

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°217 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 1 - 7 June2020



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 7 June 2020, Iteka has documented at least 557 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*

PV : *Minutes*

SNR : *National Intelligence Service*

0. INTRODUCTION

Over the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded as follows: at least 6 persons killed including 3 corpses and 20 persons arrested arbitrary.

Among these victims are 3 women killed.

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

This bulletin also notes cases of killings and arbitrary arrests in the country.

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

I.1. VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

I.1.1. PERSONS KILLED BY IMBONERAKURE

An Imbonerakure and a member of CNL party killed in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province

On June 6, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., on Ruhama hill, Kiremba zone and commune, Ngozi province, Félix Nsengiyumva alias Msafiri, Imbonerakure who had joined CNL party during the electoral campaign and returned to CNDD-FDD, was killed at home with machetes and axes by a group of Imbonerakure from this hill including the nicknamed Muduri and Mwanadamu. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of internal opponent and had been informed by these Imbonerakure that he would be the sacrifice of CNDD-FDD party. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure attacked members of CNL party on the nearby hill of Ciri and killed Donatien Buhinja injuring Nestor Sakubu.

I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A body found in Vumbi commune, Kirundo province

On June 6, 2020, around 1:00 p.m., on Nyaruhengeri sub-hill, Muramba hill, Vumbi commune, Kirundo province, a body of Gaudence Ntahomvukiye, 57 years old, was seen in a Gakenke valley by children who were looking for the remains of harvested beans. According to sources on site, the victim was immersed in the waters of the valley and had a wound on the mouth. The perpetrators of this murder remain unknown.

A body found in Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province

On June 3, 2020, around 9:00 a.m., in a palm plantation, on Tenga hill, Rubirizi zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, a body of an unidentified man was found. According to local sources, the victim had signs of strangulation. According to the same sources, he was buried on the spot by the locals on the order of Bonaventure, Rubirizi zone head.

A body found in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

As of June 5, 2020, on Mparambo hill and zone, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, a body of an unidentified woman was discovered by people who went to their fields. According to sources on site, the victim was in a ditch on Mparambo I hill and was raped before being killed. According to the same sources, the deceased was one of the prostitutes.

Two bodies found in Bisoro commune, Mwaro province¹

On May 28, 2020, on Kariba hill, Bisoro commune, Mwaro province, a body of a woman and a child of at least 3 years old was found near the bridge of Mushwabure River on Bisoro side. According to local sources, the two bodies have not been identified. According to the same

¹ This case was reported in the weekly bulletin Iteka n'Ijambo n° 216 and the woman was identified as Sophie Barutwanayo

sources, the communal administrator took them to CDS Kanka while waiting for them to be identified. Locals believe that the victims were killed elsewhere and dumped there.

I.2. PERSONS ARRESTED BY SNR AGENTS, IMBONERAKURE AND POLICE

Thirteen members of CNL party arrested in Kiremba commune, Ngozi province

As of June 7, 2020, around 10:00 a.m., on Ruhama and Ciri hills, Kiremba zone and commune, Ngozi province, thirteen members of CNL party, including Claver Sendegeya, Ciri hill head and Nduwayo, were arrested by police with Imbonerakure including Samson, Muhizi, Muduri and Mwanadamu, then taken to Kiremba commune cell. According to sources on site, they are accused of having participated in the killings of the day before. According to the same sources, Edouard Mukoko, provincial police commissioner, said that these members of CNL party were arrested for investigation reasons while the Imbonerakure were not worried.

A member of CNDD-FDD party arrested in Bubanza commune and province

On June 3, 2020, on downtown hill, Bubanza commune and province, Jean de Dieu Bigirimana, a teacher at Bubanza Lycée, demobilized from ex-combatants and member of CNDD-FDD party, was arrested without warrant by police and jailed in the police station cell in Bubanza. According to local sources, he was accused of having supported Pascal Nyabenda, president of the National Assembly while choosing the presidential candidate for this party.

Two CNDD-FDD party members arrested in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province

On June 1, 2020, on Butembe and Rugenge hills, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, Nduwimana, Imbonerakure and Moise, communal leader of Imbonerakure militia youth, were arrested on these respective hills without warrant by police from Bubanza police station and jailed in the cell of the same station. According to sources on site, they were accused of having disclosed the secrets of CNDD-FDD party.

A member of CNDD-FDD party arrested in Musigati commune, Bubanza province

On June 1, 2020, on Musigati hill and commune, Bubanza province, Emile, communal leader of CNDD-FDD party, was arrested by police with Imbonerakure and jailed in Bubanza police station cell. According to local sources, the victim was accused of having disclosed the secrets of his party.

Two CNL party members arrested in Rugazi commune, Bubanza province

On June 4, 2020, on Kibenga hill, Muzinda zone, Rugazi commune, Bubanza province, Alexis Ntamatungiro, leader of this hill and Gabriel Nsabimana, guard, all members of CNL party were arrested by Imbonerakure Aimable, Richard and Misago, hill leader of Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, the latter beat Gabriel Nsabimana and Alexis Ntamatungiro tried to prevent the Imbonerakure from beating him up. According to the same sources, Gabriel Nsabimana was charged of possessing a gun and a grenade. Both members of CNL party were taken to Muzinda zone police station the cell.

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

As of June 2, 2020, on Buhomba sub-hill, 15th Maramvya Street, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Joseph Niyungeko, member of CNL party who was the party agents in the elections of May 20, 2020, was arrested by Joe Dassin Nduwimana, SNR agent in Mutimbuzi commune accompanied by a nicknamed Gasaraba, Imbonerakure from this hill. According to local sources, Joseph was accused of not having signed on the minutes of the May 20, 2020 election results. According to the same sources, Joseph was taken to SNR cell to close Regina Mundi cathedral.

II. SECURITY FACTS

A woman killed in Rumonge commune and province

On the night of June 3, 2020, on Mayengo hill, Kigwena zone, Rumonge province and commune, Pulchérie Ntibateganya, died following assault and battery by her husband named Vénérand. According to sources on site, the victim was beaten to death by her husband, arguing that he had left 15,000 Bif at home but that he had not found it. According to the same sources, this woman was taken to a private health facility where she died. The alleged perpetrator and his two daughters were arrested by the police and taken to Rumonge police station cell for investigation reasons.

A student abused in Bubanza commune and province

On June 4, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., on downtown hill, Bubanza commune and province, Chantal Bayemere, a pupil of the 3rd form language at Bubanza Lycée, was abducted and taken on board by unidentified people aboard a vehicle with tinted windows. According to sources on site, on June 5, 2020, around 6:00 a.m., the victim was found, tied up her arms and legs, her face covered with a wound on the head, on the road in Gisovu quarter, Bubanza commune and province. According to sources on site, the victim was jailed in Bubanza provincial police station cell for investigation and security reasons.

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 and arbitrary arrests in 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.