

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°202 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 17 to 23 February 2020



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 23 February 2020, Iteka has documented at least 547 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS

CDS : *Health Center*

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

CNL : *National Congress for Liberty*

ECOFO : *Fundamental School*

PJ : *Judiciary Police*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

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 6 people killed, including 2 corpses, 1 VBG victim, 1 tortured and 11 arbitrarily arrested.

Among the victims identified are 2 women killed and 1 woman arrested arbitrarily.

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

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

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

Over the reporting period, Ligue Iteka has noted a case of a persons wounded due to attacks and theft of CNL party flag.

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 IMBONERAKURE

One person killed in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province

On February 21, 2020, around 7:00 a.m., on Buhonzi sub-hill, Gasura hill, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province, an unidentified man was beaten up to death by Sylvestre Karikurubu, member of CNDD-FDD party accompanied by Imbonerakure Bugiga, Emery and Diyangu from this hill. According to sources on site, the victim was beaten after being apprehended with a banana stolen from Sylvester's banana field. According to the same sources, the body was taken to CDS Gasura and was buried on February 23, 2020 by the population on the orders of Jean Baptiste Kwizera, Administrator of Vumbi commune while Bugiga and Diyangu, alleged perpetrators of these violence were arrested and detained in Vumbi.

I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A woman member of CNDD-FDD party killed in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On February 20, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., in Kizingwe-Bihara quarter, Kanyosha zone, Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie, Consolate Havyarimana, nicknamed Maman Audreille, 45 years old, divorced, head of CNDD- FDD party women's league in Gisyo quarter, in the same zone, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen. According to sources on site, the latter fired several bullets at her head when she arrived very close to her home from her bar located in Kizingwe quarter. According to the same sources, in November 2019, she was attacked and injured by armed men and spent several days in hospital.

One Imbonerakure killed and another injured in Matana commune, Bururi province

On February 23, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., on Mahango hill, Matana commune, Bururi province, Eric Niyongabo, Imbonerakure, was attacked and killed by a group of 4 unidentified gunmen. According to local sources, the victim was on his way home with Innocent Ingabire when they were ambushed by people who also injured Innocent Ingabire. According to the same sources, the latter was evacuated to Matana hospital by the police, who quickly intervened. During this police intervention, 6 people, including Mahango hill head, were arrested for investigation reasons.

A body found in Rumonge commune and province

On February 17, 2020, in the morning, in Lake Tanganyika waters, not far from Rumonge fishing port, Rumonge commune and province, a body of an unidentified man was found. According to local sources, this body in a state of decomposition was hurriedly buried on the orders of Célestin Nitanga, Commune administrator of Rumonge.

A body found in Buyengero commune, Rumonge province

On February 18, 2020, on Gasenyi hill, Mudende zone, Buyengero commune, Rumonge province, a body of Eraste Ndayizeye, 35 years old, was found. According to local sources, the body of the victim was hung on a tree and the body was recovered by the police and buried the same day without any investigation. According to the same sources, the victim had fled since the 2015 crisis and returned on February 16, 2020 from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

1.2.TORTURED PERSONS BY IMBONERAKURE

A member of CNDD-FDD party tortured in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province

Information received by the Iteka League on February 17, 2020 indicates that on February 15, 2020, around 8 p.m., on Kinama hill, Gasorwe area and commune, Muyinga province, Gratien Riyazimana, teacher at ECOFO Bihogo I, a member of the CNDD-FDD party, was beaten and wounded using a club in the face by Imbonerakure led by the named Barumwete, hill representative of the CNDD-FDD party. Local sources say the victim was ambushed near his home by the Imbonerakure who beat him. According to the same sources, this victim was accused of not having participated in their party's show of force parade which took place in the Gasorwe area on the same day.

1.3.PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

Two CNL party members arrested in Kirundo commune and province

On February 21, 2020, in Kavogero quarter, Kirundo commune and province, Gérard Niyokindi, Public Prosecutor in Kirundo province arrested Gérard Rwsa, member of CNL party, accusing him of having housed another member of this party from Ngozi. According to sources on site, they were jailed in the PJ cell and then transferred to SNR cell in Kirundo where they were imprisoned.

A member of CNL party arrested in Busoni commune, Kirundo province

On February 20, 2020, on Murore hill, Busoni commune, Kirundo province, Martin Ndagijimana, resident of this hill, representing young people of CNL party of Busoni, Bwambarangwe, Gitobe and Vumbi communes, was arrested and detained in the communal cell in Rugarasi by Marc Minani, technical advisor in charge of development in Busoni commune. According to local sources, the victim was accused of telephoning and preventing Juma, Munyinya hill head, Mukerwa zone, from the same commune, from traumatizing members of his party who had just been arrested. According to the same sources, the latter had been arrested by aforesaid hill head on February 16, 2020 who accused them of walking and going to bars in his zone.

Four CNL party members arrested in Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 17, 2020 indicates that on February 15, 2020, on Masama and Rurama hills, Birambi zone, Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province, Eric Rwsa, Moïse Uwizeyimana, Rémy Ndacayisaba and Tarcisse Nkurunziza, all members of CNL party, were arrested and then taken to Nyamurenza commune cell by police and Imbonerakure from these two hills. According to local sources, these victims were accused of having mobilized other members and of having participated in the CNL party national congress to choose a candidate of the party in the presidential elections.

Five CNL party members arrested in Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 17, 2020 indicates that on February 11, 2020, around morning, on Kinyovu hill, Birambi zone, Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province, Marceline Miburo, Pontien Nsibirubusa, Nestor Rwsa, Ernest Manirumva and Emmanuel Iradukunda, all members of CNL party, were arrested and taken to the PJ cell in Ngozi by Imbonerakure from Kinyovu hill, including Déo Kubwimana alias Khalfan and Olave Ndacayisaba led by Léonidas Minani, head of Birambi zone.

According to sources on site, the victims were transported by the communal police commissioner, in his vehicle. According to the same sources, these victims were accused of assault and battery which took place the day before against David, teacher and Imbonerakure from Kinyovu hill. The same sources indicated that David had clubbed his neighbor Juvenal, a member of CNL party on the head, until he lost consciousness. The neighbors intervened and forced David to have him treated, which he accepted and had him treated at CDS Rurama.

I.4. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A person raped in Muramvya commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 17, 2020 indicates that on February 12, 2020, on Muhweza hill, Ryarusera zone, commune and Muramvya province, C.I., 5 years old, was raped at her home by Jean Nishemezwe, shepherd to the victim's parents, from Migezi hill, Mbuye commune, Muramvya province. This alleged perpetrator was arrested and detained in Muramvya provincial police station cell.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A woman killed in Cankuzo commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on February 19, 2020 indicates that on February 15, 2020, around 4:00 p.m., on Kabuga hill, zonme, commune and Cankuzo province, Anastasie Nzigo, aged about 28, mother of 3 children, was killed with a machete by her neighbor named Murengera. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of sorcery by his alleged perpetrator who had already warned that if his sick child dies, he will revenge. According to the same sources, Anastasie was with her machete collecting firewood very close to her home when Murengera attacked her, snatched the machete from her and cut off her head. The victim was buried on February 16, 2020 and the alleged perpetrator was arrested and jailed in Cankuzo police station cell.

A person injured in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province

On February 18, 2020, at night, on Mugina hill, Buseruko zone, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, Anèse Nibigira, over 50 years old, widow, mother of 5 children was attacked and injured with a grenade at her home by unidentified people. According to sources on site, the victim was taken to a local health facility for treatment. According to the same sources, two suspects were arrested by the police for investigation reasons.

A member of CNL party injured in Tangara commune, Ngozi province

On February 19, 2020, on Runini hill, Kananira zone, Tangara commune, Ngozi province, André Binono, member of CNL party, was attacked, beaten and injured in the nose with a big stick by Evariste Nkurunziza alias Ndindigiri, Imbonerakure from this hill. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of having refused to join CNDD-FDD party despite several requests. According to the same sources, he was rescued by her neighbors.

A CNL party flag stolen in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province

During the night of 18 to 19 February 2020, on Gasura hill, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province, a CNL party flag at Vumbi communal office was stolen by persons not yet identified.

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 across the country.

Cases of armed attacks have been observed in certain 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.