

## BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

*Approved by Ministerial Order n° 530/0273 of 10 November 1994 revising Order No. 550 /029 of 6 February 1991*

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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°211 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights  
"ITEKA"*

**Week from 20 to 26 April 2020**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 26 April 2020, Iteka has documented at least 551 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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**ACRONYMS**

**BSR** : *Special Bureau for Investigation*

**CDS** : *Health Center*

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

**CNL** : *National Congress for Liberty*

**ECOFO** : *Fundamental School*

**VS** : *Sexual Violence*

***0. INTRODUCTION***

Over the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded as follows: at least 1 case of GBV victim, 1 tortured and 15 arbitrarily arrested.

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

Among the victims recorded are members of CNL party members.

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

Over this period, Ligue Iteka noted cases of wounded following attacks, attempted murder, intimidation, politics at school and early CNDD-FDD party campaigns in some provinces of the country.

## ***I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS, VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS***

### ***I.1. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

#### **A member of CNL party tortured in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province**

On April 24, 2020, around 9:00 p.m. on Ruhata hill, Gitaramuka zone and commune, Karuzi province, Alexis Niyongabo, member of CNL party, was beaten and broken his left leg by a group of Imbonerakure including Innocent Nkeshimana, hill leader of Imbonerakure and Nepomuscene Kwizera led by Anselme Maniragaba, head of Ruhata sub-hill. According to sources on site, six members of CNL party, Benoît Biragahorabityo, Cyriaque Barimwabiri, Hilbert Nduwayo, Floribert Niyongabo, Tite and Alexis Niyongabo, returned from a bar and fell into a group of Imbonerakure armed with sticks and clubs who accused them of holding an illegal meeting. According to local sources, after a long discussion, the Imbonerakure pretended to let them go home but they followed and surrounded Alexis Niyongabo and beat him up before his colleagues intervened. According to the same sources, the following day the latter went to the victim's home and the Imbonerakure joined them there and threatened them by accusing them of holding an illegal meeting. These CNL party members then took her to CDS Gitaramuka.

### ***I.2. PEOPLE ARRESTED BY POLICE AND MILITARY PERSONS***

#### **Fifteen people arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

On the morning of April 22, 2020, in Nyakabiga II quarter, Nyakabiga urban zone , Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie, 15 people were arrested and taken aboard a police truck by police officers and soldiers after a search. According to sources on site, these victims were accused of various irregularities including the non-recording in household books and the lack of the national identity card. According to the same sources, five of these victims were released en route after having given a ransom to these police officers while the others were released from BSR cell after paying a fine of 10,000 Bif paid into the accounts of the capital. city

### ***I.3. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE***

#### **A girl raped in Muramvya commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 20, 2020 indicates that on April 13, 2020, around 9:00 p.m., on Musagara hill, Muramvya commune and province, KI, 6 years old, was raped at her home by Nazaire Ndayisenga, 20 years old, house worker, from Nyagisozi hill, Kiganda commune, in the same province. Local sources say the alleged perpetrator was arrested on April 14, 2020 and jailed in Muramvya Brigade cell before being transferred to Muramvya prison on April 22, 2020.

## ***II. SAFETY FACTS***

#### **Three members of CNDD-FDD and CNL parties injured during clashes in Ntega commune, Kirundo province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on April 20, 2020 indicates that on April 19, 2020, at a bar on Rwimbogo hill, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, Rwaswa Emmanuel, Rushubije zone head, member of CNDD-FDD party and 2 members of CNL party were injured in a clash between

members of these two parties. According to sources on site, these CNL party members were quenching their thirst after a meeting held at their communal office in Ntega when they were attacked by Imbonerakure from Gatwe, Rwimbogo, Nyakibingo, Kanabugiri and Rushubije hills, in Ntega commune, Kirundo province. The latter also came from a meeting to arrest members of CNL party organized by Ntwaza Aimé, adviser to the administrator of Ntega, Rwsa Emmanuel, Rushubije zone head, Innocent Manirakiza, ex-director of ECOFO Nyakibingo. According to the same sources, after these clashes, these authorities arrested 4 members of CNL party while 21 other members took refuge in Kirundo province city.

### **Seven CNL party members injured in Imbonerakure attack in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province**

As of April 23, 2020, on Nyamivuma, Burarana, Matyazo and Kirima hills, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province, Etienne Nsabimana from Burarana, Amédée Nsekerabandya from Nyagatovu, Macumi Ismaël from Nyamivuma, Mpawenayo, Vyagowe, Karenzo and Astere Toyi, all members of CNL party were attacked and injured by a group of 18 Imbonerakure including Dismas, leader of Imbonerakure on Kirima hill, Safari, Ndururutse, Miburo, Havyarimana, Jean Paul, Nahingaruye, Gasuku, Ntambara, Gifobogo, Muhamed, Ahishakiye, Egide, Kadafi, Ruvuri, Venant Ndayishiye and Mpabonye attacked CNL party members from preparation meeting of electoral campaign in Burarana. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure, armed with machetes, stones, spears and arrows attacked these members of CNL party from a preparation meeting for the electoral campaign. According to the same sources, these victims went to file a complaint to the Governor of Kirundo province and he promised them to organize a pacification meeting which has not yet been held.

### **Two children burned in Gashoho commune, Muyinga province**

On April 22, 2020, in the evening, on Gashoho hill and commune, Muyinga province, two children were burnt using rubber bags by their mother, Guéline Nibogora, a teacher at ECOFO Rushara when she came from a pub. According to local sources, the victims were accused of having delayed opening the door of the house. According to the same sources, this woman was arrested by the police and taken to Gashoho commune police station cell.

### **Early CNDD-FDD party electoral campaigns in Bujumbura Mairie and in Kirundo province**

On April 20 and 23, 2020, early election campaigns of the CNDD-FDD party, in Bujumbura City and in Kirundo province were observed. Indeed, on April 23, 2020, in all zones of Bujumbura City, groups of 3 to 5 Imbonerakure crisscrossed all the quarters door-to-door explaining how the elections of May 20, 2020 would take place. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure had party notebooks to also register new members. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure also asked passers-by to vote for the candidate Evariste Ndayishimiye. In Kirundo province, since April 20, 2020, motorcycles and vehicles of CNDD-FDD party members have been carrying photos of the party's electoral campaign. According to local sources, as illustration, two motorcycles, one of which belongs to Thierry Mwitende, director of the communal high school of Bugendana and the other to the director of the communal high school of Buhevyi as well as vehicles of Senator Gérard Nkezabahizi, Vumbi administrators, Busoni and Gitobe

carried photos of Evariste Ndayishimiye and Pierre Nkurunziza with the writings "Tora Evariste Ndayishimiye", which means "vote for Evariste Ndayishimiye".

### **Policy at school in Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province**

On April 25, 2020, at the communal office of CNDD-FDD party, Nyanza-lac commune, Makamba province, students from Nyanza-Lac communal Lycée were told to vote for CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, Thaddée Ndayishimiye, director of the aforesaid Lycée and his head teacher taken all the students to this party office where they taught them and ordered them to vote for CNDD-FDD party in the elections of May 20, 2020. Recall that policy at school is prohibited by law n ° 1/19 of September 10, 2013 on the organization of basic and secondary education, in its article 8 stipulating that "school is apolitical. No political activity is allowed there [...]".

### **Ten shops looted in Mwaro province**

At around 11:00 p.m. on April 20, 2020, at Kibumbu center, a group of more than 20 robbers armed with guns and machetes looted all the products contained in 10 shops, including one belonging to Kibumbu teachers' association. According to local sources, the stolen goods were transported in a truck. According to the same sources, watchmen saw these bandits and fled due to fear, then they alerted the police, but the police intervened a bit late.

### **A member of CNL party mistreated in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province**

As of April 22, 2020, towards evening, on Nyagoba hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, Benjamin Nkurunziza, member of CNL party, escaped from his home from an attack by Imbonerakure of this hill. According to local sources, since that day, Benjamin has no longer stayed at home for fear of being killed and his house is watched by Imbonerakure overnight. According to the same sources, he was informed that Blaise Pascal Riyazimana, representative of CNDD-FDD party on this hill, ordered the Imbonerakure to eliminate him in order to scare members of CNL party in this locality.

### **Speech inciting violence in Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province**

On April 25, 2020, around 9:00 a.m., on Muyange hill, Bugenyuzi zone and commune, Karuzi province, Cyprien Hategekimana, head of this hill, called Imbonerakure to chase all members of CNL party on May 21, 2020, once CNDD-FDD party would win the May 2020 elections. According to local sources, these words were uttered in a meeting for the population of this hill dominated by Imbonerakure as follows: "Mbonerakure mwese, CNL igatsindwa, n'ukuvuga yuko kw'igenekerezo rya 21 rusama 2020, Imbonerakure yose aho iva ikagera, n'ukuzindukira ku ngo zose z'aba CNL gutamba hanyuma nabo baze bamenye iyo banyikira. Imbonerakure izokwihenda igasiba canke ikigwara nayo nyene ize imenye iyo ija ". Which means: *"You Imbonerakure, if the CNL party loses the elections, you are all called to wake up early on May 21, 2020 and go to the households of CNL party members to dance and they will run away. Any Imbonerakure who will be absent at this activity will also have to flee"*.

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

Cases of political intolerance, politics at school and early CNDD-FDD party campaigns have been observed 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.