

## BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°198 of the Burundian League of Human Rights "ITEKA"*

**Week from 20 to 26 January 2020**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 26 January 2020, 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*

**ECOFO** : *Fundamental School*

**OPJ** : *Judicial Police Officer*

**SNR** : *National Intelligence Service*

**TGI** : *High Court*

**VBG** : *Gender Based Violence*

*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 found dead, 2 VBG victim and 14 arbitrarily arrested.

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 and CNDD-FDD parties.

This bulletin also notes cases of killings, GBV and arbitrary arrest in 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 UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **A body found in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 20, 2020 indicates that on January 18, 2020, between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> streets, on Rubira hill, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, a body in decomposition of an unidentified man was found. According to sources on site, this corpse was buried by the population under the order of OPJ of Mpanda commune after the finding.

##### **A body found in Bururi commune and province**

On January 21, 2020, on Nyarugera hill, Munini zone, Bururi commune and province, a body of Protais Maroha, 60 years old, native of this same hill, was found wrapped in a mosquito net in a potatoes field. According to local sources, Protais Maroha had not been found since January 19, 2020 when he left his home to go to church, at Murehe Catholic Church. Four people were arrested by the police for investigation reasons.

### ***I.2. PEOPLE ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE, ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS AND SNR AGENTS***

#### **Two CNL party members arrested in Mutaho commune, Gitega province**

On January 23, 2020, in Mutaho commune town, Gitega province, Daniel Havyarimana and Ferdinand Niyonkuru, both members of CNL party, residents on Nyangungu hill were arrested by Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, they were accused of beating Imbonerakure from Nyangungu hill in the same commune. According to the same sources, these two CNL activists were detained in the police cell of this commune.

#### **Two CNL party members arrested in Bugendana commune, Gitega province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 22, 2020 indicates that on January 15 and 16, 2020, Samuel Ndikumana, treasurer of CNL party in Bugendana commune, teacher at ECOFO Cishwa, residing on Cishwa hill in the same commune and Bernard Gahungu, also a member of CNL party, were arrested respectively by Imbonerakure and the provincial head of SNR, Blaise Ngomirakiza. According to local sources, Samuel Ndikumana went to the locality of Gatunguru to inform members of his party of a postponement of a meeting. While returning, Imbonerakure from the locality of Rubenga arrested him, accusing him of having held a clandestine meeting of CNL party and took him to CNDD-FDD party office where he was beaten up. Afterwards, they called Bugendana commune administrator, Beatrice Bukuru, who took him to Bugendana commune cell where he spent the night. According to the same sources, the next morning, members of CNL party, including Bernard Gahungu, went to the commune office to ask for reasons for the arrest of Samuel Ndikumana and the provincial head of SNR, Blaise Ngomirakiza, ordered the OPJ to issue an arrest warrant against Samuel. Bernard Gahungu was also arrested by the provincial head of SNR accusing him of insulting the authorities after saying that they cannot accept injustice and that in May 2020, they will change everything. The provincial head of SNR

took them to Gitega prison the same day. As of January 20, 2020, the two victims were interrogated by TGI Gitega in a flagrance trial. Accused of endangering the internal security of the State and holding secret party meetings, Samuel was sentenced to 10 years while Bernard was sentenced to 2 years in prison.

#### **Four members of CNL party arrested in Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province**

As of January 23, 2020, on Kibonobono hill, Celeus Nzungu, leader of CNL party on this hill, Emmanuel Nduwimana and Emmanuel Mushimantwari respectively secretary and leader of CNL party on Rubavu sub-hill as well as Léonce, leader of the CNL party youth on Buhoro hill, were arrested by Imbonerakure and taken to the police station cell in Bwambarangwe commune by the SNR officer in that commune accompanied by the head of Imbonerakure in Mukenke zone. According to sources on site, Celeus Nzungu was accused of not rescuing the head of Bugorora hill when he was fighting with members of CNL party and the other three were charged with contempt of the head of State.

#### **A member of CNL party arrested in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 20, 2020 indicates that on January 19, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., on Rukurazo hill, Cendajuru hill, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province, Sezibera, member of CNL party, was arrested by Imbonerakure led by Kabande, head of Imbonerakure of this sub hill and Jérôme Riyazimana, communal head of Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of greeting people by a greeting of his CNL party: "Gira CNL". According to the same sources, she was taken to Vumbi communal cell on the orders of commune administrator Jean Baptiste Kwizera and so far has not been heard by the OPJ.

#### **A member of the CNL party arrested in Bwambarangwe commune, Kirundo province**

On January 21, 2020, Fidèle Nzobakenga, a member of CNL party, was arrested and taken to the police cell in Bwambarangwe commune by the communal OPJ. According to sources on site, this victim of Butahana hill was accused of bewitching Liduine Hicuburundi, elected on this hill, member of CNDD-FDD party. According to the same sources, Liduine Hicuburundi complained to the OPJ in order to prevent CNDD-FDD party members from joining CNL party.

#### **Two CNL party members arrested in Ntega commune, Kirundo province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 20, 2020 indicates that on January 14 and 15, 2020, Imbonerakure Zacharie Miburo and Ahishakiye arrested Joseph Habonimana and Isaac Buhiza, both members of CNL party and were detained in Ntega commune cell. According to sources on site, Isaac Buhiza was arrested on January 15, 2020 on Rukore hill, Ntega commune, Kirundo province when he came from Bujumbura and he was accused of stealing a cell phone before going to Bujumbura. According to the same sources, Joseph Habonimana, was arrested on January 14, 2020 and was accused of going to a bar of opponents.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 20, 2020 indicates that on January 11, 2020, on Butare hill, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, Jean Marie Mukerandanga and Eric Ndayiragije, both members of CNL party were arrested by Imbonerakure, Gilbert Ndikuriyo,

driver of the administrator of Kayogoro commune, Zachée Misago and another nicknamed American. According to local sources, the two victims were accused of disturbing public order by inciting people to flee to refugee camps in Tanzania. According to the same sources, they were detained in the communal police station cell in Kayogoro until January 17, 2020 before being transferred to Makamba prosecution cell.

### ***1.3. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE***

#### **Two girls raped in Muramvya commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 20, 2020 indicates that on January 14, 2020, around noon, in Kirwati quarter, Muramvya commune and province, Y.K., aged 3 years and S.I., aged 4 years, all residents of this quarter were raped by their neighbor, Anatole Kwizera, a house worker from Teka hill, Mbuye commune. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrator was arrested.

### ***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 and arbitrary arrests continue to be reported in some localities across 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.