

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

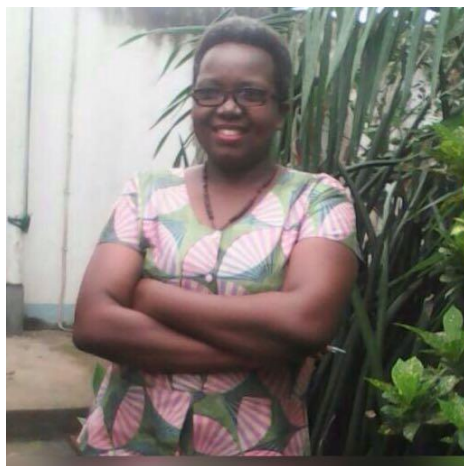
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Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°218 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights "ITEKA"

Week from 8 - 14 June 2020



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 14 June 2020, Iteka has documented at least 557 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS

<i>APC</i>	<i>: Chief Police Agent</i>
<i>CNDD-FDD</i>	<i>: National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
<i>CNL</i>	<i>: National Congress for Liberty</i>
<i>CESR</i>	<i>: Cultural, Economic and Social Rights</i>
<i>ECOFO</i>	<i>: Fundamental school</i>
<i>PJ</i>	<i>: Judiciary Police</i>
<i>SNR</i>	<i>: National Intelligence Service</i>
<i>VSBG</i>	<i>: Sexual Violence</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

Over the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded as follows: at least 5 persons killed including 2 corpses, 1 person abducted, 1 GBV victim and 28 persons arrested arbitrary.

Among these victims are 1 woman killed, 1 abducted and 1 arbitrarily arrested.

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

This bulletin also notes cases of killings, abductions, arbitrary arrests and violations of ESCR observed 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 POLICE

One person killed and another injured in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province

On June 14, 2020, around 9:00 p.m., on Gifurwe hill, Musenyi zone, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, in the locality commonly known as “Mu Gihimbiri”, Rénovat Nduwayo, was shot and Jacques Nsabimana wounded by a police officer, APC Charles Hakizimana. According to sources on site, Rénovat was in his bar listening to songs on his radio when a group of police officers entered and recommended turning off the radio, then one of the police officers ordered him to give him the flash disk and the victim refused. This police officer shot two bullets at Rénovat and died on the spot while Jacques, who was behind him, was hit in the leg. According to the same sources, Jacques was evacuated to Mpanda hospital for treatment.

I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE

A body found in Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On June 10, 2020, in Kizingwe River separating Kanyosha commune from Bujumbura rural and Kizingwe quarter from Muha commune, Bujumbura Mairie, a body of a man nicknamed Paci, fisherman, from the Twa social component, resident in Kizingwe quarter, was found. According to local sources, the body showed signs of strangulation.

I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING

A woman abducted in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On June 8, 2020, around 6:00 p.m., Jeanine Ntiranyibagira, 34 years old, agent of the public service mutuality in Bujumbura, residing in Gihosha-Gikungu quarter, Gihosha urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, from Masango hill, Mutaho commune, Gitega province, was abducted by unidentified people. According to sources on site, the victim left her workplace at around 6:00 p.m. to go home and told her work colleagues that she was going to take Mutakura-Cibitoke bus in Bujumbura Mairie but she didn't get home. According to the same sources, in February 2020, Jeanine had lodged an opposition to Mutimbuzi Residence Court, Bujumbura rural province in a case against her husband, Jean Claude Nihorimbere, police officer. He wanted to marry another woman without having divorced Jeanine. Jean Claude and Jeanine had a divorce file in court 2 years ago. After this opposition, Jean Claude was arrested and imprisoned in Mpimba central prison in Bujumbura accused of forgery.

A member of CNDD-FDD party abducted in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province¹

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 taxpayer on road barriers, demobilized, originating from Mirempera, Ruhororo zone, Mabayi commune, Cibitoke

¹ The case was reported in Bulletin No. 214. The victim spent 6 weeks in a secret cell located in SNR in Bujumbura near Regina Mundi cathedral. He was released after paying a ransom to Gervais Ndirakobuca alias Ndakugarika, SNR general administrator. Etienne was seen at home on June 13, 2020.

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.

1.3. PEOPLE ARRESTED BY SNR, IMBONERAKURE AND POLICE OFFICERS

A member of CNL party arrested in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province

On June 12, 2020, around 6:00 p.m., on Ruziba hill and zone, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, Emmanuel Manirakiza, member of CNL party, was arrested by Imbonerakure including Osias Ndagijimana alias Maleo, head of Imbonerakure in Ruziba zone, Jacques Ntibibuka, Sylvestre Sibomana, Frédéric, Salvator, Boniface, Chanel, Gacaruzo and Minani. According to sources on site, Emmanuel was accused of celebrating the death of President Pierre Nkurunziza. The victim was detained in Ruziba police station cell. On June 13, 2020, he was transferred to Mugina commune police station cell for interrogation.

A member of CNL party arrested in Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On June 8, 2020, Isaac Bizimana, member of CNL party and student of the University of Burundi in third year in English department, was arrested at the entrance to Mutanga campus by the police and taken to Nyakabiga zone cell. According to local sources, university security officers asked him to show his ID card and he replied that he had left it in his room but they refused him to enter. According to the same sources, Boniface Nzohabonayo, in charge of social affairs at the campus, called the police who arrested him.

Three people arrested in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province

On June 13, 2020, around 5:00 a.m., on Buhiga hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Michel Barutwanayo, 45 years old, director of ECOFO Buhiga II, residing on Rwingoma hill in the same zone; Déo Ndayishimiye, 47 years old, head teacher at ECOFO Buhiga I and Marie Rose Ntakiyiruta, 40 years old, teacher at ECOFO Buhiga I, were arrested by police and taken to Buhiga police station cell. According to sources on site, the victims are accused of having said words showing that they are proud of the death of President Pierre Nkurunziza. They were then transferred to the provincial police station for interrogation.

A person arrested in Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province

On June 12, 2020, on Humure hill, Kigamba zone and commune, Gabriel Rukana was arrested by Darius, communal police commissioner in Kigamba, accompanied by Imbonerakure and detained in Kigamba communal cell. According to sources on site, on the night of June 11, 2020, Imbonerakure searched a household on this hill in search of Gabriel Rukana, accusing him of expressing joy following the death of President Pierre Nkurunziza.

A person arrested in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province

On June 10, 2020, in Kayogoro commune city, Makamba province, Onesphore, a nurse, was arrested by police from Rutana prosecution. According to sources on site, he was accused of taking and posting

on social media a photo of an elderly mother, jailed in Rutana central prison while she was in Rutana hospital, handcuffed and tied to the bed by the police officer who guarded her.

Eighteen members of CNL party illegally detained in Muyinga commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 9, 2020 indicates that since the campaign period for the elections of May 20, 2020, eighteen members of CNL party have been arrested in different communes of Muyinga province, accused of attacks to internal state security. The latter remain detained without being tried. According to local sources, Samuel Ndayisenga, Télesphore Manirambona, Prosper Ndayisaba, Asmani Nzirumbanje, Octave Niyonizeye and Sylvain Bigirimana from Butihinda commune; Eric Kimoshori, Jean Baptiste Basama, Eric Ndikumana and Salvator Ntirandekura from Gashoho commune; Prosper Ndayisenga from Muyinga commune and others whose origin has not been known including Janvier Sindihebura, Bernard Ndiokubwayo, Félicien Majambere, Jean Mpawenimana, Amos Nshimirimana, Juvénal Ntirampeba and Jafari remain detained in Muyinga prison.

Three CNL party members illegally detained in Ngozi commune and province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 9, 2020 indicates that since May 15, 2020, three members of CNL party originating from Kiremba commune of Ngozi province including Mathias Uwuyisavye are detained in PJ cell in Ngozi and are not heard yet. Local sources say they are accused of disrupting security during the electoral campaign.

1.4. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A woman killed in Ntega commune, Kirundo province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 8, 2020 indicates that on June 7, 2020, around 2:00p.m., on Nyarunazi II sub-hill, Gasave hill, Ntega commune, Kirundo province, Laetitia Bukuru, 42 years old, was beaten to death by Leonidas Mbarushimana, her husband. According to local sources, the victim asked her husband where the money from the sale of beans was and he beat her. The alleged perpetrator was arrested by the police and taken to Kirundo prosecution cell.

1.5. VIOLATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Suspension of economic activities in Kirundo commune and province

On June 9, 2020, on Yaranda hill, Kirundo rural zone, Kirundo commune and province, Frédéric Ndacayisaba alias Bidasesa, head of this zone, ordered the population to close all the shops and went to the fields to force farmers to go home to respect national mourning. According to sources on site, he prohibited them from returning to work before the funeral of the late President Pierre Nkurunziza. Recall that in this mourning period, the Government did not ban work, rather banned all forms of non-religious music in bars and public places with the exception of wedding ceremonies.

1.6. COVID-19 PANDEMIC MANAGEMENT

Authorities neglect to the Covid-19 pandemic in Ngozi prison

Information received in Ligue Iteka on June 12, 2020 indicates that for 3 weeks, in Ngozi prison, prisoners have been infected on a large scale with a disease showing signs of Covid-19. According to local sources, 4 prisoners have already died with Covid-19 signs and 4 are bedridden at Ngozi hospital,

while inside the prison, a section has been used as quarantine. According to the same sources, the authorities of Ngozi prison as well as those of Ngozi province have prohibited the prison and Ngozi hospital staff from talking about this situation.

II. SAFETY FACTS

A body found in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

Information received in Ligue Iteka on June 8, 2020 indicates that on June 6, 2020, on Rusororo hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, a body of Paul Barahekenwa, 80 years old, was found. According to sources on site, the victim had not been found since May 25, 2020. The cause of his death remains unknown. According to the same sources, the victim was mentally disabled and his body showed no trace.

One person killed in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 9, 2020 indicates that on the night of June 7 to 8, 2020, around midnight, in the "Village of Peace" of Munyika hill, Rugombo zone and commune, Cibitoke province, an unidentified man was killed by the local population. According to local sources, this man, described as a thief, broke into a house and injured Alphonsine Niyonkuru on the arm with a machete while trying to steal money from her.

An Imbonerakure injured in Mugina commune, Cibitoke province

On June 8, 2020, on Rugajo hill and zone, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, Isaac Dusenge alias Bado, member of Imbonerakure youth league, was injured with machetes on the arm and on the shoulder by Imbonerakure led by the nicknamed Morale. According to local sources, these Imbonerakure were ambushing to rob passers-by who came from the market and Isaac refused to stop when ordered to do so.

Release of a member of CNDD-FDD party suspected of rape in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province

On June 11, 2020, around 5:00 p.m., Aloys, first deputy of the public prosecutor in Cibitoke, released Claude Niyonkuru, 50 years old, father of 4 children, member of CNDD-FDD party, allegedly perpetrator of rape jailed in Cibitoke provincial police station cell. According to sources on site, Claude Niyonkuru was accused of raping V.N., aged 15, a pupil at Rugombo communal high school when her mother was in the field. These events occurred on November 21, 2019 at around 10:00 a.m., at the parents' home on Mparambo II hill, Rugombo zone and commune, Cibitoke province. According to the same sources, after committing this crime, the girl locked him in the house and called the neighbors, then Claude broke a window and run away. The victim was treated and medical expertise confirmed that she was raped. As of May 7, 2020, Claude was arrested by the police.

A soldier wounded in Mwumba commune, Ngozi province

Information received in Ligue Iteka on June 9, 2020 indicates that on June 7, 2020, around 10:00 p.m., at the presidential palace located in Buye, Mwumba commune, Ngozi province, Egide Niyongabo, soldier of the presidential guard was gunshot wounded by his colleague nicknamed Kiroho. According to sources on site, on May 29, 2020, the latter had threatened the victim that he could not be one of the

agents ensuring presidential security being of the Tutsi ethnic group. The victim was evacuated to one of the hospitals in Bujumbura mairie.

One person injured in Gitega commune and province

Information received in Ligue Iteka on June 8, 2020 indicates that on the night of June 2 to 3, 2020, in Shatanya quarter, Gitega commune and province, Pascasie Dusabe, 16 years old, house worker, was burned at the using an iron by Aline, her employer. According to sources on site, she suspected her of having stolen 50,000 Bif from her. According to the same sources, Aline was arrested by the police and taken to PJ cell where she spent 3 days, then released.

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 cases of killings, abductions, arbitrary arrests and violation of CESR.

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.