

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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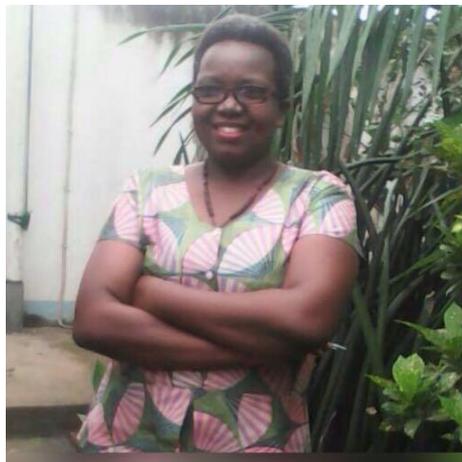
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°214 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 11 - 17 May 2020



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 17 May 2020, Iteka has documented at least 556 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS

BRB	: <i>Bank of the Republic of Burundi</i>
CECI	: <i>Communal Independent Electoral Commission</i>
CENI	: <i>National 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>
ETS	: <i>Secondary Technical School</i>
PJ	: <i>Judicial Police</i>
UPRONA	: <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 3 persons killed all found corpses, 1 person abducted, 1 tortured and 23 arbitrarily arrested.

Among these victims are 1 woman tortured and 4 women arbitrary arrested.

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

Among the victims recorded are largely CNL party members.

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

Over this period, Ligue Iteka noted cases of disturbance of the electoral campaign of CNL party, CNL party office stained, confiscation of UPRONA party members' uniforms and vehicles of the State used in the ruling party electoral campaign.

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

I.1. VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A body found in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie

In the morning of May 14, 2020, in a gutter of the Avenue de l'Imprimerie commonly called "Avenue of death", Nyakabiga side, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie, a body of Jackson Simbananiye nicknamed Kirahwata, forex trader, has been found. According to local sources, the body of the victim showed signs of strangulation and was roped on the neck. According to the same sources, on the evening of May 13, 2020, members of his family had alerted the police to his abduction near the former president's office. The victim was abducted by persons in police uniforms in a Carina TI type car registered HA 8105 identified as belonging to Hussein Mnyonge, money changer. As a reminder, Kirahwata had been arrested and detained in Mpimba central prison in September 2019, accused of violating the new BRB regulations on exchange offices. An unknown amount of his money was confiscated.

Two bodies found in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province

As of May 14, 2020, around morning, on Myave hill, Ndora zone, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, two bodies of unidentified men were found by the population who went to Kibira forest. According to sources on site, the heads of the two men were smashed. These men were seen during the day of May 13, 2020, at Ndora cattle market with six cows for sale. According to the same sources, soldiers operating in the locality went there to evacuate the corpses.

I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING

A member of CNDD-FDD party abducted in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on May 11, 2020 indicates that in mid-April 2020, on Rugajo hill and zone, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, Etienne Nzohabonimana, communal taxer on road barriers, demobilized, originating from Mirempera, Ruhororo zone, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke province, was abducted by Venant Miburo, head of SNR in Cibitoke province, accompanied by his guards. According to local sources, the killers abducted the victim from his home around midnight, telling his wife that he was needed. The latter did not alert because she knew that her husband is always needed by some CNDD-FDD and security officials. His disappearance was noticed by the people of this hill after two weeks of absence on the hill where he lived.

I.3. PEOPLE TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE

A girl tortured in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On May 11, 2020, around 5:00 p.m., on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Zipola Irishura, aged 25, residing in Kigwati quarter of the same commune, was beaten up by three Imbonerakure including Bonfils, driver. According to local sources, they arrested her at her home and took her to Bonfils where she was beaten with sticks and then took her to the communal

police station to request her detention. Once arrived at the police station, the victim could not stand, blood was flowing on her chest, and his right arm was broken. The police on duty ordered them to first take her to Buhiga hospital where she was bedridden. According to the same sources, Bonfils accused her of having stolen 300,000 Bif from his house, but had no evidence. The torturers were not worried.

I.4. PEOPLE ARRESTED BY POLICE, SNR AGENTS, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND IMBONERAKURE

A member of CNL party arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On May 15, 2020, on the 12th street Maramvya, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Jean Marie Niyonzima, member of CNL party was arrested and taken to the police station cell in Maramvya zone by Richard, head of the aforesaid hill and member of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, the victim was accused by this hill head of not joining CNDD-FDD party despite several requests from the latter.

Two CNL party members arrested in Songa commune, Bururi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on May 11, 2020 indicates that on May 10, 2020, on Tara and Karambi hills, Ruvumvu zone, Songa commune, Bururi province, Dieudonné and Pères, members of CNL party, were arrested by police under the orders of CNDD-FDD members during the electoral campaign in this locality. According to local sources, the victims were accused of refusing to put CNDD-FDD party flags on their motorcycles. According to the same sources, the victims were put in Songa police station cell but Dieudonné escaped the same day.

A member of CNL party arrested in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On the night of May 11, 2020, around midnight, on Kigwati II hill, Rukaramu zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Samson Kigingi, member and agent of CNL party was arrested by Imbonerakure including Fils Hakizimana, Prosper Kwizera and Innocent Tuyishime accompanied by Etienne Barutwanayo, hill head of CNDD-FDD party and elected hill on the aforesaid hill, on the orders of Léonidas Nibigira, Rukaramu zone head. According to sources on site, Rukaramu zone head ordered the Imbonerakure of Kinyinya I, II and III hills to go and support the Imbonerakure of Kigwati I and II to arrest CNL party influential members on the two hills. According to the same sources, Samson Kigingi was taken to the military position of Kigwati II located in France quarter and was then transferred to Gatumba brigade cell on May 12, 2020, by a police officer sent by this zone head and using the latter's motorcycle.

A member of CNDD-FDD party arrested in Songa commune, Bururi province

On May 11, 2020, in Songa commune city, Bururi province Jean de Dieu Nkeshimana alias Matwi, member of CNDD-FDD party and president of CECI in Songa commune, was arrested by police on the warrant of the Prosecutor of the Republic in Bururi province and taken to Bururi prison. According to sources on site, he is accused by the Prosecutor of being corrupted by the candidates for the posts of the members of the polling stations. According to the same sources, the Governor of Bururi, Frédéric Niyonzima and Aster, provincial secretary of CNDD-FDD party accuse him of having refused their order to illegally insert some names of CNDD-FDD party members on the list of members of the polling stations.

Four CNL party members arrested in Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province

On the night of May 13, 2020, around 9:00 p.m., on Kigina hill, Birambi zone, Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province, 4 members of CNL party, including Charles Nduwayezu, head of this hill, were arrested and taken to the commune cell by Imbonerakure and police officers led by the communal administrator Emmanuel Ntaconsanze. According to sources on site, it was an attack targeting the candidates and agents of CNL party of the locality. According to the same sources, the victims tried to join forces and resist, then a policeman dispersed them by shooting in the air and they decided to flee their locality. Fifteen of them went to complain to the Governor of Ngozi province on May 15, 2020, but were received by his adviser, who told them to go prepare a written complaint to file with the Governor and copy to the police.

Two CNL party members arrested in Giheta commune, Gitega province

On May 13, 2020, on Rubarasi hill, Giheta commune, Gitega province, Josias Irankunda and Ferdinand Nkeshimana, all members of CNL party, were arrested by Jean Sibomana, hill head of the Imbonerakure in Rubarasi and Josias Niyokindi, Kiriba zone head of the same commune. According to local sources, they were accused of having said that CNDD-FDD will use weapons if it loses the 2020 elections. The two people were jailed in PJ cell in Gitega.

A member of CNL party arrested in Muyinga commune and province

On May 11, 2020, at the office of the Public Prosecutor located in Muyinga urban center, the Bonaventure, residing on Kinyota hill in Muyinga commune and province, teacher at Muyinga communal Lycée, member of CNL party, was arrested and jailed in the PJ cell by the Prosecutor Innocent Uwitonze. According to sources on site, the victim had responded to a verbal summons from the aforesaid prosecutor and upon his arrival, he accused him of having campaigned for CNL party at school without specifying the dates or evidence.

Eight members of CNL party arrested in Muyinga commune and province

On May 11, 2020, around 3:00 p.m., on Cibari hill, Muyinga commune and province, 4 men and 4 women, all members of CNL party including Prosper Ndayisenga, communal representative of the aforesaid party and the representative of women at the communal level, were arrested and taken to PJ Muyinga cell by Imbonerakure and police under the orders of the provincial secretary of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, the victims returned from their party's electoral campaign which had taken place on the hills of Muyinga commune and they were accused of disturbing public order while it was during the electoral campaign period.

Three CNL party members arrested in Muramvya commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on May 11, 2020 indicates that on May 10, 2020, on Kirama hill, Muramvya commune and province, Léonard Nzisabira aged 30, Côme Nitunga, aged 38, teacher and Malachi Shemezimana, aged 30, all from Kirama hill and members of CNL party, were arrested by Imbonerakure led by Stany and the representative of CNDD-FDD party in Kirama. According to sources on site, they were accused of campaigning for CNL party out of the time fixed by the CENI which is from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. According to the same sources, Leonard was arrested at 2:00 p.m., Malachi was arrested at 1:00 p.m. on his way back from a

CNL party meeting and Come was arrested at 3:00 p.m. in a club. They were taken to the police post in Bugarama where they arrived at around 6:00 p.m. and spent the night there. Then, the next day, they were taken to Muramvya provincial police station and on May 12, 2020, they were taken to Muramvya prison.

I.5. VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO HOUSING

Twenty-seven houses of CNL party members destroyed in Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province

During the night of May 13, 2020, around 9:00 p.m., on Kigina hill, Birambi zone, Nyamurenza commune, Ngozi province, twenty-seven houses of candidates and agents of CNL party were destroyed by Imbonerakure and police led by the communal administrator Emmanuel Ntaconsanze. According to sources on site, the communal administrator had organized an operation of arrest of all the candidates and the agents of CNL party. According to the same sources, around thirty victims left the locality.

II. SAFETY FACTS

Disruption of CNL party campaign in Kirundo commune and province

On May 13, 2020, on Kanyinya hill, zone, Kirundo commune and province, Ézéchiel Niyonzima, Kirundo zone head, Juvenal, hill head of CNDD-FDD party, the nicknamed Nusu, hill elected of Kanyinya, the nicknamed Tombora, head of Imbonerakure of the aforesaid hill, banned the holding of CNL party meetings on Kanyinya and Kibuburu hills. According to sources on site, the latter installed Imbonerakure at the two gathering places. Members of CNL party preferred to stop their activities to file a complaint with CECI Kirundo and the commune administration, but no action was taken on their complaint.

UPRONA party uniforms confiscated by Imbonerakure in Gashoho commune, Muyinga province

As of May 11, 2020, in the evening, on Rugerero, Burambira, Buvumbi and Murama hills, Gashoho commune, Muyinga province, members of UPRONA party including Jean Paul Miburo, Innocent Riyazimana, Melchiade Nduwimana, Nkingiyinka, Bigirimana, Rudora, Nsengiyumva, Xavella and Ntahondi were forced by Imbonerakure from these hills to give them UPRONA party T-shirts. According to local sources, The Imbonerakure including Ernest Cishatse, Félicien Havyarimana, Denis Bukuru, Janvier Miburo and Léonard Hasabukomeye took and placed around fifteen T-shirts to Ernest Cishatse, communal representative of Imbonerakure. According to the same sources, Ntahondi was even forced to pay the sum of 45,000 Bif, Xavella's T-shirt was burned while a woman named Denise Havyarimana, also a member of UPRONA party, was ripped off from her trading equipment. They have all been accused of having diverged because they work for a political party other than the ruling one.

An office of CNL party tainted in Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province

In the night of May 14 to 15, 2020, in Kibumbu city center, Saswe hill, Kayokwe commune, Mwaro province, an unidentified group of people put human wastes on the walls of the office

and all around the provincial office of CNL party. According to sources on site, they also deleted the party symbol on the sign.

State vehicles used in CNDD-FDD party electoral campaign in Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

As of May 16, 2020, on ETS Kamenge grounds, Ntakangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, during CNDD-FDD party election campaign, government vehicles with registration numbers hidden by party posters were been used. Those identified were the vehicle registered J 8397 A recognized as for SNR office in Rohero and Toyota double cabin vehicle registered C 459 A GB of the hospital of Cibitoke health district.

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, abduction, torture and arbitrary arrests in the country.

Ligue Iteka has observed cases of disruption of the CNL party electoral campaign, sullyng of a CNL party office, abused UPRONA members and the use of state vehicles in the electoral campaign.

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.