

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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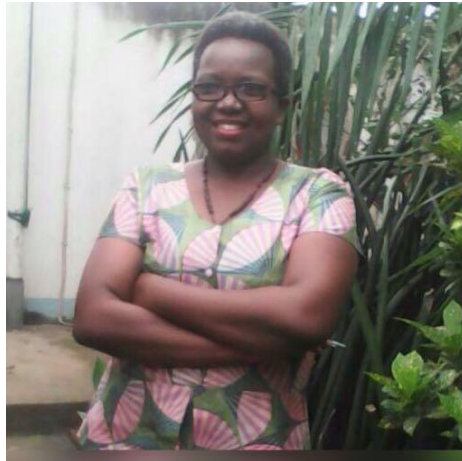
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"ITEKA"*

Week from 6 to 12 April 2020



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 12 April 2020, Iteka has documented at least 551 cases of enforced disappearances.

<i>CONTENTS</i>	<i>PAGES</i>
<i>ACRONYMS</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>0. INTRODUCTION</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS, VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I.1. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>I.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>I.3 PERSONS ARBITRARY ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND POLICE</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>I.4. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>II. SECURITY FACTS</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>III. CONCLUSION</i>	<i>11</i>

ACRONYMS

CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
DCEPT	: <i>Communal Direction of Education, Technical and Professional Training</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judiciary Police Officer</i>
SNR	: <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 8 people killed, including 1 extrajudicial execution and 6 corpses, 1 VBG victim, 10 tortured and 22 arbitrarily arrested.

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

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 party.

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

Over the reporting period, Ligue Iteka has noted a case of threats, hate speeches, attacks and wounded 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 IMBONERAKURE

A person killed in Rutana commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 7, 2020 indicates that on April 5, 2020, around 5:00 p.m., on Gitaramuka hill, Gitaba zone, Rutana commune and province, Sinarinzi, 49 years old, cow broker was stabbed to death by youths of the Imbonerakure militia. According to local sources, the victim was accused of being a cow thief. According to the same sources, Musihiri and Shundu, both Imbonerakure, were arrested and jailed in Rutana police station cell.

I.1.2. PEOPLE KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 6, 2020 indicates that on April 4, 2020, a body of a soldier nicknamed Shehe, from Kagaragara military position located in Rukoko was found by fishermen in Rukoko forest. According to local sources, the victim's body had injuries to the face and neck. This soldier had been last seen on April 2, 2020, around 8:00 pm, on Buringa hill and zone in a bar called "Sport bar". According to the same sources, four people working in this bar, namely Lucienne, Floris, Nyangoma and Juvénel Manirakiza were arrested and taken to Gihanga brigade for investigation reasons.

A body found in Vyanda commune, Bururi province

On April 8, 2020, on Kagoma hill, Rweza zone, Vyanda commune, Bururi province, a body of Grégonie Ndayisaba, a widow, was found lying on her bed in her house. According to sources on site, the victim was slaughtered on the night of April 7, 2020 and her body also had injuries in the jaws. According to the same sources, on April 9, 2020, the police and the commune administration of Vyanda arrived on the scene to conduct investigations. They did not see traces of blood in the victim's house, suggesting that the victim was killed in another place and that her body was later dumped in her house.

Two bodies found in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On April 11, 2020, in the morning, at the second street, on Ndava hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, two decomposing bodies of unidentified men were found by residents who were going to the fields. According to local sources, the two bodies were tied and wrapped in a mosquito net. According to the same sources, the commune administrator of Buganda ordered the hurried burial of the bodies without carrying out an investigation.

A body of a member of CNL party found in Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province

On April 6, 2020, on Karindo hill, Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province, a body of Laurent Nicayenzi, CNL party member and security agent at the national office of this party was found. According to sources on site, the victim had been abducted on March 26, 2020, very close to city oil gas station, in

Kigobe quarter, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, and boarded in a TI type vehicle registered B 5848 A to an unknown destination. According to the same sources, the victim was shot and was hurriedly buried the same day.

A body found in Tangara commune, Ngozi province

As of April 9, 2020, in the morning, on Kananira hill and zone, Tangara commune, Ngozi province, the body of Pélagie Sinzobatohana was found in her house. According to local sources, the victim had legally divorced with her husband. According to the same sources, the victim's ex-spouse and her stepfather were arrested for investigation reasons.

1.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

Three CNL party members tortured in Gitobe commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 7, 2020 indicates that on April 5, 2020, on Marembo hill, Gitobe commune, Kirundo province, two teachers of ECOFO Bigwa, Nkerakuyisaba and Claver Murindangabo and their neighbor Sultan Kwizera, all members of CNL party, were beaten and injured by Imbonerakure from Ruhongore, Kivumu, Baziro and Gihinga hills, led by Jean Bosco Nahimana CNDD-FDD party leader, accompanied by the leader of Imbonerakure from this hill, Patrice Ngurube and Télesphore Nyabenda, agricultural hill supervisor. These criminals started destroying their houses after throwing stones at their homes by destroying windows and doors. According to sources on site, the victims were accused of joining several members of CNDD-FDD party to CNL party. Afterwards, on Marembo hill, they went to Kivumu hill in the small center of Bwokerezo around 10:00 p.m. and attacked the home of Eric Nsengiyumva, also member of CNL party, and threw stones at his house to force him to go out but to no avail. The administrator of this commune, Innocent Nzisabira was alerted by telephone by these victims to rescue them, but he did not come to calm down the situation.

Three CNL party members tortured in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 6, 2020 indicates that on April 4, 2020, on Bigina hill and zone, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, Donatien Havyarimana, Léonidas Nduwimana and Léopold Ndayishimiye were beaten by members of Imbonerakure militia accompanied by Prospère Gakiza, one of Bigina's local elected officials. According to sources on site, the victims were accused of campaigning for CNL party.

Two CNL party members tortured in Mutimbuzi commune, rural Bujumbura province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 6, 2020 indicates that on April 5, 2020, on the 15th street, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Emile Karenzo and Jean François Ntawuyankira, members of CNL party, were beaten and injured by Imbonerakure of the area who found them at home. According to sources on site, the victims were accused of having participated in CNL party offices opening ceremonies in Buterere zone on April 4, 2020. According to the same sources, these victims went to seek treatment at the CDS of then area and were kept there by police on the orders of Marcel Niyonkuru, commune police commissioner in Mutimbuzi who had just arrested six other members of the aforesaid party.

Two people tortured in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 6, 2020 indicates that on April 5, 2020, around 10:00 p.m., on Kinama hill, Gasorwe zone and commune, Muyinga province, Adolphe Manariyo and Nduwayo were beaten with sticks by a group of Imbonerakure led by Nsamirizi, hill representative of CNDD-FDD party and Sébastien Misago, leader of Kinama sub-hill. According to local sources, the victims in critical condition were evacuated by neighbors to Gashoho hospital in the same province. According to the same sources, Adolphe and Nduwayo had gone to ask the hill head for help when they were under threat of Melchior Sikubwabo who was in a land dispute against them and the aforesaid hill head took them to these Imbonerakure. Melchior and Sébastien were arrested by the police while Nsamirizi was not worried.

1.3 PERSONS ARBITRARY ARRESTED BY IMBONERAKURE, SNR AGENTS AND POLICE

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

On April 6, 2020, on the 15th street Maramvya, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Elie Nahayo, Daniel Ndayiziga, Jean Bosco Kubwayo, Fulgence Habarugira, Célestin Nzeyimana and Françoise Kankundiye, CNL party members were arrested by Joe Dassin Nkezabahizi, SNR communal head in Mutimbuzi accompanied by Marcel Niyonkuru, commune police commissioner in Mutimbuzi and Imbonerakure of this locality. According to sources on site, these victims were arrested after having participated in the opening of the CNL party office on this hill. According to the same sources, these victims were taken to BSR then to Gatumba Brigade cell the same day. As of April 9, 2020, towards evening, they were transferred to Mpimba prison in Bujumbura Mairie.

Three CNL party members arrested in Musigati commune, Bubanza province

On April 9, 2020, around 9:00 a.m., on Munanira hill, Musigati commune, Bubanza province, Amissi Dushimwenimana, Jérôme Bucumi and Richard Nimbeshaho, all members of CNL party, were arrested by a group of young Imbonerakure accompanied by Domitien, Musigati commune project manager. According to local sources, the victims were heading to CNL party meeting on Ruziba hill, Musigati commune, Bubanza province and were accused of illegally teaching the CNL party ideology. According to the same sources, they were taken to Musigati police station cell before being transferred to Bubanza provincial police station cell.

Seven CNL party members arrested in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

On April 6 and 7, 2020, on Cunyu hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, seven members of CNL party were arrested by Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, on April 6, 2020, at night, the latter attacked an office guarded by members of the aforesaid party and took 3 members of that party who were taken to Buganda commune cell. As of April 7, 2020, Imbonerakure arrested 4 other members of CNL party. On the same day, all the 7, including Nyangoma, Ndayambaje and Joseph, were transferred to Cibitoke provincial police station cell.

A member of CNL party arrested in Giheta commune, Gitega province

On April 7, 2020, on Rutegama hill, Giheta commune, Gitega province, Jean Nzisabira, head of this hill, CNL party member, was arrested by the police and taken to the communal police cell in Giheta. According to local sources, on April 1, 2020, the communal council had suspended him from his duties with Gérard Bigirimana, head of Muremera hill, CNL party member. According to the same sources, they were accused by this council of insubordination to their hierarchy but in their files it is written refusal of contribution on their hills and incompetence.

A member of CNL party arrested in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 7, 2020 indicates that on March 31, 2020, on Bujondi hill, Mugeni zone, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, Jackson Toyi, member of CNL party, was arrested by Imbonerakure of this hill on the order of their head Fanuel Rwanko. According to sources on site, Jackson Toyi had a collection sheet for his party contributions.

A person arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On April 8, 2020, around 6:00 a.m., on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, a man named Mudiri, 40 years old, merchant, member of CNDD-FDD party, was arrested and taken to the commune cell by police under the order of the OPJ named Masabo. According to sources on site, the victim had had an argument, the day before around 7:00 pm in a cabaret called "Chez maman Bella" with Fabien Mbarushima, member of CNDD-FDD party and vice-president of the communal council. According to the same sources, the victim was released the same day around 6:00 pm after having paid an amount of 35,000 Bif without receipt, telling him that it was for OBR and to go and buy drinks for all those who were in the bar during disputes for compensation. He paid a bill of 115,000 Bif.

Three CNL party members arrested and two others injured in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province

On April 12, 2020, around 7:00 p.m., on Muyange hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, Jean Paul Niyomwungere and Evariste Nkurunziza, members of CNL party, were injured on the head by Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, twelve members of CNL party were sharing beer together in a bar for Easter celebration. According to the same sources, they were attacked and beaten by about forty Imbonerakure armed with clubs and sticks, including Pontien Niyongabo, Evariste Kanyeshamba, Pacifique Nduwayo, Gérard Munyaneza, Yamuremye and Bosco Nindabira, all of them from Muyange hill and the latter wore exercise dress, knitwear and military boots. These Imbonerakure called the provincial police commissioner named Donatien who ordered to stop the fights, arrested three members of CNL party Georges Nizigiyimana, hill representative of this party, his son Jean Bosco Ndayambaje and his son-in-law Jean Baptiste Havyarimana and these were taken to the provincial police station cell. During this attack, these Imbonerakure stole 45,000 Bif and 2 mobile phones from CNL party members. All of these Imbonerakure were worried.

I.4. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A girl raped in Mbuye commune, Muramvya province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 7, 2020 indicates that on March 26, 2020, on Teka hill, Mbuye commune, Muramvya province, A.B.N, 8 years old, was raped by Juvénal Havyarimana, her mother's husband at his home. According to sources on site, this alleged perpetrator in on then run.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A person killed in Kirundo commune and province

During the night of April 6 to 7, 2020, around 2:00 a.m., in Cumva and Rugero marshes, on Cumva hill, Gikuyo zone, commune and Kirundo province, a member of a group of unidentified men armed with knives who had attacked guards of a poultry belonging to Louis Nzojibwami was killed by the population. According to sources on site, while fleeing, the victim was apprehended by the population who had come to rescue these watchmen.

Attack on a CNL party office in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 6, 2020 indicates that on the night of April 4, 2020, on Cunyu hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, a CNL party office on this hill was attacked by Imbonerakure from this locality on the order of a person named Richman, communal head of Imbonerakure and Mao, member of Imbonerakure committee in Gasenyi zone, Buganda commune. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure erased the writings on the office, destroyed a wall and damaged some objects including chairs and tables. According to the same sources, inside Buganda stadium, Richman and Mao had organized a meeting for the Imbonerakure of Ruhagarika and Kaburantwa hills during the day, around 8:00 am. The watchword was to disrupt CNL party activities to disorganize them in the run-up to the forthcoming elections and to start on the same day on Cunyu hill. They agreed to send each time unknown Imbonerakure to the localities to be attacked.

A journalist and his driver manhandled in Kanyosha commune, rural Bujumbura province

On April 9, 2020, on Rukuba hill, Kiyenzi zone, Kanyosha commune, Bujumbura rural province, a radio journalist Isanganiro Jean Marie Vianey Ngendakumana and his driver Saïdi Rukundaneza were manhandled by Imbonerakure who also flattened their vehicle's tires. According to sources on site, the journalist was beginning his investigations when a group of Imbonerakure led by Ezekiel came and asked him questions by intimidating him. Residents came for rescue and the young people run away. According to the same sources, Jean Marie Vianey Ngendakumana and his driver had gone to this hill to report on a household of a CNL party activist, Juvenal Hicuburundi, attacked on the night of April 8 by people dressed in long coats, suspected to be Imbonerakure.

Threats and intimidation in Ntega commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 6, 2020 indicates that on April 5, 2020, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., in the morning, more than 100 Imbonerakure in uniforms, boots, military and police raincoats from Bisiga and Kagoti hills of Cindonyi zone, Marangara commune, Ngozi province led by Jean Baptiste Rwasa, zone head of Imbonerakure provoked CNL party members from Runyankezi, Bugorora, Rukore and Gatanga hills of Ntega commune, Kirundo province. According to sources on

site, these Imbonerakure run in these hills while singing and dancing very close to the households of CNL party members.

Biker taxis threatened to be killed in Makamba commune and province

On April 7, 2020, in Makamba province, Japhet Ntungwanayo, administrator of Makamba commune, Adalbert Nininahazwe, provincial secretary of CNDD-FDD and Prosper Kazungu, communal police commissioner in Makamba threatened to kill taxis bikers from Gitaba zone, Makamba commune during a meeting held at the provincial office of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, the communal police commissioner in Makamba said: "We have enough bullets. If you try to disrupt CNDD-FDD party activities, we will correct you. I am warning you. Those who believe that CNL party even if it wins the elections will get on power are wrong, we cannot accept it. Murenge biker taxis, in Gitaba zone who believe to be the most opponents, I will end them. Let them ask Mugamba commune inhabitants in Bururi province, killing a few elements is enough, others come to their senses".

Two CNL party members injured in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 6, 2020 indicates that on March 29, 2020, at night, on Nyaburondwe hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province, Masabarakiza, member of CNL party, and his son were attacked and injured by knives by Imbonerakure including Therence Ndayikeza, head of Imbonerakure on this hill. According to local sources, these Imbonerakure accused Masabarakiza of having refused to join CNDD-FDD party. These Imbonerakure acted on the order of the communal secretary of CNDD-FDD party, Onésime Ngendandumwe who ordered Thérence Ndayikeza, head of Imbonerakure on this hill to kill Masabarakiza adding that there will be no further action because he commands justice and police at night. Thus, the Imbonerakure of Kirambi hill joined those of Nyaburondwe hill armed with long knives to mistreat CNL party members. Victims lodged complaints to the OPJ of Muriza but he refused to receive them and the alleged perpetrators remain free

Hate speech at schools in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province

As of April 6, 2020, at Gasorwe communal Lycée, ECOFO Rusimbuko and ECOFO Kiryama II, school and administrative authorities including Léonidas Nzobarantumye, economic advisor to the administrator; Dieudonné Bandyatuyaga, Director of ECOFO Gasorwe II; Révérien Ndinzurwanje, Director of Gasorwe communal Lycée and Liliane Bamusonere, teacher at Gasorwe communal Lycée; Emmanuel Nshimirimana, Director of ECOFO Buringa and Sinzumusi Canésius, teacher at ECOFO Bihogo II and Jean Marie Barekebavuge, director and communal representative of Imbonerakure held meetings for students and teachers of these schools to teach them politics and ethnic hatred. According to sources on site, the messengers were executives of the DCEFTP and/or schools, members of CNDD-FDD party and some were in the uniform of the aforesaid party. In these meetings they obliged that each participant must know the liberation history and explained that a small group of a single ethnic group ruled the country since colonial times and then massacred, robbed, deprived of rights, marginalized and tried to exterminate the oppressed ethnic groups until the day when CNDD-FDD movement liberated the people and we must fight against the return of this group.

A field of an Imbonerakure destroyed in Kayanza commune and province

On April 11, 2020, on Ruhande hill, Kayanza commune and province, a field of cabbage of 1,350 plants belonging to Déo Mahonda, member of Imbonerakure militia, was destroyed by unidentified people. According to local sources, Mahonda used to manhandle members of other political parties.

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, GBV, torture and arbitrary arrests continue to be reported across the country.

Cases of threats, intimidation, hate speeches and political intolerance 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.