

## **BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"**

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***Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°219 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights  
"ITEKA"***

**Week from 15 - 21 June 2020**



***In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10, 2015. From December 2015 to 21 June 2020, Iteka has documented at least 558 cases of enforced disappearances.***

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**ACRONYMS**

<b>AT</b>	<i>: Transmission Agent</i>
<b>CDS</b>	<i>: Health Center</i>
<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>CNTB</b>	<i>: National Commission for Land and other Goods</i>
<b>ECOFO</b>	<i>: Fundamental school</i>
<b>OPJ</b>	<i>: Judiciary Police Officer</i>
<b>PJ</b>	<i>: Judiciary Police</i>
<b>SNR</b>	<i>: National Intelligence Service</i>
<b>VSBG</b>	<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 3 persons killed including 1 corpse, 1 person abducted, 3 GBV victims, 3 tortured and 28 persons arrested arbitrary.

Among these victims are 2 women killed and 2 minors arbitrarily arrested.

Imbonerakure affiliated to CNDD-FDD party, police, SNR agents and administration officials are singled out as alleged perpetrators of most of these human rights violations. CNL party members have been victims of torture, abduction and arbitrary arrest in this bulletin.

This bulletin also notes cases of killings, abductions, torture, arbitrary arrests 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***

##### **A soldier killed in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province**

On June 21, 2020, around 10:00 p.m., on the 9<sup>th</sup> street, on Rusiga hill, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Nazaire Mpfayokurera, soldier of Cibitoke camp, was shot by Diomède Irinubushobozi, police officer from Cibitoke police station. According to sources on site, this police officer accompanied by other police officers on patrol arrived in a bar belonging to this victim and one of them ordered a beer. According to the same sources, the owner of the bar wanted to know why these police officers were beating his client and Diomède shot him at point blank range with 7 bullets in the head.

##### **A student killed in Bururi commune and province**

On June 20, 2020, in the locality of Nema, Burarana hill, Muzenga zone, Bururi commune and province, a policeman shot at close range on Methode Nzeyimana, a pupil at Gahama communal high school. According to sources on site, this student succumbed to his injuries, dated June 21, 2020. According to the same sources, this police officer was arrested and was detained in Bururi police cell. The reason for this murder remains unknown.

#### ***I.1.2. PERSONS KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE***

##### **A body found in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province**

As of June 20, 2020, around evening, on Bukinanyana hill and commune, Cibitoke province, a body of Denis Bizimungu, 60 years old, was found in his house. According to sources on site, the victim was locked up in his room and had injuries to the head. According to the same sources, the victim had sold his plot, on June 17, 2020. The communal police commissioner in Bukinanyana, OPC2 Oscar Conayisavye and the administrator of Bukinanyana commune, Bosco Hategekimana confirmed this information and specify that the investigations are underway. The victim was buried the same day on the order of communal administrator Bosco Hategekimana.

### ***I.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING***

##### **A person abducted in Ngozi commune and province**

On June 21, 2020, around 7:00 p.m., in Gabiro quarter, Ngozi commune and province, Anicet Ndayishimiye, member of CNL party, agent of "Top Security" company, was abducted by unidentified people. According to local sources, around 6:00 p.m., Anicet took the gate key of his workplace and was preparing to start work at "Giriteka" center. He responded a phone call and told his colleagues that he was going to see his interlocutor near his workplace and never came back. According to the same sources, blood was subsequently seen everywhere on the paved road around the victim's workplace. The same sources add that Philbert, the victim's colleague at this workplace, was arrested the same day by the police and then taken to PJ Ngozi cell for investigation reasons.

### ***I. 3. PERSONS TORTURED BY IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

#### **A member of CNL party tortured in Gahombo commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 15, 2020 indicates that on June 13, 2020, on Businde hill, Gahombo commune, Kayanza province, Anicet Nizigiyimana, member of CNL party, was beaten and wounded at the head by Emmanuel Barampama, hill head when he came home from a bar. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of having taught the CNL party ideology during the triple vote of May 20, 2020. According to the same sources, he went to file a complaint to Jacqueline Ruragoka, communal administrator and the response was that "Ibipinga barabipingura" which translates to "opponents are to be eliminated". The case was rejected and Anicet was treated at CDS Kibaribari in Gatara commune.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 16, 2020 indicates that on June 11, 2020, on Rukamba hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, Léonce, teacher, member of CNL party, living on the same hill was beaten up by Imbonerakure accusing him of saying hurtful words after the death of the President. According to sources on site, the victim was jailed in Karuzi provincial police station cell.

### ***I.4. PERSONS ARRESTED BY SNR AGENTS, IMBONERAKURE AND POLICE***

#### **Two CNL party members arrested in Gatara commune, Kayanza province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 15, 2020 indicates that on June 9, 2020, on Muhingira hill, Gatara commune, Kayanza province, Bosco Habonimana, hairdresser, 25 years old and Fabien Nkurikiye, farmer, 35 years old, both members of CNL party, were arrested by an SNR agent and boarded in a SNR vehicle in Kayanza on the order of Dévotte Nduwimana, communal administrator. According to sources on site, in the afternoon of June 8, 2020, after the announcement of the death of President Pierre Nkurunziza, Fabien Nkurikiye asked Bosco to give him 200 Bif to buy a bottle of banana wine saying "Nyongerereza ninywere agacupa numvise ngo wa mugabo yatuvuyeko" which translates to "add me a sum of 200 Bif to buy a beer, the President has died. The Imbonerakure who were there accused Bosco and Fabien of celebrating the death of the President. According to the same sources, these members of CNL party were jailed in Kayanza police station cell.

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

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 15, 2020 indicates that on June 14, 2020, around 4:00 p.m., in a bar in Magarama quarter, Gitega commune and province, Jules, member of CNL party, was arrested by Imbonerakure from Magarama and Zege on the orders of an SNR agent named Salvator from Zege hill. He was jailed in Gitega police station cell.

#### **A member of CNL party arrested in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie province**

On June 15, 2020, in Mubone quarter, Buterere zone, Bujumbura Mairie, Léandre Nshimirimana, member of CNL party, was arrested by Imbonerakure including Boné, Malefu, Joël and Samson Mutima accompanied by police officers. According to sources on site, he was taken aboard a vehicle with tinted windows registered D 3983 A belonging to Joseph Mathias Niyonzima alias Kazungu, SNR agent. According to the same sources, all started on the evening of June 14, 2020 when Léandre

Nshimirimana quarreled with Imbonerakure in a bar located in the locality known as Kw'Isamariro. He was taken to one of the SNR cells in Bujumbura Mairie by a police officer named Eric, the driver of this SNR agent.

### **Three people arrested in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

On June 20, 2020, on Gatabo hill and zone, Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, Concessa Nzeyimana, 72 years old, member of CNL party and her two orphaned grandchildren were arrested by the police on the orders of Zachée. Misago, administrator of Kayogoro commune, recently elected MP. According to local sources, her arrest was supervised by Gervais Habonimana, head of Gatabo zone. According to the same sources, Concessa was accused of disseminating false information against the communal authority and rebellion against the latter after being interrogated by an OPJ. They were detained in the communal police station cell in Kayogoro.

On June 21, 2020, around 4:00 p.m., Concessa Nzeyimana and her two grandchildren were released. Their release was conditioned in writing stating that she was responsible for the destruction of her own house.

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

### **Two girls raped in Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province**

On June 19, 2020, on Butara hill, Bukinanyana commune, Cibitoke province, A.N, 14 years old and J.K, 15 years old, both 7<sup>th</sup> students form at ECOFO Butara, were raped by Jean Ndinzemeshi and Claude Nsabimana, all traders and members of CNDD-FDD party, residing on this hill. According to local sources, the victims were raped in Claude Nsabimana's house and were apprehended in the act by local residents. According to the same sources, the victims were transferred to a health facility close to this commune. The alleged perpetrators were not worried.

### **A woman raped in Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 20, 2020 indicates that on the evening of March 29, 2020, on Nyaburondwe hill, Butaganzwa commune, Ruyigi province, E.S was raped by Imbonerakure including Térance Ndayikeza, head of these Imbonerakure on this hill. According to sources on site, the victim lodged a complaint with the OPJ but these Imbonerakure were not worried.

## ***1.6. COVID-19 PANDEMIC MANAGEMENT***

### **Covid-19 pandemic to Cibitoke Hospital, Cibitoke Province**

On June 21, 2020, the Governor of Cibitoke Province, Joseph Iteriteka, prohibited the dissemination of this information without the authorization of the Ministry of Public Health after three people were suspected of having the COVID-19 pandemic at Cibitoke Hospital, Cibitoke Province. According to sources on site, these suspects were evacuated to the hospitals of Bujumbura Mairie and their families were lock downed the same day.

## ***II. SECURITY FACTS***

### **Two members of CNL party mistreated in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 15, 2020 indicates that on June 9, 2020, on Mwoya hill, Buhiga zone and commune, Karuzi province, Jean Marie and Bizimana, both members of CNL party left their homes and took refuge in Muyinga province. According to local sources, Imbonerakure from this hill including Niyonkuru nicknamed Star, Issa Nizigiyimana, Jean Marie alias Fayida, Sayidi alias Makara and Sadoscar used to manhandle and threaten them to death. According to the same sources, these Imbonerakure warned them that they will be killed after the elections.

### **Threats and intimidation in Kirundo commune and province**

On June 15, 2020, on Nyange-Bushaza hill, Kirundo commune and province, Jean Bosco Hayayezu, vice-president and Chantal Nahimana, secretary of Sangwe cooperative and candidates for the hill elections wrote to Gérard Niyokindi, Prosecutor of the Republic in Kirundo explaining death threats by Elias Nkurunziza, head of this hill and André Minani, head of Imbonerakure in the commune. According to sources on site, these two candidates are victims of denunciations of the violations committed by these heads. According to the same sources, this conflict was born because this hill head was not elected during the CNDD-FDD party's hill elections to choose the new elected officials to present to CECI during the hill elections. On June 17, 2020, a group of more than 60 Imbonerakure came to file a complaint with Fabien Bizumuremyi, provincial secretary of CNDD-FDD party with signs reading that they condemned the 2 new elected officials accusing them of the embezzlement of Sangwe cooperative funds. This secretary tried to calm down the situation by promising to resolve this issue after the national mourning.

### **Land conflicts in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province**

On June 19, 2020, around 6:00 a.m., near Gitaramuka market, Rubuga hill, Gitaramuka zone and commune, Karuzi province, a crowd of Imbonerakure from Kibenga hill in the same zone, commanded by Elysé Ntahondereye alias Rwanyakuye who is in plot litigation with Dieudonné, a trader, went over the fence and smashed the households by threatening the tenants to leave and throwing their belongings out arguing that they are coming to recover their homes. According to sources on site, these houses were built by Dieudonné and the litigation is with the CNTB at the national level which suspended the execution of the decision. The police intervened and restored order. According to the same sources, the two parties in conflict accompanied by the administrator are scheduled to be at CNTB office in Bujumbura, dated June 22, 2020.

### **An armed attack in Rutana commune and province**

On June 17, 2020, around 2:00 a.m., in Birongozi quarter, Rutana commune and province, Eric Nsaberugira, police commissioner in Rutana commune was attacked at his home by unidentified gunmen. According to sources on site, an AT guarding this commissioner was injured and disarmed while trying to resist. The victim was taken to Rutana hospital for treatment after these criminals took off.



### **A house of a member of CNL party destroyed in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province**

On June 16, 2020, in Kayogoro commune, Makamba province, Concessa Nzeyimana, 72 years old and member of CNL party, was summoned by Zachée Misago, administrator of Kayogoro commune, to explain the fact that she voted for CNL party and not for CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, the victim was put in a toilet used as a place of detention by the administrator before handcuffing her two legs until she accepts the destruction of her house located on Gatabo hill and zone, Kayogoro commune. She was released in the afternoon after giving in to the destruction of her only dwelling house. The communal administrator, Zachée Misago sent his AT to supervise this destruction. The supervisor asked for payment of 33,000 Bif and 4,000 Bif for a mason who removed sheets because the neighbors had refused to participate in this work. According to the same sources, the victim had been asked to cede her plot very close to Gatabo market for Révérien Ndikuriyo, speaker of the senate to build stands there. Concessa benefited from another plot very close to the zone offices without any other form of compensation.

### ***III. CONCLUSION***

Over the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of human rights violations, abuses and violations continue to be recorded across the country.

This bulletin reports on cases of armed attack, land disputes, destruction of a house of a member of CNL party, threats and intimidation.

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.