

BURUNDIAN LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

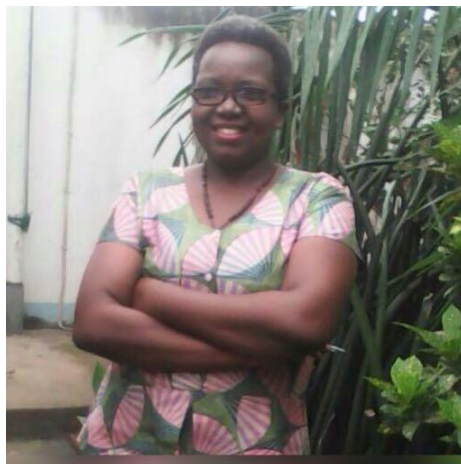
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"ITEKA"*

Week from 27 January – 2 February 2020



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 2 February 2020, Iteka has documented at least 547 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS

CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CECI	: <i>Communal Independent Electoral Commission</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
EPS	: <i>Physical Education and Sport</i>
FAB	: <i>Burundi Armed Forces</i>
FNL	: <i>National Liberation Front</i>
SNR	: <i>National Intelligence Service</i>
UB	: <i>University of Burundi</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 5 corpses found, 1 VBG victim and 33 arbitrarily arrested.

Among the victims identified is a woman 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 FNL parties.

This bulletin also notes cases of killings, GBV, torture 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 Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On February 2, 2020, in Carama III quarter, Kinama urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, a body of Jérôme Cishahayo, 34 years old, doctoral student in the faculty of medicine at the UB was found in a cornfield, very close to the home of Moïse Bucumi, former Minister of Energy and Mines. According to local sources, this body had signs of strangulation. According to the same sources, this body of the victim was taken to one of the mortuaries of the hospitals of Bujumbura mairie by Red Cross agents accompanied by the civil protection police.

A body found in Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 27, 2020 indicates that on January 22, 2020, on Busumanyi hill, Mugeru zone, Mishiha commune, Cankuzo province, Marc Ndikunkiko, 62 years old, from Mwaro province, residing at the aforesaid hill, ex-FAB, was found in the bush near a stream. According to sources on site, the victim's body was buried by members of his family on January 27, 2020 at Rurama cemetery in Muterero hill, Cankuzo commune and province.

A body of a member of CNL party found in Muruta commune, Kayanza province

During the night of January 31 to February 1, 2020, on Ruvumu hill, Muruta commune, Kayanza province, a body of Samuel Kamurenga, farmer and member of CNL party, 55 years old, was found near his home. According to local sources, the body was injured and swollen. According to the same sources, four women were arrested on February 1, 2020 and detained at the provincial police station for investigation reasons.

A body found in Buhinyuza commune, Muyinga province

On January 31, 2020, around 10:00 p.m., on Karongwe hill, Buhinyuza commune, Muyinga province, a body of Frédéric Sebushahu, 68 years old, was found in the street. According to sources on site, the body of the victim had traces of stabbing.

A body found in Ndava commune, Mwaro province

On January 29, 2020, a body of Grégoire Nijimbere, aged 47, from Ngara hill, Kiganda commune, Muramvya province was found and recovered from Kaniga River, Ndava commune, very close to the Pentecost Church located on Muramba sub hill. According to local sources, schoolchildren on their way to ECOFO Kigarama saw him in the morning and alerted the local population. According to the same sources, the administration and the police said that the victim died by a simple drowning.

I.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A person tortured in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On January 28, 2020, on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Kavuyimbo, 22 years old, originally from Magamba hill, Buhiga zone and commune, was severely beaten by his employer, Séverin Bompanokira, Imbonerakure and chairman of Buhiga market traders committee. According

to local sources, he accused him of having stolen 15 kg of beans. According to the same sources, the victim was admitted to Buhiga hospital and the perpetrator remained free.

1.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND SNR AGENTS

Six CNL party members arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, rural Bujumbura province

On January 27 and 28, 2020, on the 13th and 14th streets, Maramvya, Janvier Havyarimana, Thomas Ndakoraniwe, Ligène Mugisha, Jean de Dieu Nizigiyimana, André Butoyi and Isaac Kwihangana, all members of CNL party, residents of Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, rural Bujumbura province, were arrested and taken to Maramvya zone police station cell by Joe Dassin Nkezabahizi, head of SNR in Mutimbuzi commune. According to local sources, on January 28, 2020, Janvier Havyarimana, Thomas Ndakoraniwe and Ligène Mugisha who were arrested on January 27, 2020 on the 13th street for the first two and on the 14th street for Ligène were transferred to Rukaramu zone police station cell by this SNR officer. According to the same sources, Jean de Dieu Nizigiyimana, André Butoyi and Isaac Kwihangana, who were arrested at the 14th Maramvya street, on January 28, were detained in Maramvya zone police station cell, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province. All these people were accused of being influential members of CNL party in Maramvya zone.

Two CNL party members arrested in Bugendana commune, Gitega province¹

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.

¹ This case was reported in the weekly newsletter Iteka n'Ijambo No 198. An error occurred at the scene of the incident. Samuel was arrested and beaten up in Rubenga on Cishwa hill.

Eighteen members of CNL party arrested in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

As of January 31, 2020, on Vyanzo hill, Gatara zone, Busoni commune, eighteen members of CNL party including Musafiri Moussa, Hassani Haberintwari, Marc Rwasa, Gérard Mvunamaboko, Gilbert Ngendakumana, Samuel Kavamakungu and Souleyman Bizimana, all from Gatete hill, Abdoukalim Rukundo of Kivo hill and Jacques Butoyi of Gatara hill, zonal representative of CNL party in Gatara zone were arrested by Gatara zone head, Vital Manirambona accompanied by Imbonerakure Mugema, Issa Serumondo, Mugemancuro and their zonal head, Prosper Mbonimpa. According to sources on site, the reason for this arrest is that they found photocopies of their identity cards to their representative's home of CNL in Gatara zone, Jacques Butoyi who had collected them to have them registered at CECI on the list of officers of CNL party. According to the same sources, these victims were gathered on the football field in Vyanzo then 9 were released and 9 others including their zonal head Jacques Butoyi were taken Busoni commune cell in Rusarasi.

Four FNL party members arrested in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

On January 30, 2020, around 5:00 p.m., on Gitaramuka hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, four members of FNL party, including Ismael and Innocent, were arrested and taken to the commune cell by Imbonerakure led by Longin and Issa. According to local sources, they were accused of holding an illegal meeting. According to the same sources, the victims were sharing a beer in a bar of a man named François. They spent one night in the cell and were released the next day around 11:00 am following an order said from above and warning that members of this party should no longer be ill-treated because it is close to CNDD-FDD. But the barkeeper was accused of hosting politicians and was fined 20,000 Bif by the hill head accompanied by Imbonerakure.

A teacher arrested in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

As of January 27, 2020, around 1 p.m., on Gitaramuka hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, a 43-year-old Dieudonne, an EPS teacher at Lycée saint Augustin of Gitaramuka, was arrested and detained by police in Gitaramuka commune cell. According to sources on site, he was accused of insolence towards the director of the aforesaid school. According to the same sources, the victim had had an argument with his director Father Jean Paul Nsavyiyongoma on the return from a football match which had opposed pupils of the aforesaid Lycée to those of Lycée Karuzi. Imbonerakure were approached and paid by this rector to accuse the victim of having outraged the senior leaders and that he was part of the 1996 armed gangs called "Sans Echec". As of January 31, 2020, the teachers board members stopped work to demand the release of their colleague and following this pressure, he was released the same day around 4:00 p.m.

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

On February 2, 2020, on Kivuruga hill, Gatara zone and commune, Kayanza province, Serges Nibigira, teacher at Lycée Musema, representative of CNL party in Gatara commune, was arrested by the head of SNR in Kayanza province. According to sources on site, he was accused of having held a meeting of CNL party committee members at the office of this party in Gatara zone.

A judge of the residence court arrested in the commune and the Rumonge province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 27, 2019 indicates that on January 23, 2020, in Iteba quarter, Rumonge commune and province, Ladislas Niyongabo, judge at Burambi residence court was arrested by Rumonge police when he quenched thirst in a bar in Rumonge urban center. Local sources said the judge was charged with contempt of the Head of State. According to the same sources, in a flagrant judgment, Ladislas Niyongabo was sentenced to 2 years in prison by Bururi Court of Appeal.

Two CNL party members arrested in Butezi commune, Ruyigi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 27, 2020 indicates that on December 10, 2019, in the evening, in the locality called Kwisumo, on Rubaragaza hill, Butezi commune, Ruyigi province, Gamaliel Nkuzimana and Belyse Egerimana, both CNL party members were beaten up by Imbonerakure, then arrested and detained in Butezi commune police station cell before being transferred to Ruyigi police station cell. According to sources on site, these victims were going home and encountered a roadblock guarded by Imbonerakure. According to the same sources, Belyse Egerimana wanted to go under the barrier and suddenly these Imbonerakure slapped her. His friend Gamaliel Nkuzimana who accompanied him intervened and he was also beaten.

I.4.GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 27, 2020 indicates that on January 21, 2020, on Ruhinga hill, Musongati zone and commune, Rutana province, Pascaline Niyonzima, 32 years old, was beaten and seriously injured by her husband Pascal Barutwanayo, 35, recently released in November 2019 by presidential pardon. According to local sources, the alleged perpetrator accused his wife of having concubines. He was arrested and taken to Musongati police station cell while Pascaline Niyonzima was taken to Musongati hospital for medical treatment.

II. SECURITY FACTS

An Imbonerakure killed in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On the night of January 31, 2020, around 7:00 p.m., at Cibitoke hospital, Pierre Nkuzimana alias Ndakwica, Imbonerakure succumbed to his injuries by the population. According to sources on site, on the night of 30 to 31 January 2020, on Kiramira hill and zone, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Pierre Nkuzimana alias Ndakwica, Fabien Nsabimana and Nizigiye, all Imbonerakure were beaten by residents of this hill. According to sources on site, these victims were accused of theft from shops. According to the same sources, they were surprised by the people of this hill in possession of several items stolen from shops in the locality. The three victims were admitted to Cibitoke Hospital for intensive care.

One person injured in Matana commune, Bururi province

On January 30, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., on Bihanga hill, Matana commune, Bururi province, Frédéric Gateretse, aged at least 40, a farmer, was injured at his home due to a grenade explosion. According to local sources, the alleged perpetrators of this attack have not been identified. According to the same sources, the victim was taken to Bujumbura for treatment.

A member of CNDD-FDD party injured in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province

On January 29, 2020, around 10:00 p.m., on Muyange hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, at Kamahoro trading center, Sunzuguru, 50 years old, member of CNDD-FDD party, was bitten and his nose cut off by Kwizera, aged 34, member of CNL party. According to sources on site, they were sharing a beer and quarreled. According to the same sources, the victim was taken directly to CDS Kiranda for treatment. The cut nose was put in a bag and brought to the CDS by the victim's younger brother. Hill heads tried to settle the matter amicably by offering Kwizera to give the victim 100,000 Bif.

A member of CNL party attacked and injured in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on January 27, 2020 indicates that on January 19, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., on Bihogo hill, Gasorwe zone and commune, Muyinga province, at Gataragare trading center, Ezèbre, member of the CNL party communal committee was attacked and wounded with machetes by Imbonerakure including Salathiel. According to local sources, Imbonerakure from this locality had forbidden Ezèbre to go to bars on this hill. According to the same sources, they found him in a bar and immediately attacked him, but he was rescued by another member of his party who was there. During this attack, Salathiel was also injured.

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 in some localities across the country.

Cases of persons attacked and wounded were recorded 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.