

BURUNDIAN LIGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS "ITEKA"

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***Weekly bulletin « ITEKA N'IJAMBO » n°222 of the Burundian Ligue of Human Rights
"ITEKA"***

Week from 6 - 12 July 2020



In memory of Madam Marie Claudette Kwizera, Treasurer of Iteka, reported missing since December 10 2015. From December 2015 to 12 July 2020, Iteka has documented at least 556 cases of enforced disappearances.

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ACRONYMS

CDS	: <i>Health Center</i>
CNDD-FDD	: <i>National Council for the Defense of Democracy</i>
CNL	: <i>National Congress for Liberty</i>
CPG	: <i>General Police Commissioner</i>
ECOFO	: <i>Fundamental School</i>
ETS	: <i>Technical Secondary School</i>
MSF	: <i>Doctors Without Borders</i>
OPJ	: <i>Judicial Police Officer</i>
RPA	: <i>African Public Radio</i>
SNR	: <i>Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome</i>

0. INTRODUCTION

Over the reporting period of this bulletin, allegations of violations and human rights violations were recorded as follows: at least 7 persons killed including 2 corpses and 7 arbitrarily arrested.

Among these victims are 1 woman and 1 student killed, 1 minor and 1 and 1 newborn killed as well as 2 women 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.

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

This bulletin also records challenges in handling covid-19, violations of economic, social and cultural rights, armed attacks and a damaged CNL party member's house.

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 Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province

On the night of July 10 to 11, 2020, around midnight, on Muramba hill, Bugenyuzi commune, Karuzi province, Spès Nshimirimana, 48 years old, member of CNDD-FDD party, was assassinated with machetes by unidentified people. According to local sources, these criminals broke down her bedroom window in the house she shared with her mother. Her mother noticed it in the morning when she was going to wake her up and alerted the neighbors. The neighbors claim that the victim had a land dispute with his brother Albert and they were awaiting the sharing of the family property by the residence court.

A body found in Musongati commune, Rutana province

On July 9, 2020, on Buhinga hill, Musongati zone and commune, Rutana province, a decapitated body of Marie Annick Bayishemeze, 18 years old, a 9th form student at Lycée communal of Musongati was found in a Callitris afforestation near her home. According to local sources, the victim's genitals had wounds showing that she was raped before being killed by unidentified people. According to the same sources, Marie Annick had disappeared since July 7, 2020.

I.2. PEOPLE ARRESTED BY POLICE, SNR AGENTS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

Vice-President of AC-Genocide Cirimoso and 3 journalists arrested at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport in Bujumbura

On July 9, 2020, around noon, at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport in Bujumbura, Thérance Mushano, Vice-President of AC-Genocide Cirimoso and three journalists from IWACU press group, Chimène Manirakiza, Alain Majesté Barenga and Fabrice Nzohabonayo, were arrested by the police. According to sources on site, Thérance Mushano wanted to talk to these journalists on the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the massacre of Hutu students at the University of Burundi in 1995. The aforesaid commemoration, which must take place on June 11 of each year, was postponed this year following the death of President Pierre Nkurunziza on June 8, 2020. According to the same sources, when the journalists were going to start the interview, a police officer intervened, then Thérance Mushano and the three journalists were isolated in a room before being taken to the judicial police office located in Jabe quarter in Bwiza urban zone, Mukaza commune, Bujumbura Mairie. At around 4:00 p.m. the same day, the three journalists were released having recovered their equipment confiscated at the time of the arrest. AC Genocide Vice-President remained in police custody on charges of "misleading journalists by inviting them into the airport grounds without special permission". Thérance Mushano was later charged with threatening state security.

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

On July 9, 2020, at the office of Mugina commune, Cibitoke province, Marie Nzinahora, member of CNL party, residing on Ruziba hill and zone, Mugina commune, Cibitoke province was arrested by police officers from Mugina police station and detained in the cell of the same commune. According to sources on site, the victim was accused of giving information to RPA. According to the same

sources, Marie went to the communal office to lodge a complaint with the OPJ in Mugina against Juvénal Mbanzendore, head of Imbonerakure in Ruziba zone, who had threatened to kill her. Juvenal reported to the police the presence of Marie and they arrested her. On July 10, 2020, Jovith Bayavuge, communal administrator of Mugina interrogated Marie, ordering her to quote other members of her party who are providing information to RPA. After the interrogation, he sent her back to the cell.

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

On July 10, 2020, on the 12th street Maramvya, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura rural province, Simon Nkengurutse, member of CNL party and candidate for the hill elections, was arrested by Richard, leader of this hill and member of CNDD-FDD party. According to sources on site, Simon was taken to the cell of Kabezi commune prosecutor's office. According to the same sources, his political affiliation is behind his arrest.

A member of CNL party arrested in Bugarama commune, Rumonge province

On July 6, 2020, on Cashi hill, Bugarama commune, Rumonge province, January Nibitanga alias Mayebo, member of CNL party, was arrested by Michel, SNR provincial official in Rumonge. According to sources on site, this member of CNL party was accused of participating to armed gangs. He spent the night of July 6, 2020 in SNR cell located at the home of this official before being transferred to Rumonge police cell on July 7, 2020.

1.3. VIOLATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

A member of CNL party banned from building a house in Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province

On July 7, 2020, on Muyebe hill, Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province, Térance Misigaro, member of CNL party, was banned to continue the construction activities of his house by Imbonerakure on the orders of Adrien Ntunzwenimana, administrator of Nyabihanga commune. According to sources on site, these Imbonerakure accused him of wanting to build a CNL party office and not his own house and of having destroyed coffee plantations to do the earthwork.

1.4. CHALLENGES IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC MANAGEMENT

The recent speeches by the Burundian high authorities on the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic seemed to calm the population. During the swearing in of the Vice-President of the Republic and the Prime Minister, dated June 30, 2020, the President of the Republic, Evariste Ndayishimiye, committed to eradicate COVID-19 in a program called "Ndakira , sinandura kandi sinandukiza Covid-19 "(I will be cured, I will not be infected and I do not contaminate others the Covid-19). In addition, on July 7, 2020, Prime Minister, CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni, visited ETS Kamenge, one of the massive screening centers of Bujumbura Mairie. He recommended the population not to neglect this disease and reminded everyone to respect the prevention guidelines, in particular those of washing their hands with soap or using a disinfectant, but also to avoid large gatherings in order to prevent themselves and others against this disease.

However, the words of these authorities are not accompanied by appropriate concrete measures and follow-up. Large meetings are still observed and some organized by the same authorities. Matches continue, parties are celebrated, places of worship, schools, pubs, nightclubs, etc. are still working

without applying the least prevention guidelines such as washing hands, social distancing and wearing a mask. In bars, only some servers wear their masks because wearing them is voluntary.

In addition, on the same date of June 30, 2020, the President of the Republic promised to reduce the price of soap and water to 50% announcing that part of the cost will be subsidized by the State, but the measure is not yet applied throughout the national territory. In some localities across the country, a week or more can go by without clean water available.

II. SECURITY FACTS

One person killed in Giharo commune, Rutana province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 6, 2020 indicates that on July 5, 2020, on Giharo hill, zone and commune, Rutana province, Juvénal Nduwimana, 30 years old, member of CNDD-FDD party, succumbed to his injuries at CDS Giharo. According to sources on site, Juvenal had been beaten with a stick, on June 25, 2020, by Phocas Kabura, also a member of CNDD-FDD party. The alleged perpetrator had been arrested on the same date by Imbonerakure including Alexis nicknamed Kajagari, zone head of the Imbonerakure and taken to Giharo zone cell.

A minor killed in Marangara commune, Ngozi province

Information received by Ligue Iteka on July 6, 2020 indicates that on July 5, 2020, around 3:00 p.m., on Mutara hill, Marangara commune, Ngozi province, Evelyne Ntirampeba, 15 years old, was killed with a machete by his uncle Gérard Rwasa. According to local sources, land disputes between Gérard and the victim's father are behind this assassination. The alleged perpetrator was arrested and taken to the communal police station cell in Marangara for investigation.

One person killed in Gitaramuka commune, Karuzi province

On July 8, 2020, around 6:00 a.m., on Gitaramuka hill, zone and commune, Karuzi province, Nicodeme Ndikumana, aged about fifty and father of 7, was found dead at his home with beatings with sticks and machetes by his three sons Ninziza, Tuyisabe and Obède. According to local sources, land disputes are at the origin of this murder because his sons wanted their father to keep no portion of land after the family sharing. The alleged perpetrators were arrested by the police at around 9:00 a.m. and taken to Gitaramuka commune cell, then transferred to the provincial police station cell the following day.

A newborn baby killed in Mwumba commune, Ngozi province

On July 6, 2020, around 2:00 a.m., on Burenza hill, Mwumba commune, Ngozi province, a female newborn was strangled by Spès Hatungimana who had just given birth to him. Local sources say the neighbors intervened before she finished the baby and transported him to Buye hospital where she died two days later. The alleged perpetrator was arrested by the police and is held in Ngozi prison.

One person killed and nine injured in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie

On July 8, 2020, in a place commonly known as kw'Isamariro, in Buterere urban zone, Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie, a grenade exploded, killing 10 people, one of whom died from his injuries. According to sources on site, the victims were evacuated to MSF hospital located in Kigobe

quarter. According to the same sources, Ernest Nduwimana, head of Buterere zone confirmed the facts while specifying that investigations are under way.

A member of CNL party injured by grenade in Mugongo-Manga commune, rural Bujumbura province

On July 7, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., on Misakura sub-hill, Ijenda rural hill, Mugongo-Manga commune, Bujumbura rural province, a grenade was launched by an unidentified person injuring CNL party member Déogratias Ntiroranya. According to sources on site, the victim was injured in the stomach, knee and shoulders. According to the same sources, Déogratias was returning home from a bar and when he arrived at the door of his home, when he asked his children to open for him, the perpetrator threw the grenade at him. According to the same sources, the victim was quickly evacuated to Ijenda hospital for first aid and then transferred to one of the Bujumbura Mairie hospitals. As of July 8, 2020, Ntakarutimana, bar driver from Ijenda rural hill, was arrested and imprisoned at Rwibaga police station, Mugongo-Manga commune, for investigations.

Two people injured in Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province

On July 8, 2020, around 8:00 a.m., on Rwamvura hill, Kigamba commune, Cankuzo province, two cow traders including Ismaël, from Muyinga province and heading to the cow market located on Shinge hill of the same commune were injured when they were ambushed by unidentified gunmen. According to local sources, the victims were shot in the back and over 30 million Bif was stolen. According to the same sources, they were evacuated to Muyinga hospital for treatment.

A damaged CNL member's house in Muruta commune, Kayanza province

On the night of July 6, 2020, around 8:00 p.m., on Rwegura hill and zone, Muruta commune, Kayanza province, the house of Juvénal Niyorugira, member of CNL party and teacher at ECOFO Rwegura was damaged by unidentified people. According to sources on site, stones were thrown at this house, damaging tiles and breaking the windows, then the fence was destroyed. According to the same sources, the victim has been in conflict with Charles Hatungimana, Imbonerakure on Rwegura hill since he went to Charles Hatungimana's bar, giving her the sum of 5000 Bif to buy a beer. The same day, Charles refused to give him beer and give him his money back for the simple reason that he is a CNL party member. The victim complained to the hill head and to Kayanza prosecution and the prosecution authorities summoned the two people to help them reconcile.

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 and arbitrary arrests.

This bulletin also reports on the mismanagement of the covid-19 pandemic, violations of economic, social and cultural rights, grenade attacks, armed robbery and a damaged house of a member of CNL party.

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.