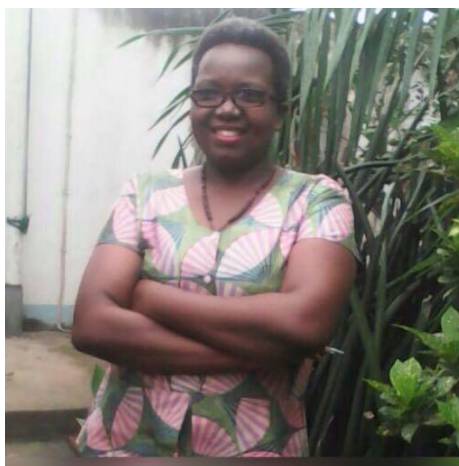
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°197 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 13 to 19 January 2020



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 19 January 2020, Iteka has documented at least 547 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS

CDFC	: <i>Family and Community Development Centre</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
COSSESSONA	: <i>Special Coalition of Teachers' Unions for National Solidarity</i>
DCA	: <i>Anti Air Defense</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
FAB	: <i>Burundi Armed Forces</i>
PMPA	: <i>Parties and Armed Political Movements</i>
SYGEPEBU	: <i>Professional Education Teachers' Union</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 6 people killed, including 3 corpses, 1 person tortured, 1 VBG victim and 2 arbitrarily arrested.

Among the victims identified is 1 women and 2 minors killed.

Imbonerakure affiliated to CNDD-FDD party, soldiers, 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 and CNDD-FDD parties.

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

Over the reporting period, people attacked and injured and a CNL office destroyed were reported in some 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 SOLDIERS

A body of a soldier found in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province

As of January 13, 2020, on Kagaragara sub-hill, Buringa hill and zone, Gihanga commune, Bubanza province, a body of Corporal Léonard Bucumi, ex-FAB, was found in Rukoko nature reserve. According to sources on site, this victim presented wounds all over his body showing that the victim suffered physical violence. Corporal Léonard Bucumi had spent the day with his colleagues, Master Corporal Jean Marie Ndayizeye and Master Corporal Pierre Miburo in a bar on Kagaragara sub-hill. The two soldiers and the victim are from DCA camp assigned to the military position of Kagaragara commanded by Captain François Niyonkuru. According to the same sources, the victim was killed by his two colleagues on the orders of Captain François Niyonkuru while on the way to their work station.

I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

One person killed in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On January 18, 2020, around 9:00 p.m., at the 14th avenue n ° 44, Buyenzi urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie, Mariam Nikiza alias Nyota, transfer and currency exchange agent at the 13th avenue n ° 10 in the same zone was shot dead by unidentified people armed with guns. According to local sources, the latter stole a handbag, money and mobile phones from the victim.

A body found in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On January 13, 2020, on Mparambo I hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, a body in a state of decomposition of Emmanuel Dusenge, 4 years old, was found in a latrine of a neighbor, less than 300 meters from his home. According to sources on site, Emmanuel Dusenge had disappeared since December 31, 2019. According to the same sources, the victim's neighbors felt a foul odor coming from this latrine from which they found the body of the child, whose parts had been cut. Residents of the locality wanted to take justice against two suspects arrested if the police had not intervened.

A body found in Ngozi commune and province

In the morning of January 19, 2020, on Gasebeyi hill, Mivo zone, Ngozi commune and province, a body of Nduwayezu Methode, in his twenties, a taxi-bike driver and resident on Gisagara hill in the same commune, was found. According to local sources, unidentified people stabbed him in the head with a machete before taking the bike he had just bought.

I.2. ABDUCTED AND/OR REPORTED MISSING PERSONS

A person abducted in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on October 14, 2019 indicates that on October 3, 2019, around 7:00 p.m., Egide Burikukiye, 15 years old, residing on Kigoma hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, has been abducted. According to sources on site, the victim and his friend were arrested and beaten up naked in the street by Egide Niyomwungere, leader of this hill and Jean Marie, hill representative of CNDD-FDD party, accusing them of public intoxication. According to the same sources, the friend of the victim who was able to escape went to seek help from Felix Mukerandanga, Buhinyuza zone head, member of CNDD-FDD party. He went on spot and asked the alleged perpetrators where the boy Egide was, they replied that he was good for nothing. Egide Niyomwungere, head of this hill, took the victim's clothes and gave them to his mother, telling him that he does not know where his son went. The alleged perpetrators remain free.

I.3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A member of CNL party tortured in Bugendana commune, Gitega province

On January 15, 2020, towards evening, on Cishwa hill, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, Samuel Ndikumana, member of CNL party, teacher at ECOFO in Cishwa, was beaten and then arrested by Imbonerakure from Cishwa hill. According to local sources, Samuel Ndikumana was from work and was returning home when he was attacked.

I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS AND SNR AGENTS

A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On January 16, 2020, around 6:00 p.m., on Nyamugari hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, Blaise Pascal Kararumiye, correspondent journalist for Isanganiro radio, was arrested and jailed in the provincial police station cell by the prosecutor of the Republic in Karuzi province, François Harerimana on the order of the Governor of this province, Calinie Mbarushimana. According to sources on site, he was taken to the prosecutor's office where he was questioned by the said prosecutor. According to the same sources, Blaise Pascal was accused of having disseminated false information about Sangwe cooperatives in Karuzi province.

A person arrested in Muramvya commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 16, 2020 indicates that on January 13, 2020, around 11:00 a.m., at Shombo Communal High School, in Shombo zone, commune and Muramvya province, Cyriaque Manirakiza, teacher, representative of SEPEDUC union in Muramvya province, was arrested at his workplace and taken to the provincial police station cell by the SNR officer in Muramvya. According to sources on site, Cyriaque Manirakiza was accused of opposing the deduction of 500 Bif from the salary of each teacher member of his union as required by COSSESSONA.

I.5. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Ruyigi commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 16, 2020 indicates that in Kinyabakecuru quarter, in Ruyigi province town, D.A, aged 14, was raped by Jaffari, a house worker from Muyinga province. According to local sources, the victim was raped several times and a medical test confirmed that she became pregnant. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrator was arrested on January 9, 2020 and jailed in Ruyigi central prison. CDFC Ruyigi has taken up this case and the file is being processed at the public prosecutor's office in Ruyigi province.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A body found in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province

On January 15, 2020, around 7:00 p.m., in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province, a body of Yogoro, carpenter, 62 years old, member of CNDD-FDD party, from Kibogoye hill, Kayokwe commune, was found in his house, 50 meters from a police station. According to sources on site, the victim was cut into three parts. According to the same sources, the victim was in land disputes with his two eldest sons, members of CNDD-FDD party. He remarried at Kayokwe commune town after the death of his wife, leaving his children on the hill. These two sons, alleged perpetrators, have run away. The police said they had started investigations.

A child killed in Busiga commune, Ngozi province

On January 19, 2020, around 7:00 p.m., on Kirinzi hill, Rukeco zone, Busiga commune, Ngozi province, Divin Igiraneza, 12 years old, was stabbed to death by Issa Bigirimana, former PMPA police officer, resident of the locality, originally from Butihinda commune, Muyinga province, dismissed from the defense and security forces for indiscipline. According to local sources, the alleged perpetrator had recently separated with his wife and accused Gervais Manirambona, father of the victim and pastor of a church, of being involved in their conflict. According to the same sources, Issa Bigirimana who came to the pastor who was not at home, took a knife and killed Divine Igiraneza before running away. Police and commune administration said they were looking for the alleged perpetrator.

Two CNL party members attacked and injured in Buhinyuza commune, Muyinga province

As of January 17, 2020, around 1:00 a.m., on Muramba hill, Gasave zone, Buhinyuza commune, Muyinga province, Nkunzimana Methode and Gervais Ndikumana, members of CNL party were attacked and injured with a machete by Imbonerakure of this hill, led by their hill head Claude. According to sources on site, these victims watched over their communal office located on this hill. According to the same sources, the aforesaid office had been destroyed the previous day and members of CNL party had rehabilitated it and decided to keep it overnight.

A person attacked and injured in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 16, 2020 indicates that on January 13, 2020, around 5:00 a.m., on Kibumbwe hill, Nyaruhinda zone, Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province, a man named Makamba, aged 40 years old, was found dying in the bush

of this hill, with traces of machete on the head, back and arms and one of his testicles cut. According to local sources, he came from Harerimana's home, his concubine, widow, 42-year-old, and was returning home. According to the same sources, Makamba no longer got along with this concubine who got another lover. This woman and her new partner were arrested and taken to Gitaramuka communal cell while the victim was rushed to Buhiga hospital where he remains hospitalized.

A child injured by his father in Musongati commune, Rutana province

On January 16, 2020, on Kamaramagambo hill, Musongati zone and commune, Rutana province, Don Freddy Tuyumvire, 6 years old, orphan of mother, was injured on sex by his father, Adrien Sabamahoro. According to local sources, the victim was accused of having played with his own sex. According to the same sources, his father was arrested by the police and taken to Musongati police station cell while the child was taken to Musongati hospital for medical treatment.

CNL party office demolished in Buhinyuza commune, Muyinga province

During the night of January 15 to 16, 2020, on Muramba hill, Gasave zone, Buhinyuza commune, Muyinga province, a communal office of CNL party was completely demolished by unidentified people. According to sources on site, members of CNL party suspected Imbonerakure of this locality because the latter carried out regular patrols there. According to the same sources, these CNL party members rehabilitated the aforesaid office the following day and watched over it, but Imbonerakure returned to destroy it, injuring two members of the CNL party.

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 in some localities across the country.

Over this week, attacked and injured people and CNL party office destroyed 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.