

## BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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*Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°221 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights  
"ITEKA"*

**Week from 29 June - 5 July 2020**



*In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 5 July 2020, Iteka has documented at least 556 cases of enforced disappearances.*

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**ACRONYMS**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>CNDD-FDD</b> | : <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i> |
| <b>CNL</b>      | : <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>                 |
| <b>DRC</b>      | : <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>                  |
| <b>ECOFO</b>    | : <i>Fundamental School</i>                            |
| <b>FRODEBU</b>  | : <i>Front for Democracy in Burundi</i>                |
| <b>OPJ</b>      | : <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>                       |
| <b>OTB</b>      | : <i>Tea Plant of Burundi</i>                          |
| <b>AIDS</b>     | : <i>Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome</i>            |
| <b>GBV</b>      | : <i>Sexual and Gender Based Violence</i>              |

## *0. INTRODUCTION*

Over the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded as follows: at least 13 persons killed including 8 corpses, 2 persons abducted, 5 SGBV victims and 1 arbitrarily arrested.

Among these victims are 1 woman killed and a pupil abducted.

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

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

This bulletin also records cases of awareness in the management of covid-19, violations of children's rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights, deaths in obscure circumstances, armed robbery and intimidation.

## ***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***

##### **Three gold miners killed in Buganda commune, Cibitoke province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 29, 2020 indicates that on June 26, 2020, on the Burundi-Congo border, on the 6<sup>th</sup> street, Kaburantwa hill, Buganda commune, Cibitoke province, three unidentified young Burundians, gold miners, from Misisi group in Fizi territory, in the DRC, were killed by a group of Imbonerakure including Bosco Murekambanze, Jean Kubwimana, Marc Nsengiyumva and Félix Nibizi, commanded by Georges Habarugira, all from Gasebeyi rural hill, Gasenyi zone, Buganda commune. According to local sources, these young people were robbed the money and gold they had before throwing their bodies into Rusizi River. As of June 27, 2020, these young Imbonerakure were arrested by soldiers guarding the Burundi-Congo border, on the 6<sup>th</sup> street, of the same hill after having been denounced by residents of the locality. They were taken to Cibitoke police station for interrogation. According to the same sources, on July 2, 2020, Georges Habarugira, Bosco Murekambanze, Jean Kubwimana, Marc Nsengiyumva and Félix Nibizi were released by the public prosecutor in Cibitoke, Jean Marie Bigirindavyi.

##### **One person killed in Muramvya commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 29, 2020 indicates that on June 27, 2020, on Musagara hill, Muramvya commune and province, Ladislas Habonimana, from Mirinzi hill, in this same commune, died following sticks inflicted on him by Mélance Ruberintwari, Céleus Nzokira, Rushingwe and Jida, all Imbonerakure, dated June 3, 2020 in Mélance's bar. According to sources on site, Mélance and Céleus were arrested and jailed respectively on June 24, 2020 and June 29, 2020, in Muramvya brigade cell before transferring them to Muramvya prison, on July 3, 2020. According to the same sources, Rushingwe and Jida ran away.

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

##### **A body found in Buhiga commune, Karuzi province**

As of July 1, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., in a place commonly called " Semence", on Nyamugari hill, Buhinyuza zone, Buhiga commune, Karuzi province, a decomposing body of an unidentified girl, aged about twenty years, was found naked. According to local sources, the body was covered with mounds of earth. According to the same sources, medical expertise from Karuzi referral hospital indicated that the victim had been raped before being killed by unidentified people. The head of this hill said that the victim was killed elsewhere and his body was dumped there. The body was kept in the hospital mortuary to look for her family, but until July 5, 2020, no one came to claim for her.

##### **A body found in Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province**

On July 3, 2020, on the coast of Lake Tanganyika, on Mukungu hill and zone, Nyanza-Lac commune, Makamba province, a decomposed body of an unidentified man, tied up on arms and feet and tied to a large stone, was found in the grass of the locality of Kibwe. According to sources on

site, the body was buried in the afternoon of July 4, 2020 on the order of the administrator of Nyanza-Lac commune, Jean-Claude Nduwimana.

#### **A body found in commune and Rumonge province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 29, 2020 indicates that on June 18, 2020, in Iteba quarter, Rumonge commune and province, a body of an unidentified young man was found in the waters of Lake Tanganyika. According to administrative sources, the victim died as a result of drowning. Other sources indicate the victim was killed by unidentified people.

#### **A body found in Giharo commune, Rutana province**

On July 3, 2020, in the locality commonly called "Kurubaho", on Kabingo hill, Butezi zone, Giharo commune, Rutana province, a body of Japhet Ndayishimiye, 33 years old, from Kirungu hill, Kinyinya commune, Ruyigi province, was found strangled in his house by unidentified people. According to local sources, his body had fingernail wounds in his throat and his teeth were removed. According to the same sources, this decomposed corpse was buried the same day in Isekeseke cemetery on the orders of the head of this hill, Georges Ndayisaba.

### ***1.2. PERSONS ABDUCTED AND / OR REPORTED MISSING***

#### **A persons abducted in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 29, 2020 indicates that on June 22, 2020, in Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, Dismas Hakizimana, 38 years old, trader, from Mahande hill, Murwi commune, Cibitoke province, was abducted by unidentified people. According to sources on site, Dismas had stayed in Rugombo commune city, to his brother's house and very early in the morning, he went to the 10<sup>th</sup> avenue in this same commune to buy loincloths and he is no longer returned. His family looked for him everywhere but to no avail.

#### **A reported missing pupil in Gitega commune and province**

On June 18, 2020, around 1:00 p.m., at ECOSO of Gitega located in Musinzira quarter, Gitega commune and province, Vestine Ndiokubwayo, 19 years old, pupil in 1<sup>st</sup> social class, from Giteranyi commune, Muyinga province, was reported missing. According to sources on site, she had just finished the exams scheduled for today and she went to follow the investiture ceremonies of the President of the Republic on television but when she arrived at the entrance of the room, she told her friend that she was going to pick something she had forgotten. According to the same sources, she never returned.

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

#### **A woman sexually abused in Makamba commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 3, 2020 indicates that on June 26, 2020, around 9:00 p.m., on Bukangara sub-hill, Siza hill, Gisenyi zone, Makamba commune and province, Jacqueline Kabura, aged about 48 years old, was injured on her sex and forehead with a saw by Pascal Ndarushimana, carpenter and the victim's neighbor,. According to local sources, this victim was immediately rushed to Makamba hospital. According to the same sources, the alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to Makamba communal police station cell on June 29, 2020.

### **A woman raped in Makamba commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 4, 2020 indicates that on June 22, 2020, on Siza hill, Gisenyi zone, Makamba commune and province, A.N. was raped in her sweet potato field by Antoine Minani. According to sources on site, the alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to Makamba communal police station cell.

### **A girl raped in Muramvya commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 29, 2020 indicates that on June 23, 2020, on Mirinzi hill, Muramvya commune and province, CM, 3 years old, was raped in a cassava field by Yves Nishimwe, 22 years old, residing on this hill, originating from Kinama zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie. Local sources indicate that the victim was taken to hospital while the alleged perpetrator was arrested on June 24, 2020 and jailed in Muramvya Brigade cell before being transferred to Muramvya prison on July 3, 2020.

### **Two girls raped in Kiganda commune, Muramvya province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 29, 2020 indicates that on June 26, 2020, on Musongati hill, Kiganda commune, Muramvya province, LB, 3 years old and her elder sister AI, 5 years old. , were raped by Lionel Irankunda, a pupil, aged 17, nephew of the victims' father, from this hill and Aaron Ndayishimiye, aged 15, from Gikomero hill, Rango commune, Kayanza province. According to sources on site, these alleged perpetrators were arrested on June 27, 2020 and jailed in Kiganda brigade cell.

## ***1.4. PERSONS ARBITRARY ARRESTED BY POLICE, IMBONERAKURE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS***

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

On July 3, 2020, at the 13<sup>th</sup> Maramvya street, Maramvya zone, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Théodore Vyukusenge, member of CNL party, residing on this hill, originally from Musugi hill, Kanyosha commune, in the same province, was arrested by Samson Nguvu, Imbonerakure and leader of CNDD-FDD party on this hill. According to sources on site, Théodore was accused of not having voted for CNDD-FDD party in the elections of May 20, 2020. According to the same sources, the victim was taken to Maramvya zone police station cell but an OPJ who was on spot refused to detain him. He was then taken to Rukaramu zone police station cell on the order of Gaston Singora, head of Maramvya zone. On July 4, 2020, Theodore was transferred to prosecutor's office cell of Bujumbura rural province in Kabezi.

## ***1.5. COVID-19 MANAGEMENT***

### **Finally, Burundi committed to fighting COVID-19 pandemic**

On June 30, 2020, the President of the Republic, Evariste Ndayishimiye declared that the Covid-19 is "the greatest enemy of the Burundians" and he announced measures to fight this COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, among these measures, there is the subsidy of soap price to 50%, the price drop of water for Régideso and the availability of teams within Health Centers in the communes that can screen this disease. In line of the implementation of this decision, the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS indicated that the activities of systematic screening for COVID-19 in

Bujumbura mairie will start on July 6, 2020. This The Government's valuable initiative was taken after alerts launched by humanitarian and human rights organizations, including Ligue Iteka which had already released four communications<sup>1</sup>.

### ***1.6. VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD***

#### **A minor girl forced to drop out of school in Busiga commune, Ngozi province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 29, 2020 indicates that for six months, on Nyanza hill, Busiga commune, Ngozi province, Euphémie Ntirandekura, 8 years old, has been forced to drop out of school by her parents Jérémie Miburo and Febronie Niyonsaba and go to deal with housework. According to local sources, his salary is collected by these same parents.

#### **A child persecuted in Mwumba commune, Ngozi province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 4, 2020 indicates that on June 28, 2020, around 10:00 a.m., on Buye hill, Mwumba commune, Ngozi province, Deborah Kandagano, aged 14, 7<sup>th</sup> form pupil at ECOFO Buye, was beaten up by his parents, Philotée Ntakirutima, his stepmother and his father, Egide Citeretse, demobilized and member of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, this victim had difficulty standing up following the blows received. According to the same sources, they accused him of having stolen his father's socks. Egide divorced the victim's mother with whom he had had two children married Philotée who mistreats two children of this first woman. The father of these 2 children has already threatened that he would beat them to death.

### ***1.7. VIOLATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS***

#### **A cow belonging to a member of CNL party confiscated in Gatara commune, Kayanza province**

Since June 29, 2020, on Murago hill, Gatara commune, Kayanza province, a cow belonging to Côme Nitunga, member of CNL party, teacher and from this same hill, has been confiscated by the Murago hill head, Antoine Ndabashinze alias Gasongo , in collaboration with Bernard Cimpaye, Lin Bigirindavyi and Corneille, all Imbonerakure. According to sources on site, this cow to Thérance Ndayishimiye's who was raising it and was taken to a police station in Gatara. According to this hill head, no cow belonging to a member of CNL party should be raised on his hill.

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

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

On July 1, 2020, at the 9<sup>th</sup> avenue, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, a body of Joseph Ndiokubwayo, 62 years old, living on this avenue was found in his house. According to local sources, the day before, he had left for his business and he went to a bar for a drink. According to the same sources, the victim's body showed no signs of trauma.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ligue-iteka.bi/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COMMUNIQUE-SUR-LA-MORT-DU-PRESIDENT.pdf> ,  
<https://ligue-iteka.bi/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ALERTE-SUR-LE-COVID19.pdf>,  
<https://www.fidh.org/fr/regions/afrique/burundi/burundi-discours-de-haine-et-elections-a-haut-risque-en-pleine>,  
[https://ligue-iteka.bi/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ANALYSE\\_INCIDENT\\_LIE\\_AU\\_COVID-19\\_EVACUATION\\_DES-BELGOBURUNDAIS.pdf](https://ligue-iteka.bi/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ANALYSE_INCIDENT_LIE_AU_COVID-19_EVACUATION_DES-BELGOBURUNDAIS.pdf)

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

On July 2, 2020, on Murwi hill and commune, Cibitoke province, a body of Rémy Bavugamenshi, 25 years old, native of the aforesaid hill, was found in his bedroom. According to local sources, the victim spent the day celebrating the 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence. According to the same sources, the victim's body showed no signs of trauma.

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

As of July 1, 2020, at the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rugombo commune, Cibitoke province, a body of Etienne Minani, 25, mentally disabled, was found in a toilet at his home. According to sources on site, the victim's body showed no signs of trauma.

### **One person killed in Gihanga commune, Bubanza province**

On July 3, 2020, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> street of Gihanga zone and commune, Bubanza province, Célestin Hakizimana, married, father of 6 children, farmer, resident in village II, was stabbed to death by his employee. According to sources on site, the victim went to this employee's house to ask him to be reimbursed unpaid balance after he had not respected the terms of the employment contract. According to the same sources, this employee took a knife from his pocket and stabbed Célestin Hakizimana who died on the spot.

### **One person killed in Gitega commune and province**

Information received by Ligue Iteka on June 29, 2020 indicates that on June 23, 2020, on Jimbi hill, Mungwa zone, Gitega commune and province, Antoine Mvukabanka, 65 years old, married, member of FRODEBU party, was found dead hanged on an avocado tree at home. According to sources on site, during the night, the victim left his wife asleep and she got up in the morning finding her husband already dead. According to the same sources, he was in a land dispute with his family because his child had forbidden him to sell a piece of land. The victim's body was buried and investigations have started.

### **Armed robbery in Mpanda commune, Bubanza province**

On July 1, 2020, around 2:00 a.m., on Gifurwe hill, Musenyi zone, Mpanda commune, Bubanza province, unidentified gunmen attacked a shop belonging Emile and stole 6 million Bif. According to local sources, these gunmen first destroyed this store and then tied up Emile's worker Mwarabu. According to the same sources, the thieves shot three bullets before leaving and the police intervened later.

### **Intimidation in Kayanza commune and province**

Information received by Iteka Ligue on June 29, 2020 indicates that on June 25, 2020, on Kavumu hill, Kayanza commune and province, during a weekly meeting of CNDD-FDD party which is held every Thursday, the OTB Rwegura manager, Godefroid Niyonzima, from this same hill and on the list of communal advisers for the elections of May 20, 2020, of the aforesaid party said that he would bring a vehicle full of ropes to tie up all members of CNL party, what he said in Kirundi "agiye kuzozana ibiziriko vyuzuye imodoka vyo kuza baraboha abantu bose bakiri inyuma ya CNL". He

added that if the CNL party wins again in the hill elections they will distort the results in favor of his party as they did in the last elections. This meeting was chaired by Kubwimana, head of this hill.

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

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

The bulletin reports of killings, abduction, SGBV and arbitrary arrests.

This bulletin also reports the awakening of awareness in the management of the covid-19, violations of children's rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights, deaths in obscure circumstances, armed robbery 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.