

## BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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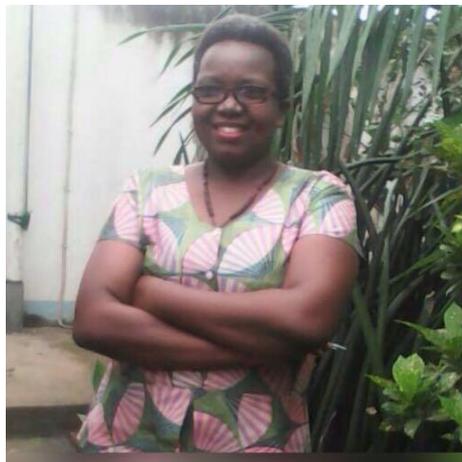
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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°213 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights  
"ITEKA"*

**Week from 4 - 10 May 2020**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 10 May 2020, Iteka has documented at least 555 cases of enforced disappearances.*

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGES</b>
<i>ACRONYMS</i> .....	3
<i>0. INTRODUCTION</i> .....	4
<i>I. ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS, VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS</i> .....	5
<i>I.1. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS</i> ...	5
<i>I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE</i> .....	5
<i>I.1.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE</i> .....	5
<i>I.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS</i> ...	5
<i>I.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, SNR AGENTS, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND IMBONERAKURE</i> .....	6
<i>I.4. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE</i> .....	9
<i>II. SAFETY FACTS</i> .....	10
<i>III. CONCLUSION</i> .....	12

**ACRONYMS**

<b>CECI</b>	: <i>Communal Electoral Independent Commission</i>
<b>CNDD-FDD</b>	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
<b>CNL</b>	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
<b>ECOFO</b>	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
<b>ETS</b>	: <i>Secondary Technical School</i>
<b>MSF</b>	: <i>Doctors Without Borders</i>
<b>TGI</b>	: <i>High Court</i>
<b>UPRONA</b>	: <i>Union for National Progress</i>

## ***0. INTRODUCTION***

Over the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded as follows: at least 7 persons killed including 5 corpses, 3 tortured, 1 case of VBG victim and 82 arbitrarily arrested.

Among these victims are 2 women killed and 1 woman arbitrary arrested.

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

Among the victims recorded are CNL party members.

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

Over this period, Ligue Iteka noted a case of a grenade attack, acts of intimidation, clashes between members of CNDD-FDD party and CNL party, as well as CECI irregularities during the enrollment of members of polling stations 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***

#### ***I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE***

##### **One person killed in Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province**

On May 5, 2020, a body of Richard Havyarimana, 32 years old, leader of CNL party was found in Ruvyironza River, on Musongati hill, Kibungere zone, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province on Mbogora hill, Muyange zone, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province. According to sources on site, the body of the victim showed signs of stabbing and was buried the same day in the presence of his wife and the hill head. According to the same sources, on the night of May 3 to 4, 2020, around 2:00 a.m., Richard Havyarimana had been abducted from his home by a group of young Imbonerakure including Dieudonné Nsengiyumva alias Rwembe, head of Imbonerakure in Nyabihanga commune and a Boris on board a probox type vehicle without a registration number. These Imbonerakure forced their way into his bedroom through the window after breaking the windows and injured the victim's wife in the mouth. The two alleged perpetrators were arrested by the police and jailed in the prosecutor's cell in Mwaro.

#### ***I.1.1.PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **Four bodies found in Mwumba commune, Ngozi province**

As of May 7, 2020, around 2:00 p.m., four unidentified bodies including 3 men and a woman were found in Kanyaru River, on Cahi hill, Buye zone, Mwumba commune, Ngozi province. According to local sources, these bodies were trapped in a rock. According to the same sources, they were recovered and buried on the same hill under the supervision of communal and hill officials.

### ***I.2. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

##### **A member of CNL party tortured in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province**

On May 9, 2020, around 2:00 p.m., on Kibuye hill, Bugina area, Kiremba commune, Ngozi province, Gorgon Miburo, Buyenzi regional representative of CNL party, was tied up, beaten up and guarded until 8:00 p.m. by Imbonerakure from different hills of this commune. According to local sources, the victim was charged with a breach of public security and was taken around 10:00 p.m. to PJ Ngozi cell, then transferred to Ngozi prison around 2:00 a.m.

##### **A member of CNL party tortured in Ruyigi commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on May 4, 2020 indicates that on the night of May 3, 2020, on Gahemba hill, commune and Ruyigi province, Isaac Ndayizeye, zonal representative of CNL party, was beaten by Imbonerakure. According to local sources, the latter looted property from the households of CNL party leaders. According to the same sources, the victim went to complain to the hill head and was ambushed en route by these Imbonerakure. She was beaten by these Imbonerakure of this hill in complicity with Gahemba hill head and was taken to Ruyigi hospital.

The latter was arrested and detained in Ruyigi police cell on May 3, 2020 and released on May 4, 2020.

### **A member of CNL party tortured in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province**

On May 9, 2020, around 6:00 p.m., at Gasorwe market located on Masasu hill, Gasorwe zone and commune, Muyinga province, the nicknamed Rasta, member of CNL party, was beaten up by Amisi Mbonihankuye alias Watara, Imbonerakure, in charge of collecting taxes in this market. According to local sources, he accused him of causing disorder in this market when he was having a conversation with his friends about CNL party. According to the same sources, the other Imbonerakure took him to Gasorwe commune cell.

### ***I.3. PERSONS ARRESTED BY POLICE, SNR AGENTS, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND IMBONERAKURE***

#### **Two CNL party members arrested in commune and Bubanza province**

As of May 7, 2020, towards evening, on Gitanda and Bubanza downtown hills, Bubanza commune and province, Jonas Ndaruseheye, CNL party hill leader on Gitanda hill, Muramba zone, Bubanza commune and province and Philemon Nsengiyumva, CNL party leader on Karinzi hill, Muramba zone, were arrested by police officers from Bubanza police station, accompanied by Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, Philemon Nsengiyumva was arrested by a police officer when he arrived in Kidahwe, in Bubanza downtown from CNL party campaign organized in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province. According to the same sources, Jonas Ndaruseheye was arrested when he was at Gitanda hill office. These victims were detained in Bubanza police station cell.

#### **Nine members of CNL party arrested in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province**

On May 9, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., on Kibuye hill, Bugina zone, Kiremba commune, Ngozi province, Nestor Ndayizeye, Sylvestre Nyabenda, Daniel Ntunzwenayo, Joseph Manirakiza, Salvator Ndayishimiye, Oscar Niyonzima, Richard Twizerimana, Samuel Niyongabo and Sylvestre Ndereyimana, all members of CNL party were arrested by a group of about 300 Imbonerakure from different hills of this commune, armed with machetes, spears, arrows and clubs led by Georges, leader of Imbonerakure in this commune, originating from different hills of this commune, accompanied by around twenty police officers, then taken to Ngozi prison. According to sources on site, the victims were accused of endangering public security and the Imbonerakure were in possession of a bag of hemp arguing that they had seized it from these members of CNL party without specifying the household. According to the same sources, they took them around 10:00 p.m. to PJ cell in Ngozi, then they were detained in Ngozi prison at around 2:00 a.m.

#### **Eight members of CNL party arrested in Ruhororo commune, Ngozi province**

As of May 10, 2020, around 2:00 a.m., on Mubira and Rimiho hills, Ruhororo zone and commune, Ngozi province, Jacques Nahayo, Adrien Ndikuryayo, Jean Marie Nkurikiye, Leonidas Kangoye, Moussa Misigaro, Jonathan Nibirantije, Antoine Mbonibaruta and Ferdinand Kazungu, all members of CNL party, were arrested at their homes and taken to Ruhororo commune cell by

Imbonerakure from these hills. According to local sources, they are accused of having disturbed public order.

#### **Four CNL party members arrested in Mwumba commune, Ngozi province**

On May 5, 2020, around 10:00 a.m., on Kagozi hill, Mwumba zone and commune, Ngozi province, Vincent Miburo, Révérien Hosiriho, Désiré Irankunda and Donatien Nkurunziza were arrested and taken to Mwumba commune police station cell by the communal police commissioner. According to sources on site, the victims were accused of holding an illegal meeting on May 4, 2020 and of disturbing public order on May 5, 2020. According to the same sources, an Imbonerakure, hill representative of CNDD - FDD party broke into Vincent's home and accused him of holding illegal meetings and then tried to arrest him when Vincent resisted injuring this Imbonerakure. The latter left to call his colleagues who massively intervened and Vincent had support from neighbors, then clashes broke out, which worried other CNDD-FDD members who called the communal police commissioner.

#### **A member of CNL party arrested in Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province**

On May 9, 2020, around 11:00 a.m., on Jani hill, Bwasare zone, Gasorwe commune, Muyinga province, Alexandre, a teacher at ECOFO Jani, was arrested by an Imbonerakure called Mafilet accompanied by a policeman and taken to Gasorwe commune police station cell, then transferred to the police cell in Muyinga. According to local sources, he was accused of using in his campaign a card on which CNDD-FDD party box was removed.

#### **A member of CNL party arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

On May 5, 2020, around 1:00 p.m., on Nzibariba hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Moïse, member of CNL party, from Bujumbura rural province, who was in charge of sound system during the electoral campaign of the aforesaid party was arrested and taken to Buhiga zone police station cell by the nicknamed Nono, provincial head of SNR, and then transferred on 6 May 2020 to the provincial police station. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of having gossiped with CNDD-FDD party members in Buhiga city when he passed by there.

#### **A member of CNL party arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura Rural province**

In the morning of May 6, 2020, on Mutara hill, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Jean Marie Sindayigaya nicknamed Bokiro, leader of CNL party on this hill, was arrested by Imbonerakure Bigirimana, Sakubu and Veromo accompanied by police officers accused of illegal possession of weapons and detained in Rubirizi zone police station cell. According to sources on site, the victim was arrested after a small bag containing 7 grenades was found on the roof of his house, during a search carried out by these Imbonerakure and police officers. According to the same sources, the Imbonerakure had been seen in the possession of a small bag by the inhabitants of this locality on the night of May 5, 2020.

#### **A member of CNL party arrested in Nyabiraba commune, rural Bujumbura province**

On May 5, 2020, around 5:00 p.m. on RN7, Cathy Kezimana, 43, candidate of CNL party in the legislative elections in Bujumbura rural province, was arrested by the provincial police

commissioner in Bujumbura rural province. According to sources on site, Cathy Kezimana, was returning to Bujumbura after an electoral campaign held in Jenda, Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province. According to the same sources, she was interrogated at Bujumbura prosecution before being taken to Mpimba central prison on the same day. She was accused of incitement to insurrection and having insulted Diomède Ndbahinyuye, administrator of Mugongo-Manga commune.

### **Six CNL party members arrested in Makamba commune and province**

On May 6 and 7, 2020, on Mugutu hill, Gitaba zone, Makamba commune and province, Paul Minani, Léonidas Nahumuremyi, Léonidas Nyandwi, Zébédé Nitereka, Ndayishimiye and Fidèle alias Kibada, all members of CNL party, were arrested by police after resisting Imbonerakure attacks on their homes. According to local sources, the latter were ordered by Prospère Nduwamahoro, Gitaba zone head in collaboration with Imbonerakure youth. These CNL members were taken to Makamba communal police station cell.

### **Three persons arrested in Rango commune, Kayanza province**

On May 4, 2020, at Gikomero site, Rango commune, Kayanza province, Rémy Kwizera, Anicet Nshimirimana and Lazar Ndayisaba were arrested by the police commissioner in the same province and taken to the police station cell in Kayanza. According to sources on site, they were accused of having arrested a group of Imbonerakure on patrol on the night of May 3, 2020 at this site.

### **A member of CNL party arrested in commune and Rutana province**

On May 4, 2020, on Gifunzo hill, Rutana zone, commune and province, Jean Bosco Nizigiyimana, teacher at ETS Kiryama and member of CNL party, was arrested by police and taken to Rutana police station cell for tearing the photo of CNDD FDD and UPRONA candidates on the ballot when he was teaching his party program. According to sources on site, on May 7, 2020, he appeared before the TGI Rutana in a flagrant case and asked the judges to wait for his lawyer. According to the same sources, he was sentenced to 6 months in prison and fined to 800,000 Bif.

### **A member of CNL party arrested in Giharo commune, Rutana province**

On May 8, 2020, on Giharo hill and commune, Rutana province, Jacques, member of CNL party, was arrested by Imbonerakure. According to local sources, he was accused of destroying a house of an Imbonerakure named Alexis nicknamed Kajagari. According to the same sources, Jacques is the brother of Denise Bahendubona, administrator of Giharo commune and was threatened by him ordering him to leave CNL party or face the consequences.

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

On May 9, 2020, around 1:00 p.m., at Bugendana communal Lycée, Bugendana commune, Gitega province, Pierre Claver Ruvugusi, head of CNL party in Bugendana and Mutaho, Ezéchiél Bitariho, in charge of information for CNL party in Bugendana and Mutaho, Bonaventure Ndikumana, candidate for legislative elections in province Gitega and Clément Nzeyimana, were arrested by the communal police commissioner and the head of CECI Bugendana on the orders

of the MP Lazare Mvuyekure and Béatrice Bukuru, administrator of Bugendana commune. According to local sources, the victims were accused of having Rwaswa's photo and CNL party logos. According to the same sources, the communal commissioner and the head of CECI in Bugendana handed them over to the provincial commissioner who later took them to the provincial police station cell.

### **Six CNL party members arrested in Gitega commune and province**

As of May 4, 2020, in Yoba quarter, Gitega commune and province, Jérôme Mpfayokurera, Ismaël Niyokwizigirwa, Gilbert Ndinzemenshi, Arafat Smith Uwimana, Egide Bizimana and Emmanuel Sinzinkayo, all CNL party members, were arrested by Valentin Nahimana, Gitega communal administrator accompanied by police officers and were jailed at the provincial police station in Gitega. According to local sources, the victims were accused by Imbonerakure of having prevented people from taking the new voter cards.

### **One person arrested in Giheta commune, Gitega province**

On May 4, 2020, on Kibimba hill, Giheta commune, Gitega province, Samson Gahungu, manager of Kibimba hospital, was arrested by Alexis Manirakiza, Giheta communal administrator accusing him of having torn Evariste Ndayishimye's photo that was posted on the hospital kiosk. According to sources on site, the victim argued that he did not tear it but that he had removed it because it was displayed in a public institution. According to the same sources, the photo was handed over undamaged to the next shopkeeper.

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

On the morning of May 4, 2020, Ntega commune city, Kirundo province, two members of CNL party, Juvénal Sinibagiye and Juvénal Ntatinurugamba from Ntega hill were arrested by Lieutenant-Colonel Singirankabo, Mutwenzi camp commander. According to local sources, around 7:00 p.m., Déo Ndayizeye, also member of CNL party, was arrested at Ntega bar by the provincial police commissioner and Mutwenzi camp commander. According to the same sources, these activists, members of the communal office, were accused of having taken part in clashes between members of CNL party and CNDD-FDD party.

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

In the morning of May 5, 2020, on Rukore and Ntega hills, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, twenty-six members of CNL party were arrested by Philippe Ngabonziza alias Murovyi, administrator of Ntega commune and jailed in Ntega police station cell, Ntega commune, Kirundo province. According to sources on site, twelve of them were taken by the communal administrator in his vehicle and jailed in Kirundo prosecutor's office cell.

## ***1.4. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE***

### **A girl raped in Rutegama commune, Muramvya province**

On April 21, 2020, on Nyarunazi hill, Rutegama commune, Muramvya province, C.N, 6 years old, was raped by Ladislas Nshimirimana, house worker, originating from Rugari hill, Mbuye commune, Muramvya province. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrator was taken

to the Brigade at the communal police station in Rutegama the same day and has been jailed in Muramvya prison since May 7, 2020.

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

### **Two people killed in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie**

On May 10, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., in a bar called Chez Patrick located at 11<sup>th</sup> avenue, Twinyoni quarter, Kamenge urban zone, Ntakangwa commune, two people including Laurene Muzaliwa, student to Espoir d'Afrique University, were killed in a grenade attack by unidentified people. According to local sources, eight people were injured and evacuated to MSF Kigobe hospital.

### **CNDD-FDD party candidates to communal councilors, members of the polling stations**

In Karuzi and Muyinga provinces, members of CNDD-FDD party candidates for communal councilors were listed by CECI as members of the polling stations.

As an illustration,

#### ***In Karuzi province***

- On Karunyinya hill, Buhiga commune, Emmanuel Niyongabo, director of ECOFO Karunyinya and candidate for communal councilors, is president of polling station no. 3 of ECOFO Karunyinya.
- On Rwingoma hill, Buhiga commune, Ziada Uwamahoro, director of ECOFO Mwoya and candidate for communal councilors on Rwingoma hill, is president of polling station No. 4.
- On Rwingoma hill, Robert Mpawenayo, Imbonerakure from the same hill, teacher in Shombo commune and candidate for Rwingoma communal councilors, is a member of polling station n ° 3.
- On Rwingoma hill, Elysée Mbazumutima, head of Imbonerakure on this hill, teacher at ECOFO Nzibariba and candidate for communal councilors, is president of polling station No. 3.

#### ***In Muyinga province***

- On Butirabura hill, Tharcisse Ntahomvukiye and Gabriel Bitahukize candidates for communal councilors in Gasorwe commune, are presidents of the polling stations on this hill.

### **Threats against members of CNL party in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on May 4, 2020 indicates that on April 26, 2020, on Muyange hill, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, Joseph Iteriteka, Governor of this province and native of this hill campaigned earlier with Imbonerakure and other CNDD-FDD party officials. According to sources on site, after this campaign, they met at the home of the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president, Joseph Butore located on this hill. The purpose of this meeting was to identify all the members of CNL party active on the ground and who can prevent CNDD-FDD party from winning 1<sup>st</sup> place on this hill. According to the same sources, among the members of CNL party,

there is Eric Niyimpagaritse, professor at Lycée Sinaï of Rugajo and head of the CNL party youth league in Mugina commune. The Governor as well as the communal head of CNDD-FDD party, Augustin Nkurikiye nicknamed Bufenge, promised to the participants in this meeting that they will do everything to get this teacher out of the public service and other opponents will be doomed to wandering because they threaten the security of the commune.

### **Intimidation in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province**

On May 5, 2020, Willy Freddy Nduwimana, communal Commissioner of Rugombo, held a meeting for all bikers in site, only one item was on the agenda, identifying all the bikers who will participate in the procession and the rally of CNL party which was to be held on May 6, 2020, in the presence of Agathon Rwasa, CNL party presidential candidate. According to the same sources, he also announced that a team will be responsible for noting the registration numbers of motorcycles and identifying the drivers of bicycle taxis who will dare participating in this rally and disobedients will be fined to 100,000 Bif. On May 6, 2020, this commissioner, along with the police and Imbonerakure armed with sticks, came to hit CNL party members who were participating in the electoral campaign at Rugombo stadium.

### **A member of CNL party injured in Bugabira commune, Kirundo province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on May 4, 2020 indicates that on May 2, 2020, around midnight, on Rugasa hill, Bugabira commune, Kirundo province, Fabien Nindorera, member of CNL party, was attacked and injured in the arm by a group of 15 Imbonerakure at his home. According to local sources, he was accused of having left CNDD-FDD party to join CNL party.

### **Four CNL party members injured in Mutimbuzi commune, rural Bujumbura province**

As of May 4, 2020, on Buhomba sub-hill, 15<sup>th</sup> street Maramvya, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Déo Kubwimana, Roger Rwajekera, Asmani Sijebishimikije and Thierry Ntahomvukiye, members of CNL party were injured by Gaston Singora, head of Maramvya zone and zone head of Imbonerakure accompanied by Imbonerakure Ibrahim Bizimana alias Mafyeri, Nshimirimana alias Shimwe, Dénis and Jean de Dieu. According to local sources, members of CNL party were campaigning on this hill when they were attacked by Imbonerakure armed with clubs.

### **An injured Imbonerakure in Mutimbuzi commune, rural Bujumbura province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on May 4, 2020 indicates that on April 30, 2020, on Kigwati I hill, Rukaramu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Médard, Imbonerakure, was injured by a soldier from a post of this locality. According to local sources, on that date, members of CNDD-FDD party organized an electoral campaign on Kigwati I and II hill where CNL party electoral campaign was planned. Members of CNL party sought another place on Kigwati I hill at the football field commonly known as Kwidigi, and members of CNDD-FDD party joined them there to attack them. According to the same sources, the soldiers who were there intervened and Médard, an Imbonerakure, tried to snatch the rifle from one of the soldiers and his colleague wounded him in the head.

### ***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.

The bulletin reports of killings, torture and arbitrary arrests in the country.

Ligue Iteka has observed has recorded cases of people injured following a grenade attack and clashes between members of CNDD-FDD party and CNL party, as well as CECI irregularities when polling station members.

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.